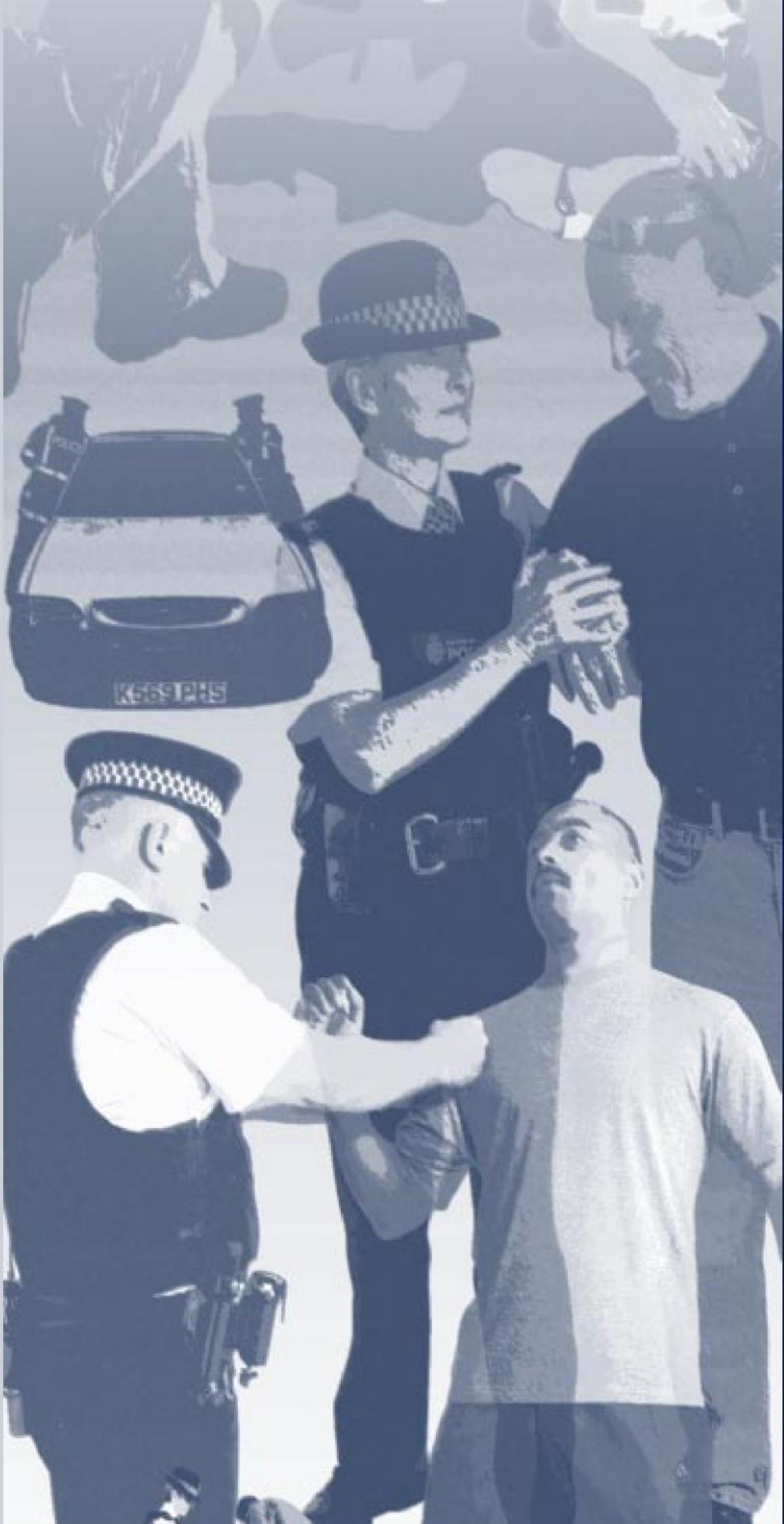


Side handled baton skills



Personal Safety



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SIDE-HANDLED BATON SKILLS

The aim of this module therefore is to:

- ♦ use correct baton technique
- ♦ be able to use a baton in a spontaneous manner
- ♦ operate with a baton in all ranges
- ♦ link with other modules contained within this manual.

Introduction

This training system emerged from a need to give the officer the best possible range of options to deal with a multitude of circumstances. It is designed to be used with any side-handled baton of a rigid or positive lock design, and provides for the baton to be used while engaged in close quarter contact or while operating in a reactionary gap range of between four to six feet. It also allows for operating in an open, closed or elevated environment, such as a staircase or while on the ground, and is designed for use against multiple subjects.

Parts identification

Short, side and long tip

The short, side and long tip of the side-handled baton may be used within this particular system. The tips should be inspected regularly to ensure that there are no abrasions present that could cut a subject's skin and/or clothing during a confrontation. To minimise this, the tips should be filed smooth where necessary or changed completely.

Short length

The short length lies forward of the side handle when the baton is held in the short position.

