

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Detentions Bureau Policies and Procedures

TITLE: ELECTRONIC IMMOBILIZATION SHIELD

O-300

EFFECTIVE:	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
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APPROVED BY: Detentions Bureau Chief Deputy Cindy Cisneros

REFERENCE:

POLICY

The Detentions Bureau maintains and utilizes Electronic Immobilization Shields (also known as Stun Shields) in order to provide officers with a means of safely controlling violent or aggressive inmates while minimizing injury to staff and inmates. The purpose of this policy is to establish the standards of use and procedures for the operation of the Electronic Immobilization Shield.

STUN SHIELD DESCRIPTION

The Stun Shield is a concave lexan shield coated with energy conductor strips. These strips, which resemble duct tape in appearance, are attached to an electronic, battery operated stun unit. Also, attached to the Stun Shield are two handgrip units that contain the trigger mechanism for the shield's stun unit. The Stun Shield may be operated as a standard riot shield, without activating the stun unit, or with the stun unit activated as an electronic immobilization and take down device.

When activated and put in contact with a person, the Stun Shield generates an electronic pulse that temporarily interrupts voluntary muscle control. While the effects are not the same for everyone, the unit is designed to leave the subject dazed and disoriented with a loss of balance and with a passive feeling. Sustained contact (4-8 seconds) between an activated shield and a subject's torso can result in a full takedown, temporarily immobilizing the subject. Because of the unique characteristics of this device, its use must be strictly limited to the dictates of this policy.

DIRECTIVE #1

The following provisions shall apply to all applications and activations of the Stun Shield:

- The Stun Shield will only be used with the specific approval of the appropriate Transportation, Court, or Detentions Facility supervisor, unless an emergency situation prevents officers from acquiring prior approval. Should such a situation exist, the appropriate supervisor will be notified as soon as possible.
- Unauthorized use of this or any electronic restraint device is prohibited.
- Department personnel will not use the Stun Shield to coerce, harass, belittle, or abuse any person or prisoner.
- The Stun Shield shall not be used in any form of horseplay.
- Penal Code Section 4023.8(h) strictly prohibits the use of a TASER, Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray), or exposures to other chemical weapons on an “incarcerated” pregnant female.
 - For the purposes of Sheriff’s Office policy, this prohibition shall include the use of the Stun Shield. Whenever staff has knowledge or believes that an incarcerated female is pregnant, the Stun Shield will not be used against that inmate.
 - For the purposes of this policy, an incarcerated pregnant female is a person that has received a booking number, whether booked into an actual jail facility of absentee booked away from a jail facility.

DIRECTIVE #2 Who May Use the Stun Shield

No employee will operate the Stun Shield or trigger the stun mechanism without having completed the specific training course for the unit. Training will consist of a classroom and practical session on the components and the proper use of the Stun Shield. The Training Section will designate instructors to conduct training courses in the use of the Stun Shield. Employees trained in the use of the Stun Shield will have a copy of their certification on file at the Sheriff's Training Section.

Procedure A: Stun Shield Uses

The Stun Shield may be used, in accordance with this policy, on any person when there is reason to believe that person is a danger to themselves, to others, or to the safety and/or the security of Sheriff’s Office facilities or operations. As with any use of force, the decision to use and/or activate the Stun Shield must be objectively reasonable for the

situation in which it is to be used. Reasons for application and/or activation of the device may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- To immobilize or overcome the resistance of persons who are violent or have exhibited violent behavior and who refuse to comply with lawful directives given by officers;
- To overcome the resistance of inmate(s) who refuse to exit or enter their cells or housing units when lawfully commanded to do so;
- To immobilize and control persons who are exhibiting uncontrollable behavior or who are self destructive and who refuse to comply with lawful directives given by officers;
- To overcome the resistance or to immobilize any assaultive suspect(s) during riots inside or outside of any facility.

Caution: Because of the danger of ignition, officers will not activate the Stun Shield if any flammable liquids have been thrown on the shield surface or if officers have entered any environment where flammable gases or vapors are present.

Procedure B: Reporting Requirements

Any time a stun shield is physically applied to a person, regardless of whether or not the stun unit was activated, the incident will be documented in a JMS incident report. The JMS incident will include the incident type **4036 – Use of EID Device**.

If the application constituted a use of force, as defined in Section F-100 of the Sheriff's Office Policy and Procedures Manual, it shall be reported and documented as required by Section F-200 of that manual.

In the event that any person receives any injuries as a result of the Stun Shield activation, color photographs of the injuries shall be taken and booked as evidence as part of the relevant report.

Additionally, if the Stun Shield was activated, the activating officer will complete an Activation Incident Report (Attachment A), which will be attached to the relevant Incident Report.

Procedure C: Medical Evaluation after Use

After any activation of the Stun Shield stun unit on any person, the activating officer shall have the person examined by the Medical Staff as soon as practical.

Procedure D: Stun Pack Maintenance and Responsibilities

The Administrative Sergeant of each facility that has a Stun Shield shall designate an officer to be responsible for the maintenance of that facility's units. This officer shall inspect the units at least once per month. During these inspections, the designated officer will:

- Ensure that the Stun Shield power units and triggering mechanisms are in good working order;
- Ensure that all the batteries are sufficiently charged. The maintaining officer will not replace the batteries. Only members of the EID Instructional Team will replace Stun Shield batteries;
- Affix a tag on the equipment noting the date of the most recent check on the status of the batteries and stun unit;
- Maintain a log in which all checks and maintenance of the Stun Shield will be recorded. This log will be located in the place designated for storage of the Stun Shield.

If any maintenance of the Stun Shield is required, including the replacement of the unit's batteries, the Administrative Sergeant will contact the EID Instructional Team Leader to arrange for the maintenance of the unit. Only EID Instructional Team Members will perform any maintenance or replace the batteries of the Stun Shield.

Procedure E: Compliance Audits

The Compliance Section will conduct annual audits of Stun Shield uses to determine compliance with the provisions of this section and to identify training needs and policy issues. Such audits will be conducted in coordination with the EID Instructional Team Leader. The audit report shall be forwarded to the section and division managers, and to the Detentions Bureau Chief Deputy.