



**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report**



2026-0745

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10810 Brookpark Rd.,
Brooklyn, OH 44130, Cuyahoga County (L)

Investigative Activity: Receipt and Review of Use of Force Policy
Involves: Parma Police Department (O)
Activity Date: 03/04/2026
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA John P. Tingley #154

Narrative:

On Wednesday, March 04, 2026, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Tingley received and reviewed the Use of Force Policy utilized by the Parma Police Department (PPD) at the time of the Officer Involved Critical Incident which occurred on February 24, 2026, at 10810 Brookpark Road, Parma, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

The PPD Use of Force Policy received is attached to this investigative report for further review.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. PPD USE OF FORCE POLICY

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Parma Police Department

Policy, Procedures and Rules Manual

SUBJECT:	USE OF FORCE		
Chapter:	8. USE OF FORCE		
Policy Number:	8.2		
Effective Date:	1 December 1998	Revision Date:	11 July 2023
Reference:	Amendment U.S. Constitution; Tennessee v. Garner (1985); Graham v. Connor, et al (1989); OPOTA Guidelines OP 10; OP 40, Ohio Collaborative Resources; IACP; Collins v. Nagle, 892 F2d 489 at 497 (6th Cir. 1989); Section 2901.01(A)(1)/ (5) of the Ohio Revised Code.		
Approved By:		Law Dept.	Jeff Hastings
Distribution:	All Officers, Records Division, Safety Department, Communications, Law Department		

I. PURPOSE

This policy provides guidelines on the reasonable use of force. While there is no way to specify the exact amount or type of reasonable force to be applied in every situation, every member of this department is expected to use these guidelines to make such decisions in a legal, professional, impartial and reasonable manner.

II. POLICY

The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use reasonable force in carrying out their duties. Officers must have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, their authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties. The Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Actively Resisting: Those physical motions or movements used by a person to counteract an officer's legal attempts to make an arrest or control a subject or situation.
- B. CEW: Conducted Electrical Weapon
- C. Choke Hold: A physical maneuver that restricts an individual's ability to breathe for purposes of incapacitation.
- D. Deadly Force: Force that creates a substantial likelihood of causing death.
- E. Force: Any physical violence, compulsion, or constraint physically exerted by any means upon or against a person or thing. (Section 2901.01(A)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code) The

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Code) The application of physical techniques or tactics used on another person. Use of force is not when a person allows him/herself to be searched, escorted, or providing balancing assistance.

- F. Objectively Reasonable: This term describes how a reasonable officer would think and act in light of the facts and circumstances present and reasonably known to him. “Objectively reasonable” is judged through the perspective of a reasonable officer with similar training and experience, facing similar circumstances.
- G. Passive Resistance: A non-violent opposition to authority. As used in this section especially a refusal to cooperate with legal requests, directions or commands by law enforcement.
- H. Physical Harm: Any injury, illness, or other physiological impairment regardless of its gravity or duration.
- I. Serious Physical Injury: Means any of the following:
 - 1. Any mental illness or condition of such gravity as would normally require hospitalization or prolonged psychiatric treatment
 - 2. Any physical injury that carries a substantial risk of death;
 - 3. Any physical injury that involves some permanent incapacity, whether partial or total, or that involves some temporary, substantial incapacity;
 - 4. Any physical injury that involves some permanent disfigurement or that involves some temporary, serious disfigurement;
 - 5. Any physical injury that involves acute pain of such duration so as to result in substantial suffering or that involves any degree of prolonged or intractable pain.Section 2901.01(A)(5) of the Ohio Revised Code.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. USE OF FORCE

Officers are authorized to use reasonable force when necessary to carry out their duties. In determining the necessity for and the objectively reasonable appropriate level of force, officers shall evaluate each situation in light of known facts, including but not limited to, the seriousness of the crime, the level of threat or resistance presented by the subject and the danger to the officer or the community. Officers may only use that amount of force which is objectively reasonable to affect a lawful objective including: making a lawful arrest or overcoming resistance to a lawful arrest, preventing the escape of an offender, or protecting or defending others or themselves from physical harm.