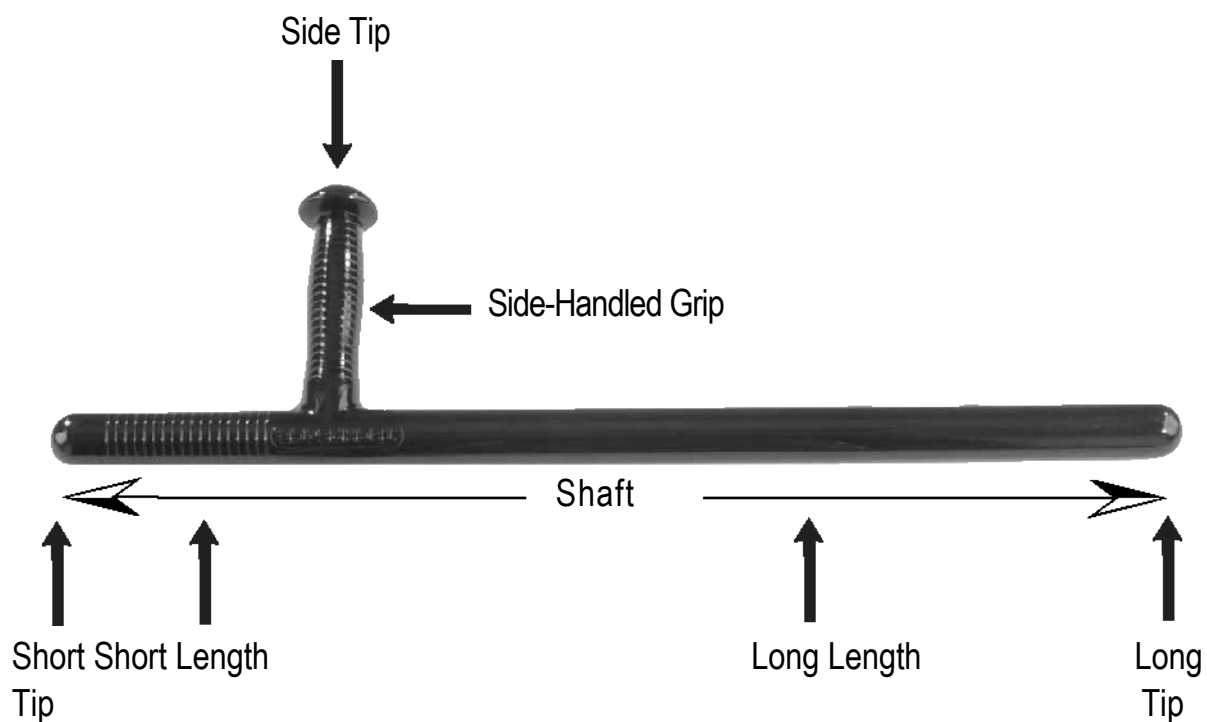
Long length

The long length lies forward of the side handle when the baton is held in the long position. In positive lock side-handled batons, this length should slide in and out of the remaining shaft of the baton without resistance. If difficulty is experienced, then the long length should be examined for straightness, or any damping system examined for wear and tear. Dependent upon the manufacturer and type of baton, some long lengths incorporate a solid shaft, which assist with the concept of '**forward weight**'. This design feature replicates the action of a hammerhead, thereby maintaining time on target (see Unarmed Skills Module).

Shaft

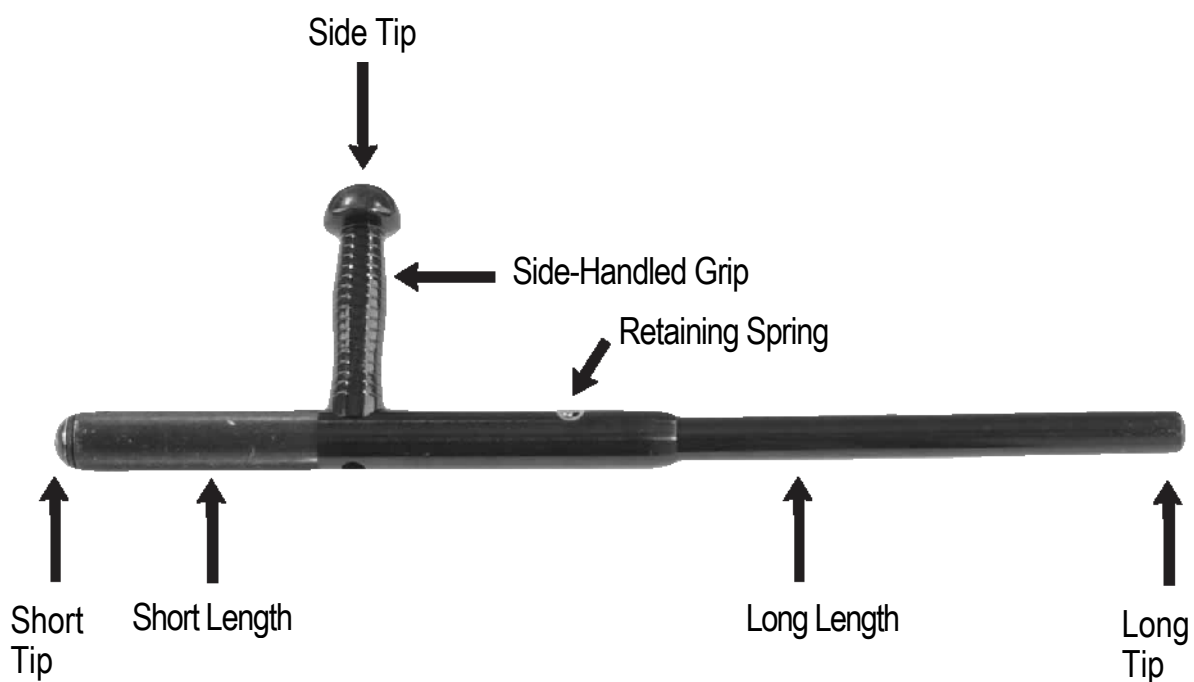
The shaft area lies between the short and long tip.

Rigid Side-Handled Baton



2

Expandable Side-Handled Baton



Side-handled grip

The grip of the baton may vary between different manufacturers.

Retaining spring

The retaining spring construction may vary slightly in differing products, but serves the same purpose, which is to secure the long length when in a closed or open position. Individual manufacturer instructions should be consulted.

Holster and baton retention

The type of holster that houses the baton should be considered from both a retention point of view (see Personal Management Module) and ease of drawing, if necessary, while on the ground.

