

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>YALE UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS</b> <i>Serving with Integrity, Trust, Commitment and Courage Since 1894</i></p>	ORDER TYPE: <b>NEED TO KNOW</b>	
	<b>302E IMPACT WEAPONS</b>	
	EFFECTIVE DATE: <b>03 MAY 2016</b>	REVIEW DATE: <b>ANNUAL</b>

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this General Order is to establish guidelines and procedures governing Yale University Police Department (YPD) officers’ carrying and use of impact weapons while performing their duties.

**POLICY**

The policy of the Yale University Police Department (“Department” or “YPD”) is to use only that amount of force reasonably necessary to effect an arrest, control a situation, or defend themselves or others from harm. The YPD recognizes that combative, non-compliant, armed and/or violent subjects cause handling and control problems that require specialized training and equipment. Thus, the YPD has adopted the use of a non-Deadly force philosophy to assist with the de-escalation of potentially violent confrontations. Any use of impact weapons must comply with **General Order 302, the YPD Use of Force Policy**.

Any police officer who makes an unlawful, excessive, or unauthorized use of force with an impact weapon will be subject to disciplinary actions and may be subject to civil and criminal liability

**DEFINITIONS**

<b>Actively Resisting</b>	When a subject makes physically evasive movements to interfere with an officer’s attempt to control that subject. Physically evasive movements include, but are not limited to, bracing, tensing, pulling away, or pushing.
<b>De-escalation</b>	A decrease in the severity of force used in an incident in direct response to a decrease in the level of resistance.
<b>Force</b>	Any physical strike or instrumental contact with a person, any intentional attempted physical strike or instrument contact that does not take effect or any significant physical contact that restricts the movement of a person. The term includes the discharge of a firearm, pointing a firearm in the direction of a human being, use of pepper spray, chokeholds or hard hands, taking of a subject to the ground, or the deployment of a canine. The term does not include escorting or handcuffing a person with no resistance. Use of force is lawful if it is objectively reasonable under the circumstances, and the minimum amount of force that is necessary to effect an arrest, or protect the officer or other person, is used.
<b>Harm</b>	Injury inflicted upon a person, whether visible or not.
<b>Passive Resistance</b>	When a subject does not cooperate with an officer’s commands, but does not take action to prevent being taken into custody. For example, a protestor who lies down in front of a doorway and must be carried away upon arrest.
<b>Imminent Threat</b>	An officer’s reasonable perception of impending danger, death, or serious injury from any action or outcome that may occur during an encounter. A subject may pose an imminent or impending danger even if s/he is not pointing a weapon at an officer but, for example, has a weapon within reach, is running for cover carrying a weapon, or is running to a place where an officer has reason to believe that a weapon is available.

<b>Impact Weapons</b>	Department-approved tools that provide methods for gaining control of a subject when lethal force is not justified, but when empty-hand control techniques are not sufficient to effect control. These weapons should only be used when an officer is met with active resistance. The expandable baton authorized and issued by the YPD as an impact weapons.
<b>Deadly Force</b>	Any physical force that can reasonably be expected to cause death or serious physical injury. Officers must understand that lethal physical force is an extreme measure and shall only be used in accordance with the law and as stated in this policy and other policies governing the use of force.
<b>Non-Deadly force</b>	Any use of force not intended to, nor likely to, cause death or serious bodily harm.
<b>Serious Bodily Injury</b>	Injury that causes death or creates a substantial risk of death; permanent harm to health, disfigurement, or permanent loss of functions of any organ in the body; or injury that results in treatment at a medical facility. Note: minor treatment such as eye-washing, cleansing, and bandaging; evaluation with no injury discovered; etc., will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by a supervisor, and absent extenuating circumstances, may not be designated as serious bodily harm.

**PROCEDURE**

- Only YPD issued and approved impact weapons may be carried and used by Officers.
  - The YPD authorizes and issues a Monadnock Autolock expandable straight baton.
- Officers shall be trained in the use and handling of the issued impact weapons by authorized personnel, and officers shall not carry or use impact weapons until properly trained and certified.
- Officers shall carry an impact weapon in the manner prescribed in training.

