



*Alexandria Police Department*  
Directive 7.6



# Conducted Energy Weapons

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## CONTENTS

- 7.6.01 POLICY/PURPOSE
- 7.6.02 DEFINITIONS
- 7.6.03 TRAINING AND USE
- 7.6.04 REPORTING THE USE OF CEWs
- 7.6.05 CARE AND MAINTENANCE

### 7.6.01 POLICY/PURPOSE

The Department issues Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW's) to trained personnel to provide an additional less-lethal force option for gaining compliance of resistant or aggressive individuals during arrest and other enforcement situations. It is the policy of the Department that officers use CEW's when warranted by the actions of the person to be arrested/detained and based on sound judgment and training. The guidelines and procedures set forth here and in Police Directive 10.32, Use of Force are designed to direct and guide officers in their decision to employ the CEW.

The CEW program is the responsibility of the Emergency Readiness and Operational Planning Division (EROPD). It will be overseen by a specifically designated EROPD Lieutenant, supervised by the Tactical Training and Response Unit (TTRU) Sergeant, and executed by a specifically designated TTRU officer, as the CEW program coordinator.

### 7.6.02 DEFINITIONS

**CEW** - Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs) are designed to use propelled probes or direct contact to conduct electrical charge to affect the motor and sensory nervous system.

**X26P** - The TASER X26P is a software upgradable CEW manufactured by Axon International, Inc. This is one of two current CEWs issued to certified officers.

[4.3.1a]

**Taser7** – The Taser7 is a software upgradeable CEW manufactured by Axon International, Inc. It is one of two current CEWs issued to certified officers. [4.3.1a]

**Probe Mode Deployment** – The preferred deployment method where the probes are deployed into a target from a CEW.

**Third Point of Contact** – A method to complete an electrical circuit from a CEW in the event a probe deployment is not effective.

**Drive Stun** – A tertiary deployment method of the CEW where the cartridge is removed from the X26P CEW and direct contact is made with the body. Completing a drive stun with the Taser7 does not include removing cartridges.

**Arc Warning** – A method to communicate to a person a CEW will be used unless compliance achieved. The Arc Warning is exclusive to the Taser7 and sparks the device without deploying the probes.

**Automatic-shutdown Power Performance Magazine (APPM)** – The power supply for the CEW, which automatically shutdowns electrical discharge after five seconds. All issued CEWs will use this type of power source.

**Air Cartridge** – A replaceable cartridge for the CEW that contains the compressed nitrogen, probes, wires and AFIDs (Anti-Felon Identification Tags). It must be replaced after each CEW firing.

**AFIDs** – Acronym for Anti-Felon Identification Tags. Every time CEW probes are fired, 20 to 30 confetti like microdot ID tags called AFIDs are ejected. Each AFID is imprinted with the serial number of the air cartridge that was fired, thus identifying the officer and discharged CEW.

**Spark Test** – Daily test of CEW to ensure working order and battery performance.

### 7.6.03 TRAINING AND USE

- A. The CEW program coordinator will be a Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Control Tactics certified instructor and trained “CEW certified Instructor.” The CEW program coordinator will keep his or her knowledge base current as it relates to CEW technology, training and tactics.
- B. The Department will have a minimum of at least two additional “CEW instructor” level trainers.

- C. Officers assigned CEWs must have reviewed and electronically signed their understanding of Police Directives 10.32, Use of Force and 7.6, Conducted Electrical Weapons in PowerDMS. They must also have received an approved course of instruction/training in proper CEW use before a CEW can be issued, carried or used. Records of such training will be kept in the appropriate files in the Training and Development Section. **[4.3.3b] [4.3.4]**
- D. In-service certification training for officers carrying CEWs shall occur at least annually. **[4.3.3b]**
- E. As with any other type of issued equipment, officers carrying CEWs are responsible for ensuring that the device is fully operational at all times. This includes ensuring the unit is sufficiently charged, the air cartridge is not expired, and that all components are fully operational. This will be completed by performing a daily spark test before each shift, as well as visually inspecting the CEW.
1. The following procedure will be followed when spark testing the X26P CEW:
    - a. Remove the CEW from the issued holster;
    - b. Remove the air cartridge and place it on a hard surface in such a manner that it will not fall and be damaged;
    - c. Arm the CEW and point it in a safe direction, taking the time to ensure the integrated light and laser are functioning properly and there is no visible damage;
    - d. Press the trigger to activate the CEW, holding the trigger down to ensure the APPM is functioning properly until the device has stopped cycling and the audible beeping is heard;
    - e. Disarm the device;
    - f. Replace the air cartridge; and
    - g. Holster the CEW.
  2. The following procedure will be followed when spark testing the Taser7 CEW:
    - a. Remove the CEW from the issued holster;
    - b. Point the CEW in a safe direction, keeping your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard;
    - c. While the CEW is not armed, press both Arc Warning buttons at the same time keeping your hands away from the front of the CEW;