If the subject has been struck with a baton while in close contact, or in the four to six feet range, then the baton **should not** be placed on the ground while the subject is controlled and searched. This would obviously compromise the retention of the baton and potential safety of the officer.

The baton should be reholstered, if possible, or gripped by arm pressure under the armpit, where it can be easily re-employed if necessary.



IMPORTANT.

If the baton comes into contact with blood, it must be cleaned with an appropriate cleanser, which may prevent the spread of bacteria.

Maintenance

The baton should be regularly inspected for wear and tear, especially for any bending or stress fractures where the long length slides into the remainder of the shaft around the joint area. Steel models should be dried if damp, and a light coating of lubricant such as silicone or teflon spray applied, and then wiped off. Composite models may only simply require wiping.

Glossary of terms

Strong foot/side/hand

This refers to the officer's dominant foot/side/hand, and would largely be the right foot/side/hand as 85-90% of the world's population is right-handed.

Weak foot/side/hand

This refers to the officer's non-dominant foot/side/hand.

Stance

The officer should have a balanced stance with the dominant leg to the rear, and the non-dominant leg to the front. The legs should be placed slightly apart, with the knees slightly bent. The hips, dependent upon the operating range, may be bladed or square on to the subject.



NOTE:

Any stance taught in a clinical training environment is likely to fail in an operational situation, while the officer and subject are under conditions of stress (see Unarmed Skills Module).

Movement

Throughout all movements, the officer should use a **step and glide** foot movement. This effectively means that the officer would step forward with their lead foot in whatever direction they are going, and glide the remaining foot to follow. This ensures that the officer has the best possible chance of remaining balanced (see Unarmed Skills Module).

Convulsive baton grip

The side-handled baton should normally be held in a relaxed grip with the little finger side of the fist pushed firmly against the base of the side handle where it meets with both the short and long lengths, whether in the short or long positions. In the event of a perceived threat, the officer is likely convulsively to grip the baton prior to use and tighten the fist to act as a brake, thereby preventing energy from the baton being transferred to the target. For this reason, there are no spinning techniques accredited to this system.

Forward strike

Any movement of the baton that moves away from the front of the officer.

Rearward strike

Any movement of the baton that moves away from the rear of the officer.

Strong side strike

Any movement of the baton that moves away from the strong side of the officer.

Weak side strike

Any movement of the baton that moves away from the weak side of the officer.

Upward strike

Any movement of the baton that moves towards the officer's head.

Downward strike

Any movement of the baton that moves towards the officer's feet.

Multiple strike

Any number of movements, in whatever direction, that result in the officer striking more than once to achieve control.

Baton Retention (see Equipment Retention - Personal Management Module)

Drawing, opening, carrying and closing of the baton

Drawing techniques

It may be necessary to draw a baton at speed in certain circumstances. This will be dependent upon the security and ease of retrieval from a holster, and the officer's ability to draw the baton under stress. In terms of holster design, this may depend upon the type of issued holster. In officer terms, this may depend upon the officer's physical ability to draw the baton in all operating ranges. This, again, is dependent upon the equation of time, speed and distance, utilising personal management, communication, unarmed and incapacitant skills, and will need to be practised (see appropriate modules).

There are three drawing techniques:

- **strong side draw**
- the side tip will face towards the subject
- **cross draw**
- by reaching across the body with the strong hand (the wearing of body armour may inhibit this draw)
- **assisted draw** -
where the officer carries the baton on their weak side, they may draw it with their weak hand to use or transfer it to their strong hand.



NOTE:

An unholstered baton is a use of force that an officer may need to justify.

COMPETENCES

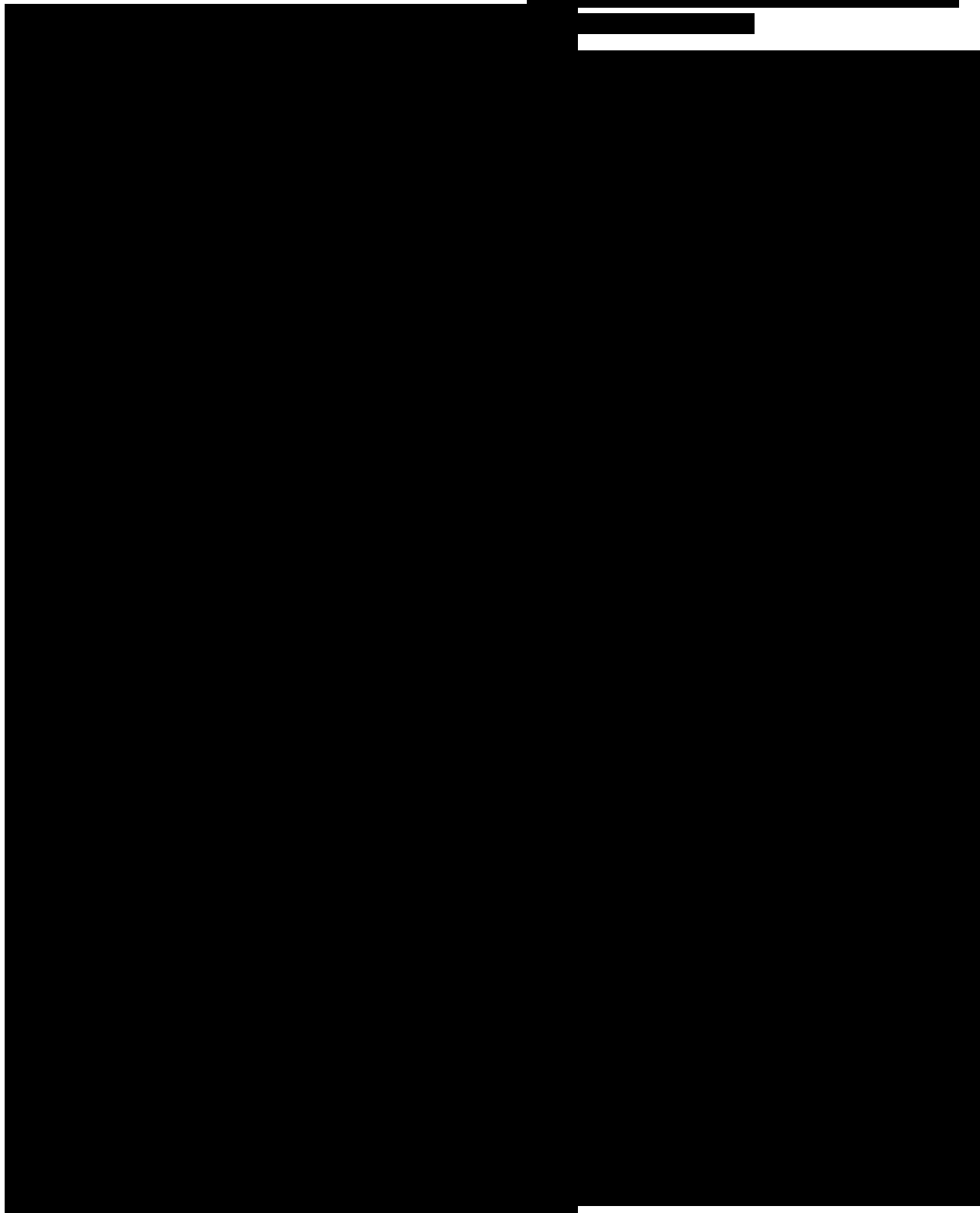
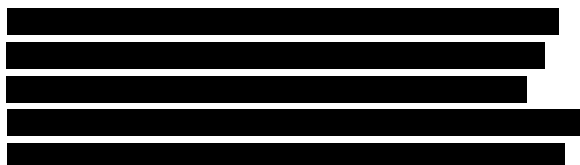
- **Officer's baton is holstered**
- **Officer to unholster baton at perceived threat, according to long range, close range, ground work range, with 360-degree consideration.**

