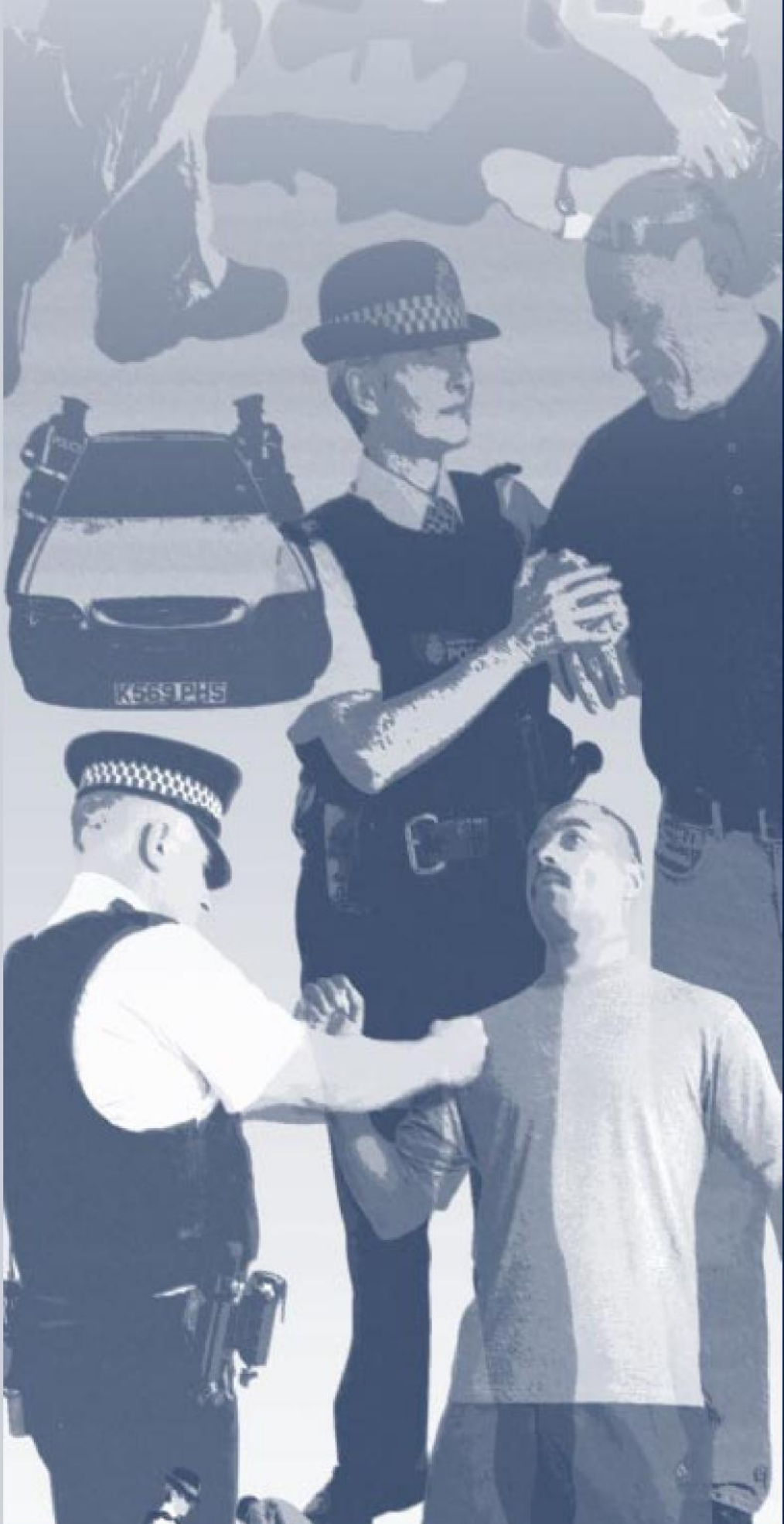


Straight baton skills



Personal Safety



Straight Baton Skills	
INTRODUCTION & AIM	1
PARTS IDENTIFICATION	1
Tip	1
End portion	1
Friction lock baton	2
Positive lock baton	2
Rigid baton	2
Middle portion	3
Shaft	
Grip	3
Butt cap	3
Retaining spring	3
Holster and baton retention	3
Maintainance	3
GLOSSARY OF TERMS	4
Strong foot/side/hand	4
Weak foot/side/hand	4
Stance	4
Movement	4
Convulsive baton grip	4
Forward strike	4
Rearward strike	4
Strong side strike	4
Weak side strike	4
Upward strike	4
Downward strike	4
Multiple strike	4
Figure of eight strike	4
Baton retention	4
DRAWING, OPENING, CARRYING AND CLOSING OF THE BATON	5
Drawing	5
CARRYING POSITIONS	5
Low Carry (closed)	5

Mid carry (closed)	6
Covert carry (closed)	6
High carry (closed)	6
OPENING OF THE BATON	7
Low carry (open)	7
Mid carry (open)	7
Covert carry (open)	8
High carry (open)	8
CLOSING OF THE BATON	8
THE LINE SYSTEM	9
EVASION PARRY & STRIKE	10
CLOSED POSITION CLOSE QUARTER CONTACT	10
OPEN POSITION CLOSE QUARTER CONTACT	14
PREARRANGED MOVEMENTS	14
OPEN POSITION FOUR TO SIX FOOT RANGE	18
Evasion parry and strike	18
Emergency action butt strike clearing drill	18
Strong side sticking strike high carry	19
Strong side cutting strike high carry	20
Weak side cutting strike covert carry	21
Downward sticking strike high carry	23
Spontaneous four to six foot range application	24
Spontaneous application from all ranges	24
Ground and elevated positional work	24
The ground guard position	24
Drawing the baton on the ground	25
Single subject	25
Multiple subjects	26
Working in an elevated position	26
ANCILLARY ISSUES	28
FURTHER READING	28



STRAIGHT 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 to other modules 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 straight baton of a rigid, friction lock or positive lock design, and provides for the baton to be used in a closed position while engaged in close quarter contact, or expanded into an open position while engaged in close quarter contact. It covers the use of the baton when expanded in the open position 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