**Use of Impact Weapons**

- Impact weapons may be deployed by an officer in response to active resistance. They may also be used to assist with restraining subjects or applying escort holds, consistent with YPD training.
- Officers must adhere to the progressive use of force in determining the degree of force that may be used. It is important to consider:
  - The severity of the crime involved;
  - The threat level encountered; and
  - The level of resistance by the subject.
- Officers shall use only the minimum degree of objectively reasonable force necessary to gain control of the situation, in light of the circumstances present. Any use of impact weapons must comply with the Yale University Police Department’s Use of Force policies. Officers are reminded that use of force is only authorized when it is objectively reasonable and for lawful purposes.
- Officers are obligated to de-escalate their use of force as the subject’s resistance decreases.
- Officers should avoid raising an impact weapon above the level of the head of the subject.
- Officers must avoid unreasonable levels of force which may cause serious bodily harm when striking a subject with an impact weapon, except when the circumstances justify using such force because of imminent danger of serious bodily harm and the officer is acting in self-defense.

**Body Areas Vulnerable to Impact Weapon Strikes with Less Likelihood of Serious Bodily Harm**

- Impact weapons should be used in a manner consistent with training in order to cause the minimum possible harm, by contacting pressure points, nervous centers, and any other area where the bones are close to the skin, especially the limbs.
- Vulnerable areas less likely to cause serious bodily harm as identified in Diagram 1 as Green and Yellow target areas.

**Body Areas to be Avoided by Impact Weapon Strikes**

- The following are considered potentially fatal impact spots and should not be targeted with an impact weapon unless deadly force is justified, consistent with Department policy and the law as identified as red target areas in Diagram 1.
  - Any area of the head/neck;
  - Genital area;
  - Spinal area;
  - Solar plexus or celiac plexus (sternum, abdominal and cardiac trauma).

**Verbal Commands**

- A verbal warning and time to allow the subject to comply must be given, prior to the use of an impact weapon, unless such warning would present a danger to the officer or others.
- Verbal commands before, during, and after the use of an impact weapon are important in order to de-escalate any situation and gain compliance and control of an actively resisting subject.

**Training**

- Only those officers specifically trained, assigned, and authorized by the Chief of Police shall carry or utilize impact weapons. Officers must be trained and certified every two years by a certified instructor or trainer.
- Based on the training requirements of the weapon, officers will be required to demonstrate proficiency with impact weapons as well as knowledge of the laws and this department’s policies concerning the use of force.

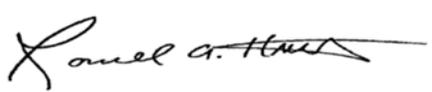
**Reporting Requirements**

Officers are required to notify a supervisor as soon as practicable after use of an impact weapon which is a reportable use of force subject to the requirements of **GO 302A-Reporting and Investigating Uses of Force**.

**Supervisor Responsibility**

YPD supervisors shall respond to the scene of the use of an impact weapon and must comply with all reporting and investigation requirements outlined in the **GO 302A-Reporting and Investigating Uses of Force**.