B. USE OF DEADLY FORCE

Officers must have an objectively reasonable belief that deadly force is necessary to protect life before the use of deadly force. An officer may use deadly force only under the following circumstance:

Use of Force (continued)

1. To defend themselves from serious physical injury or death; or
2. To defend another person from serious physical injury or death; or
3. In accordance with U.S. and Ohio Supreme Court decisions, including, *Tennessee v. Garner* (1985) and *Graham v. Connor*, et al (1989) and case law from the U. S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

C. USE OF FORCE TO MAKE AN ARREST

Any peace officer who has probable cause to believe that a person has committed a crime may use reasonable force to affect the arrest, to prevent escape or to overcome resistance. A peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest, need not retreat or desist from their efforts by reason of resistance or a threat of resistance by the person being arrested.

D. FACTORS USED TO DETERMINE THE REASONABLENESS OF FORCE

When determining whether to apply any level of force and evaluating whether an officer has used reasonable force, a number of factors should be taken into consideration. These factors include, but are not limited to:

1. The severity of the crime at issue.
2. The subject's level of resistance to arrest or his attempts to evade arrest by flight.
3. The conduct of the person being confronted as reasonably perceived by the officer at the time and under the circumstances
4. Immediacy and severity of the threat to officers or others.
5. The officer's and subject's relative height, weight, age, relative strength, skill level, injuries sustained, level of exhaustion or fatigue and the number of officer's verses subjects.
6. The influence of drugs or alcohol on the subject and the subject's apparent mental condition or capacity.
7. The presence and proximity of a weapon and the type of weapon.
8. The distance between the officer and subject.
9. The degree to which the subject has been effectively restrained and his/her ability to resist despite being restrained.
10. The time to react.
11. The circumstances permitting the availability of other options that is resources that are reasonably available to the officer under the circumstances.
12. The seriousness of the suspected offense or reason for the contact with the individual.
13. The training and experience of the officer.

Use of Force (continued)

14. The potential for injury to citizens, officers and suspects.
15. The prior knowledge of the subject's propensity for violence.
16. Any other exigent circumstance or special knowledge relevant to the use of force.

E. PAIN COMPLIANCE TECHNIQUES

1. Officers may only apply those pain compliance techniques for which they have successfully completed department-approved training. For example, the use of a 12-gauge bean bag round or expandable baton. Officers utilizing any pain compliance technique should consider:
 - a. The degree to which the application of the technique may be controlled given the level of resistance.
 - b. Whether the person can comply with the direction or orders of the officer.
 - c. Whether the person has been given sufficient opportunity to comply.
2. The application of any pain compliance technique shall be discontinued once the officer determines that compliance has been achieved.

F. CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON ("CEW")

1. Policy and Purpose of This Section.

To provide guidelines for the issuance, use, and maintenance of the CEWS issued to Parma Police Department officers. As with all use of force, a Parma Police Officer shall use only that amount of force necessary to perform his/her legal duties or to prevent physical harm to themselves or others. Force may only be used when an officer believes that no reasonably effective alternative to the use of force appears to exist. Under this criterion, the Parma Police Department authorizes the use of the CEW by those officers trained and certified in its use.

2. PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING CEW

- a. Uniformed officers who have been issued a CEW shall wear the CEW in an approved holster on their duty belt or vest, opposite their firearm.
- b. The CEW shall be clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate it from the duty weapon and any other device.
- c. Whenever practical, officers should carry a total of two or more cartridges on their person when carrying the CEW.
- d. Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their CEW is properly maintained and in good working order at all times.
- e. Officers should never hold both the CEW and their firearm at the same time.

3. APPLICATION OF THE CEW

Use of Force (continued)

Authorized personnel may use the CEW when circumstances known to the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonable to control a person in any of the following circumstances:

- a. The subject is violent or actively resisting.
- b. A subject who, by words or actions, has demonstrated an intention to be violent or to actively resist and who reasonably appears to present the potential of physical harm to officers, themselves or others.
- c. Flight in order to avoid arrest or detention, in circumstances where officers would pursue on foot and physically affect the arrest. However, officer must consider that the subject will fall and where and what that person will fall on.
- d. When practicable, the officer should give a verbal warning of the intended use of the CEW followed by a reasonable opportunity for the subject to voluntarily comply. Every application of the CEW must be justified under the objectively reasonableness standard.

4. SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- a. The use of the CEW should be avoided in the following situations unless the totality of the circumstances indicate that other options reasonably appear ineffective, impractical or would present a greater danger to the officer, the subject or other individuals, and the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the CEW:
 - i. Females suspected of being pregnant.
 - ii. Elderly individuals, children, individuals under 80 lbs. or with known neuromuscular disorders. This will be determined by amount of force needed to take custody, the amount of resistance facing the officer; a determination which has the best outcome for everyone. Is it safer to go hands on or use CEW?
 - iii. Individuals handcuffed, in wheel chairs or otherwise restrained.
 - iv. Individuals whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (falls from heights or vehicle operation).
 - v. More than 15 seconds of CEW application.
 - vi. Passive Resistance.
 - vii. In an environment where flammable, volatile, or explosive materials are a concern.
 - viii. Perception of mental illness alone, without first using verbal commands and other de-escalation techniques.
- b. Because the CEW can be used in drive stun mode and relies on pain compliance and close proximity to the subject, caution should be used. This application

Use of Force (continued)

should be limited to brief applications in which pain compliance would reasonable appear necessary to achieve control.

5. TARGETING CONSIDERATIONS

While the manufacturers generally recommend that reasonable efforts should be made to target the back of the individual- buttock to shoulder blades, it is recognized that the dynamics of each situation and officer safety may not permit the officer to limit the application of the CEW probes to the precise target area. As such, officers should take prompt and ongoing care to monitor the condition of the subject if one or more probes strike the neck, head, breasts (female), or groin until the subject is released.

6. MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE CEW

- a. If the first application of the CEW appears to be ineffective in gaining control of a suspect and if circumstances allow, the officer should consider the following before additional applications of the CEW:
 - i. Whether the probes are making proper contact.
 - ii. Whether the application of the CEW is interfering with the ability of the suspect to comply.
 - iii. Whether verbal commands, other options or tactics may be more effective.
- b. The foregoing shall not preclude any officer from deploying multiple, reasonable applications of the CEW on an individual.

7. AFTER CEW DEPLOYMENT

- a. Request supervisor or ranking officer to respond to the scene.
- b. Examine suspect after being handcuffed and request an EMS unit to assess the condition of the suspect.
- c. Secure probes and cartridge as evidence after taking pictures- probe entry points on suspect.
- d. Reports documented before ending the officer's shift; for officer and supervisor.
- e. In situations where the CEW deployment is associated with an incident where there is serious physical injury or death of a suspect, ensure that the entire CEW is secured and tagged as evidence.

G. DEADLY FORCE APPLICATION

1. While the use of a firearm is expressly considered deadly force, other force might also be considered deadly force if the officer reasonably anticipates and intends that the force applied will create a substantial likelihood of causing death or serious physical injury. An officer may use deadly force to protect him/herself or others from what he/she reasonably believes would be an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury. Other limitations on the use of deadly force are listed below.

Use of Force (continued)

2. USE OF DEADLY FORCE

- a. Peace Officers are authorized to use deadly force when one or both of the following apply:
 - a. To protect the officer or others from what is reasonably believed to be a threat of death or serious physical injury.
 - b. To prevent the escape of a fleeing VIOLENT felon who the officer has probable cause to believe will pose a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others. Where practicable, the officer shall identify himself/herself as a police officer and warn of his or her intent to shoot.

H. DEADLY FORCE RESTRICTIONS

1. Warning shots are prohibited.
2. The use of chokeholds is considered deadly force and are prohibited except in situations when the use of deadly force is authorized.
3. Firearms shall not be discharged at a moving vehicle unless a person in the vehicle is immediately threatening the officer or another person with deadly force by means other than the vehicle being operated; the discharging of a firearm at a moving vehicle is prohibited if that discharge presents an unreasonable risk to the officer or others. The moving vehicle itself shall not presumptively constitute a threat that justifies an officer's use of deadly force. Officers are not permitted to place themselves in front of moving vehicles then justify the use of deadly force. Remove yourself from the path of the vehicle instead of firing at the vehicle or its occupants.
4. Firearms shall not be discharged from a moving vehicle.
5. Where the use of deadly force is not authorized, officers may use only that level of force that is objectively reasonable to bring an incident under control.

I. SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER A SHOOTING

The Chief of Police, command officers and detectives are to be timely notified when an officer's response to resistance causes serious physical injury to another or death.

1. The initial on scene investigation will be secured and preserved, waiting for the arrival of department investigators and/or third-party independent investigating agency. The Parma Police Department will be responsible for the internal investigation
2. BCI and the County Prosecutor will be notified. The prosecutor's office and BCI will determine how the criminal investigation will be conducted.
3. The suspect will be secured, whether alive or deceased. The weapon should be left where it lies, and the scene secured. All potential evidence secured, including cruiser, body cameras. Department supervisors will ensure all evidence is downloaded and kept secured.

Use of Force (continued)

4. The officer involved in the shooting will be examined for injuries and asked a number of public safety questions (attached hereto as Addendum II) to secure the scene and aid in the deadly force investigation. The officer will be referred for crisis de-escalation services.
5. The officer's firearm will be collected as evidence. The department will replace the officers' duty weapon as soon as practical.
6. The officer may be placed on paid administrative leave for up to five days, pending the recommendation of a counselor.¹ Upon return to duty the officer will be assigned administrative duties until all investigations are completed.²
7. The officer will be required to submit to a drug test prior to concluding that shift. A supervisor will be required to take the officer to the appropriate testing facility.
8. The officer will be provided legal representation from OPBA prior to questioning. This does not preclude the officer from retaining his/her own attorney.
9. The officer shall be re-instated to full active duty once 1.) the department's firearms review board has completed its internal investigation and found that policy was followed; 2.) if a case was presented to the grand jury, a grand jury found a no bill indictment, or; 3.) the prosecutor determined (at the conclusion of his/her investigation) that no case will be presented to the grand jury.³
10. Should the Parma Police Dept. determine that the policy was not followed, or a crime was committed, the department will send notification, in writing, to the officer, advising its intent to move to the disciplinary phase. The officer will be offered a pre-disciplinary conference before any action is taken against the officer.

J. REPORTING USE OF FORCE

1. A supplemental "Use of Force" report shall be completed by all officers involved, under the following circumstances:⁴
 - a. When a firearm has fired in the direction of any person.
 - b. When a use of force results in injury or death.
 - c. When a subject indicates an injury has been inflicted.
 - d. When a less than lethal weapon has been used on another person.
 - e. Whenever an officer from another jurisdiction is involved in a use of force incident, either within or outside the City of Parma, and is being directly assisted by a Parma Police Officer.
 - f. Whenever any subject is charged with resisting arrest or obstructing.

¹ Guidelines of administrative leave following deadly force incidents are set forth in the Patrolmen's CBA.

² Policy OP-10 sets forth the guidelines for Administrative Leave in deadly force incidents.

³ Policy OP-10 sets forth the guidelines for recall to full active duty after deadly force incidents.

⁴ Policy RR-2 sets forth the guidelines for the reporting of "Use of Force" incidents.

Use of Force (continued)

- g. The individual subjected to the force was rendered unconscious.
- h. An individual was struck or kicked in any manner.
- i. The pointing of a weapon at any subject during a deadly use of force incident.

NOTE: The pointing of a weapon at a suspect as a show of force does not have to be reported.

- j. There is significant damage to civilian property or any damage to police property.
 - k. Any restraints other than handcuffs are needed to subdue a person.
2. The officer's use of force is the utilization of balance displacement techniques.
- a. Not required for reporting are balance placement techniques:
 - i. Restraint for self-injurious behavior, unless an injury is reported.
 - ii. Balance assistance for a sick or intoxicated subject.
3. In the case of an off-duty use of force incident and the officer is unsure if the incident is a police related incident (that is "color of law"), the officer will request a supervisor respond to the scene to make that determination.