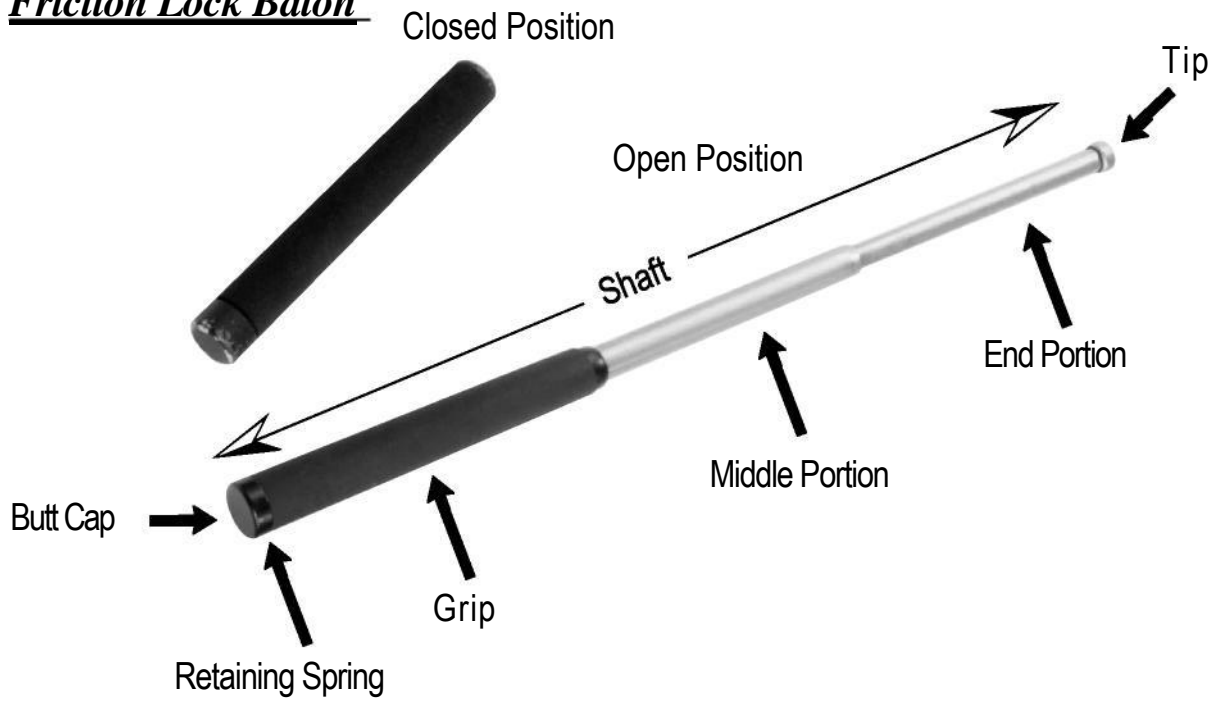
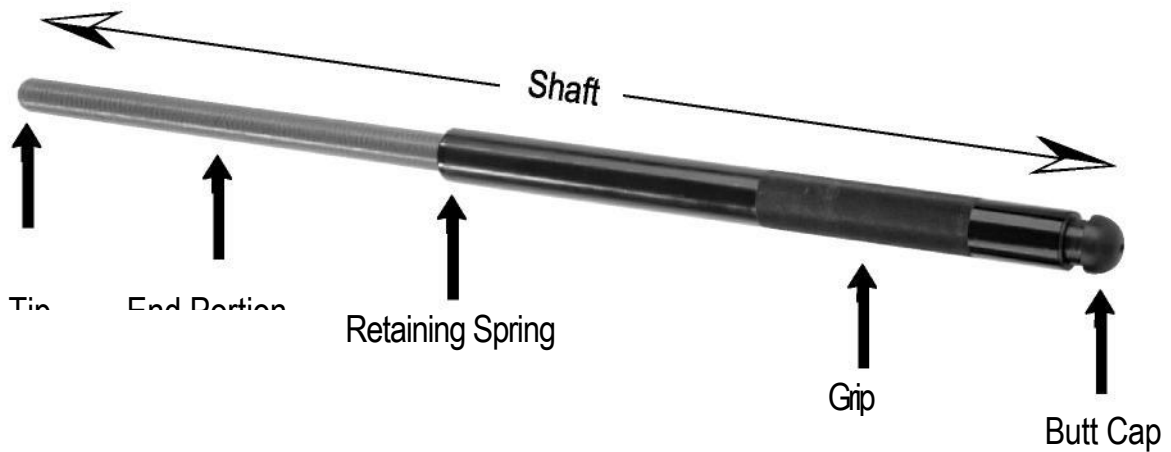
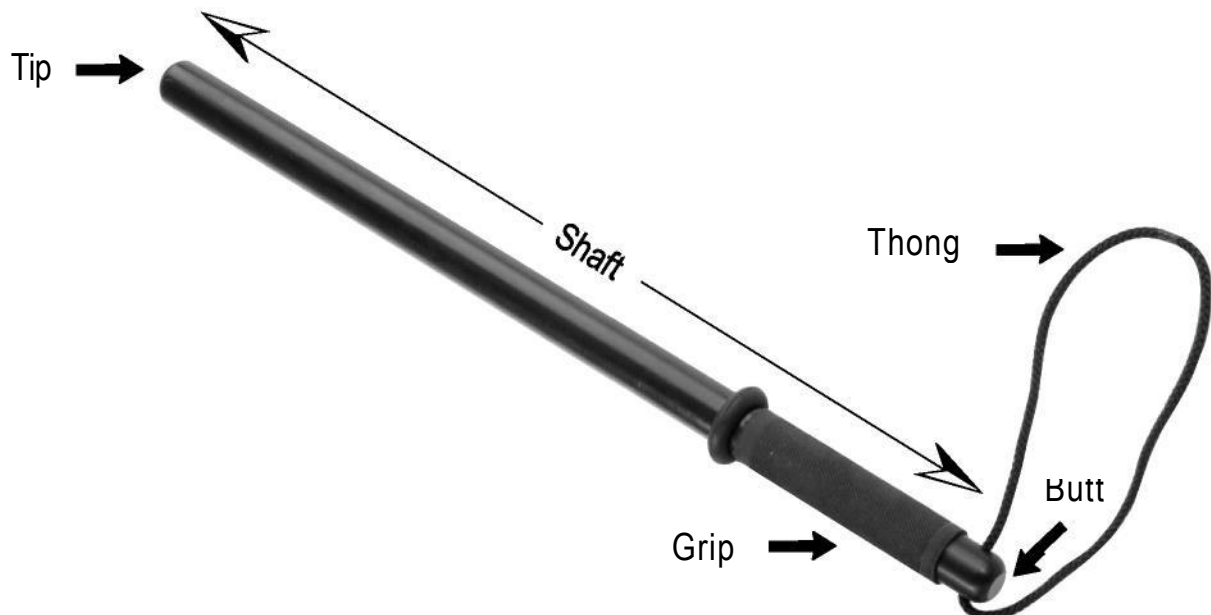
identification Tip

The end of a friction lock baton comprises a threaded metal or composite tip. The tip 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.

The tip can be roughened when striking the end on a hard surface. In order to minimise this risk, the tip should be filed smooth where necessary or exchanged completely. The tip should be inspected to ensure that the threads are tight. If they become loose, care should be taken not to cross-thread the tip upon re-assembly. To ensure security a drop of 'super glue' adhesive can be used.

End portion

The end portion of the baton should slide into the middle portion without resistance. If difficulty is experienced, then the shaft should be examined for straightness. Dependent upon the manufacturer and type of baton being used, some end portions incorporate a solid shaft, which assists with the concept of '**forward weight**'. This design feature replicates the action of a hammerhead, thereby maintaining time on the target (see Unarmed Skills Module).

Friction Lock Baton**Positive Lock Baton****Rigid Baton**

Middle portion

This is considered to be the striking area of a friction lock baton (midway between the end and grip portion on a positive lock, and a third of the way along the shaft from the tip/end portion of a rigid baton). As demonstrated in various international studies, targeting with this area will, on average, deliver the greatest amount of strike strength.

Again, the middle portion should slide uninterrupted into both the end portion and the grip.

Shaft

The shaft area of a rigid baton lies between the tip/end portion and butt.

Grip

The grip of the baton may vary between rigid, friction and positive lock batons, as well as with differing manufacturers. Regular inspection should ensure that the grip does not move (if foam or material based). In the event that some movement is noticed, a drop of 'super glue' will ensure its security.

Butt cap

The butt cap on friction and positive lock batons generally comprises a metal or composite screw cap. Regular inspection will ensure that it is securely fastened to the grip of the baton. Ensure that upon assembly it is not cross-threaded.

Retaining spring

The retaining spring construction may vary slightly in differing products, but performs with the same purpose, which is to secure the end and middle portions when in the closed position.

The spring itself is housed in the butt cap. Personal preference will dictate how easily or otherwise the officer wishes to open the baton from the closed position. This is simply achieved by prising open or squeezing closed the spring assembly itself in order to offer less or more resistance during this process.

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.

Alternatively, and in addition to a holster being used, existing police trousers or skirts housing a specially tailored pocket may be utilised.

If the subject has been struck with a baton while in the closed or open position, 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.

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

If in the open position, then the middle portion should be gripped under the armpit.

The use of a thong on certain models may also be used to assist in the retention of the baton. This can easily be achieved by placing the thumb into the loop of the thong, and then wrapping the remainder of the thong around the back of the hand, before re-gripping the baton.



Maintenance

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

The baton should be regularly inspected for wear and tear, especially any stress fractures around the joints. 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.

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

All straight batons should normally be held in a relaxed grip, whether in the closed or open position. When closed, this is accomplished by placing the dominant thumb over the tip of the baton to prevent it prematurely releasing itself, and the remaining fingers to be lightly wrapped around the grip.



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).

While in the open position, the three fingers of the dominant hand are lightly placed around the grip, while the forefinger and thumb remain free. In the event of a perceived threat, the officer is likely to convulsively grip the baton prior to use.

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.

Figure of eight strike

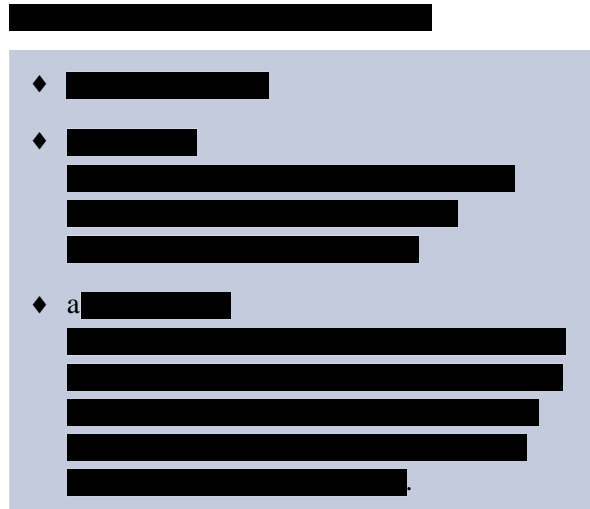
A strike that scribes a figure of eight pattern, normally in front of the officer (normally used as a rapid rotational strike designed to disarm subjects of edged weapons).

