TO: All Personnel

FROM: James P. Saso, Chief of Police

DATE: September 2, 2021

SUBJECT: SPECIAL ORDER 21-01: BolaWrap™

This Special Order issued to Policy 203 (subsection 203.1.1 – Special Orders) immediately modifies Policy 305 – Handcuffing and Restraints in the manner described in this Special Order.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE
This policy provides guidelines for the issuance and use of BolaWrap™ devices in order to minimize injury to suspects, subjects, and officers.

POLICY
The BolaWrap™ device is intended to immobilize and control resistive/non-compliant persons and persons with known or suspected mental health issues that may affect the person’s ability to understand and follow instructions. The BolaWrap™ is also intended to control violent or potentially violent individuals. The BolaWrap™ is a hand-held remote restraint device that discharges an eight-foot bola style Kevlar tether to entangle an individual at an optimal range of 10-25 feet.

ISSUANCE AND CARRYING BOLAWRAP™ DEVICES
The following guidelines shall be adhered to:

a) Only a department approved BolaWrap™ device that has been issued by the Department shall be utilized by personnel.

b) Only members who have successfully completed department-approved training may be authorized to carry and deploy the BolaWrap™ device.

c) All BolaWrap™ devices shall be clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate them from the duty weapon and any other device.

d) Uniformed and non-uniformed sworn staff who have been authorized to carry the BolaWrap™ device shall wear the device in an approved holster on their person or keep the device safely & properly stored in their city vehicle.

e) When carried while in uniform, officers shall carry the BolaWrap™ device in a weak-side holster on the side opposite the duty weapon.
f) Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their BolaWrap™ device is properly maintained and in good working order.
g) Officers should not hold both a firearm and the BolaWrap™ device at the same time.
h) Absent exigent circumstances, prior to the use of the BolaWrap™ device, personnel shall request a supervisor to the scene.

VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNING
A verbal warning of the intended use of the BolaWrap™ device should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practical due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to:

a) Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
b) Provide the other officers and individuals with a warning that the BolaWrap™ device may be deployed.

The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes of another as it may permanently impair his/her vision.

The fact that a verbal or other warning was given or the reasons it was not given shall be documented by the officer deploying the BolaWrap™ device in the related report.

USE OF THE BOLAWRAP™ DEVICE
The BolaWrap™ device has limitations and restrictions requiring consideration before its use. The device should only be used when its operator can safely approach the subject within the ideal operational range of 10 to 25 feet. The minimum recommended standoff distance is 10 feet. Officers should be aware that the device may not achieve the intended results and be prepared to transition to other force options.

APPLICATION OF THE BOLAWRAP™ DEVICE
The BolaWrap™ device may be used in any of the following circumstances, when the circumstances perceived by the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a person:

a) The subject is violent or is physically resisting.
b) The subject has demonstrated, by words or action, an intention to be violent or to physically resist, and reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, him/herself, or others.

Mere flight from a pursuing officer, without other known circumstances or factors, is not good cause for the use of the BolaWrap™ device to apprehend an individual.
SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS
The use of the BolaWrap™ device on certain individuals should generally be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available options reasonably appear ineffective or would present a greater danger to the officer, the subject or others, and the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the device. This includes:

a) Individuals who are known to be pregnant.
b) Elderly individuals or obvious juveniles
c) Individuals who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained.
d) Individuals detained in a police vehicle.
e) Individuals in confined spaces that may prohibit the eight-foot wide tether expansion.
f) Individuals in danger of falling or becoming entangled in machinery or heavy equipment, which could result in death or serious bodily injury.
g) Individuals near any body of water that may present a drowning risk.
h) Individuals whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (e.g., running, possible fall from high location, operating vehicles).

The BolaWrap™ device shall not be used to psychologically torment, elicit statements or to punish any individual.

TARGETING CONSIDERATIONS
Reasonable efforts should be made to target lower center mass and avoid the head, neck, chest and groin. If the dynamics of a situation or officer safety do not permit the officer to limit the application of the BolaWrap™ device to a precise target area, officers should monitor the condition of the subject if it strikes the head, neck, chest or groin until the subject is examined by paramedics or other medical personnel.

ACTIONS FOLLOWING DEPLOYMENT
Following the use of the BolaWrap™ device:

a) When safe to do so, personnel shall use a more secure and permanent restraint device, such as handcuffs.
b) Personnel shall request a supervisor to the scene.
c) The supervisor or officer shall determine whether transporting the person to a medical facility is necessary to remove the hooks/anchors.
d) If the supervisor or officer determines that removal of the Kevlar cord is appropriate at the scene, the supervisor or officer may remove the Kevlar cord using department issued medical scissors.

MEDICAL TREATMENT
Consistent with local medical personnel protocols and absent extenuating circumstances, only appropriate medical personnel should remove BolaWrap™ device hooks and anchors when penetration of the body/skin has occurred.

All persons who have been struck by BolaWrap™ device shall be medically assessed as soon as practical and prior to booking. Additionally, any such individual who falls under any of the following categories should, as soon as practicable, be examined by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel:
a) The person is suspected of being under the influence of controlled substances and/or alcohol.
b) The person may be pregnant.
c) The person reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention.
d) The BolaWrap™ device pellets are lodged in a sensitive area (e.g., groin, female breast, head, face, neck).

