

GEORGIA STATE PATROL

ASP BATON EVALUATION

- 1. Did you experience any discomfort in carrying the ASP baton on your gun belt while patrolling, working wrecks, etc?**

Yes 4 No 11

No discomfort was noticed with the 21" baton. The 26" ASP was too long; it was bad about sticking me in the side and made it hard to retrieve items from my pants pockets.

The 26" was too long.

Only discomfort was it rested on my belt at my pocket. It made it difficult to get hand in pants pocket. No other discomfort.

While wearing the 26" baton, I experienced minor discomfort due to its length and weight. I experienced no discomfort at all with the 21" baton.

- 2. Did you have the occasion to draw the baton on a violator? (If yes, what was the violator's response?)**

Yes 4 No 11

The baton was drawn on a 6'3" 270-lb. Albany State football player. When the violator saw me go into the Ready Position with the baton, he quickly put his hands behind his back to be cuffed.

Once the ASP was removed from the holster, the violator immediately became passive and easily controlled. Even without being extended, it represented, visibly, a major threat with which he wanted no part.

After drawing the baton, the violator was arrested without struggle.

When the baton was pulled out and held in my hand, the violator became very apprehensive about what the baton was. The general reaction was that it was a shocking device and that they then calmed down and were receptive to being placed under arrest. At the times that the baton was extended, the violator when they heard the ratcheting sound, backed off and allowed themselves to be handcuffed without any trouble, not knowing what the baton was.

- 3. Was the violator struck with the baton? (If yes, what affect did it have on the violator?)**

Yes 0 No 13

There was no contact and, in my opinion, that only further proves its usefulness. Any time physical contact can be avoided, everyone is much better served.

At the time the baton was extended, the violators started

questioning me as to what the object was in my hand and became scared of the object, allowing me to handcuff them without any violence becoming necessary.

4. Did you experience any physical or mechanical problems in operating the ASP baton? (If yes, please explain.)

Yes 0 No 15

As long as the baton was opened with a swift motion, the baton would fully lock out and be operational without any difficulty.

5. List the positives of the ASP baton.

Just knowing that the baton was on my person and was easy for me to have access to played a positive role mentally on patrol.

The ASP baton is convenient and easy to carry. It is always handy and on your person.

Confidence in having it with me.

It's nice to have. It's not noticeable, but if you need it, it's there.

The convenience and comfort knowing you had such a weapon on hand if needed was very positive.

Once removed from the holster (even without being extended), violator immediately became passive and easily controlled. The ASP baton is light, easy to carry and low profile. The portability of the baton is its most outstanding feature. It does not intimidate or offend a peaceful violator.

The ASP baton is easy to reach and to put into action if needed. It's non-offensive look is a definite advantage! It is comfortable to wear unlike the nightstick we are currently using.

Compact. Carried easily.

- 1) The officer has the baton in his possession at all times.
- 2) The baton is in a concealed manner on officer's belt.
- 3) The solid metal sound of the baton when it is racked open draws immediate attention.

Having the ASP on your side at all times is a very positive aspect. The thought of the many ways that the ASP can be helpful is very reassuring.

- 1) Easy access when needed.
- 2) The ability to stop a confrontation.
- 3) It gives the trooper a means of defense.

The baton can be carried without any discomfort. The baton isn't a threat to the violator until used. The officer will carry the ASP as opposed to leaving it in the car.

- 1) Compact
- 2) Accessible
- 3) Provides alternative to other more extreme measures of self-defense

The baton had the effect of causing the violator to become apprehensive as to what the object was, unlike the nightstick which caused violators becoming more belligerent when drunk, wanting us to hit them with the stick so they could sue us. Most violators thought that it was a shocking device and became scared or thought that it was some new type of weapon. The fear of the unknown objects usage became a definite plus to the officer. The weapon is small and easily carried on the belt unlike the nightstick that was bulky, and can be easily reached and put into the defensive mode in just a couple of seconds. The night stick was hard to pull out due to the length and angle that it was carried at.

Very accessible being carried on the gun belt, lightweight, unobserved and, therefore, not seen as offensive by violators.

6. List any negatives of the ASP baton.

I don't like the added extra weight on the gun belt. The ASP 26 is too long and gets in the way.

Hard to get on and off the gun belt.

Length of the strap to the snap on the gun belt.

