

DAVIS POLICE DEPARTMENT



BATON TRAINING MANUAL

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Chief Darren Pytel

POLICE BATON

PURPOSE:

In law enforcement, the goal of an officer encountering resistance or physical assault is to control an individual. In many instances, weaponless defense controls will be the most appropriate and effective means of obtaining control. Other instances will require the use of deadly force, such as firearm. In between these levels of resistance there are many circumstances that necessitate more force than can be reasonably applied using weaponless defense techniques, but fall short of justifying the use of deadly force. A police baton may be the proper tool to fill this gap.

BATON SPECIFICATIONS:

As outlined in Davis Police Policy and Procedure 3.05-A, Use of Force, authorized batons are:

1. Aetco one-piece aluminum frame, 24" length, 27 ounce weight, black color.
2. Winchester expandable police baton, 26", black zinc finish.
3. PeaceKeeper International's Rapid Containment Baton (RCB), expandable, 26", black zinc finish.
4. Full length wood non-expandable police baton.
5. Short police baton, of a style approved by the defensive tactics coordinator after the officer has been properly trained in its use.
6. A manager may, on a case-by-case basis, authorize the use of batons not listed above.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

When an officer decides that an application of force is necessary to control a subject or situation, that application of force must be reasonable under the circumstance. As noted in Davis Police Policy and Procedure 3.05-A, a number of factors should be taken into consideration when an officer determines whether or not to apply any level of force.

In all instances, when using a baton, the need to immediately incapacitate the individual must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury. The head, neck, throat, spine, heart, kidneys and groin should not be intentionally targeted except when the officer reasonably believes the individual may cause serious bodily injury or death to the officer or others.

BATON NOMENCLATURE:

Straight Baton

Tip: The last 1 – 2 inches of the baton and the desired point of impact.

Shaft/Blade: The long portion of the baton extending from the grommet to the tip.

Grommet: A black, neoprene or rubber sleeve, which should be positioned approximately seven inches from the butt of the baton.

Handle: The short portion of the baton extending from the grommet to the butt.

Butt: The end of the baton closest to the handle.

Collapsible Baton

Tip: The last 1 – 2 inches of the baton and the desired point of impact where the extended end cap is located.

Shaft/Blade: The long portion of the baton extending from the handle.

Handle: Tube exposed when baton is collapsed. It is typically covered with a soft rubber sleeve to aid in gripping.

Butt: The end of the baton closest to the handle where the retaining cap is located.

Long Baton/Riot Baton

Tip/Butt: Either end of the baton.

Shaft/Blade: Surface of the baton between the tip and butt.

Grommet: The long baton may be affixed with a grommet to assist in keeping the baton in the baton ring when not carried by hand.

Short Baton

Tip/Butt: Either end of the baton

Shaft: Surface of the baton between the tip and butt.

OPENING AND CLOSING THE EXPANDABLE BATON

1. Keep a firm grip on the handle and open away from body using a hard flick of the wrist. This can be accomplished by swing from side to side or up and down.
2. Pull on extended end cap with free hand to open and engage swedges.

3. Close the baton by gently tapping the extended end cap sideways on a hard surface until locking swedges are loosened. After the swedges are loosened, close baton by hand.

TARGET AREAS:

As a general rule, when thinking of target areas (areas to strike), an officer can simply aim to strike any area of the body where bone comes close to the surface of the skin. Examples of bony areas that should be considered valid targets are the collarbones, forearms, shins and hands. Other specific target areas are the ribs, stomach, inner and outer thighs, calves and feet.

The head, neck, throat, spine, heart, kidneys, joints and groin should not be intentionally targeted except when the officer reasonably believes the suspect may cause serious bodily injury or death to the officer or others.

BATON STRIKES

BATON READY POSITION:

In order to deliver effective baton strikes an officer must first learn the baton ready position. Though there are numerous different baton ready positions, each with different advantages and disadvantages, one will be discussed here.

