

- I. Policy
- II. Baton
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- I. Policy

The Division's policy is to provide its officers with the tools and training that will reduce the potential for use of lethal force. The baton is one of those tools.

- II. Baton

- A. *Authorized Batons*

- 1. *The Division authorizes rigid and expandable batons, Bokken-batons are authorized for officers whose tour of duty includes horsemounted operations.*
    - 2. *The Division allows officers to carry only Division-issued or Division-approved batons (list maintained by the Property Specialist).*

- B. Carrying the Baton

- 1. All officers while on duty. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Chief, Park Police or designee.
    - 2. The baton will be placed in a baton-holder when carried on the officer's person, and will not be removed while in public view except for official reasons. Plainclothes officers or detectives may carry an expandable baton without a holder, provided it is concealed from public view. *Bokken-batons will be carried in an authorized carrier.*

- C. Use of Baton

- 1. The baton may be used when:
      - a. A subject violently resists arrest.
      - b. The officer is physically assaulted by an assailant.
      - c. It is necessary for crowd control.
      - d. *An individual attempt to interfere with or gain control of a horsemounted officer's horse.*
    - 2. Officers will exercise only that force necessary to defend themselves or affect an arrest. The use of an impact weapon is justified only when an officer's attempt at empty hand control would be ineffective, and when use of lethal force is not justified.

III. Training

- A. All officers must be certified annually in baton tactics.
- B. No officer will carry any type of baton that they have not been *trained* and certified to use.

IV. Inspection

- A. The Division requires that all officers inspect their baton frequently to ensure proper operation and lubrication.
- B. Any malfunctioning or damaged baton should be removed and returned to the Property Specialist. The Property Specialist will repair or replace the baton.

V. Reporting

- A. All officers are required to:
  - 1. Immediately report the use of their baton or any other equipment used in physical force to their supervisor.
  - 2. Submit a written report, including all facts concerning the use of the baton or any other equipment used in physical force, to their supervisor.
- B. The officer's supervisor will make an immediate investigation as to the justification for use of force and submit a report to his/her Section Commander.

**By Authority of  
Chief Darryl W. McSwain  
Maryland-National Capital Park Police  
Montgomery County Division**

**Approved Park Police Document  
Signed Original on File**

**End of Directive**