None.

No negatives.

They are not already carried as part of the uniform.

I found nothing negative about this baton.

21" baton that I carried was loose in carrier. Could be lost in a scuffle if not drawn.

- 1) Both batons I carried had a rattle when you walked.
- 2) The open case used to carry the baton needed a top strap and snap.

None.

None.

The only negative point to the ASP is not having it.

N/A

I have yet to find anything negative about the baton.

No negatives experienced.

7. Have you had an occasion in the past where the ASP baton (positioned on your belt) would have benefited you?

Yes 14 No 1

I have had several past experiences with violent persons when the baton would have been very helpful in avoiding physical contact, thus, possibly preventing injury.

8. Rate the ASP baton for its effectiveness and reliability. (1 being lowest and 5 highest)

1 0 2 0 3 0 4 3 5 12

9. Circle the length baton that you think would best serve a trooper.

21 4 26 12

10. Print or legibly write a detailed evaluation of the ASP baton.

The ASP 26 is too long and worn in the position that was mandated by the department made it hard to retrieve items from pants pockets. The 26" also added more weight around my waist than I was comfortable with. The ASP 21 was the better of the two. It didn't poke me in the side while sitting in the patrol car like the 26" did. Also, while in practice with the ASP baton, I was able to control the 21" better while striking an object. During my overall observation of the two batons, I tend to lean more to the 21".

The ASP baton is light and easy to carry. I would prefer the stainless baton. I think it would be a useful piece of equipment for the troopers. The portability of the baton is its most outstanding feature.

I would really like to have one that would stay on my belt. I don't have any negatives about the ASP baton.

The ASP baton is a protective device if it is used properly. There are many advantages of the ASP baton. It is very comfortable to wear. The baton isn't noticeable on the gun belt. If it is drawn, it attracts the violator's attention. The ASP baton is helpful because the 90's promise to bring new challenges for law enforcement.

The ASP baton is a very effective and low profile weapon. It would be easy to get to and use if needed. Not one time did a violator ask what it was. This would be good because it would not intimidate violators. I recommend the ASP baton for the Georgia State Patrol.

The ASP has become a part of my uniform which will be missed. It is generally not noticed by the trooper since it is very comfortable while being carried nor by the general public because it aligns perfectly with the black pant stripe. It does not intimidate or offend a peaceful violator since it is not easily seen by them. It does not look threatening or offensive as does a baton such as we presently carry. The desire not to appear as such is the reason

most troopers leave their batons in the patrol car. With the ASP, it is not necessary to call a "time out" in order to retrieve it from under/over/beside or in some other item within the patrol car. It is as convenient as the firearm and may very well be used in a situation as quickly as the firearm can be drawn. That is not to say, instead of the firearm, but merely as convenient and instinctly located.

The mere fact that no contact was necessary to persuade a violent violator from becoming more of a threat to me, other officers, or ultimately to himself, is praise enough of its effectiveness.

There was enormous interest shown in the ASP by other officers of different departments. This interest generally was 1) What is it? 2) How does it work? 3) How do you close it? and last, but not most surprising, 4) What do you do, just knock someone's brains out with it?

I feel that just as the flashlight and wooden baton become baseball bats when officers are poorly trained, the ASP could as well. However, with the training as provided by Corporal Smith, the proper use would be as commonplace as brushing one's teeth. Come-along holds may be forgotten when needed, but it is unlikely that proper procedure in utilizing the ASP would be, considering the average person's inherent instinct to hit rather than hold when attacked.

Ultimately, the probability of lawsuits would be greatly diminished by use of a weapon which is not used on someone's head or causes open wounds and/or permanent scars.

I carried the 26" ASP baton for 30 days, and the 21" ASP baton for 30 days. The only difference in carrying the two batons is the 21" baton was easier to carry. The 21" baton rode level to my magazine pouches and was not ever noticeable to me. The 26" baton rode higher than my magazine pouches and was constantly bumping my arm and my side when entering and exiting my patrol vehicle.

I think the only advantage in carrying the 26" baton would be the psychological aspect for the officer. Longer may not be better in the use of the ASP baton. I prefer the 21" ASP baton.