NOTE: No documentation is necessary if a weapon is merely removed from a holster for ready access, unless any of the above conditions apply.

K. DUTY TO REPORT USE OF FORCE/INTERVENTION

To collect data for purposes of training, resource allocation, analysis and related purposes, any use of force by a member of this department shall be documented promptly, completely and accurately in the department's "Response to Resistance" report. The officer should articulate the factors perceived and why they believed the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances.

L. MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR INJURIES SUSTAINED USING FORCE

Prior to booking or release, medical assistance shall be obtained for any person who has sustained visible injury, expressed a complaint of injury or continuing pain, or who has been rendered unconscious. Based upon the officer's initial assessment of the nature and extent of the subject's injuries, medical assistance may consist of examination by fire personnel, paramedics, hospital staff or medical staff at the jail. If any such individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal shall be fully documented in related reports and, whenever practicable, should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel. If an audio recording is made of a contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if reasonably possible. Persons who exhibit extreme agitation, violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond their physical characteristics and seem impervious to pain (sometimes called "excited delirium") or who require a protracted physical encounter with multiple officers to be brought under control may be at an increased risk of sudden death and should be examined by qualified medical personnel as soon

Use of Force (continued)

as practicable. Medical personnel should be advised of the relevant behavior of the subject. Any individual exhibiting signs of distress shall be medically cleared prior to being brought to the jail for booking.

M. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Whenever an officer is involved in a use of force requiring the generation of a supplemental "Use of Force" report the Shift Supervisor should:
 - a. Obtain the basic facts from the involved officer. Absent an allegation of misconduct or excessive force, this will be considered a routine contact in the normal course of duties.
 - b. Ensure that any injured parties are examined and if necessary, treated by EMS.
 - c. Once an initial medical assessment or first aid has been completed, ensure that photographs have been taken of any areas involving visible injury or complaint of pain, as well as overall photographs of uninjured areas. (These photographs should also be retained until all potential civil litigation has expired).
 - d. The Detective Bureau will consult with the City law department and respective county prosecutor's office on preparing court orders to obtain copies of all medical (i.e. EMS report, treatment forms/summaries, etc.) pertaining to the treatment of the suspect. If the suspect is transported, the attending hospital personnel should be identified in the investigation so that the Detective Bureau can obtain all hospital documentation by court order. If the suspect is willing to sign a voluntary release of medical records, the Shift Supervisor or Senior Officer will make certain that documentation is submitted with the paperwork.
 - e. Ensure all witnesses are located, identified, interviewed, and witness statements are collected.
 - f. Obtain any and all video and audio recordings (i.e. cruiser recordings, booking recordings, audio recordings, body camera, etc.) available, and enter as evidence into the Property Room.
 - g. Review and approve all related reports.
 - h. In the event an officer is injured, the Shift Supervisor or Senior Officer shall, ensure that the officer receives medical attention, the Chief of Police is to be notified, then complete the required Worker's Compensation Forms and make certain the injury is documented in the Response to Resistance form.
 - i. Ensure that the supplemental "Use of Force" report is completed by those involved, review that report and make certain the report is forwarded to the Chief of Police. The supervisor shall initiate a separate internal administrative investigation if it is reasonable to believe that an application of force by an officer was not within policy. The investigation or complaint form will then be directed to the commanding officer of the accused employee, via the chain of command. The commanding officer will forward a copy to the Chief of Police,

Use of Force (continued)

take any appropriate action and/or forward the investigation to the Chief of Police for disciplinary review.

2. In the event that a supervisor is unable to respond to the scene of an incident involving the reported application of force, the supervisor is still expected to complete as many of the above items as circumstances reasonably permit.

N. TRAINING

Officers will receive a copy of this policy and will be required to acknowledge that they have read the policy. Officers will receive annual training and will be tested on their understanding of this policy. Furthermore, officers will receive annual scenario/judgment training with the CEW and firearms, above and beyond the requalification standards required by the State of Ohio.

Addendum I

USE OF FORCE

CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON (CEW)

I. PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the issuance, use, and maintenance of the XREP and TASER X26 issued to Parma Police Department officers.