NOTE: Though these techniques and positions will be explained with the officer's dominant side "in mind" they can, and should be, performed on the non-dominant side as well. Also, these techniques and positions will be explained with the dominant side forward. Some officers may be reluctant to put their dominant side closest to their opponent as it is their gun side. Should the officer feel more comfortable performing these techniques with their non-dominant side forward, it will be acceptable; however a discussion of advantages and disadvantages of each method should take place.

Straight Baton/Collapsible Baton

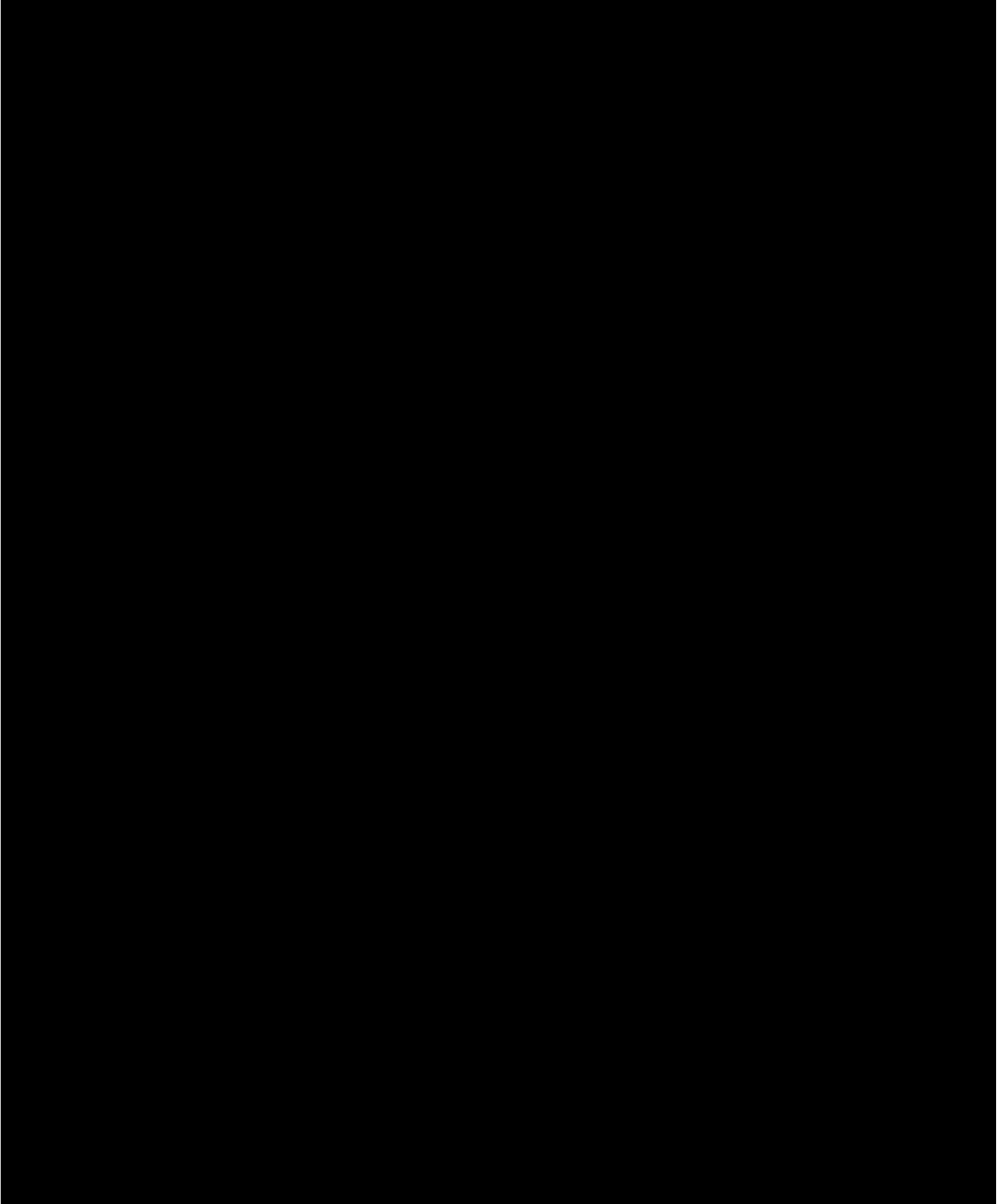
The baton is held in the dominant hand with the shaft resting over the top of the dominant forearm. The grommet should be in the palm of the hand. The non-dominant hand should be up in a defensive position as to protect the face and upper body.