Although I did not have the opportunity to use the ASP baton on a violator during this evaluation, I felt more confident in dealing with the public. A trooper which is properly trained in the use of the ASP baton has a definite advantage when confronted with dangerous hand to hand combat. Its non-offensive look along with its accessibility are its best features. I feel the ASP baton is the best option available to troopers to avoid using deadly force. It is the best device I have seen in my seven years of being on the road. Thank you for the opportunity to use this wonderful device.

Did not have occasion to use baton. However, I believe it would be very effective.

I believe the ASP baton would be a very effective tool to every law enforcement officer. The baton was very comfortable whether riding in a car or walking. The baton was hardly noticed by anyone. This baton gives a reasonable amount of confidence to an officer to handle a touchy situation with one or more suspects. The 26" baton seemed to give an officer more striking power because of its weight and length. Even though I did not have a situation where I used the

baton, I felt I was better prepared to handle a bad situation. I felt the carrying case for the baton could be improved by a strap and button to hold the baton securely in. I feel a violator could possibly pull the baton out of the present case in a situation where the baton was not needed by the officer but a scuffle might ensue.

The ASP baton would be a very positive tool in law enforcement use. Lately, with the jail populations of each county and the idea that a trooper that may be sued and win, most violators think that it is no problem to resist arrest and then get something extra. In my opinion, once the ASP baton is put into use statewide, it will decrease the injuries to troopers and be a certified use of force against a violator instead of using your flashlight. I think that the ASP baton would be a very useful tool in today's law enforcement.

It is my opinion that the ASP baton would be of benefit to every trooper on the State Patrol. With the ASP baton on his belt, a trooper would be better able to end a violent unarmed confrontation without harm to the trooper and with a reduced chance of serious injury to the violator. This would be especially true for troopers of small build or for troopers not in top physical shape. The ASP baton would give these and all troopers a means of ending a violent unarmed confrontation before it escalated to the point where the use of deadly force might have to be used.

I was very pleased with both the 21" and the 26" baton. My choice of the 26" baton was due to its extra length. I feel that the extra 5 inches could be of vital importance in a confrontation. I highly recommend the ASP baton and look forward to wearing it again.

The ASP baton would be a great asset to our department as well as to the public. As a trooper, I feel safer and, as a citizen, I feel less threatened. I feel each trooper should at least have a chance to have the best, most effective equipment on hand. Each trooper should choose whichever length they wish. A female or weak wrist trooper can get baton speed with the 21" whereas a stronger person can gain baton speed needed. I hope the department finds a way to purchase this needed equipment.

I believe the ASP baton will benefit road troopers mainly due to its accessibility. Too often when an impact weapon is needed for self-defense, it will be in the patrol car while the scuffle is occurring outside the vehicle. The ASP baton, readily available on the gun belt, provides that sometimes needed "edge" in a confrontation at the trooper's fingertips. The only drawback I see is the inevitable grumbling about extra weight on the gun belt. The baton does require a period of adjustment. I found that by positioning the baton on my weak side, it offsets the weight of the service weapon and creates balance. I recommend that the department seriously consider providing the ASP baton to sworn members.

In the field usage of the baton, it was found to be comfortable to wear on the belt and can be worn at all times. The nightstick was almost impossible to carry in the holder while driving and had to be placed in the holder at every traffic stop, also placing the violator in a tense mode seeing the stick. The baton had the effect of the unknown object to the violator, causing a tense situation to become easier to handle when pulled from the holder, as the violator became apprehensive as to his safety from the feat of the unknown. The 21" baton to me would not be practical in a confrontation of

several subjects in which reach would help in the jabbing mode to keep someone off of you like in a crowd. The 26" baton could be used just like the nightstick fully extended and with come-along holds. The ASP baton would be a great asset to the field trooper as it can be worn at all times and may save the injury of a trooper needing more protection than his hands, as the nightstick is so bulky and cannot be carried at all times due to the trouble of having to remove it to sit in the vehicle, and put it in the holder when exiting the vehicle. A trooper never knows from vehicle stop to vehicle stop what situation will occur, and to have a baton on his side at all times is the best protection he can have. The ASP baton is the best device that I have had the pleasure of using in stopping someone from being hurt unnecessarily.

I feel the ASP baton should be standard issue to all GSP troopers. An intermediate weapon is desperately needed in the field. The baton would be an asset and a very useful tool, when needed. I believe it would have a positive effect on a violator when displayed; probably defusing a hostile situation.