



Use of Force Recommendation 33

Guidance for

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



Agenda

- Recommendation Highlights
- Gap Analysis
- Discussion Points
- Committee Feedback
- Final Guidance



Recommendation 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.***

Gap Analysis

(List the differences between the current policy and the recommendation proposal)

- Recommendation

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 Policy

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.

Current MPD Policy & Training use the following names to refer to a TASER:

- Electronic Control Device (ECD)
- TASER
- Conducted Energy **Weapon** (CEW)

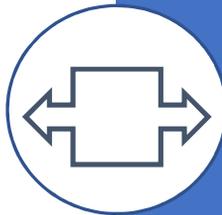
**Mentioned around 90 times*



Pros and Cons

*Reasons **for** adopting the recommendation*

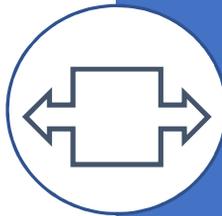
- It appears the current standard is to use the word **weapon** to describe an ECD, by AXON, our current training, in model policy and at numerous other agencies.
- Calling it a weapon clarifies risk, which could lead to a greater respect for its use.
- By using one term/acronym, it simplifies policy 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; many officers uncomfortable with calling it a weapon, because it seems contrary to its use.



Committee Feedback

- The majority of citizens felt TASER is a weapon.
- Feedback varied amongst sworn members, but many felt it was a device, but could be persuaded to understand why it is also a weapon.
- The consensus seemed to be agreement with or acceptance of the guidance.



Final Guidance

- ***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.*



Discussion