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"Collapsible Baton"

Officer Safety Unit – Edmonton Police Service

TECHNICAL REPORT

January 2003

Submitted by:
Officer Safety Unit
Edmonton Police Service
Edmonton Alberta Canada

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Executive Summary

The Edmonton Police Service conducted a review of the effectiveness of the collapsible batons initially issued in 1994. Of specific concern was whether the presently used 16 inch batons were effective compared to longer batons gaining favour in other police agencies. The study consisted of a survey of baton use in other police agencies in Canada and an assessment with recommendations by their Officer Safety Unit.

Methodology

The Officer Safety Unit of the Edmonton Police Service undertook a survey of the experiences and opinions of members of the Edmonton Police Service. (page 3)

An additional survey was done with other police agencies across Canada to determine their choice of equipment. (page 4)

This clarified several key issues and weaknesses with the current 16” Tactical Expandable Baton. (page 10)

These issues were examined and documented by members of the Officer Safety Unit and compared with alternative equipment. (page 11)

Based on this analysis, recommendations were made to the Edmonton Police Executive. (page 22)

Survey of Members

An internal survey of members was done posing the following questions;

HAVE YOU EVER DEPLOYED YOUR IS BATON? IF SO CAN YOU PROVIDE A FILE# (OR NUMBERS)

YOUR CURRENT ISSUE BATON IS MOST USED FOR:
(PLEASE CIRCLE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING)

- A) STRIKING ASSAILANTS
- B) DISPLAYING TO GAIN COMPLIANCE
- C) STRIKING OBJECTS (IE CAR WINDOWS)
- D) NOT USED
- E) SELDOM USED
- F) USED OFTEN

DETAILS OR COMMENTS FOR ABOVE:

DO YOU FIND ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE MECHANICS OF THE PRESENT ISSUE BATON?

DO YOU FIND THAT THE 16" LENGTH IS SUITABLE? WHY OR WHY NOT

COMMENTS AND SUGESTIONS

Patrol Focus 100%

| <i>Baton Style</i> | <i># of Agencies</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 20" | 04 | 3% |
| 21" | 28 | 23% |
| 22" | 00 | 0% |
| 24" | 02 | 2% |
| 26" | 39 | 32% |
| PR24 | 04 | 3% |
| Both | 12 | 10% |
| Other | 10 | 8% |
| Not Specified | 24 | 20% |
| Total | 123 | 101 |
| 1% Margin of Error | | |

Provinces

| <i>British Columbia</i> | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Victoria | ASP 21 or ASP 26 |
| Vancouver | ASP 21 |
| West Vancouver | ASP 20 |
| Saanich | ASP 21 |
| Port Moody | ASP 21 |
| Delta | ASP 21 |
| Nelson | ASP 20 |
| Abbotsford | ASP 21 or ASP 26 |
| Esquimalt | ASP 21 |
| Oak Bay | ASP 26 |
| Central Saanich | ASP 21 |

In British Columbia, 11 agencies were surveyed:

- **Primary Choice - 73% preferred the ASP 21 model baton (8/11);** the ASP 26 model was also an option for substitutional preference.
- 18% preferred the ASP 20 model (2/11).
- Less than 10% preferred to use the ASP 26 model only (1/11).

Alberta

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Lethbridge | ASP 21 (uniform) ASP 15 (plain clothes) |
| Blood Tribe | Expandable 18" |
| Camrose | ASP 21 |
| Taber | ASP 21 |
| RCMP | ASP 26 |
| Coaldale | ASP 21 |
| Lacombe | ASP 21/ASP 26 |
| Medicine Hat | No specific baton used |
| Calgary | ASP 21 |

In Alberta, 9 agencies were surveyed:

- **Primary Choice - 66% preferred the ASP 21 model baton (6/9),**
- 11% did not issue batons
- 11% issued the ASP 18
- 11% issued the ASP 26

