

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

January 9, 2020
1.12

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: BOLAWRAP REMOTE RESTRAINT DEVICE PILOT PROGRAM
GUIDELINES

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the Board of Police Commissioners REVIEW the attached BolaWrap Remote Restraint Device Pilot Program guidelines and ALLOW a two-week period for public input regarding the guidelines.

DISCUSSION

The BolaWrap remote Restraint Device is a non-lethal force option that is designed to assist in detaining and restraining individuals. The Department intends to conduct a pilot program for BolaWrap for approximately 90 days to evaluate its potential usage Departmentwide. The Department has developed pilot program guidelines for the BolaWrap Remote Restraint Device. The purpose of the pilot program guidelines is to familiarize officers with the use of the BolaWrap, reporting requirements after use of the BolaWrap, and key definitions pertaining to BolaWrap.

If there are any questions, please contact Deputy Chief Martin A. Baeza, Commanding Officer, Personnel and Training Bureau at (213) 486-7090.



MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

Attachment

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
PILOT PROGRAM

BOLAWRAP REMOTE RESTRAINT DEVICE

PURPOSE

The BolaWrap Remote Restraint Device (BolaWrap) is a non-lethal force option that the Department will be **piloting for approximately 90** days in 2020. The device is designed to assist in detaining and restraining individuals. The purpose of this document is to familiarize officers with the following:

- Use of the BolaWrap;
- Reporting Requirements after use of the BolaWrap; and,
- Key definitions pertaining to the BolaWrap.

USE OF THE BOLAWRAP

Whenever practicable, officers shall exercise de-escalation techniques to resolve potential use of force incidents and seek voluntary compliance from suspects/subjects. Officers may deploy the BolaWrap when the circumstances perceived by the officer indicate that:

- a. An individual needing to be detained or controlled indicates through words or action that he or she will resist arrest, or will not voluntarily comply with lawful orders; or,
- b. The individual 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, himself/herself or others.

Note: The BolaWrap shall not be used to apprehend an individual who is merely fleeing a pursuing officer, without other known circumstances or factors.

The BolaWrap is a handheld-device powered by a blank round that projects an 8-foot Kevlar cord that impedes mobility when properly deployed at an individual. Officers shall ensure there is a three-foot radius of clearance around the individual before the deployment of the BolaWrap. The effective deployment range of the BolaWrap is 10 to 20 feet.

Primary Target Area

The primary target area for the BolaWrap is the lower leg area between the ankles and knees.

Tactical Considerations

- Clearance around the individual
- Communication with other officers present regarding the deployment
- If there is exposed skin where the hooks attach there may be skin penetration

Secondary Target Area

If the individual has one or both arms to his or her side, officers may fire the BolaWrap at the abdomen with the goal of immobilizing one or both of an individual's arms. Before using the BolaWrap, officers shall consider the following limitations and restrictions:

- The BolaWrap should only be used when an officer can safely approach the individual within the operational range of the device.
- Although generally effective in controlling most individuals, officers should be aware that the BolaWrap may not achieve the intended results and be prepared with other options.
- The BolaWrap should be deployed with an additional officer present to provide cover.

Deployment Considerations

The use of the BolaWrap on certain individuals should generally be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available options would be ineffective or would present a greater danger to the officer, the individual, or others, and the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the device. Officers should generally avoid using the BolaWrap on the following individuals:

- Females who are known to be pregnant;
- Elderly or visibly frail individuals, or juveniles under 12 years of age;
- Individuals near any body of water where deployment may present a drowning risk;
- Individuals that are on an elevated or unstable surface where deployment could cause a fall that could result in an injury;
- Individuals that are restrained, incapacitated, or immobilized, unless using the BolaWrap is necessary to prevent them from causing serious bodily harm to themselves or others, and if lesser attempts of control have been ineffective;
- Individuals who are fleeing or running away, unless the individual is an immediate threat to themselves or others (officers should continually assess the situation considering the most appropriate tactical plan).

When activated (safety off), the green laser sight line should be pointed at the primary or secondary target areas. The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed at the eyes of another as it may permanently impair vision. Officers shall not intentionally deploy two or more BolaWraps in a manner likely to result in the individual's upper and lower body being simultaneously wrapped. However, deploying two BolaWraps simultaneously at the same target area (i.e., both devices aimed at the primary target area or both BolaWraps aimed at the secondary target area) is acceptable and may increase the effectiveness of the deployment. Officers **shall not** target the head or

neck area to avoid serious injury to the individual.