Carrying positions

Low carry short position



Mid carry short position



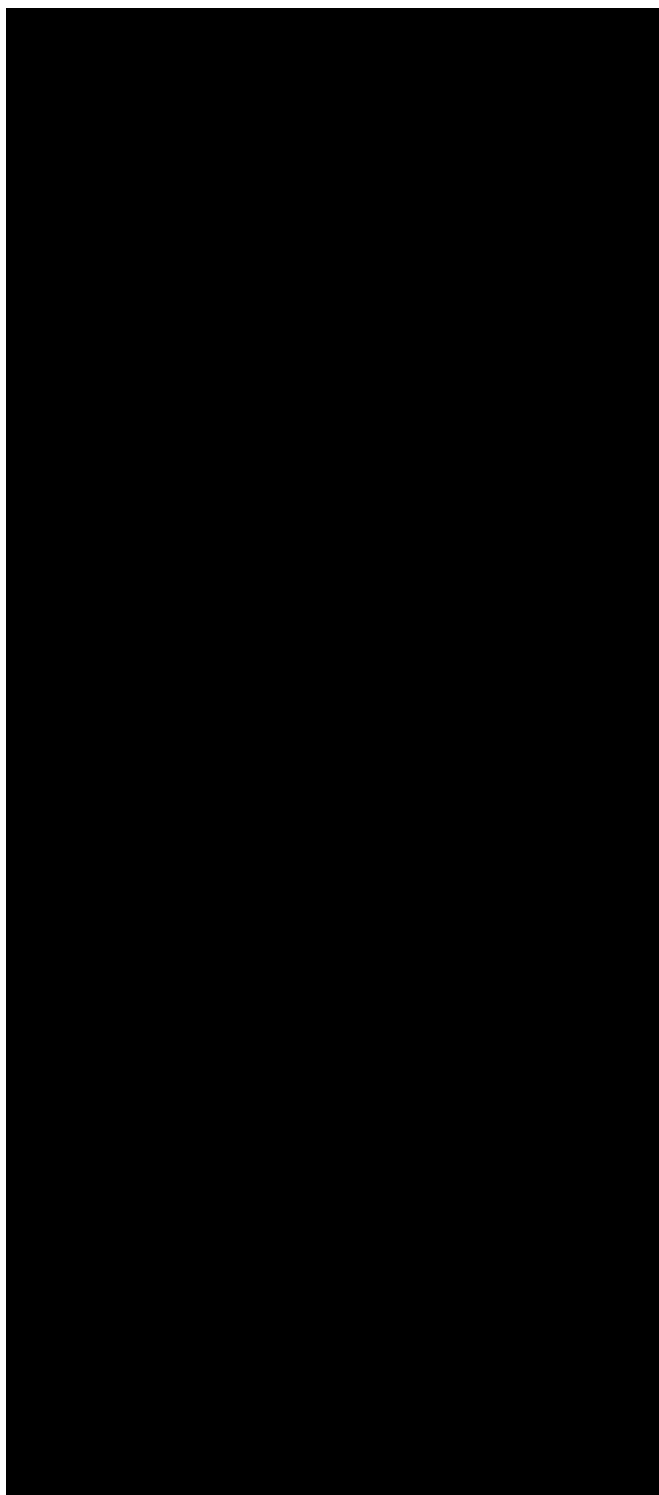
High carry short position



Opening of the baton



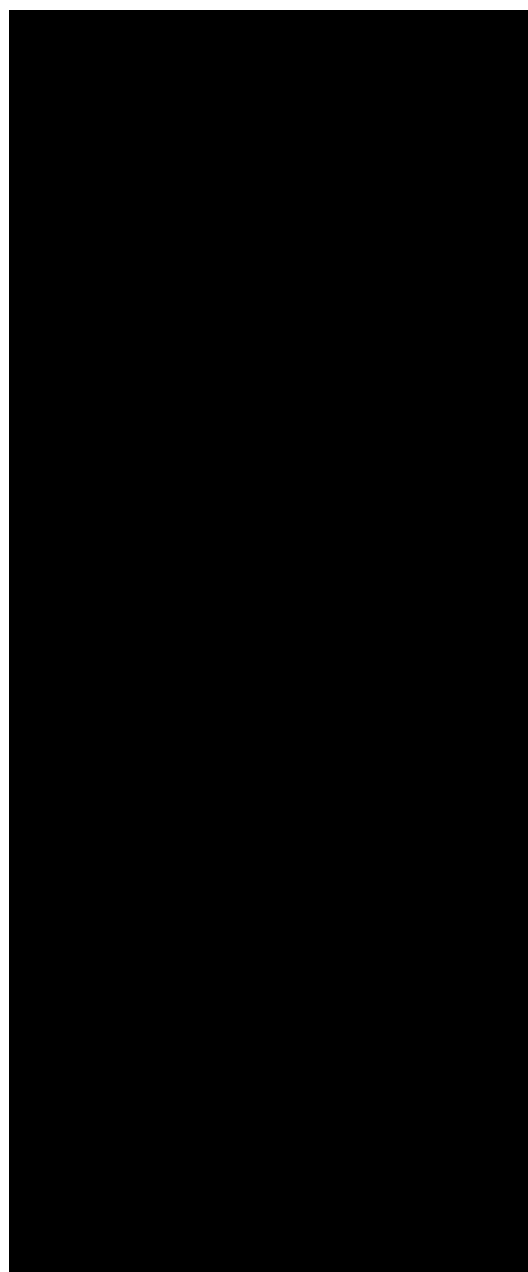
Low carry long position



Mid carry long position



Covert carry long position



Closing of the baton



The line system