Saskatchewan

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Regina | ASP 26 |
| Prince Albert | 29" Hickory (worn weak side to ASP 26) |
| Dalmeny | No baton used |
| Corman Park | ASP 24 |
| Weyburn | ASP 26 |
| Estevan | 30" Wood Baton (ASP carried, but not specified) |
| Moose Jaw | ASP 26 (from 29" Wood Baton) |

In Saskatchewan, 7 agencies were surveyed:

- **Primary Choice - 43% preferred the ASP 26 model baton (3/7),**
- 14% did not issue batons (1/7)
- 14% issued the ASP 24 (1/7)
- 29% issued the wooden hickory batons

Manitoba

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Winnipeg | ASP 21 |
| Brandon | ASP 21 (patrol) ASP 16 (cis) |
| Morden | ASP 21 or ASP 26 (member choice) |
| East St. Paul | ASP 21 (chrome shaft) |
| Altona | ASP 21 |
| Rivers | ASP 21 |
| Winkler | ASP 21 |
| St. Anne | ASP 21 |

In Manitoba, 8 agencies were surveyed:

- **Primary Choice - 100% preferred the ASP 21 model baton (8/8), however ASP 16 or ASP 26 were optional choices.**

Quebec

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Whapmagoostui | Expandable Baton |
| Sherbrooke | PR24 Monadnock |
| St-Eustache | Nothing specified |
| S.M. Rimouski | Nothing specified |
| St. Charles | MK 111 Model B-2075 |
| Montcalm | Nothing specified |
| L'Île Perrot | Buck 4" |
| Ville de la Prairie | Monadnock 26" |
| Listuguj | ASP 26 |
| Brossard | Nothing specified |
| Memphremagog | Monadnock 21" telescopic |
| Sainte Therese | Nothing specified |
| Mirabel | ASP 26 |
| Masouche | Nothing specified |
| Quebec City | PR 24 |
| Boucherville | Do not use |
| St. Hubert | Nothing specified |

In Quebec, 18 agencies were surveyed:

- **Primary Choice - 44% preferred the Hickory PR 24 Baton (8/18),**
- 44% did not issue batons (8/18)
- 11% issued the ASP 26 (2/18)

Nova Scotia

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Halifax | Casco 26" Straight |
| New Glasgow/ Westville | ASP 26 |
| Amherst | ASP (no size specified) |
| Hanbport | Not available |
| Bridgewater | ASP (no size specified) |
| Kentville | |
| Unama'ki Tribal | ASP (no size specified) |
| CapeBreton Reg. | Straight Collapsible 26" |
| Stellarton | ASP Batons 9" – 26" |

In Nova Scotia, 9 agencies were surveyed:

- **Primary Choice - 56% preferred the ASP 26 model baton (5/9),**
- 33% use ASP Batons but did not specify length,
- 11% did not issue batons.

Prince Edward Island

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Summerside | None issued |
| Charlottetown | Replaced by OC spray |

In Prince Edward Island, 2 agencies were surveyed:

- **Primary Choice - 0% used Batons (2/2),** replaced with OC.

Newfoundland

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Royal Newfoundland Constabulary | PR 24 (straight collapsible) |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|

In Newfoundland, 1 agencies was surveyed:

- **Primary Choice - 100% preferred the collapsible baton, no specific size of length (315/315).**

New Brunswick

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Sackville | None issued |
| Fredericton | PR 24 issued/carried when required |
| Woodstock | ASP 26 |
| Miramich | ASP 26 |
| BNPP | Nothing specified |
| Rochesay | ASP 26 |

In New Brunswick, 6 agencies were surveyed:

- **Primary Choice - 50% preferred the ASP 26 model baton (3/6),**
- 33% did not issue batons (2/6)
- 17% issued the PR24 baton (1/6)