The BolaWrap utilizes a modified .380 blank to propel the cord and anchors, and the device emits a loud noise similar to a gunshot when deployed. To help avoid situations where the BolaWrap deployment may be perceived as the discharging of a firearm, officers should communicate amongst themselves with verbal commands similar to a less-lethal impact weapon deployment. The BolaWrap officer should alert officers when ready to fire by shouting or broadcasting, "BolaWrap Ready!" The primary officer should then give the clear to deploy by shouting or broadcasting, "BolaWrap Standby!" This alerts the officers at the scene that deployment of the BolaWrap is imminent.

Officers should continually assess the individual's actions and the effectiveness of the BolaWrap as a restraint device. If the BolaWrap appears to be ineffective in controlling the individual, officers should consider whether the anchors made proper contact, and whether verbal commands, or other options or tactics may be more effective prior to deploying additional cartridges at the individual.

Once the BolaWrap has been deployed, if the individual is lying on the ground and secured, officers shall immediately search the waistband area and then place the individual in an upright, seated position or on his or her left side (left lateral recumbent position). If this is not possible due to medical or tactical issues, then placing the individual on his/her right side is an acceptable substitute.

Medical Treatment

Any person whose skin is pierced by the BolaWrap anchor shall be transported to a Department-approved facility for medical treatment prior to booking. The person should be carefully monitored for signs of distress. If a medical emergency exists, officers shall request a rescue ambulance to respond to their location.

REPORTING THE USE OF THE BOLAWRAP

The use of the BolaWrap in any circumstance other than an approved training exercise shall be documented as a Non-Categorical Use of Force. When the BolaWrap is deployed and the Kevlar cord with anchors does not strike a person, a Use of Force Report is not required, although an Employee's Report, form 15.7, shall be completed documenting the occurrence. Supervisors shall obtain photographs of all visible as well as complained of injuries, even when evidence is not present.

During the product evaluation, officers shall report any use of the BolaWrap during a tactical incident on the BolaWrap Deployment Evaluation Form in addition to any reports indicated above. The completed form shall be scanned and emailed to Sergeant II Michael Hall, Serial No. 26212, Force Options Training Unit, In-Service Training Division.

KEY DEFINITIONS

BolaWrap: The BolaWrap is a handheld-device powered by a blank round that projects an 8-foot Kevlar cord that, when properly deployed at an individual, impedes mobility. The effective deployment range of the BolaWrap is 10 to 20 feet. The body of the BolaWrap is green.

BolaWrap Cartridge: The black cartridge for the BolaWrap contains an eight-foot Kevlar cord (380 lb. strength) with anchors attached at both ends. A .380 partial charge blank propels the Kevlar cord with anchors at 640 feet per second.

Green Laser Sight Line: The Laser is turned on/off by manipulating the safety switch. The laser is green in color and is 5 milliwatts which could cause retina damage if pointed at the eyes. The purpose of the line laser is to ensure that the officer is pointing the device at the correct target area of the body while holding it parallel to the ground.

Target Areas: The primary target area is the lower leg area between the ankles and knees. If the individual has one or both arms to his or her side, the secondary target area is the abdomen with the goal of wrapping one or both arms.

Points to Remember

- Optimal Deployment range is from 10 to 20 feet
- Do not target the head or neck area
- Ensure three-foot radius of clearance around the individual
- Deploying two BolaWraps that wrap the upper and lower body simultaneously is discouraged
- Have a back-up plan in the event the BolaWrap is ineffective
- Reportable use of force if the cord and/or anchor(s) strikes a person

Deviation from these basic guidelines may occur due to the fluid and rapidly evolving nature of law enforcement encounters and the environment in which they occur. Deviations may range from minor and typically procedural or technical in nature, to substantial deviations from Department tactical training. Any deviations are to be explained by the involved officer(s), and justification for substantial deviation from Department tactical training shall be articulated in writing.

Prepared by:

Force Options Training Unit
In-Service Training Division

Los Angeles Police Department BolaWrap Pilot Program

BolaWrap Deployment Evaluation

Date: _____

Incident: _____ DR: _____

Unit Designation: _____

Deployed By (Name & Serial No.): _____

Location (Address): _____

RD: _____

Use of Force Report Number: _____

Deployment:

- Impact Area: _____
- How many cartridges deployed: _____

Result (Circle): Effective / Non-Effective

Note: Effectiveness is defined as the device fully wrapping around the target area of the subject that results in impeding range of movement.

Incident Description: (Brief synopsis of incident; i.e. 415 man with knife, male mental, etc.)