Baton retention

(see Equipment Retention - Personal Management Module)

Drawing, opening, carrying and closing of the baton

Drawing



NOTE:



COMPETENCES

- ◆ [Redacted]
- ◆ [Redacted]

Carrying positions

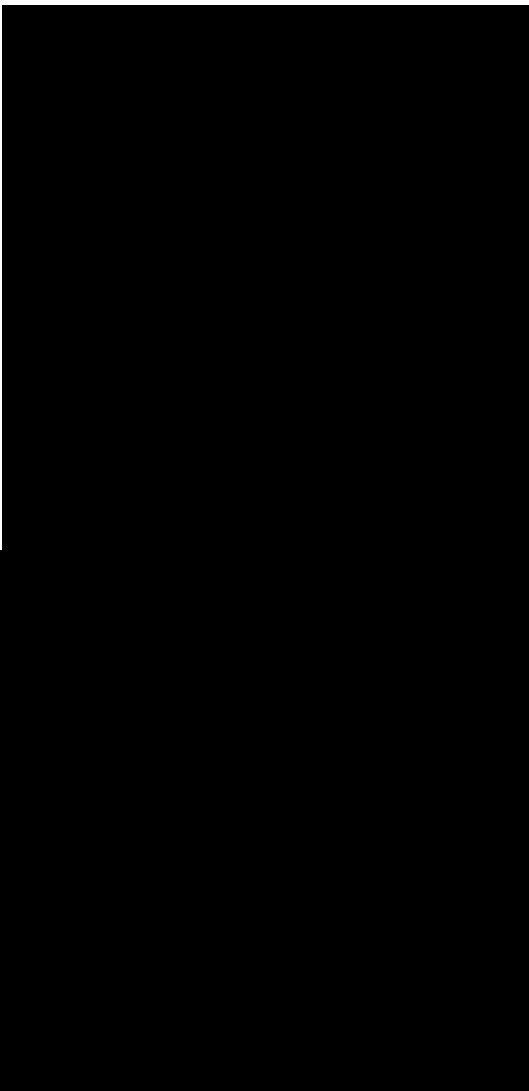
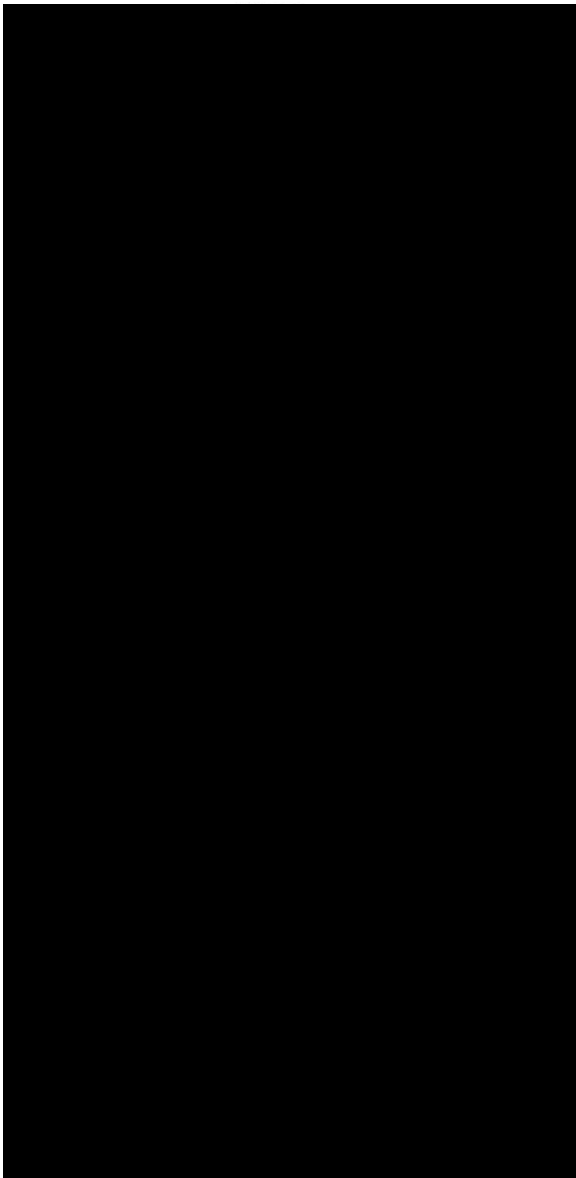
Low carry (closed - friction and positive lock only)



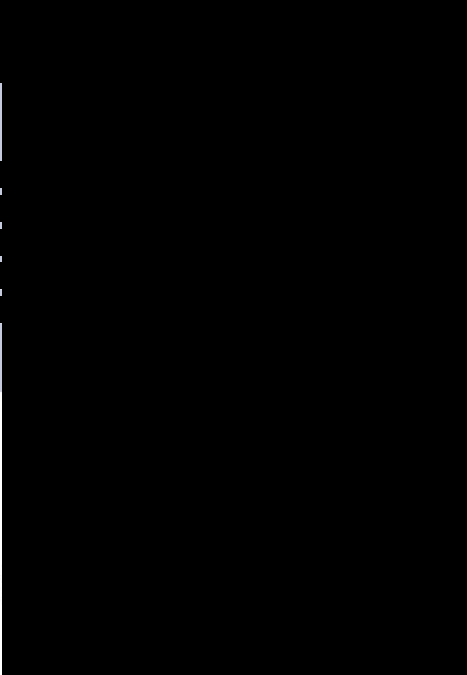
Mid carry (closed)



High carry (closed)



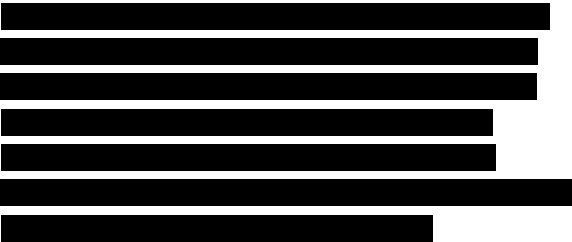
Covert carry (closed)



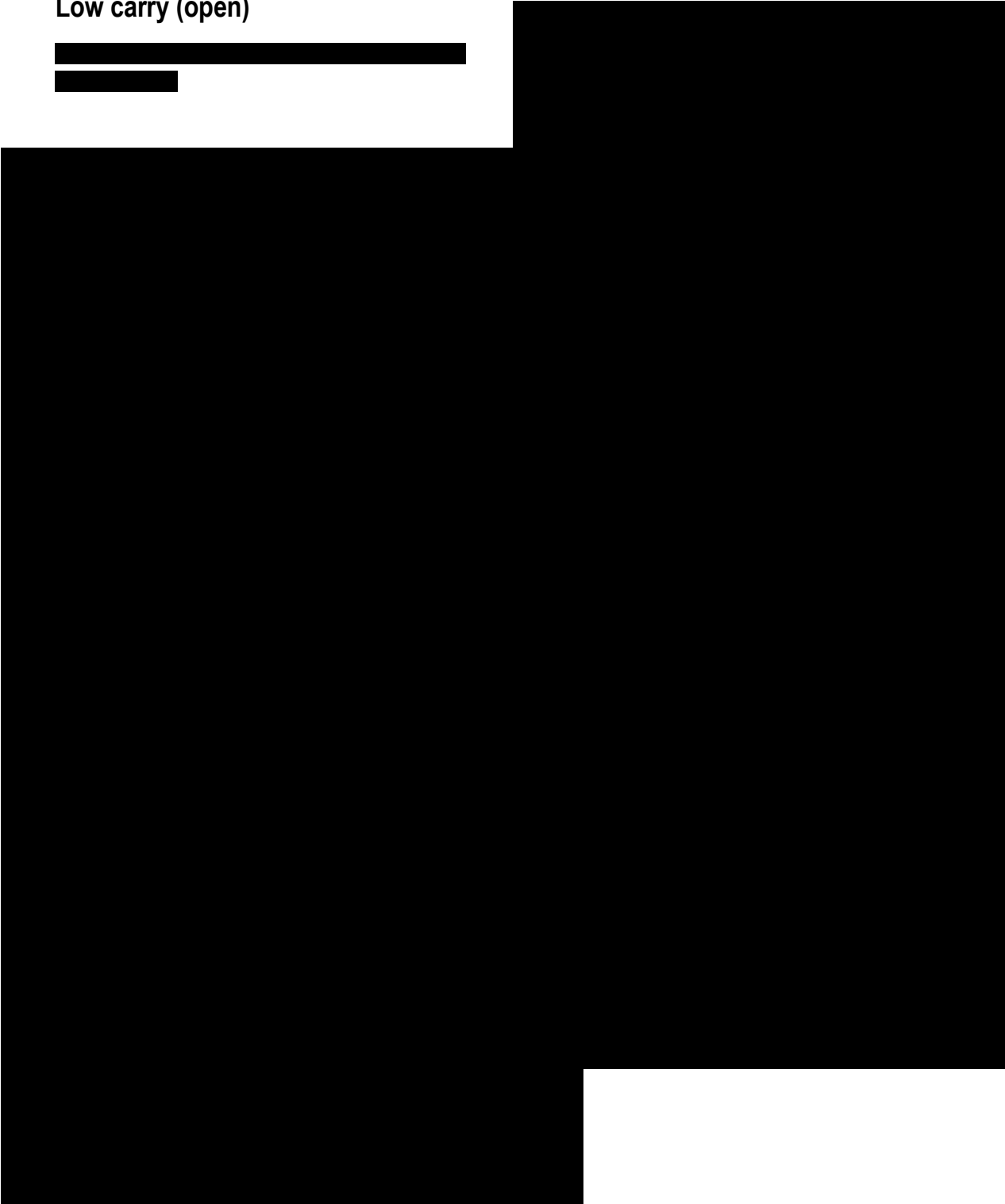
Opening of the baton



Mid carry (open)