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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THE LINE SYSTEM 7 Basic Lines Of Attack

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

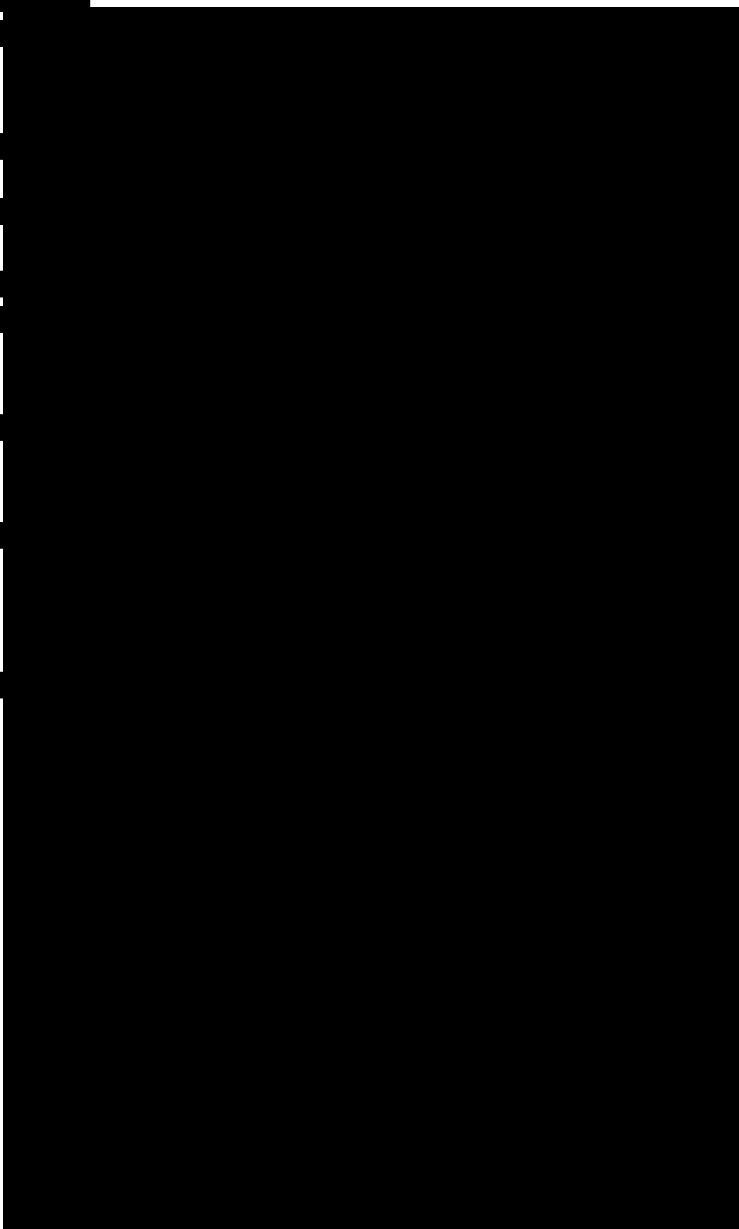
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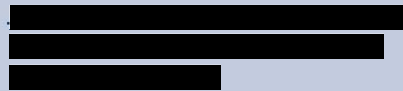
Evasion, parry and strike

