



Use of Force Recommendation 33

*Replace "ECD" and "TASER" with
"Electronic Control Weapon" (ECW)*



Agenda

- Objective
- Highlights
 - Proposed PERF recommendation
- Terminology used at:
 - Axon
 - Mesa
 - IACP & Other Agencies
- GAP Analysis
- Pros & Cons
- Proposed Action
- Questions



Objective

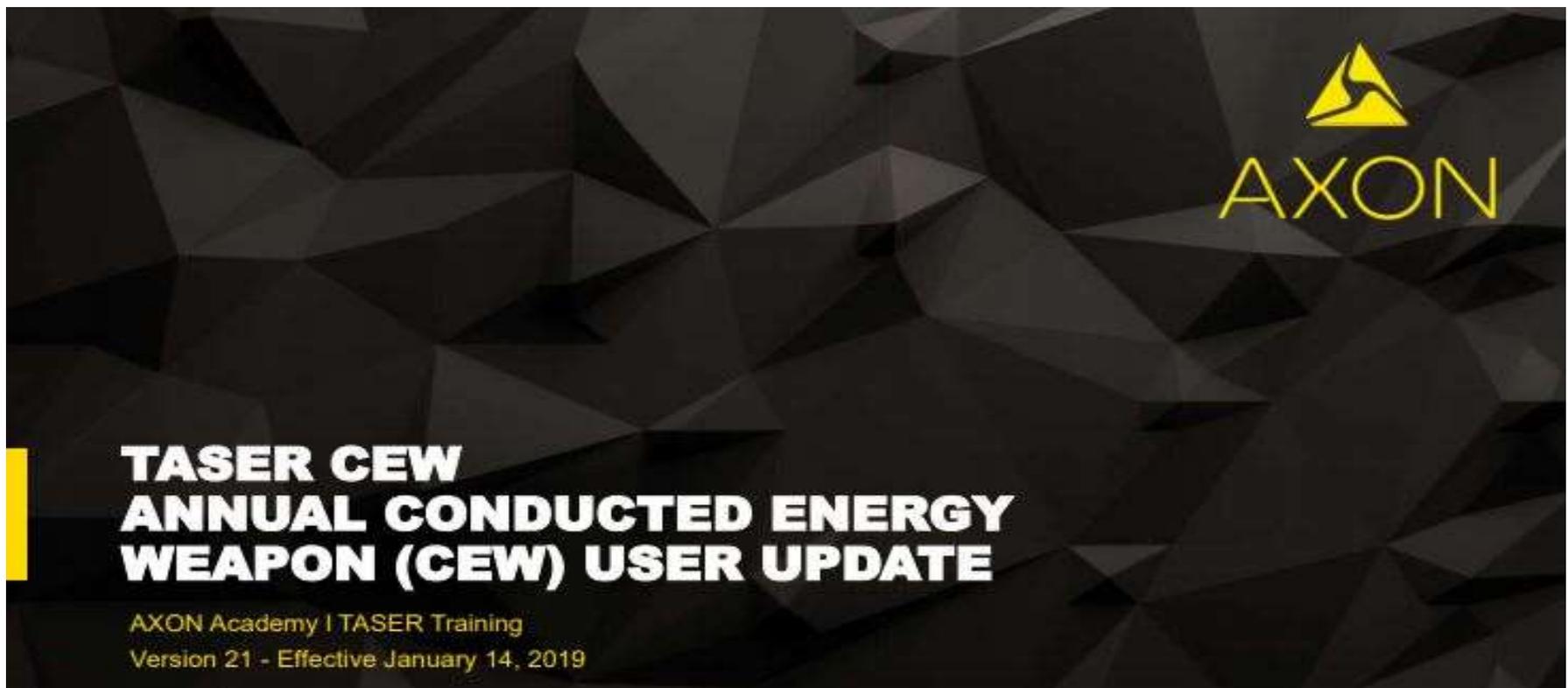
- *Limited in scope: not about TASER use*
- *Update terminology used in MPD Policy to:*
 - *be consistent with manufacturer & current training*
 - *align with industry standards*
 - *better indicate to our officers there are risks involved when utilizing a TASER*

Highlights

- *PERF recommends MPD should replace all references of “ECD” and “TASER” in its Electronic Control Device (ECD) policy and any related policies to the more descriptive and appropriate term “Electronic Control Weapon” (ECW) in order to clarify that ECWs **are in fact weapons that carry a risk of harming persons.***

What Does AXON Call It?