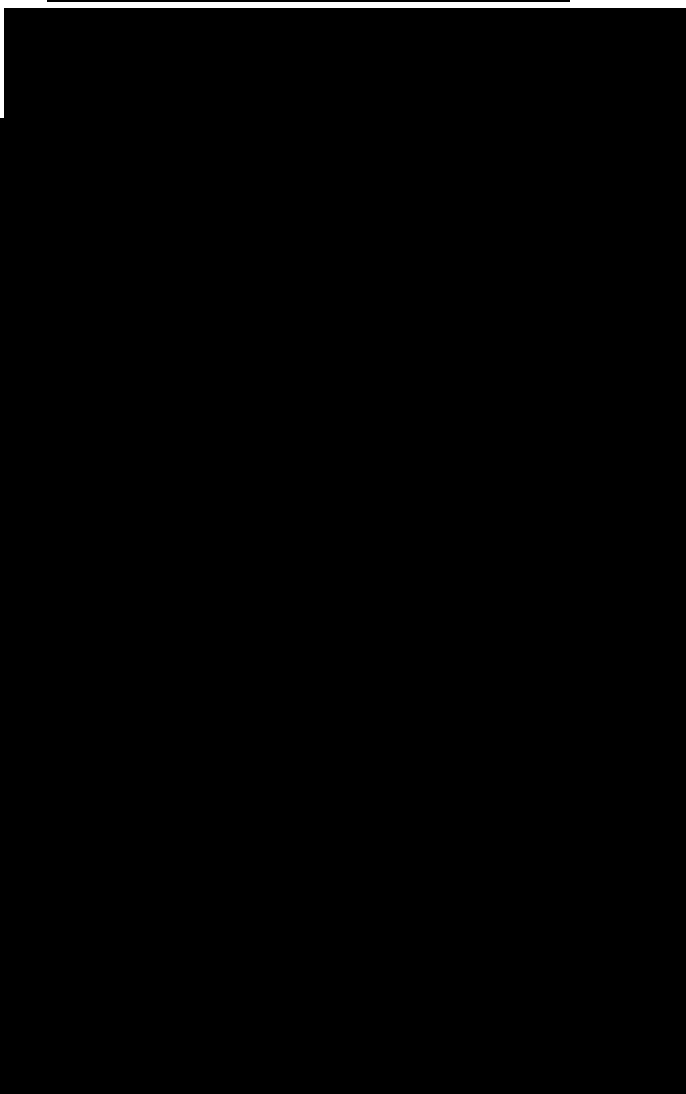
Low carry (open)



Covert carry (open)



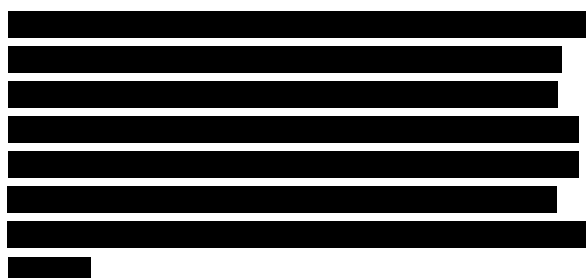
High carry (open)



NOTE:



Closing of the baton



The line system

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

THE LINE SYSTEM 7 Basic Lines Of Attack

[REDACTED]

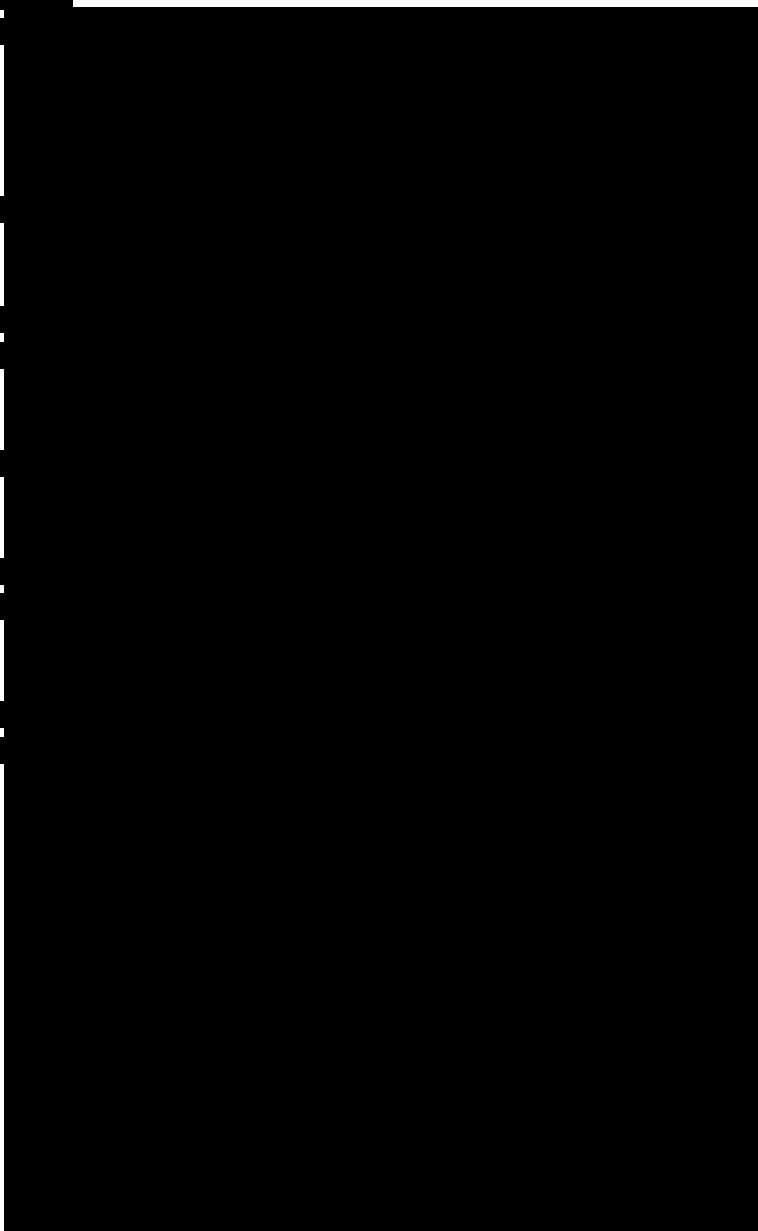
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Evasion, parry and strike

The practical use of this baton system is based on a conditioned reflexive response of **evasion**, which is the human body's natural need to get away from danger, of **parrying** the attacking limb to slow down the speed of its delivery, and of **striking** as necessary to prevent the subject engaging the officer again.



Closed position close quarter contact

COMPETENCES



COMPETENCES

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

[REDACTED]

◆ [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

♦ [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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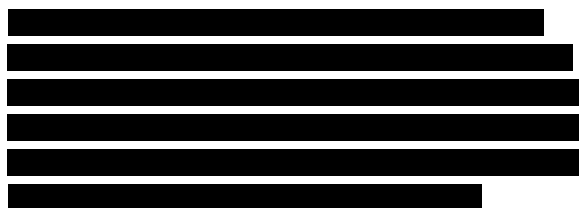
Open position close quarter contact