PER ORDER OF

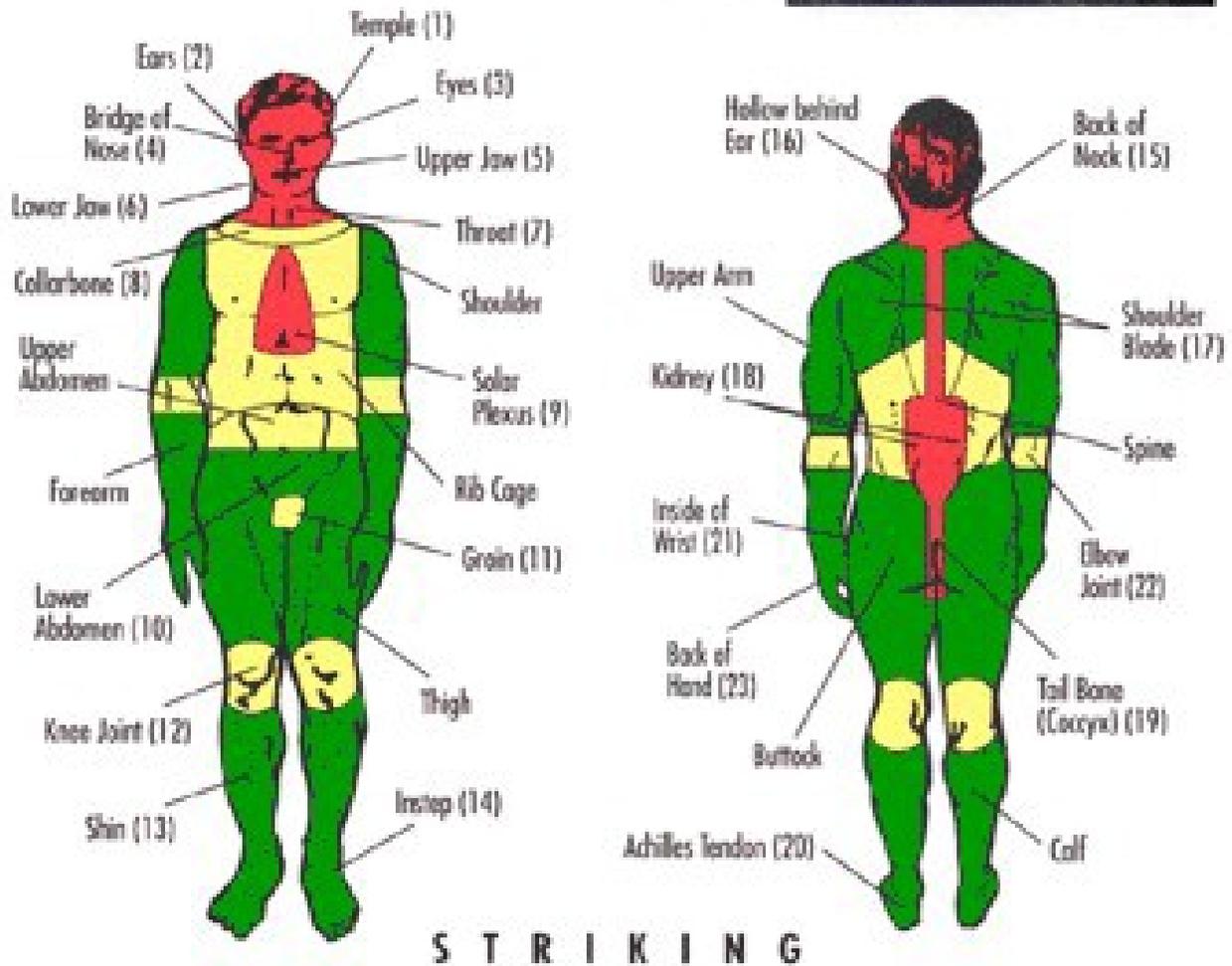


RONNELL A. HIGGINS  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CHIEF OF POLICE

**THIS GENERAL ORDER SUPERSEDES THE APPLICABLE PORTIONS OF GENERAL ORDER 501- CARE AND USE OF DEPARTMENT WEAPONS.**

# MONADNOCK BATON CHART

Escalation Of Trauma By Vital And Vulnerable Striking Areas



GREEN TARGET AREAS	YELLOW TARGET AREAS	RED TARGET AREAS
<p><b>REASONING:</b> Minimal level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be temporary rather than long-lasting, however exceptions can occur.</p> <p>Except for the HEAD, NECK, and SPINE, the whole body is a Green Target Area for the application of baton blocking and restraint skills.</p>	<p><b>REASONING:</b> Moderate to serious level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be more long-lasting, but may also be temporary.</p>	<p><b>REASONING:</b> Highest level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to range from serious to long-lasting rather than temporary and may include unconsciousness, serious bodily injury, shock or death.</p>

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