- Axon refers to the TASER as a **Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW)**. AXON's advice: *"if given the opportunity, change it to **CEW** to align with Axon, but only if it does not cause a hardship in work and costs to have it changed."*



Mesa's Current Training

- 2019 training refers to device: **Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW)**. The official term being used by AXON/TASER, is being used in our most recent MPD training, and corresponds with PERF's recommendation to call it a weapon. We are also being trained on its risks.

LEAD INSTRUCTOR: Taser Instructor	BACK-UP INSTRUCTOR(S): Taser Instructor
APPROVAL NUMBER: 19-069	
COURSE DESCRIPTION: Review of operation, medical/ safety issues, legal issues, tactical considerations, and policy regarding the use of the Taser CEW; including the deployment of two cartridges during drills and/or scenarios.	
INSTRUCTOR REFERENCES: Taser Version 21 training material, DPM 2.1.5 (Use of Force), DPM 2.1.35 (ECD Protocols)	TRAINING AIDS, EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS: PowerPoint presentation, Tasers, cartridges, safety glasses, Taser suit for scenarios, or targets.

TASER CEWS ARE NOT RISK FREE



IACP & Other Agency Policies

Organization	Terminology Used
IACP (updated 2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic Control Weapon (ECW)
Chandler PD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) • Taser: “a non-lethal weapon...”
Gilbert PD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taser Weapon
Phoenix PD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic Control Device (ECD)
Scottsdale PD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “X2 Tasers are less lethal, intermediate weapons” • Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW)
Tempe PD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Taser is a non-lethal conducted electrical weapon” • It is then consistently referred to as Taser
Los Angeles PD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TASER • Non-lethal control device
Las Vegas Metropolitan PD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic Control Device • TASER • Comments included: “No weapons, including TASER...”

Gap Analysis

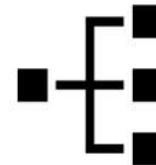
(Differences between the current policy and the recommendation proposal)

Current Mesa Term & Definition:

- **Electronic Control Device (ECD) :**
 - Electro-muscular disruption *device* that disrupts the body's ability to communicate messages from the brain to the muscles causing temporary motor skill dysfunction to a subject.

IACP Definition:

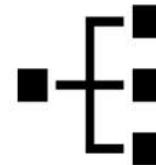
- **Electronic Control Weapon (ECW):**
 - A *device* that uses electricity to impair voluntary motor responses or to cause discomfort to gain compliance; overcome resistance; or capture, control, and facilitate constraint.
- Current MPD Policy & Training use the following names to refer to a TASER:
 - Electronic Control Device (ECD)
 - TASER
 - Conducted Energy **Weapon** (CEW)
 - *Mentioned around 90 times*



Pros (and Cons)

Reasons for adopting the recommendation:

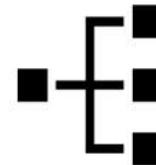
- It appears the current standard is to use the word **weapon** to describe an ECD, by AXON, our current training, in model policy and at numerous other agencies.
- Calling it a weapon clarifies risk, which could lead to a greater respect for its use.
- By using one term/acronym, it simplifies policy and training and leads to more clarity and consistency.
- Mesa Training concurs TASER is a weapon.
- Implementation is simple and inexpensive. There would likely not be major negative consequences for making the change.
- It's logical--when suspect uses Taser against us or a victim, we consider it a weapon then.



(Pros and) Cons

Reasons **against** adopting the recommendation:

- Calling it a device isn't incorrect; it's the definition.
- There are many terms being used; will policy just continue to change with the newest buzzword?
- Could this open us up to additional liability? Court?
- Negative connotation; may officers uncomfortable with calling it a weapon, because it seems contrary to its use.



Proposed Action

- ***Partially adopt the recommendation.***
- *Let's be consistent; the terminology we use should match the manufacturer information and our training.*
 - *AXON, Mesa Training and model policy are all using the word "weapon".*
- *Instead of using "ECW", we suggest utilizing the term **TASER Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW)** in our policy.*
 - *This term is already being used in our current training, which officers are already familiar with, and this is the official term used by Axon.*
 - *Our current training already makes officers very aware of risks of CEW use.*
- *In definition, indicate TASER, CEW, ECD, and ECW are all synonymous. Use "a.k.a. TASER" for short form.*



Questions