Evasion, parry and strike combination



Pre-arranged movements

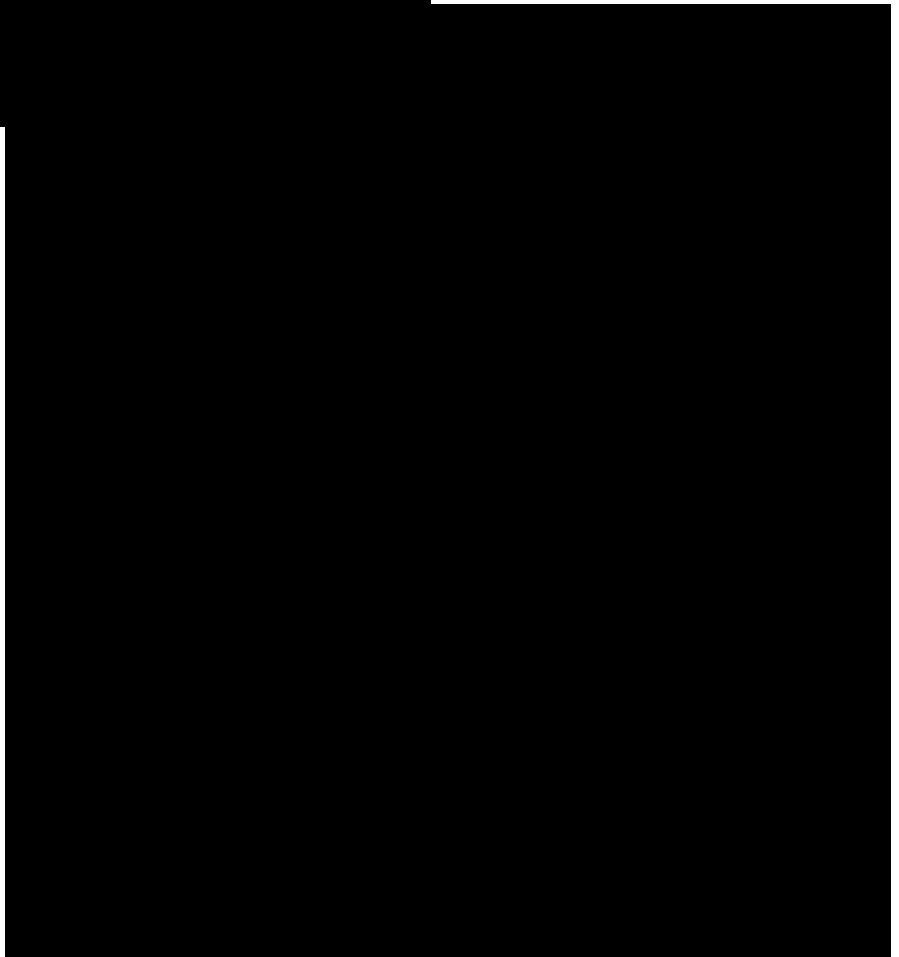
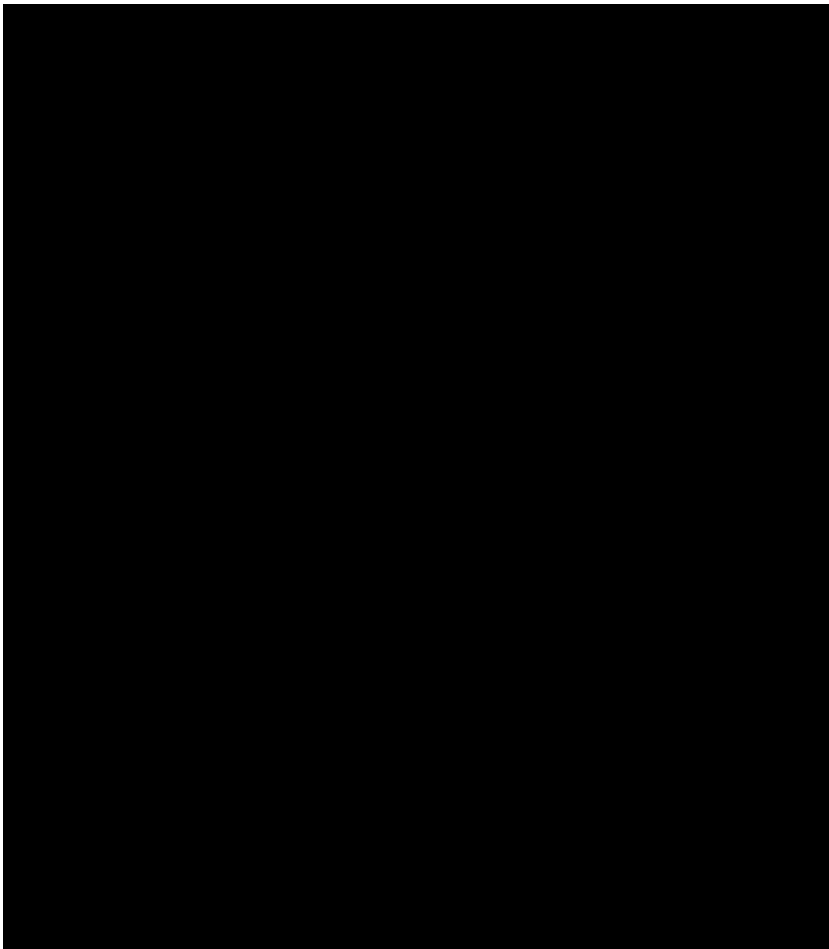
Movement 1 weak side parry and strike, tip/end portion



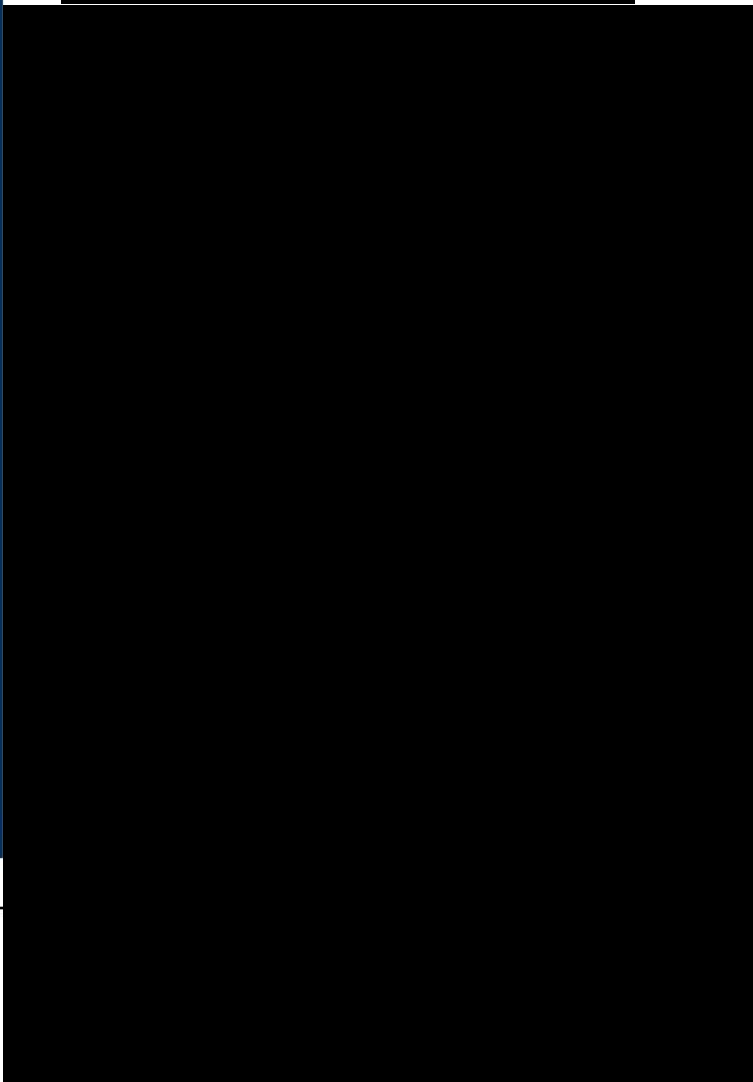
NOTE:

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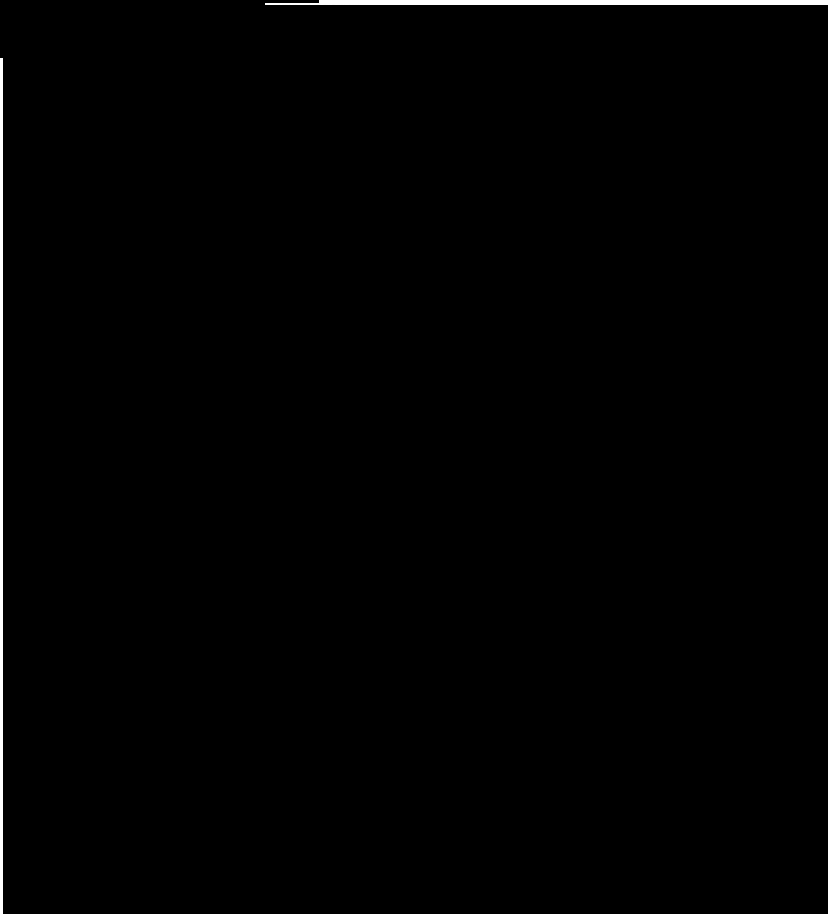
Movement 2 forward parry and strike, tip