II. POLICY

A Parma Police officer shall use only that amount of non-deadly force necessary to perform his/ her legal duties or to prevent harm to themselves or others. Deadly force may only be used when an officer believes that no reasonably effective alternative to the use of force appears to exist. Under the above criteria the Parma Police Department authorizes the use of the CEW's by those officers trained and certified in its use. (Refer to use of Force Continuum Action-Response Chart at the end of OP 4 Use of Force policy.) CEW's may not be used solely to inflict punishment or pain.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Description

1. The CEW's are designed to restrain potentially violent persons when alternative restraint tactics have been used and failed, or are reasonably likely to fail, or when it would be unsafe for officers to approach a person to apply restraints. TASER X26 may also be used when necessary to incapacitate vicious animals.
2. The TASER X26 fires two darts connected to the device by fine wires. Once in place, electricity is discharged into the person at the control of the TASER X26 operator.
3. The XREP is an extended Range Electronic Projectile and only fired from a dedicated less than lethal 12-gauge shotgun. The XREP is a single shot separating munition tethered together with an on-board power supply each containing probes.
4. The person should normally be immobilized and dazed by the electricity long enough for officers to apply restraints. Manufacturers claim that no permanent damage is caused by the Taser under normal conditions; however, precautions in its use shall be followed in accordance with provisions of this policy.

B. Training

1. Only officers who have successfully completed the Department approved course of instruction on the CEW are authorized to use the device in tactical situations. Officers shall receive annual Taser refresher training.

C. TASER X26/ Cartridge Report, Accountability, & Issuance

1. Accountability – Officers who are assigned a TASER X26 will be issued three cartridges; one loaded in the device, one stored in the Taser handle (if applicable), with the third to be stored in the gun locker compartment of the officer's locker. The third

Use of Force (continued)

cartridge will serve as an immediate replacement for the officer's TASER X26. Serial numbers of the TASER X26 and each cartridge will be verified and documented by the range officer at time of issuance. All cartridges will be accounted for during annual recertification.

2. Issuance – Officer's shall obtain replacement cartridges from the Range Officer as necessary. The cartridges and batteries each have an indicated shelf life, are dated, and the oldest cartridges should be used first. Each officer shall ensure rotation of these stock items. Any officer who discharges a cartridge shall notify the range officer to replace the used cartridge. The range officer will maintain an inventory of all CEW units and cartridges that will document the date the cartridge was discharged.

D. TASER X26 Maintenance

1. Officers assigned a TASER X26 are responsible for maintaining the device's operational readiness. As such, officers shall:
 - a. Store the device and extra cartridges in the issued holster or case when not in use.
 - i. Officers issued a TASER X26 should keep two cartridges with the device.
 - ii. *CAUTION - Cartridges should not be carried in pockets due to the risk that static electricity could cause an unintentional discharge of the cartridge. The third cartridge shall be kept in the officer's locker.*
 - b. Check the TASER X26 battery strength to ensure adequate battery charge.
 - i. Officers shall remove the cartridge from the TASER X26 before checking battery strength or changing the batteries in the unit.
 - ii. In the event that the unit battery strength is not adequate, officers shall replace the TASER X26 battery with the type specifically approved for use in the TASER X26. Batteries shall be supplied by the Range Officer.
 - c. Check the expiration dates and condition of the TASER X26 cartridges. Expired or damaged cartridges shall be turned in to the Range Officer or a supervisor for replacement.

E. Uniform Wear

1. The TASER X26 will only be worn in a cross-draw fashion opposite the handgun. Once issued, the TASER X26 is a "mandatory carry" item unless turned in for service or repair.
2. All CEW units will be properly stored when not in use and not left unattended or unsecured.
3. The Uniform Patrol commander shall verify the need for extra space to accommodate wearing of the TASER X26 and may approve the removal of the ASP.

