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Unclassified

**RCMP Quarterly Report
On
Conducted Energy Weapons
2007-10-01 to 2007-12-31**

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Executive Summary

This report on the RCMP's use of the conducted energy weapon covers the period October 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 ("the period") and provides details on deployment type, effectiveness, occurrence type, perceived subject behaviour, reported presence of alcohol and/or other substances and subject injuries.

CEW usage information from 2001 to 2005 was collected by RCMP National Headquarters in the form of faxed reports. In 2005, a CEW database was created into which previous CEW data was incorporated.¹

This report indicates the following:

- 9,132 RCMP members have received CEW user training since 2001.
- There were 337 CEW deployments on 331 subjects during the period.
- 283 (84%) of these deployments were identified as effective in stopping/preventing subjects' behaviour.
- Incidents of causing a disturbance, assaults, domestic disputes, cell block altercations and mental health cases accounted for 220 (65.2%) of all occurrence types in which a CEW was deployed.
- Responses to mental health or suicidal subjects accounted for 61 (18.1%) of all deployments.
- In 79 incidents (23.4%) members deployed the CEW even though they reported facing a threat of death or grievous bodily harm in the absence of lethal force over-watch (i.e. another police officer present with a firearm).
- Alcohol and/or use of other substances was suspected in 288 incidents (85.4%).
- Of the 331 individuals who were subjected to the CEW, 319 (96.4%) sustained no injuries, 8 (2.4%) sustained minor secondary injuries, 2 (0.6%) sustained major secondary injuries and there were 2 (0.6%) deaths proximal to CEW use.

The following is recommended:

- scenario training involving cell block altercations be developed
- there be a requirement for subject behaviour reporting
- policy and training relating to CEW deployment in incidents involving a threat of death or grievous bodily harm be reviewed.

¹The statistical information for this report was derived from the data contained in the RCMP's CEW database on January 21, 2008.

Conducted Energy Weapon - Deployments

This report includes information on deployment type, effectiveness, occurrence type, perceived subject behaviour, reported presence of alcohol and/or other substances and subject injuries. In a majority of cases, the CEW was reported as having been an intervention option that proved effective in addressing subject behaviour. There were situations where the CEW was ineffective, due to factors such as heavy or loose clothing worn by the subject, or because of ineffective probe deployments.

The total population of RCMP regular members as of 2008-01-01 was 16,071. The total number of members trained as CEW users since 2001 was 9,132. Further details are provided in appendices A and B. Appendix C provides information on the procurement of CEWs by the RCMP between 2001 and 2007.

The activation or cycling of the CEW is possible in two different modes, namely:

- **Push stun mode:** pressing or pushing an activated CEW onto an individual's body, allowing electrical energy to be transferred to that individual;
- **Probe mode:** deploying an activated CEW by propelling and discharging two electrical probes, equipped with small barbs that hook onto a person's clothing or skin, allowing electrical energy to be transferred to that person.

After each CEW usage, members are required by policy to notify their supervisor as soon as practicable and to complete the Form 3996 (CEW Usage Report) prior to the end of the member's shift.

Usage of a CEW is articulated in Operational Manual Policy (OM) Part 17. The "usage" of a CEW as an intervention option is explained in OM 17.7.2.4 and occurs when:

- The CEW is presented. Presence is when the CEW is drawn from its holster and restores control in a situation by presence alone, whether or not the CEW Challenge is given; or
- The CEW Challenge is issued. The CEW Challenge is the declaration by a member before using the CEW: "Police, stop or you will be hit with 50,000 volts of electricity!"; or
- The CEW is activated. Activation occurs when the safety is released on the CEW and/or the CEW is cycled in push stun or probe mode.

Conducted Energy Weapon - Deployments

The following chart outlines CEW deployments by Division on a monthly basis for the period from October 1 to December 31, 2007.

Division	E	K	F	D	G	H	J	B	M	L	V	HQ	C	A	O
OCT	54	24	13	7	7	3	4	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
NOV	37	26	11	13	2	5	4	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
DEC	39	36	16	5	5	3	1	5	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Total	130	86	40	25	14	11	9	10	8	1	2	1	0	0	0

The following chart outlines the types of CEW deployments for the period from October 1 to December 31, 2007.