Movement 3 upward parry and strike, tip



ment 4 downward parry
trike, tip



Movement 5 forward parry and strike,
middle portion and shaft



COMPETENCES

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

Open position four to six foot range

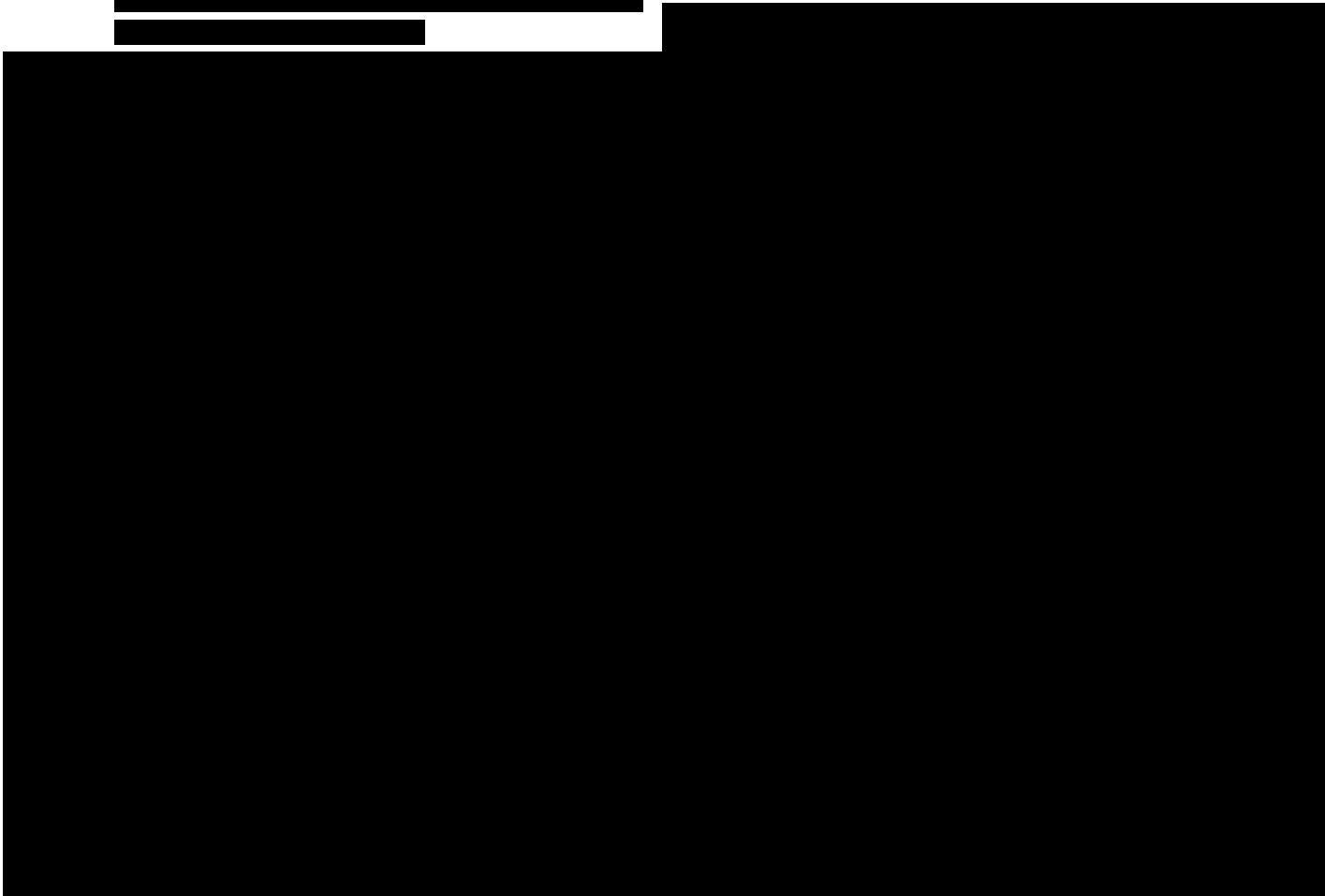
[REDACTED]

Evasion, parry and strike

T [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Emergency action butt strike clearing drill

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

COMPETENCES

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

Strong side sticking strike high carry

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

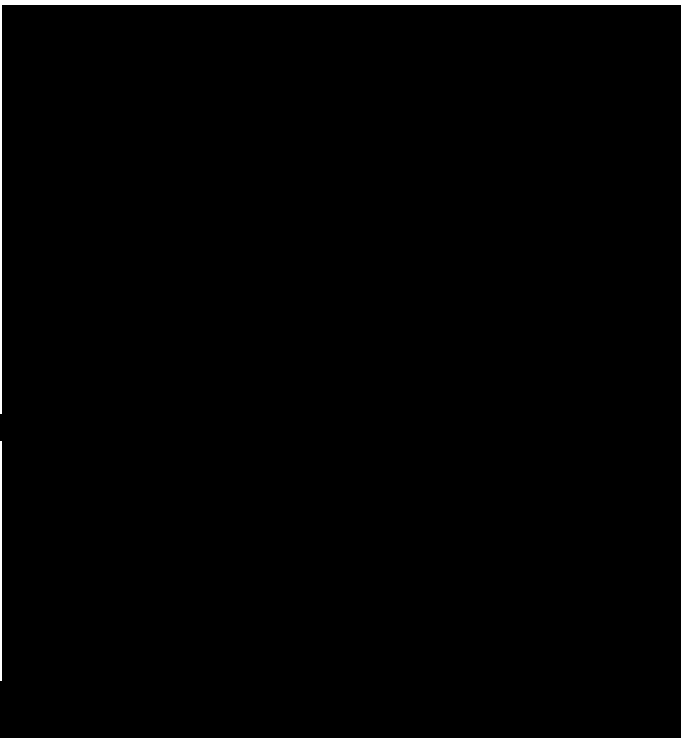
COMPETENCES

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

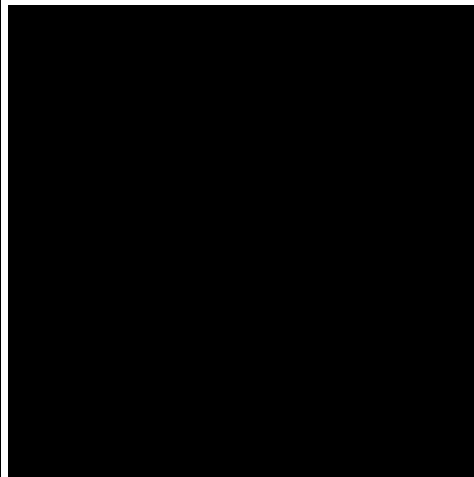
Strong side cutting strike high carry

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



[Redacted]



COMPETENCES

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Weak side cutting strike, covert carry