- d. Arm the CEW and press one of the Arc Warning buttons, which will discharge the CEW for 5 seconds;
  - e. Ensure there are no fault warnings in the CID and that there is ample APPM capacity;
  - f. Disarm the CEW; and
  - g. Holster the CEW.
- F.** The CEW will always be carried in a CEW approved holster on the thigh, belt, or tactical outer carrier on the support (non-gun) side. When worn on the tactical outer carrier, the holster will be attached to the Molle system vertically as intended by the manufacturer. Regardless of where the holster is worn, the employee is still responsible for having spare CEW cartridges on their person in a location that is easily accessible. Unless unusual circumstances prevent it, the CEW should always be held and fired using the strong/dominant hand.
- G.** Except for normal inspection, maintenance, or during appropriate storage, CEW assigned officers will only display the CEW when there are grounds for its use. The safety will be kept on and the CEW pointed in a safe direction, until circumstances dictate that its use is imminent.

**H. Unintentional Discharges:**

CEW assigned officers will be held accountable for the safe and proper handling of their assigned CEW.

1. Unintentional discharges (to include a discharge as a result of improper handling or horseplay) or intentional discharges striking the wrong target will be investigated and disciplinary charges placed, if appropriate.
2. An unintentional discharge as a result of improper handling, where no property was damaged, and no person or animal struck, except for the person who improperly handled the CEW, may be handled as unit level counseling for a first occurrence in compliance with Police Directive 2.3, Complaints and Disciplinary Actions. Subsequent occurrences will be evaluated on a case by case basis to determine appropriate action.

**I. Field Deployments:**

CEWs are an option available for authorized officers to control the escalation of violent/resistive behavior of persons subject to arrest or investigative detention when the person to be arrested or detained is not in the officer's physical control and the circumstances pose an immediate danger to the officer or others (including members of the public) and the use of the CEW is reasonably

likely to cure the safety risk. CEWs are not to be used on persons who are stationary and offering only non-violent resistance or passively ignoring police commands.

As with any use of force option, officers should refer to *Graham v. Connor* factors when evaluating whether the CEW is an appropriate force option with the understanding that the following factors are not mutually exclusive:

1. The severity of the crime in question;
2. Whether the subject poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officer or others; and
3. Whether the subject is actively resisting arrest or detention or is attempting to evade arrest or detention by flight.

Officers should refrain from using the CEW on persons who only pose a risk of harm to themselves that does not rise to the level of serious bodily injury or death. Officers should also carefully consider the use of CEWs on emotionally disturbed persons regardless of whether they are subject to an Emergency Custody Order. CEWs should only be considered against such persons when they pose an immediate danger to the officer or others or a risk of flight.

CEWs should **not** be used:

1. On persons posing only non-violent or passive resistance, such as ignoring police commands;
2. To induce an arrestee/detainee to relinquish illegal drugs that have been placed in their mouth;
3. When the officer knows the subject has come in contact with a flammable liquid or is in a flammable atmosphere;
4. On fully handcuffed persons: except in cases where the officers or others are in immediate danger, and the use of the CEW is reasonably likely to cure the safety risk and other factors are not practical;
5. To awaken unconscious or intoxicated persons;
6. In situations where a fall would clearly cause serious injury or death;
7. When a subject is holding a firearm;
8. When the person is known to be suffering from a heart condition;