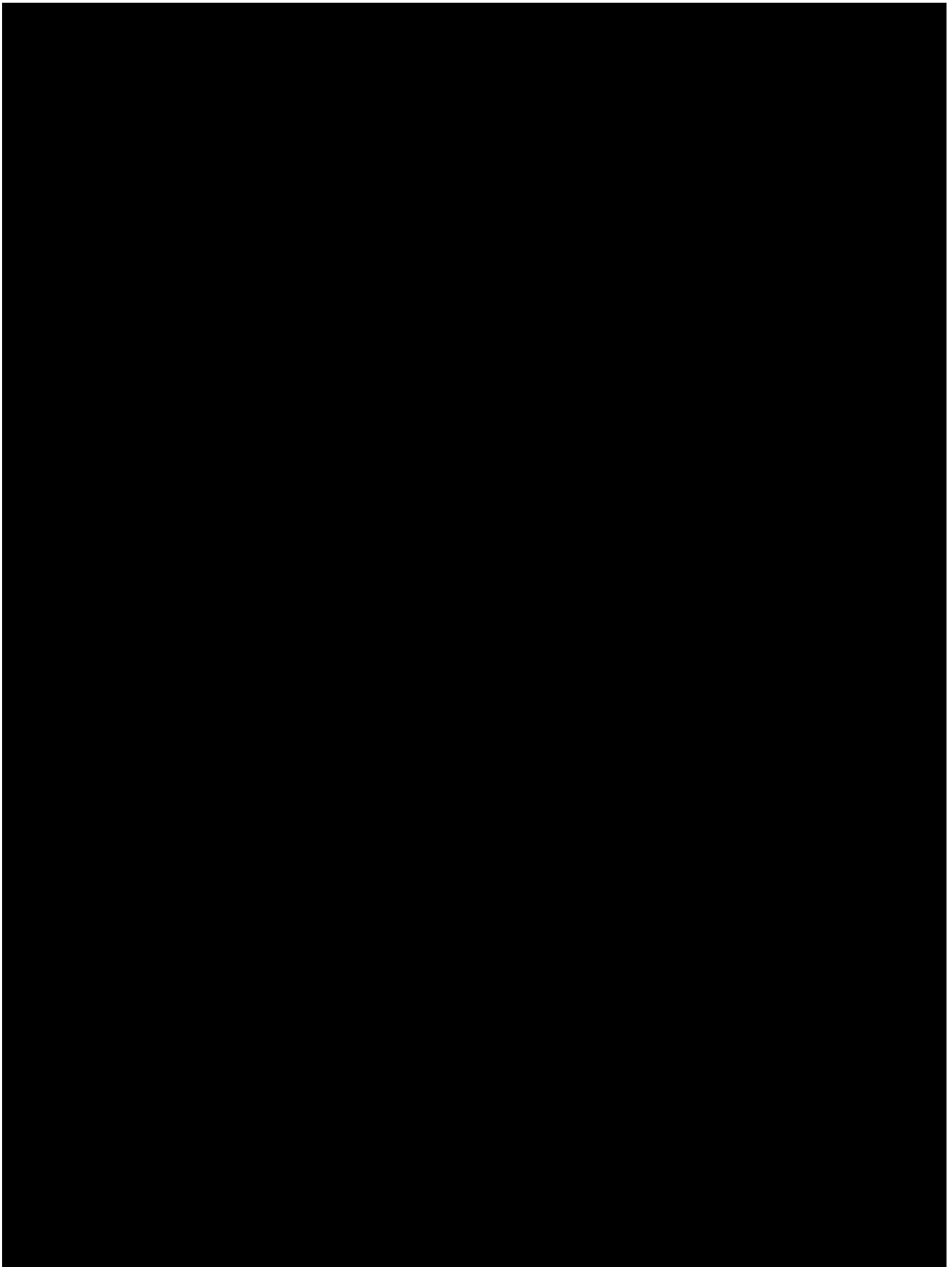
Long Baton

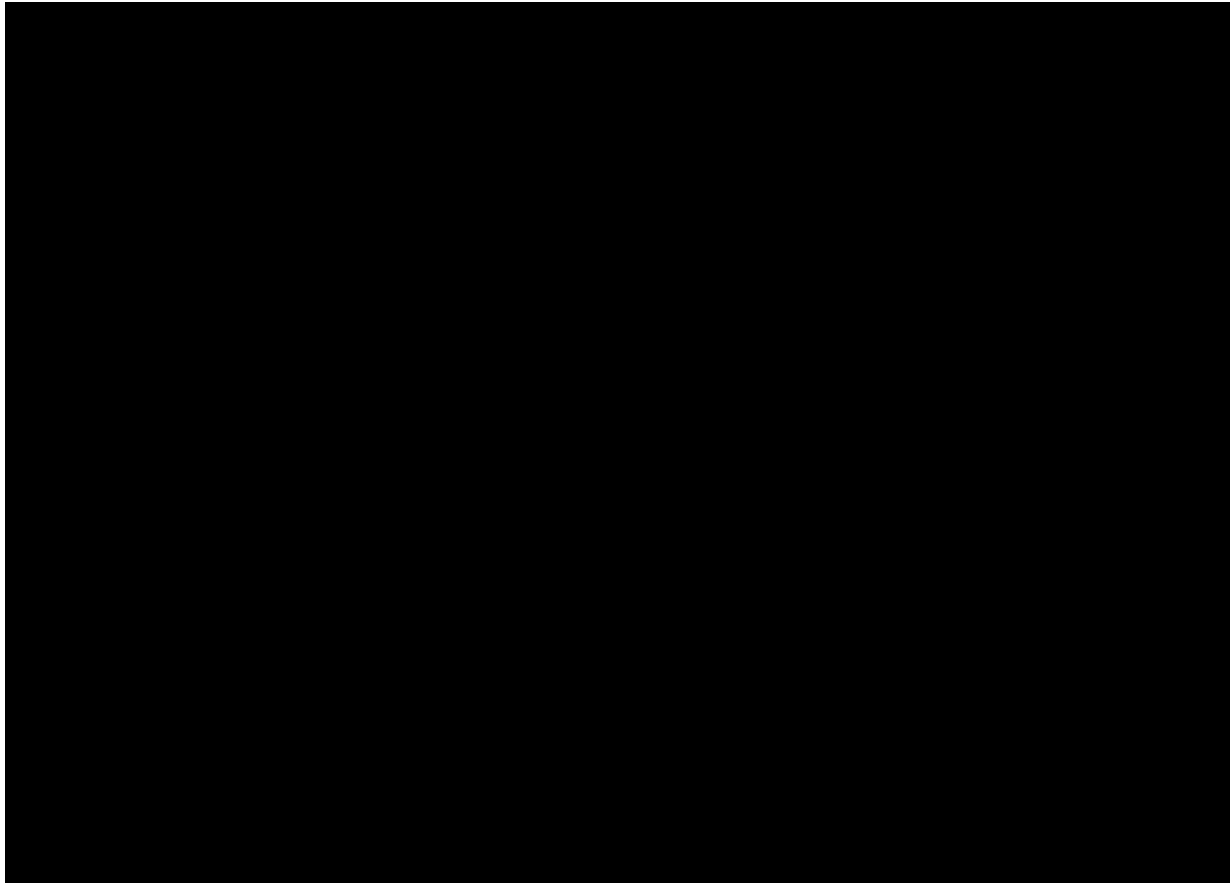
The baton is held in both hands, the palm of the non-dominant hand is up, and the palm of the dominant hand is down. The non-dominant leg is forward.

Short Baton

The baton can be held in a variety of positions due to its length. Typically the baton will be held in the dominant hand at the officer's side or up in a position ready to strike. The non-dominant hand should be up in a defensive position to protect the face and upper body.







BATON RETENTIONS

Should the officer's baton be grabbed by an individual, the officer must have knowledge of how to retain possession of the baton.

