

*Maryland-National Capital Park Police  
Prince George's County Division*

## DIVISION DIRECTIVE

<b>TITLE</b> <b>BATON</b>			<b>PROCEDURE NUMBER</b> <b>PG402.0</b>
<b>SECTION</b> <b>Operational Procedures</b>	<b>DISTRIBUTION</b> <b>A</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> <b>06/01/04</b>	<b>REVIEW DATE</b> <b>06/01/06</b>
<b>REPLACES</b> <b>PG402.0 "Baton", issued 11/12/01</b>			
<b>RELATED DIRECTIVES</b> <b>PG400.0, 1500.0, 1700.0</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b> <b>CALEA 1, 17, 22, 41</b>	<b>AUTHORITY</b> <b>Commander Larry M. Brownlee, Sr.- Division Chief</b>	

### I. PURPOSE

This directive establishes policy and guidelines for officers carrying and using the ASP Baton and wooden baton.

### II. POLICY

The Division's policy is to provide its officers with the tools and training that will reduce the potential for use of deadly force and to project an image of the police officer in the public service role and not to attract undue attention to our defensive equipment or its application. The ASP Baton and wooden baton are two of these tools.

### III. ASP BATON

#### A. Carrying the ASP Baton

1. Officers shall carry only the Division-issued or Division-approved ASP Baton, 26 inches or less in length. They must be cylindrical in shape and contain no sharp protrusions, weights or modifications. The ASP Baton F26 is the issued baton for this Division.
2. The ASP Baton shall be placed in the baton-holder when carried on the officer's person, and shall 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

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view.

3. Officers shall inspect their ASP Baton's frequently to ensure proper operation and lubrication. Any malfunctioning or damaged ASP Baton should be removed and replaced through the proper procedures listed in Division Directive PG1700.0 – "Uniform and Equipment", Section VII.G.1-2.

**B. Use of ASP 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.
2. Officers shall exercise only that force necessary to defend themselves or effect an arrest. The use of an impact weapon is justified only when an officer's attempt at empty hand and/or OC Spray control would be ineffective, and when use of deadly force is not justified.

**C. Wooden Baton**

1. Carrying the wooden baton
  - a. Officers shall carry only the approved wooden straight baton. They must be cylindrical in shape and contain no sharp protrusions, weights, or modifications.
  - b. The baton shall be carried in the baton holder when on the officer's person and/or saddle or saddle bag when used by a Mounted Officer on patrol.

**D. Use of the Wooden Baton**

1. The wooden baton may be used when Section III.B.1 (a-c), & 2 of this directive occurs and/or when the Mounted Unit uses it for crowd control with the riot shield for riot situations.

**IV. TRAINING**

- A. All officers shall be trained and certified in the use of their issued/approved ASP Baton.
- B. No officer shall carry any type of baton that they have not been certified to use.

**V. REPORTING**

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- 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 Use of Force Report, as well as all required crime/incident reports as soon as practical. The Use of Force Report shall include all facts surrounding and concerning the use of the Baton or any other equipment used in physical force, to their immediate supervisor.
- B. The officer's supervisor shall make an immediate investigation as to the justification for use of force and submit a report to his/her Area Operations Assistant Chief.

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