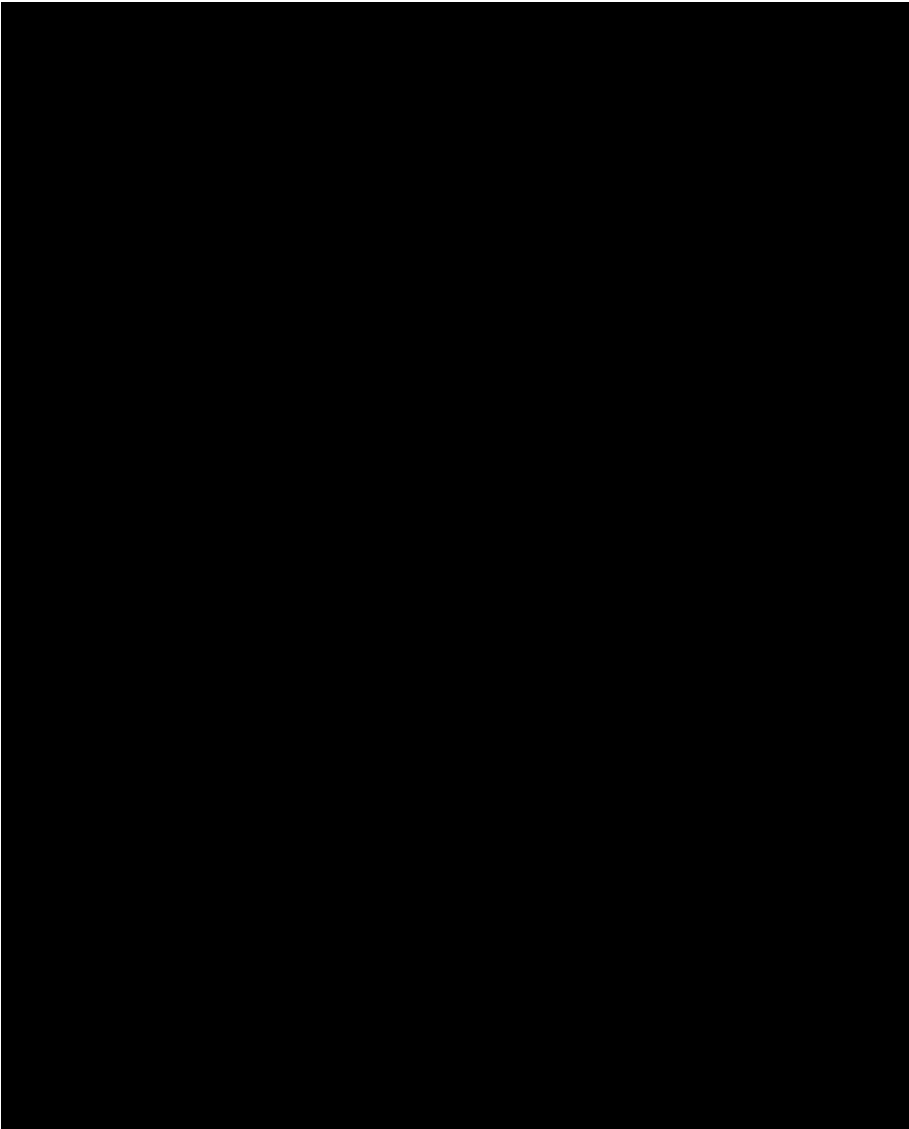
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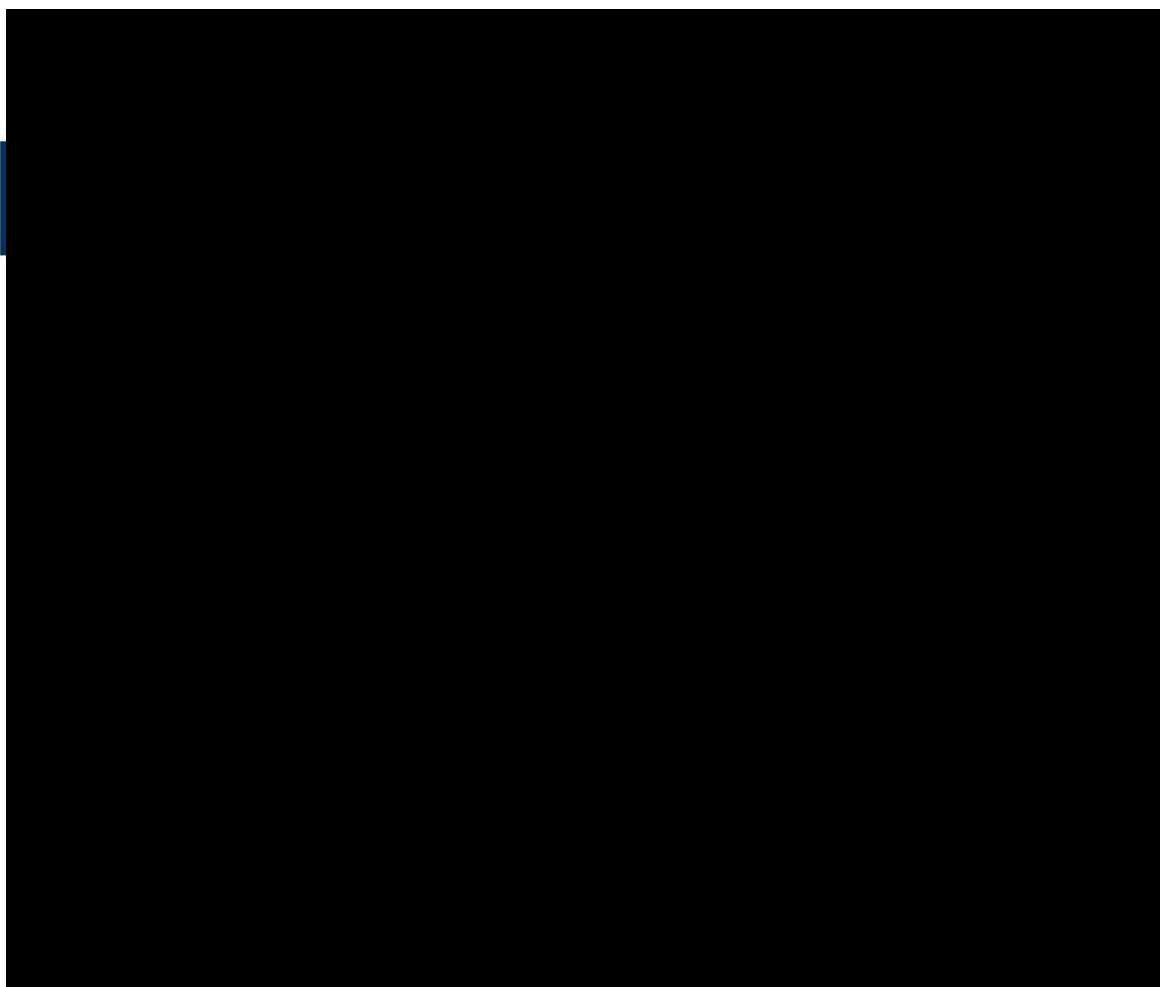
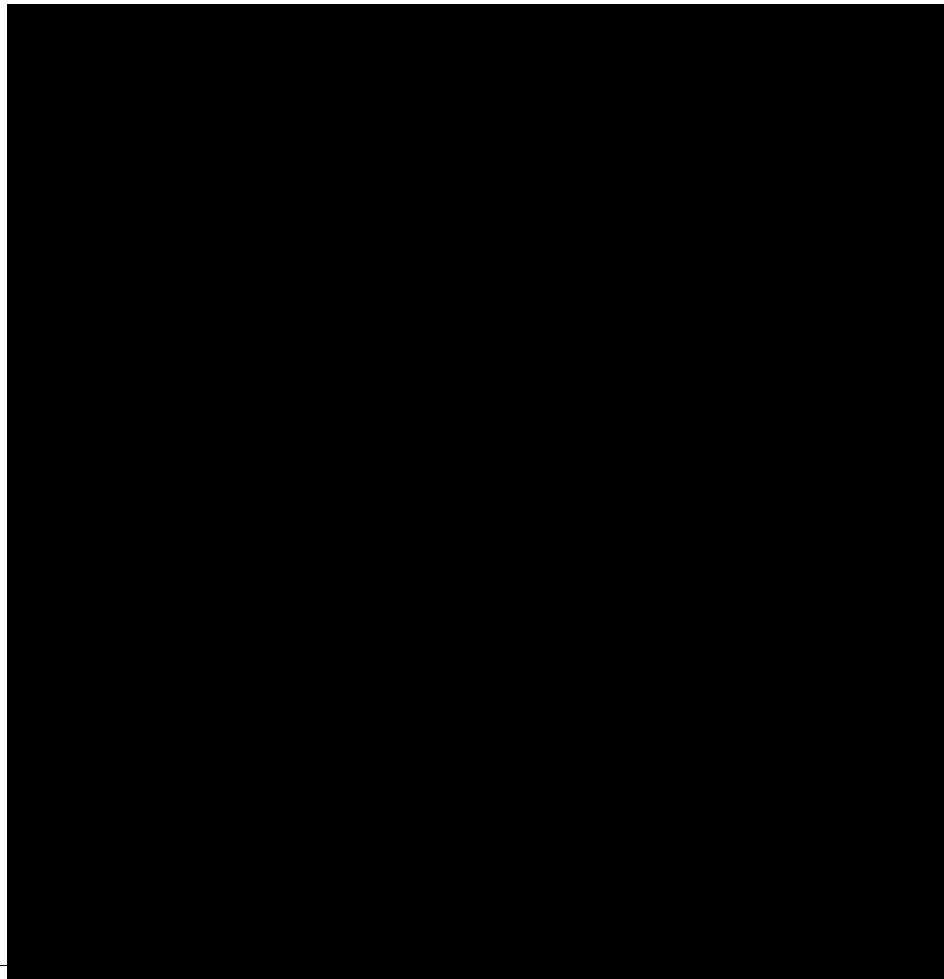