F. Test-firing the TASER X26

Use of Force (continued)

1. The TASER X26 will be tested once per week in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. This test will be conducted on the first day of the officer's work cycle.
2. The TASER X26 will only be test-fired on the range or in the hallway immediately outside the door to the range. Officers shall ensure that non-essential employees are clear of the immediate area at the time of test firing. The designated location shall have the "Taser Test Area" test sequence poster prominently displayed. Each officer shall follow the test sequence.
3. A two-officer, or "buddy system", shall be used when possible. The second officer shall verify the test-firing steps are completed in accordance with this policy and the poster.
4. To test-fire the device:

STEP 1

Verify TASER X26 is off

REMOVE cartridge from TASER X26

STEP 2

Turn on the TASER X26

Depress trigger and allow Taser to cycle 1 second

Turn TASER X26 off

Replace batteries as needed

STEP 3

Verify TASER X26 is off

Reattach cartridge

Secure TASER X26

Document test on Taser Test Fire Log (posted at test area)

G. Field Use

1. The CEW may be used when an officer believes that no reasonably effective alternative to the use of force appears to exist, balancing the need to arrest or subdue the person; the likelihood of injury to the person, to innocent bystanders, or law enforcement officers; and officer safety concerns.
2. When reasonable, officers should issue a verbal warning before the CEW is deployed.
3. For maximum effectiveness, the CEW should be fired at these preferred target areas: lower center body mass and at large muscle groups such as the back or legs. Officers should not target the upper chest, face, neck, head, eyes, groin, or open wounds.
4. The XREP requires direct contact with the body so officers should fire the XREP where the clothing fits the tightest in the preferred target areas.

Use of Force (continued)

5. Examples of situations in which the CEW may be used include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Dealing with a mentally ill person perceived to be violent.
 - b. Armed suspects.
 - c. Warrant service when the offender is perceived to be violent.
 - d. Violent persons under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
 - e. Persons expressing the intent and having the means to commit suicide.
 - f. When the officer concludes that a lesser use of force option will likely be ineffective or greater use of force options may be inappropriate, given objective circumstances.
6. The CEW should not be pointed at any person unless the officer involved reasonably believes it will be necessary to use the weapon.
7. TASER X26 use in the Parma Jail
 - a. Police officers shall not routinely take TASER X26 devices into the jail without the approval of the Police OIC and / or Jail OIC
 - b. With prior approval, officers may take their TASER X26 device in the jail when prisoners are displaying aggressive or violent tendencies likely to result in physical resistance.
 - c. Under the above circumstances TASER X26 devices will be secured after the threat has been mitigated.
 - d. Correction officers trained in TASER X26 can access the device located in the jail when necessary with approval of the Jail OIC.

H. The CEW Should Not Be Used

1. Unless the officer believes that no reasonably effective alternative appears to exist.
2. When the operator cannot, for safety or other reasons, approach the person within the effective range of the TASER X26.
3. In proximity to flammable liquids, gases, blasting materials or any other highly combustible materials that may be ignited by use of the device, including but not limited to any person who may have been contaminated with combustible liquids.
4. When it is reasonable to believe that incapacitation of the person may result in serious injury or death (e.g., suspect could fall from significant heights or into a pool, river or other body of water, and situations where the person's fall may result in injury or death).
5. On persons operating or in physical control of a running motor vehicle. (Taking into consideration the consequences of an out-of-control vehicle once an CEW has been used on the operator).

Use of Force (continued)

6. On individuals who are handcuffed unless they pose a danger to themselves or others.
7. The CEW may not be used solely to inflict punishment or pain.
8. NOTE: In less-lethal response to resistance situations, officers should apply the “objectively reasonable” standard and avoid where possible, using the an CEW on:
 - a. Persons in wheelchairs.
 - b. Obviously pregnant women.
 - c. People with apparent debilitating illness or the elderly.
 - d. Children or those under 80 pounds; or
 - e. Persons with known neuromuscular disorders such as multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, or epilepsy.

J. Handling as Evidence

1. Darts, cartridge packs, XREP casing, XREP frontal probes and cholla probes on the XREP battery pack used against persons shall be held in accordance with Department policy on evidence control and storage. TASER X26 Darts that have been removed from a person can be placed right back in its cartridge or in "sharps" storage containers, XREP probes shall be placed in a sharps container and treated in accordance with Department Policy on handling and storage of evidence. (OP 7).
2. Ensure any discharged cartridges, probes, and a sampling of AFID (Anti-Felon Identification) “microdots” that are discharged (from the TASER X26) with the probes are collected and entered as evidence per training guidelines.

