

Procedures

A. Disapproved Weapons

1. Agency members are prohibited from using, in the performance of their duty, any unauthorized weapons.
2. Non-issue defensive weapons such as slapsticks, slapjacks, blackjacks, sap gloves, etc. are prohibited.
3. Personally owned electronic defense weapons (stun guns) of any variety are prohibited.

B. Knives

1. Only folding blade knives may be carried, concealed, on the deputy while in uniform.

C. Impact Weapons/ Handcuffs

1. Only agency approved impact weapons may be carried.
2. Members that are certified with an impact weapon (ASP) must maintain their certification.
3. The agency training officer will maintain the ASP certification for each deputy.
4. Members will only carry the agency issued 21” ASP baton. If a member requests to carry a different size (16, 26 or 31) it must be inspected and approved by the agency ASP Instructor.
5. Handcuffs – Approved or issued handcuffs of the Smith & Wesson, Hiatts, or Peerless type that use the standard issued handcuff key or the equivalent.

D. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray Agent

1. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) is an inflammatory agent found naturally in cayenne peppers.
2. When sprayed into the face of a person, the results are immediate swelling and closing of the eyes, uncontrollable coughing, gagging and gasping of breath.
3. The physiological effects produce such discomfort that the individual loses coordination and upper body motor control, thereby reducing any further aggressive behavior.
4. Use of O.C. Spray Agent
 - a. The O.C. spray agent is considered a low level control and restraint technique that, when applied to the CCSO use of force continuum, can be utilized whenever a deputy is confronted with overt resistance.

- b. The O.C. spray agent may be used at a deputy's discretion, in accordance with established policy and training, in incidents as follows:
 - (1) To protect yourself, other officers, and citizens from assault. Deputies shall determine the level of threat imposed and choose the appropriate response to that threat within the scope of "level of force" required.
 - (2) To effect the arrest of a subject who is hostile aggressive and/or combative.
 - (3) To protect against vicious animal attacks.
 - (4) It will not be used to engage in horseplay or pranks.
 - (5) Deputies will not heavily spray an accused so that he/she is soaked.
 - (6) Deputies will make every effort not to spray into open wounds.

E. Training

No agency member shall be issued or authorized to carry any lethal or non-lethal weapon unless they have been trained according to the mandates established by the Maryland Police and Corrections Training Commission (MPCTC) or other required certification and authorized by the Director of Law Enforcement.