

USE OF THE ADVANCED TASER

The ADVANCED TASER is a defensive weapon listed in the force continuum the same as chemical agents located between empty hands and closed hands. The decision to use the ADVANCED TASER is the same as the decision to use OC spray or a baton: it depends on the actions and the critical distance of the threat. Therefore, an officer does not have to get dangerously close to a threat to try chemical agents before resorting to the ADVANCED TASER.

The ADVANCED TASER is deployed as an additional police tool and is not intended to replace firearms or self-defense techniques. The ADVANCED TASER may be used to control a dangerous or violent subject when deadly physical force does not appear to be justified and/or necessary, or attempts to subdue the subject by other conventional tactics have been, or will likely be, ineffective in the situation at hand; or there is reasonable expectation that it will be unsafe for deputies to approach within contact range of the subject.

Purpose

This order sets forth Marion County Sheriff's Department policy regarding deployment of the ADVANCED TASER.

The following provisions are established:

- A. ADVANCED TASER shall be issued to and used only by deputies who have completed the department's ADVANCED TASER training program or a training program by Taser International.
- B. Only properly functioning and charged ADVANCED TASERs shall be used.
- C. The M26 ADVANCED TASER will be the only taser allowed for use by the Marion County Sheriff's Department.
- D. Decision to deploy the ADVANCED TASER will be made by the certified ADVANCED TASER operator or instructor.
- E. Laser sight from the ADVANCED TASER shall never be aimed at the suspect's face or head area.
- F. Use or deployment of the ADVANCED TASER will be documented on a departmental special taser report. In addition, the data from the use will be downloaded from the ADVANCED TASER and a copy of the information will be attached to the special taser report. This shall then be forwarded to the law enforcement commander via the chain of command.

- G. The deployment of the ADVANCED TASER will be considered in the force continuum the same as chemical agents or aerosol projectors.
- H. Persons who have been subjected to the ADVANCED TASER, or the probes, shall be treated as follows:
1. Once in custody, the arresting officer shall advise paramedics or SWAT medics that the person has been subjected to the ADVANCED TASER and relate the approximate time and the action occurred. If the probes penetrate the skin, the puncture sites shall be brought to the attention of the shift supervisor and medical personnel. Only medical personnel may remove ADVANCED TASER probes that are embedded in skin. Removal from clothing will be at the discretion of the shift supervisor.
 2. After examining the affected person, the medics will make the determination of the person should or should not be transported to the hospital. Transportation to a medical facility will be by police transport unless an ambulance is more appropriate due to other related or non-related injuries.
 3. Officers must be aware that one easily overlooked aspect of injury in shooting a subject with an ADVANCED TASER is that of falling from a standing position. A thorough physical examination with particular emphasis on injuries secondary to the fall should be performed.