K. Responsibilities after CEW Discharge

1. Any discharge of an CEW shall be immediately reported to the on-duty watch commander.
2. After CEW discharge, the officer and/ or the field supervisor shall:
 - a. Remove the probes from the TASER X26 per training guidelines after subject is handcuffed.
 - b. XREP probes are to be removed by medical personnel
 - c. Summon paramedics to evaluate subject at the scene or at the jail if not practical at the scene.
 - d. Ensure the involved officer submits a Parma Police Department Use of Force Report and a shift supervisor completes a Taser International “Supervisory Taser Use Report”.
 - e. Ensure the serial number of the Taser and cartridges used are included in the appropriate reports.

Use of Force (continued)

- f. Ensure photographs are taken of probe impact sites and any other injuries. (To be done at time of booking, photos will remain in the booking file).
- 3. Any “accidental discharge” of an CEW cartridge shall be immediately reported to the on-duty watch commander. Additionally:
 - a. The circumstances surrounding the accidental discharge of an CEW cartridge shall be documented as either a Casualty Report or an Investigative Narrative Report, as circumstances require.
 - b. If CEW malfunction is suspected, the CEW and/or cartridge shall be recovered, taken out of service, and turned over to the range officer for inspection.
 - c. The on-duty watch commander (or designee) shall initiate a review of any accidental discharge and forward a copy of the findings by departmental communication through the chain of command to the division commander.

L. Maintenance

- 1. TASER X26 testing and maintenance shall be consistent with manufacturer’s specifications.
- 2. After each discharge, the firing bay shall be cleaned with a dry rag to prevent buildup of carbon residue and potential firing complications.
- 3. After each deployment in the field, the TASER X 26 batteries should be checked during a test fire sequence per this policy. (Note: Batteries can be adversely affected by exposure to high/low temperatures and should not be stored in a vehicle.)
- 4. TASER X26 cartridges should be stored in a cool, dry environment and should normally be replaced after five years.
- 5. The CEW should not be left in direct sunlight due to possible adverse effects on plastic parts.
- 6. The range officer shall conduct a maintenance check on all TASER X26 and component parts during the officer’s firearms re-qualification.
- 7. Send all defective TASER X26’s and cartridges to the range for replacement.

M. Required Policy Review

- 1. Roll Call Training - Whenever changes in this policy occur, all platoon commanders shall schedule roll call training sessions to instruct their employees.
- 2. Annual Review - This policy shall be reviewed annually:
 - a. With all sworn officers at annual firearms qualification,
 - b. With auxiliaries at annual firearms familiarization, and
 - c. With dispatchers and radio operators.

TASER TEST FIRE LOG

[illegible]

TASER TEST AREA

STEP 1
Verify Taser is off

REMOVE cartridge from Taser

STEP 2

Turn on the Taser

Depress trigger and allow Taser to cycle 1 second

Turn Taser off

Replace batteries as needed

STEP 3

Verify Taser is off

Reattach cartridge

Secure Taser

Document test on Taser Test Fire Log

Addendum II

Use of Force

Public Safety Statement

A Public Safety Statement is information obtained by a supervisor at an officer-involved deadly use of force incident, using questions intended to determine existing threats to public safety and identify evidence that must be preserved. The scope of this statement is limited to the collection of such critical, fleeting information in the immediate aftermath of these critical incidents. If there are multiple officers involved, the supervisor should separately obtain Public Safety Statements from each officer involved, if feasible.

The supervisor shall direct the officer(s) involved to answer limited questions of an exigent nature. These questions include, but are not limited to:

1. Are you injured?
2. If you know of anyone injured, what is his or her location?
3. In what direction did you fire your weapon(s)?
4. If any suspects are at large, what are their descriptions?
5. What was their direction of travel?
6. How long did they flee?
7. For what crimes are they wanted?
8. With what weapons are they armed?
9. Does any evidence need to be preserved?
10. Where is it located?
11. Did you observe any witness (es)?
12. Where are they?