9. When a subject is actively operating a moving motor vehicle;
  10. On females who are clearly pregnant; or
  11. On persons, whether young or old, that are less than 5' and under 100 pounds, or are obviously physically frail.
- J. Once the decision to deploy the CEW has been made, the CEW assigned officer should consider the following:
1. When practical, officers should precede the use of an CEW with verbal commands in an attempt to gain compliance from the subject.
  2. When other officers are present and the situation allows, the officer firing the CEW should alert the other officers that a discharge is about to occur. Officers present at the time of a CEW discharge should use the five-second exposure as an opportunity to control the subject while under power.
  3. A subsequent CEW exposure should be considered only after it is clear that the initial exposure was not successful, and the person is still clearly resisting arrest and/or handcuffing. Prior to a subsequent exposure, if practical, the CEW assigned officer should provide a verbal warning to the person that if they do not discontinue the resistance, they will receive an additional exposure. The CEW assigned officer will ensure that no one else is in contact with the person in the area between the two probes at the time any exposure takes place. Prior to a third exposure, the CEW assigned officer must consider if the CEW is still the appropriate less lethal tool to apply.
  4. Officers will not intentionally aim at a person's head, neck or groin area. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- K. Any person whose body is penetrated by a CEW probe(s) and/or receives an electrical exposure relating to a CEW deployment will be transported to the hospital for medical screening. The transport will be conducted in accordance with PD 10.27, Prisoner Transport. The effects of a CEW are generally immediate and temporary. However, officers should still carefully observe the stunned person for ill effects during the time they are in the officer's custody. If the person's injuries require immediate attention, an ambulance will be called, and the officer will accompany the prisoner to the hospital. The Sheriff's Office booking facility staff will require proof of the medical screening prior to their acceptance of the prisoner.
- L. CEW assigned officers will extract any probes unless those probes are implanted in any medically sensitive (eyes, face, neck) or personally sensitive (female breasts, or male/female groin areas) areas. Paramedics from the Fire Department will be called

to remove or medically assess probes implanted in medically sensitive or personally sensitive areas and then transport the person to the hospital. The officer will accompany the prisoner to the hospital. Probes known or suspected of penetrating a human body will be treated as a biohazard. Surgical gloves will be used, and the probes placed in a sharps tube. [4.1.5]

- M. Persons taken to the hospital will be advised that payment for any treatment rendered is their own responsibility, and that they may file a claim with the City's risk manager if they choose to do so.
- N. If an arrested/detained person who has been the subject of a CEW discharge is transferred to the custody of another officer or agency, the receiving person must be clearly informed of that fact at the time of the transfer. In all cases, regardless of the number of officers involved in handling a prisoner, the Sheriff's Office booking room or any medical facility will be informed that the person they are receiving has been the recipient of an CEW discharge.

#### 7.6.04 REPORTING THE USE OF CEWs

##### A. Employee Responsibilities

Given the need for a medical screening, any officer who intentionally or unintentionally discharges a CEW whose probes or current penetrates or stuns someone will notify the dispatcher soon as possible. Medical screening will be conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined in paragraphs 7.6.03L and 7.6.03M.

In the event of an intentional or unintentional discharge of a CEW, regardless if anyone was struck or stunned, the officer will notify his supervisor as soon as practical, and in all occasions, within one hour of the discharge.

CEW assigned officers will complete a monthly reporting sheet documenting any occasions where the presence or display of the CEW has gained compliance without the actual deployment of the CEW. CEW assigned officers will also use this report to document the actual instances of deployment of the CEW. This report will be sent to each CEW assigned officer via Power DMS. CEW assigned officers will have one week (7 days) after the end of the month to complete the survey and submit it through Power DMS.

CEW assigned officers will notify the CEW program coordinator whenever they have any questions or concerns about their issued CEW equipment.

**B. Supervisor Responsibilities**

*The employee's immediate supervisor or an on-duty supervisor will respond to the scene and investigate all incidents involving the use of CEWs in accordance with Police Directive 10.32.08 (B).*

*In addition to those procedures outlined in Police Directive 10.32.08 (B), the investigating supervisor will ensure that all CEW evidence is collected in the following manner:*

1. All evidence is to be collected while wearing protective gloves due to the biohazard concern;
2. Ensure each of the probes, if found, are placed in their own "sharps" tubes noting from where the probes were retrieved on the tubes;
3. The tubes will be placed in a heat-seal bag;
4. Locate as many AFIDs as possible and place them in the heat-seal bag; and
5. The air cartridge and copper-clad steel leads are to be placed in the same heat-seal bag as the tubes taking care not to wrap the leads around the air cartridge.

In the event of an unintentional deployment where no injury or damage to property exists, the investigating supervisor may, at their discretion, dispose of the items normally collected for field deployments.

In the event of a deployment of a CEW, the supervisor completing the investigation will contact the appropriate EROPD Sergeant to arrange for any download documents relating to that deployment to be prepared and for replacement equipment to be issued.

The designated EROPD Sergeant assigned to supervise the CEW program will be responsible to see the CEW program coordinator is properly fulfilling his or her assigned duties, inspecting those functions, and where necessary, provide guidance to the CEW coordinator toward that end. This designated Sergeant will keep the designated EROPD Lieutenant overseeing the CEW program up to date as to its status and any issues to be addressed.