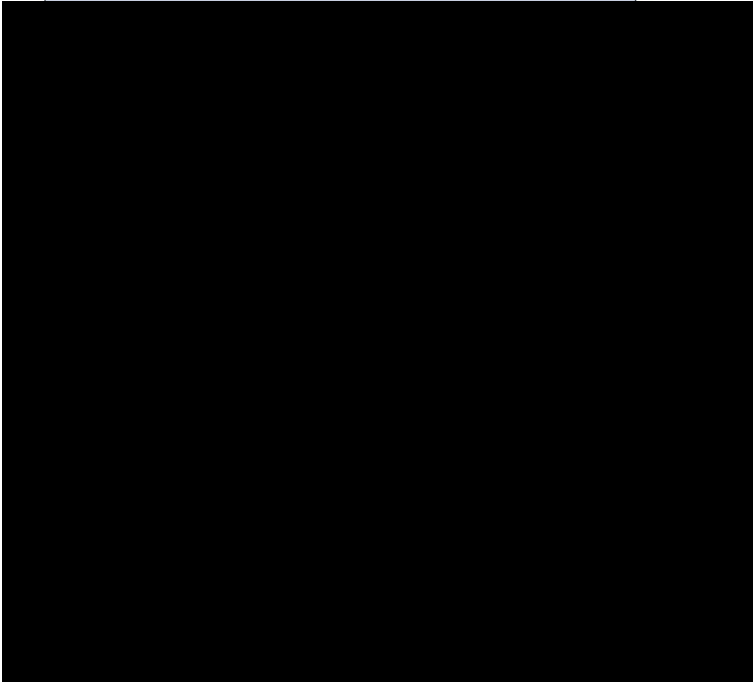


The competences below are for testing purposes with regard to suggested parrying configurations and strikes. This system allows for spontaneous action by the officer.

Short position close quarter contact

COMPETENCES



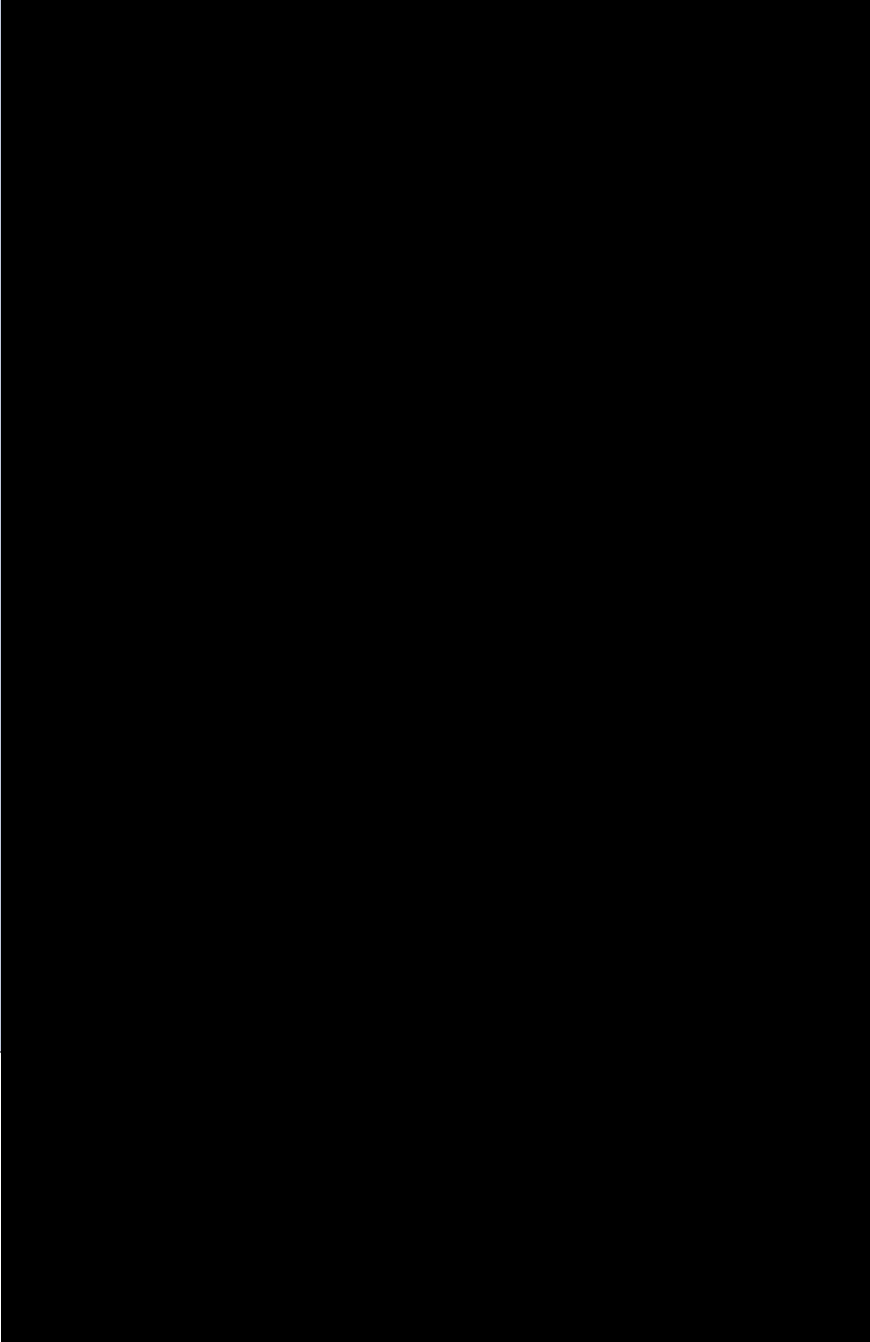
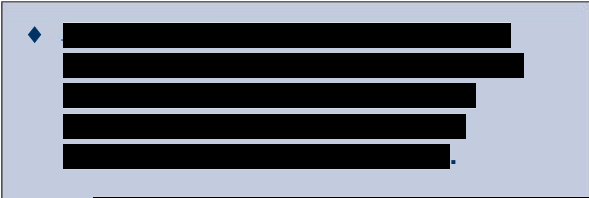