NOTE:
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COMPETENCES

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
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- [Redacted]





Downward sticking strike high carry

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

COMPETENCES

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

Spontaneous four to six foot range application

COMPETENCES

- [REDACTED]

Spontaneous application from all ranges

COMPETENCES

- [REDACTED]

Ground and elevated positional work

[REDACTED]

T [REDACTED]

COMPETENCES

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



[REDACTED]

The ground guard position

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Drawing the baton on the ground

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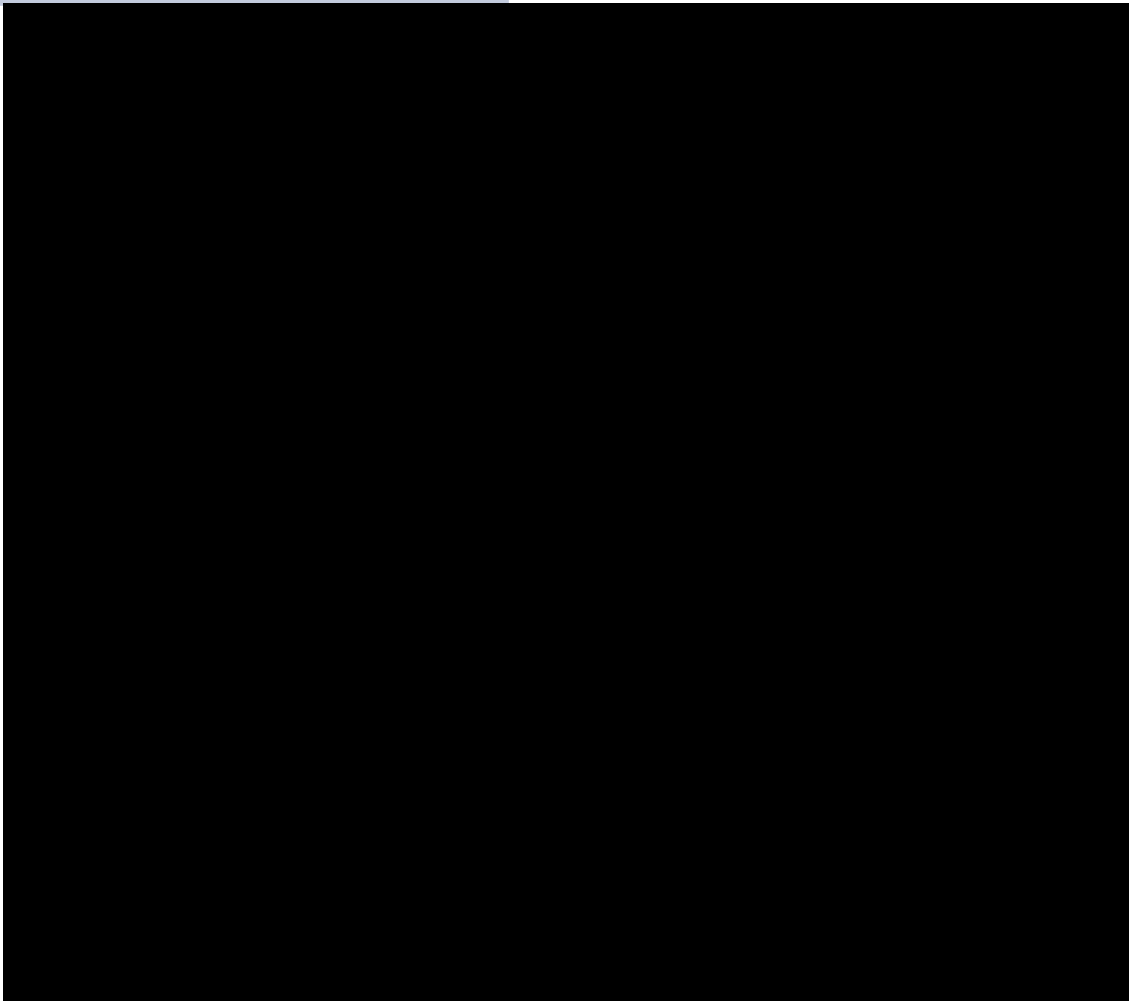
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Single subject

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COMPETENCES

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



Multiple subjects

[REDACTED]

COMPETENCES

- ◆ [REDACTED]
- ◆ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Working in an elevated position

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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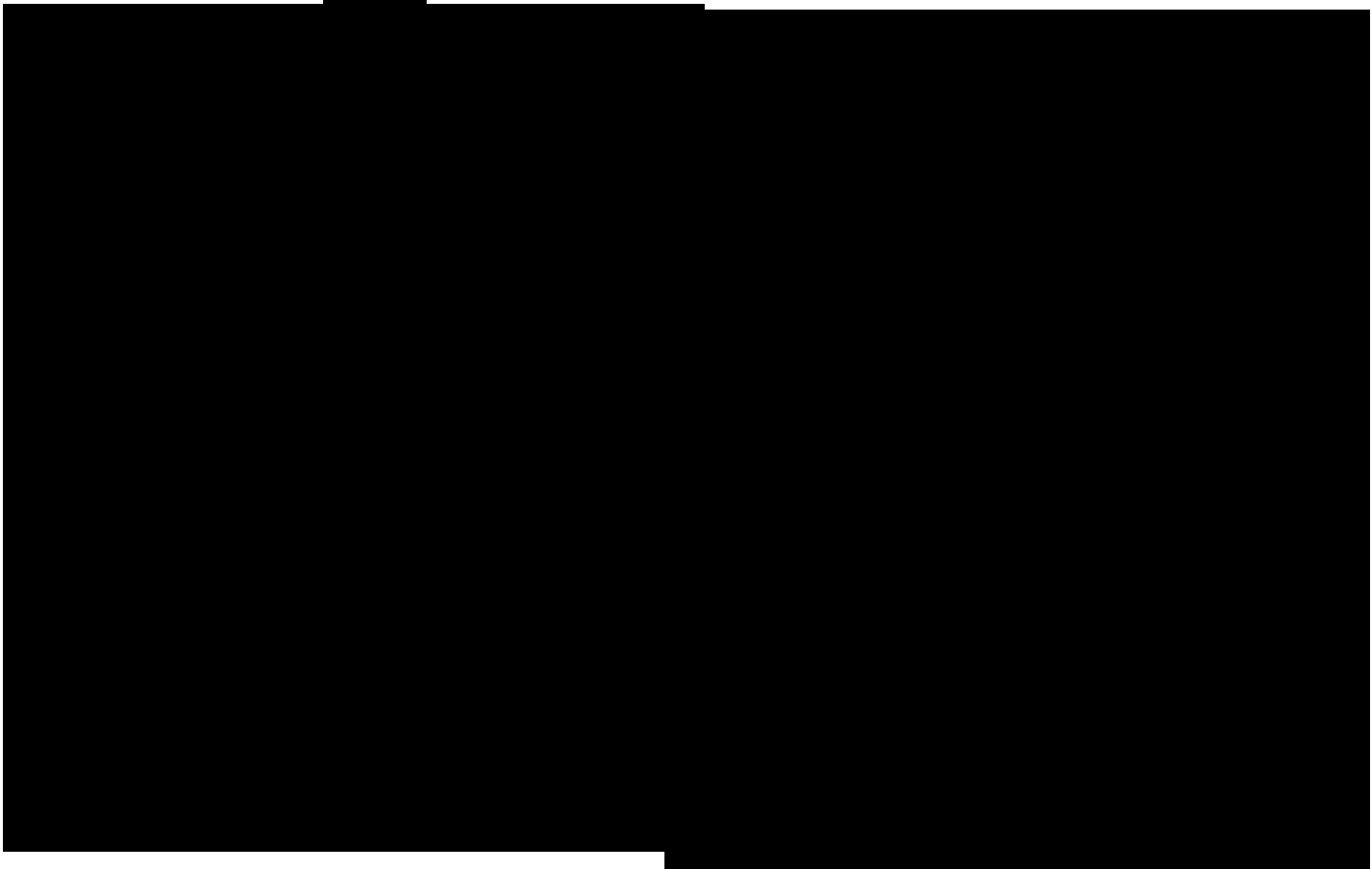
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COMPETENCES

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ancillary issues

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Further reading

- Hontz, T. A., *Impact Weapon Force Studies*. PPCT Staff Instructor
- Flesch, R. A., *Basic Knife Defence for Criminal Justice*. Subject Control Inc
- Pilkington, W., DCM, BEM, FRSA, *Stick, Staff, Baton Consultancy Note*
- 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*.