**C. Commander Responsibilities**

*All commanders will ensure that the incident was thoroughly investigated in accordance with Police Directive 10.32.08 (B), and that a recommendation for appropriate remedial action, if necessary, is documented. The package will then be forwarded to the Chief of Police through OEAPR. [4.2.2]*



The designated EROPD Lieutenant assigned to oversee the CEW program will be responsible to see the program is properly budgeted for, that all necessary documentation/files are being properly kept, determine any needed level of expansion/contraction of the program that might be warranted, recommend changes to the CEW directive, and ensure proper screening of candidates to be trained for and issued CEWs.

#### **7.6.05 CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

Each individual CEW assigned officer has the primary responsibility for the care and handling of his or her CEW. Program-wide matters are the responsibility of the assigned EROPD supervisor.

The Tactical Training and Response Unit will be responsible for the issuance, return, and storage of all CEW related equipment.

The CEW program coordinator will:

1. Maintain a log to identify each CEW certified officer, their specific issued equipment, dates of functional equipment inspections, and dates of each officer's most recent training;
2. Ensure that training-related documentation is transferred to the Training and Development Section;
3. Maintain and inventory all spare CEW equipment and accessories to keep the program functioning;
4. Ensure that all training standards are adhered to and certifications are maintained by all CEW assigned officers and CEW Instructors;
5. Ensure that lesson plans for training are kept up to date and that all training is executed in a safe manner;
6. Provide a monthly report on incidents where the CEWs have been effective in gaining compliance without actual deployment and document the circumstances when deployment was necessary; and
7. Routinely assess the need to make changes and or improvements to the CEW equipment.

The routine CEW care and maintenance guidelines are as follows:

1. X26P
  - a. X26P and Taser7 components to include the docking station are not compatible.
  - b. All testing and maintenance shall be consistent with the manufacturer's specifications and Department training.
  - c. Once a week, the CEW assigned Officer will inspect the firing bay of the CEW for contaminants or carbon buildup. If found, the bay will be carefully wiped out with a clean cloth. (Repeated firings of the device can create an accumulation of carbon. This condition could cause the device to malfunction during firing.)
  - d. The APPM of the CEW is field-ready until the Central Information Display (CID) indicates an APPM life of 20% or less. At that point it must be replaced. Any APPM with a battery life of 20% or less will be retained for training purposes only.
  - e. If a CEW becomes wet through submersion in water, rain (soaking) or otherwise, it will be returned to the TTRU and taken out of service to determine if the device needs repair.
  - f. Cartridges have a shelf life of five years from date of manufacture. The cartridge label contains the cartridge serial number and expiration date.
  - g. When not being used by an operator, the CEW and cartridges will be stored in a hard-sided case or the issued holster. Because of the polymer construction, the CEW will not be kept in direct sunlight. Officers are required to secure and lock away their CEW from unauthorized persons.
  - h. CEW operators who detect or suspect any defects in material or function will immediately take the CEW out of service and report this to their immediate supervisor so repair and documentation can be facilitated.
  - i. All CEW and related equipment will be inspected annually for serviceability.
2. Taser7
  - a. Taser7 and X26P components, to include the docking station, are not compatible.
  - b. All testing and maintenance shall be consistent with the manufacturer's specifications and Department training.

- c. Once a week, the CEW assigned Officer will inspect the firing bay of the CEW for contaminants or carbon buildup. If found, the bay will be carefully wiped out with a clean cloth. (Repeated firings of the device can create an accumulation of carbon. This condition could cause the device to malfunction during firing.)
- d. The APPM for the Taser 7 is the rechargeable power source for the CEW. It is effective until the battery reaches zero charge. However, when the APPM charge reaches 20%, the assigned officer will exchange the APPM with a fully charged APPM in the docking station.
- e. If a CEW becomes wet through submersion in water, rain (soaking) or otherwise, it will be returned to the TTRU and taken out of service to determine if the device needs repair.
- f. Cartridges have a shelf life of five years from date of manufacture. The cartridge label contains the cartridge serial number and expiration date.
- g. When not being used by an operator, the CEW and cartridges will be stored in a hard-sided case or the issued holster. Because of the polymer construction, the CEW will not be kept in direct sunlight. Officers are required to secure and lock away their CEW from unauthorized persons.
- h. CEW operators who detect or suspect any defects in material or function will immediately take the CEW out of service and report this to their immediate supervisor so repair and documentation can be facilitated.
- i. All CEW and related equipment will be inspected annually for serviceability.

**By Authority Of:**

**Michael L. Brown**  
**Chief of Police**