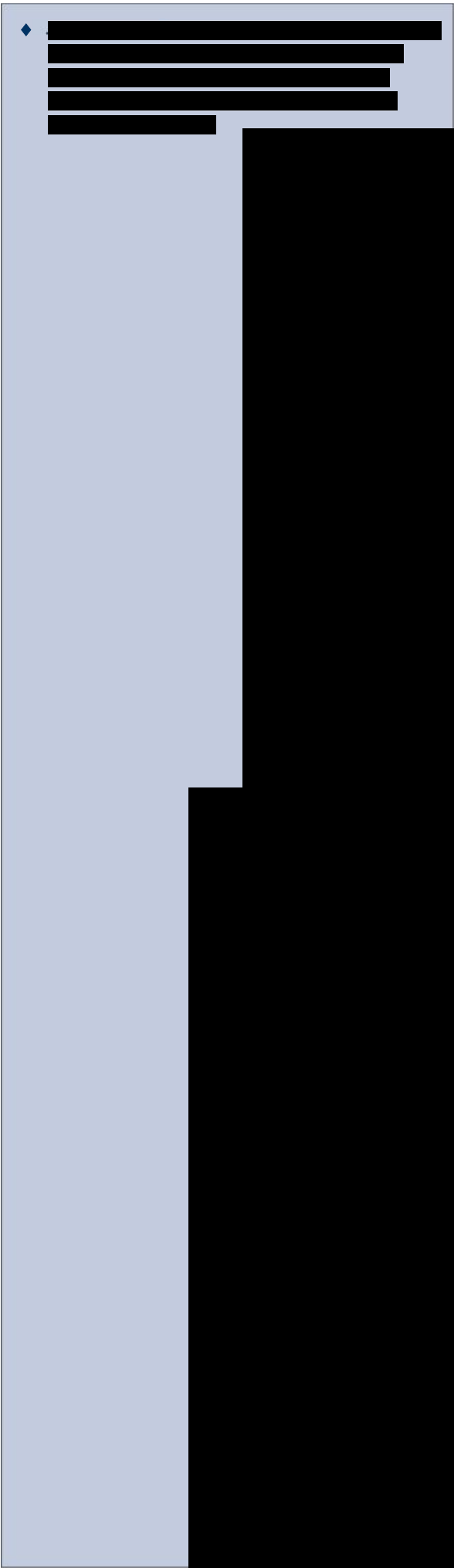
◆ [REDACTED]
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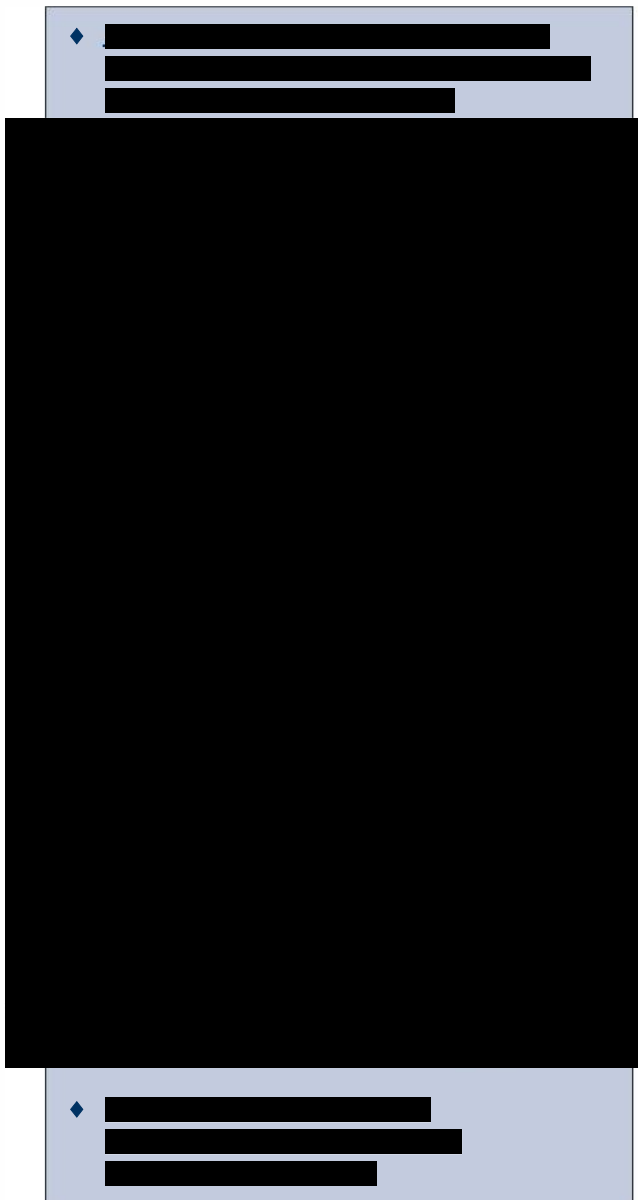
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]







**Long position close
quarter contact**

Evasion, parry and strike combination



NOTE:

