WEST NORRITON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Subject: Less Lethal Weapons		Policy # 1.3.4
Accreditation 1.3.4		
Effective Date: February 8, 2008	Revised Date: August 6, 2008	
By Authority Of: Chief A. Dale Mabry	Signature: ADMabry	

1.3.4 Less Lethal Weapons

A. ASP

1. Officers may use an ASP type any time they are on duty if they have a current certification or re-certification from a qualified instructor.

2. Generally, an officer may need to use the ASP in the following circumstances;

   a. To overcome resistance to an arrest
   b. To protect the officer or another person(s) from bodily injury
   c. To prevent a suicide, or an individual from injuring themselves

3. Officers will not strike a subject in any vital area to include the head or neck. Batons will be used to strike a subject's long bones, i.e.,arms, legs; or joints, hips, shoulders, or elbows. Batons will not be used to choke, unless the use of deadly force would be justified.

4. Officers are not permitted to strike with a metal or aluminum type flashlight unless the use of deadly force would be justified.

B. OC Chemical Sprays

1. Definitions

   a. OC - a chemical agent made from Cayenne Pepper
   b. OC Chemical Spray - any individual protective device that is used for non-lethal defense that sprays a chemical compound containing OC

2. Officers are permitted to carry OC Chemical Sprays while they are on duty to be used lawfully and in accordance with this policy. Officers shall carry only OC Chemical Sprays that are approved by the Department.

3. Generally, an officer may need to use the OC Chemical Spray in the following circumstances;

   a. To overcome resistance to an arrest
   b. To protect the officer or another person(s) from bodily injury

c. To prevent a suicide, or an individual from injuring themselves

4. Procedure

   a. Spray directly into the subjects face (eyes, mouth, nose). Usually a direct hit at the face will instantly shut the eyes and affect the respiratory system.
   b. Occasionally a panic stricken subject's breathing may be abnormally shallow, preventing deep inhalation of the mist into the lungs even though the subject's eyes are totally closed. In this case immediately create a safe distance between yourself and the subject. Apply a second spray toward the subject's nose and mouth. Stop spraying when the attackers resistance stops.

5. Prohibited Use

   a. Once a violent person has been subdued and brought under control there is no justification for use or for the continued use of OC sprays against the subject.
   b. OC Spray will not be used against an individual who merely uses verbal abuse toward an officer unless the individual's actions are, in the opinion of the officer, an indication of a possible imminent assault on the officer.
   c. OC Spray will not be used to elicit information from any person.

6. Storage

   a. Store at room temperature
   b. FLAMMABLE: DO NOT STORE NEAR HEAT OR OPEN FLAME
   c. PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO SUNLIGHT AND TO TEMPERATURES ABOVE 120 DEGREES MAY CAUSE BURSTING OF CANISTER
   d. Prolonged exposure to temperatures below 32 degrees will result in slower discharge
   e. Proper storage is important to maintain the proper aerosol pressure.

C. Mossberg model 500 pump action shotgun using CTS Model 2581 Super-Sock bean bag round ammunition.

1. Mossberg model 500 pump action shotgun using CTS Model 2581 Super-Sock bean bag round ammunition is available to the members of this department for use to control a dangerous or violent subject when deadly force is **NOT** justified and attempts to control the subject by other tactics have been ineffective or there is a reasonable expectation that it is unsafe for the officer(s) to approach within contact range of the subject. The Mossberg model 500 pump action shotgun using CTS Model 2581 Super-Sock bean bag round ammunition may be used to subdue individuals who pose an immediate risk to themselves or others or to safely affect an arrest.

D. In the event a subject forcibly acquires one of these devices from and officer it is presumed that it will be used on the officer and it is to be considered a serious threat to the officer's life. This act will automatically escalate the force continuum to level five.

E. Use of Unauthorized Weapons in Emergency Life Threatening Situations

1. Officers of the West Norriton Township Police Department are authorized to use whatever type of weapon necessary to protect themselves in an emergency life threatening situation.