

THURMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

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Order No: Chapter 1.3.3

Authority: Chief of Police

Gregory L. Eyer

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Subject: Less Lethal Force: Impact Weapon / Impact Munitions

Replaces Page No:

Accreditation Standard: Chapter 1.3.3

Distribution: ALL

Amends:

Number of Pages: 5

Related Documents:

Rescinds: New Policy

This Directive is for internal use only, and other than as contraindicated here this Directive does not create or enlarge this Department's, governmental entity's, any of this Department's officers, and/or any other entities' civil, criminal, and/or other accountability in any way. This Directive is not to be construed as the creation of a standard of safety or care in any sense, with respect to any complaint, demand for settlement, or any other form of grievance, litigation, and/or other action. Deviations from this Directive, if substantiated, can only form the basis for intra-Departmental administrative action(s) (including discipline and/or termination).

I. PURPOSE:

To specify the type of Impact Weapons and Impact Munitions approved for use by sworn members of the agency, the appropriate uses for these weapons, and to provide the training and reporting guidelines required for officers to carry them.

II. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Thurmont Police Department that its members will use Impact Weapons and Impact Munitions only in accordance with the Subject Management policy. No member will be issued or permitted to carry or use any Impact Weapon or Impact Munitions until the officer has been trained in its use and demonstrated proficiency with its use. The provisions of this Order apply to personnel both while on and off duty.

III. DEFINITIONS:

IMPACT WEAPON: A baton or impact munitions

BATON: An expandable baton or a straight baton

STRAIGHT BATON: A straight baton constructed of wood, aluminum, or composite material, with or without ball tips, which is approximately 36" long.

EXPANDABLE BATON: A three stage friction lock expandable/collapsible baton constructed of hardened, aircraft seamless alloy steel, with a firm foam grip handle, ball tip and end cap, manufactured by Monadnock Lifetime Products, Inc., which is approximately 21” long when expanded.

IMPACT MUNITIONS: Any firearm-based or explosive-based less lethal weapon, which functions by striking the body of the target.

FLEXIBLE PROJECTILES: Projectiles generally composed of lead or silica-filled cloth bags. Characteristically, flexible projectiles conform to the contour of the surface they strike.

BLUNT TRAUMA: The maximum desired effect of SIMS. Described as the impact from an object that leaves the body surface intact, which may cause sufficient non-life threatening injury to distract, control, and/or incapacitate a subject.

VI. PROCEDURE:

Impact Weapons:

- A. Training: Sworn officers will receive training in the use of batons during Entrance Level Training and re-training during In-Service Training. Training will be provided by certified defensive tactics instructors. Members will need to satisfy all aspects of training before being issued, and permitted to carry, an expandable baton or impact weapon. Instructors will cover the department’s “Subject Management” policy and scenarios in which use of force or escalation of force may require the deployment of an impact weapon. Instruction should include basic skills in deploying, striking, blocking, control holds, and weapon retention. Training will also include educating the members on the areas of a body that are approved for strikes and areas that are prohibited. Proficiency of strikes and knowledge of approved areas will be incorporated during practical exercises.

- B. Authorization, Issuance, and Inspection: The Thurmont Police Department currently issues a Manadnock Expandable Baton to sworn officers. No member will carry any other type impact weapon without authorization from the Chief of Police. Upon successful completion of baton training, a supervisor will issue a baton and holster to the sworn officer. During monthly inspections, a supervisor will ensure that the officer’s issued baton and holster is in good working condition.

- C. Use of an Impact Weapon and Reporting: Any use of an impact weapon will be in accordance of the department's Subject Management Policy. A baton may be utilized by officers to perform strikes, blocks, or control holds on resistant subjects. A Subject Management Report will be submitted by any officer who utilizes an impact weapon. The mere un-holstering, expansion, or presentation of an impact weapon will not require a Subject Management Report.
- D. Medical Treatment of Injured Persons: Following the use of an impact weapon, the officer utilizing the weapon will ensure that appropriate steps are taken to determine if the use of the impact weapon caused injury to the suspect or any other person. All injured persons will be provided with appropriate medical aid.

Impact Munitions:

- F. Training: Use of a Simunition Weapon (SIMS) is restricted to personnel who have received training in its use by a Certified Firearms Instructor. Training will be developed and conducted by a Certified Firearms Instructor to include: Departmental Policy, use of force, escalating force, deadly force, and safe-handling procedures for SIMS. The SIMS officer will demonstrate during training their ability for firearms proficiency and target specific strikes. Officers will re-certify with a SIMS weapon during annual firearms qualification.
- G. Issuance:
1. Following the successful completion of SIMS training, an officer will be permitted to deploy a Department issued "Bean-Bag" weapon with a 12 guage-shotgun platform in specific situations to neutralize a threat or gain compliance.
 2. Officers will only carry and utilize a Department issued and approved SIMS weapon. The issued shotgun specified for SIMS delivery will have an orange stock that readily identifies the shotgun as "SIMS only." SIMS rounds of ammunition will be stored in the sidesaddle on the weapon. **This weapon and SIMS ammunition will not be stored with a shotgun or lethal shotgun ammunition, and no lethal shotgun ammunition will be stored with the SIMS weapon.**
 3. No changes or modifications will be made to the SIMS weapon without the authorization of the Chief of Police and Firearms Instructor.

- H. Inspection: The SIMS weapon will be inspected, and “bean-bag” rounds ammunition will be inventoried, quarterly by a Supervisor and Firearms Instructor.
- I. Deployment:
1. Any use of SIMS will be in accordance with the Subject Management policy.
 2. The SIMS shotgun is a less-lethal weapon, and is not intended to replace the firearm in deadly force situations.
 3. Upon responding to a situation requiring the use of SIMS, the officer will announce via radio that SIMS is being deployed. When practical, a Supervisor will be notified of the special situation in which SIMS is being deployed or has been used.
 4. The officer deploying SIMS will not carry lethal shotgun rounds. A cover officer will be designated for deadly force options.
 5. When SIMS is engaged, back-up officers will position themselves to effectively control and arrest the subject while the subject is still disoriented from the effects of the SIMS.
 6. Upon securing the arrestee, officers will immediately administer first aid and summons EMS.
- J. Reporting SIMS Use: A Subject Management Report will be completed by the officer who deploys (points/aim the SIMS weapon) or discharges the SIMS weapon. The deploying officer will include the physical stature of the impacted subject, clothing worn by the impacted subject, and the distance between the deploying officer and the impacted subject at the time of discharge. The spent SIMS casing will be collected and placed on Property and an Incident Report will be completed. Officers will photograph the SIMS impact site on the subject following a SIMS discharge. If the SIMS impact site is in a private area, the officer will request an officer of the same sex or medical personnel to photograph the SIMS impact site.
- K. Medical Treatment: Following the discharge of SIMS, the officer utilizing the weapon will ensure that appropriate steps are taken to determine if the use of the SIMS caused injury to the suspect or any other person. All injured person will be provided with appropriate medical aid as soon as practical.

DOCUMENT DATES :

Amended Date:

Review Date:

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Rescinds:

Order Written By:

Order Edited and Approved By:

Accreditation Standards Included in this Order

CHAPTER