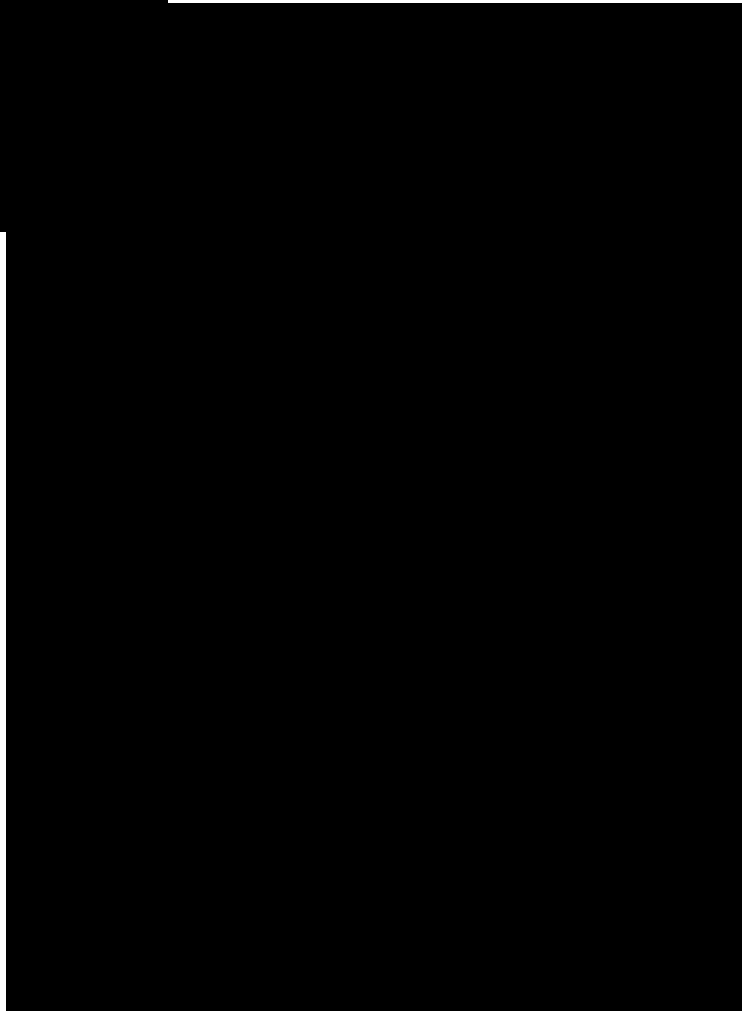
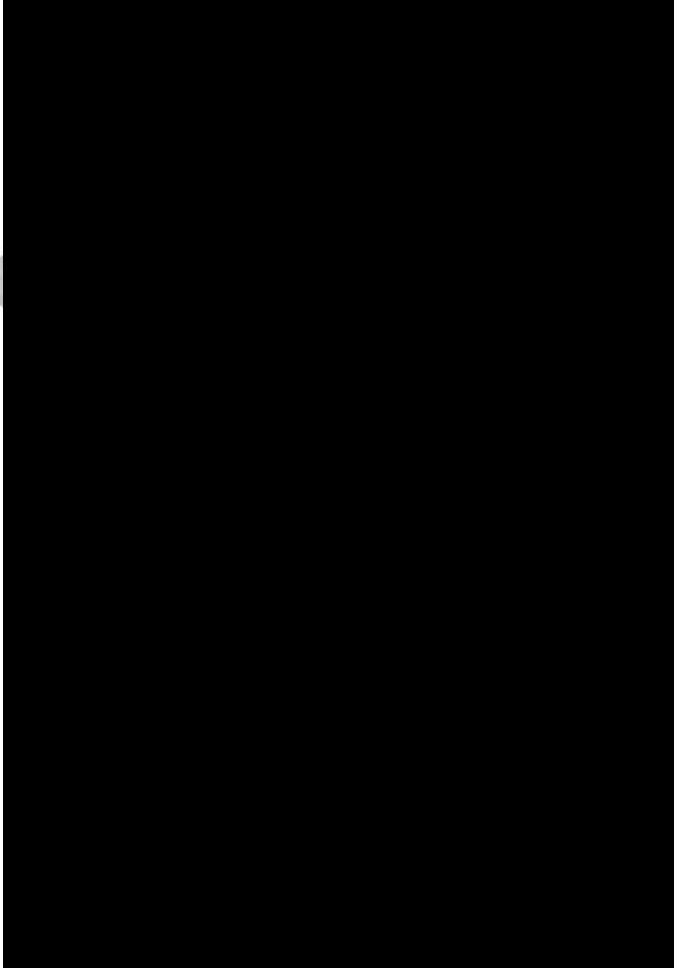


Pre-arranged movements

Movement 1 weak side parry and strike,
g length



**Movement 2 forward parry and strike,
long tip**



**Movement 3 upward parry and strike,
long tip**



**Movement 4 downward parry and strike,
grip tip**



Movement 5 forward parry
and strike, shaft

[Redacted]

baton.

COMPETENCES

- ◆ [Redacted]
- ◆ [Redacted] e
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Open position four to six foot range

[REDACTED]

Evasion, parry and strike

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Strong side two-handed sticking strike long position

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

COMPETENCES

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Strong side two-handed cutting strike long position

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



COMPETENCES

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

NOTE:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Weak side cutting strike, covert carry
long position

[REDACTED]

COMPETENCES

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NOTE:

[REDACTED]

Spontaneous four to six foot range application

COMPETENCES

- [REDACTED]

Spontaneous application from all ranges

COMPETENCES

- [REDACTED]

Ground and elevated positional work

How to get up

[REDACTED]

COMPETENCES

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The ground guard position

[REDACTED]



COMPETENCES

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

NOTE:

[REDACTED]



NOTE:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Single subject

[REDACTED]

COMPETENCES

- ◆ [REDACTED]
- ◆ [REDACTED]
- ◆ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Multiple subjects

[Redacted text block]

COMPETENCES

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- ◆ [Redacted list item]

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[REDACTED]

COMPETENCES

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ancillary issues

[REDACTED]

Further reading

- Hontz, T. A., *Impact Weapon Force Studies*. PPCIT Staff Instructor
- Flesch, R. A., *Basic Knife Defence for Criminal Justice*. Subject Control Inc
- Pilkington, W., DCM, BEM, FRSA, Stick, Staff, Baton Consultancy Notes
- Fairbairn, Captain W. E., *All in Fighting*. Faber and Faber, London
- Martin, L., *Ease of Restraint, An Aid to Law Enforcement*
- *PPCT Impact Weapon Instructors' Manual*
- *PPCT Side-Handled Baton Instructors' Manual*.