Ontario

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Barrie | ASP (no size specified) |
| Ontario Prov. | ASP 21 and ASP 26 |
| York Reg. | ASP 21 |
| Durham | ASP 26 |
| Toronto | ASP 21 |
| Leamington | ASP 21 |
| Elliot | ASP 21 |
| Halton Reg. | ASP 21 or ASP 26 |
| Timmins | ASP 26 (uniforms) ASP 20 (plain clothes) |
| Saugeen Shores | ASP 21 |
| Essex | ASP 16, ASP 21, ASP 26 |
| Northbay | ASP 21 or 26 |
| Dryden | ASP 26 |
| Kenora | ASP 26 |
| Ingersoll | ASP 26 |
| Michicoten | ASP 26 |
| Owen Sound | ASP 26 |
| Cornwall | ASP 26 |
| Lac Seul | ASP (no size specified) |
| LaSalle | ASP 26 |
| Prescott | ASP 26 |
| Smith's Falls | ASP 22 |
| Gananoque | ASP (no size specified) |

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| | |
|------------------------|---|
| New Liskeard | ASP 26 |
| Sault Ste-Marie | ASP 26 |
| Deep River | ASP 26 |
| South Simcoe | ASP 21 or 26 |
| Chatam | ASP 20 |
| Windsor | ASP 21 |
| Guelph | ASP 21 or 26 |
| Stratford | ASP 26 |
| Sudbury | SP 26 |
| Kingston | ASP 26 |
| Ottawa | ASP 26 |
| UCCM -Anishnaabe | ASP (no size specified) |
| Orangeville | CAS 21" expandable |
| Thunderbay | ASP 21 |
| Lindsay | ASP 24 |
| Waterloo Reg. | ASP 21 or 26 |
| Brockville | ASP 26 |
| Hamilton/ Wentworth | ASP 26 (uniform) ASP 21 (plain clothes) |
| Perth | 26" Expandable Baton |
| Aylmer | ASP 26 |
| Niagara Reg. | ASP 20 |
| Brantford | ASP 21 |
| Sarnia | ASP 26 |
| Nishnawbe-aski | ASP 26 |
| Strathroy | ASP 21 |
| London | ASP 26 |
| Peterborough | ASP 26 |
| Belleville | ASP 26 (uniform) ASP 21 (plain clothes) |
| ST. Thomas | ASP 26 |

Ontario Continued

In Ontario, 52 agencies were surveyed:

- **Primary Choice - 52% preferred the ASP 26 model baton (27/52),**
- 33% issued the ASP 21 (17/52)
- 17% chose both the ASP 21 and ASP 26 (ASP 21 primary for uniform members and ASP 26 primary for plain clothes members)
- 7% issued the baton with no specified size (4/52)
- 4% issued the ASP 20 (2/52)
- 2% issued the ASP 22 (1/52)
- 2% issued the ASP 24 (1/52)

Baton Statistics by Region

Prairie Provinces (AB, Manitoba, Sask.) surveyed 24 agencies:

- **Primary Choice - 58% preferred the ASP 21 model baton (14/24),**
- 8% of agencies chose not to issue batons
- 34% chose other baton models such as ASP 15, 24, 29, hickory 30 wood baton)

Maritime Provinces (PEI, NB, NS, NFLD) surveyed 15 agencies:

- **Primary Choice - 53% preferred the ASP 26 model baton (8/15),**
- 20% did not specify as to the issue of their batons (3/15)
- 20% used ASP batons but did not specify length (3/15)
- under 7% reported using older style batons (PR24) 1/15

Issues Identified

The Edmonton Police Service currently uses the ASP (Armament Systems and Procedures Inc.) 16" Tactical Expandable Baton. The baton is carried in a leather holder that has a leather flap, with a snap retention. The Edmonton Police Service has used this baton system since 1994. Since the implementation of the ASP baton we have experienced numerous problems with the baton and its holder. These problems include the following.