Any individual exhibiting signs of distress shall be transported to a medical facility for examination or medically evaluated prior to booking. If any individual refused medical attention, such a refusal should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel and shall be fully documented in related reports. If an audio recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if possible.

The transporting officer shall inform any person providing medical care or receiving custody that the individual has been subjected to the application of the BolaWrap™ device.

DOCUMENTATION
Officers shall document all BolaWrap™ device discharges in the related arrest/crime report and in the Police Department BolaWrap™ Deployment Evaluation report. Notification shall also be made to a supervisor in compliance with the use of force policy. Unintentional discharges, pointing of the device at a person and laser activation will also be documented on the report form.

BOLAWRAP™ DEPLOYMENT EVALUATION FORM
The deployment of the BolaWrap™ shall be documented by the officer and/or supervisor using the department approved BolaWrap™ Deployment and Evaluation form. Items that shall be included the BolaWrap™ device report are:

a) The BolaWrap™ device & cartridge serial numbers.
b) Date, time and location of incident
c) Whether any display or laser deterred a subject and gained compliance.
d) The number of BolaWrap™ device activations and the duration between activations, and (as best as can be determined).
e) The range at which the BolaWrap™ device was used.
f) Location of any deployment impacts.
g) Whether or not medical care was provided to the subject.
h) Whether the subject sustained any injuries.
i) Whether any officers sustained any injuries.

The Lieutenant shall periodically analyze the report form to identify trends, including deterrence and effectiveness.
REPORTS
The officer should include the following in the appropriate police report.

   a) Identification of all personnel firing BolaWrap™ devices.
   b) Identification of all witnesses.
   c) Whether or not injuries were sustained by involved parties.
   d) Any medical care provided to any affected subjects.
   e) Observations of the subject’s physical and physiological actions.
   f) Any known or suspected drug use, intoxication or medical problems.

SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES
A supervisor should respond to all incidents where the BolaWrap™ device was activated. A supervisor should review each incident where a person has been exposed to an activation of the BolaWrap™. Photographs should be taken, including if the skin is penetrated, and witnesses interviewed.

DANGEROUS ANIMALS
The BolaWrap™ device should not be deployed against an animal as part of a plan to deal with a potentially dangerous animal, such as a dog, etc. This device is not intended for use against animals. However, if the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety and alternative methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective, the BolaWrap™ may be deployed to protect against harm to suspects, subjects and officers.

OFF DUTY USE CONSIDERATIONS
Officers are not authorized to carry department BolaWrap™ devices while off-duty. Officers shall ensure that BolaWrap™ devices are secured while in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control, in a manner that will keep the device inaccessible to others.

TRAINING
Personnel who are authorized to carry the BolaWrap™ device shall be permitted to do so only after successfully completing the initial department-approved training. Any personnel who have not carried the BolaWrap™ device as part of their assignment for a period of one year or more shall be recertified by a department-approved BolaWrap™ device instructor prior to again carrying or using the device.

Proficiency training for personnel who have been authorized to carry BolaWrap™ device should occur annually. A reassessment of an officer’s knowledge and/or practical skill may be required at any time if deemed appropriate by the Lieutenant. All training and proficiency for BolaWrap™ devices will be documented in the officer’s training file.

Command staff, supervisors and investigators should receive BolaWrap™ device training as appropriate for the investigations they conduct and review.

Officers who do not carry BolaWrap™ devices should receive training that is sufficient to familiarize them with the device and with working with officers who use the device.

The Lieutenant is responsible for ensuring that all members who carry BolaWrap™ devices have received initial and annual proficiency training.
Application of the BolaWrap™ devices during training could result in injury to personnel and should not be mandatory for certification.

The Lieutenant should ensure that all training includes:

a) A review of this policy.
b) A review of the Use of Force policy.
c) Device nomenclature, function, manipulation, deployment, storage and maintenance.
d) Target area considerations, to include techniques or options to reduce the unintentional application of hooks and anchors near the head, neck, chest, and groin.
e) Handcuffing a subject during the application of the BolaWrap™ device and transitioning to other force options.
f) De-escalation techniques.
g) Restraint techniques that do not impair respiration following the application of the BolaWrap™ device

James P. Saso
Chief of Police

CC: All Personnel

Attachments: BolaWrap™ Deployment and Evaluation form
BolaWrap™ Deployment & Evaluation Form

Date: XX/XX/20XX

Deployed by: Choose an item.

Case #

Case Type: Choose an item.

Location (Address):

BolaWrap™ Serial #: Choose an item.

BolaWrap™ Cartridge Serial #:

Display of device deterred subject and gained compliance: Choose an item.

Deployment impact area: Choose an item.

Number of cartridges deployed: Choose an item.

Duration between BolaWrap™ device activations:

Range at which BolaWrap™ device was deployed: Choose an item.

Deployment result: Choose an item.

Did the subject sustain any injuries: Choose an item.

Medical Treatment: Choose an item.

Did an officer sustain any injuries: Choose an item.

Incident Description: (synopsis of the incident)