- 1) The Officer Safety Unit conducted a national survey on equipment and training. Of 123 police agencies across CANADA that responded to the survey the Edmonton Police Service is the only agency in the country to issue a baton less than 21' in length.
- 2) The 16" baton does not allow the officer to create distance to assist with attack management.
- 3) When the baton is held in the proper mid handle grip position it shortens the length of the baton even further.
- 4) The small size of the baton is unable to generate enough kinetic energy to cause effective control of a violent subject. This increases the likelihood of continued multiple strikes. Thereby increasing the risk of injury to both the subject and the officer.
- 5) The size sometimes causes the baton to collapse immediately upon deployment. This exposes the officer to significant risk when involved in a violent encounter.
- 6) The rapid expansion of a baton may have a psychological effect on a subject. This may defuse the situation before baton strikes are required. The 16" baton does not give this desired effect.
- 7) The present baton carry system is very similar to the single magazine pouch carried by the service. These pouches are carried next to each other on the duty belt. There is great concern of members accessing the wrong piece of equipment in high stress situations.

Monadnock Autolock Baton 22" (Opening)



Figure #1, The autolock baton may be opened using the traditional rapid expansion or the autolock feature allows the officer to open the baton in a discrete and low profile manner using 2 hands



Figure #2



Figure #3

Comparison of the Glock Magazine Pouch and the Present 16" ASP Baton Holder



This diagram clearly shows a view of the present issue Glock magazine pouch next to the issue 16" ASP baton pouch. The present policy recommends the noted configuration of these 2 pieces of equipment. There have been documented cases of members accessing the wrong piece of equipment under high stress.(ie. Drawing a magazine when a baton was required) This diagram shows how this could easily happen under circumstances where the officer has reverted to gross motor skills.

Photograph Depicts Officer accessing Glock Magazine From Magazine Pouch (support hand)



Photograph depicts officer accessing 16" ASP baton from its holder (support hand) & (strong hand)



Photographs of the New Recommended Baton and holder on the officers belt (Monadnock 22” Autolock and the P174 Baton Holder)



This is the recommended location of the holder on the officers belt



Note the significant difference in the size and structure of the baton and holder. This allows the officer to access the baton without fear of confusing it for the Glock magazine.

Manual Closing of the Monadnock Autolock



The manual closing feature of the auto lock baton is designed to enhance officer safety. It allows the officer to close the baton from the standing position without bending down towards the ground. This allows the officer to remain on a stable 2 footed position while looking ahead to assess any potential threat. The baton is closed by depressing the button at the end of the handle while pressing the tip into the palm of the opened hand.

Autolock Baton in the P174 Baton Holder



Photo of the P174 expandable Baton holder containing Monadnock 22" Autolock baton. Holder is in a canted position with the retention snap in the unsnapped mode



Photo shows the same baton and holder with the retention snap closed.

Rear View of P174 Baton Holder



Rear view of the P174 holder. Photo shows the belt clip. This has the ability to rotate 360 Degrees



Photo shows side view of the holder. Clearly depicts belt loop, retention snaps on the top and the bottom of the holder
The holder is approx. 8.5 inches

Autolock baton in the P174 Holder in the expanded mode



Visual comparison of the ASP 16" ASP and the 22" Monadnock Autolock Baton



Comparison of the 2 batons in the closed mode



Comparison of the 2 batons in the opened mode

Comparisons of the Autolock baton with ASP baton



Photo shows the Autolock baton on the left (silver button) compared with the current issue ASP baton

Photos show the desired carry and draw methods of the Auto lock baton from its holder



This photo clearly shows the difference in configuration and carry method of the Autolock baton. Note the difference in shape and size. The canted carry method of the P174 holder prevents confusing the magazine pouch with the baton pouch

Recommendations

The information on numbers of members was gained from the Record of authorized positions effective 2001 September 03. It is recommended that the Edmonton Police Service implement a transition to the 22" MONADNOCK Auto lock baton.

The recommended new baton holder is the Peter Jones Ltd. P174. For initial implementation it is recommended that the batons be issued to uniformed response members. These numbers represent a total of 1143 members as determined on actual strength. These numbers do not include the issue of batons to any officers above the rank of staff/sergeants; as a result some additional batons may or may not be required. Further these numbers are based on approx. estimates. Upon the tender process these prices may be subject to change.

It is also recommended that the Auto lock HINDI brand baton cap be made available to members on points. This item could be accessed from stores should the member wish to use it.