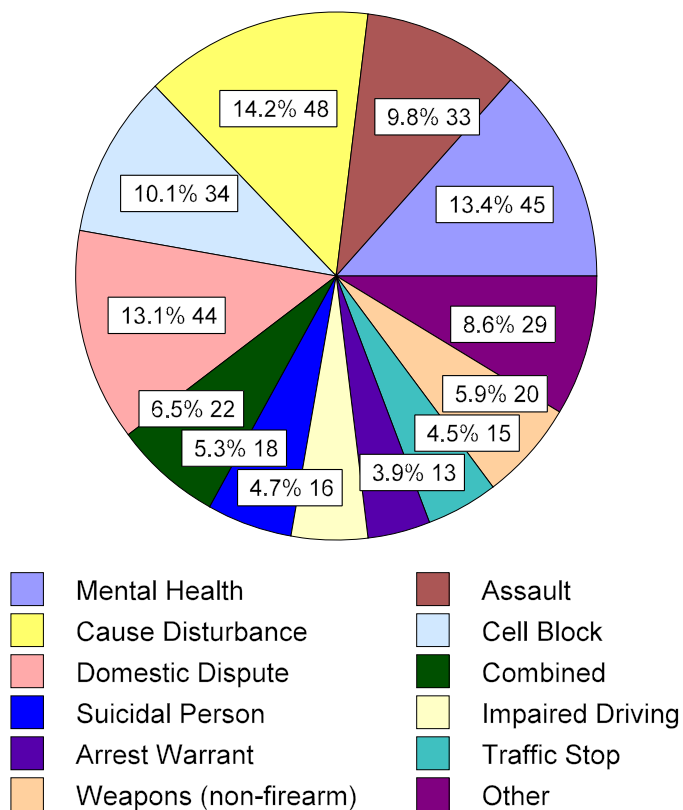
CEW DEPLOYMENT TYPES - OCT.-DEC., 2007						
DIV.	TOTAL USAGE	PRESENCE/ CHALLENGE ONLY	PUSH STUN	PROBE	BOTH PUSH STUN & PROBE	EFFECTIVE *
B	10	7	2	1	0	8 (80%)
D	25	4	15	2	4	24 (96%)
E	130	45	29	43	13	110 (84.6%)
F	40	12	15	9	4	33 (82.5%)
G	14	7	4	2	1	13 (92.9%)
H	11	5	1	4	1	7 (63.6%)
HQ	1	0	0	1	0	1 (100%)
J	9	3	4	2	0	7 (77.8%)
K	86	30	22	27	7	71 (82.6%)
L	1	0	1	0	0	1 (100%)
M	8	3	1	2	2	6 (75%)
V	2	0	1	0	1	2 (100%)
Total	337	116 (34.5%)	95 (28.2%)	93 (27.6%)	33 (9.7%)	283 (84%)

*Note: Effective means the deployment resulted in the control of subject behaviour.

Conducted Energy Weapon - Occurrence Type

The following chart outlines the reported occurrence type for calls for service in which a CEW was deployed.

Occurrence Type



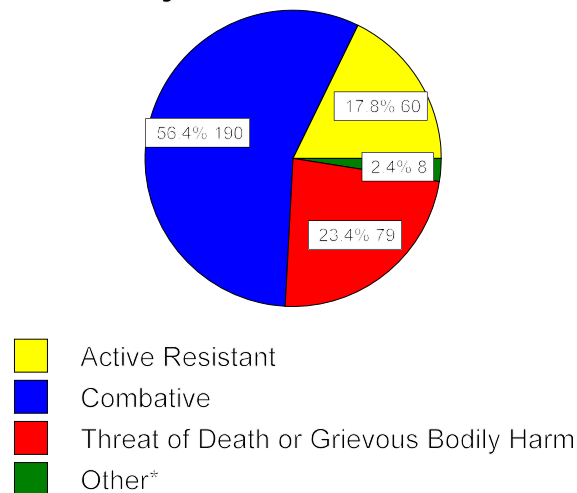
(Note: The “Combined” category includes General Patrol, Robbery, Firearms, Prisoner escort and Search Warrant.)

Although the circumstances and situational factors may change during an occurrence, the initial occurrence type is what members are instructed to report.

Conducted Energy Weapon - Subject Behaviour

The following chart outlines the reported behaviour of individuals subject to CEW deployment.

Subject Behaviour



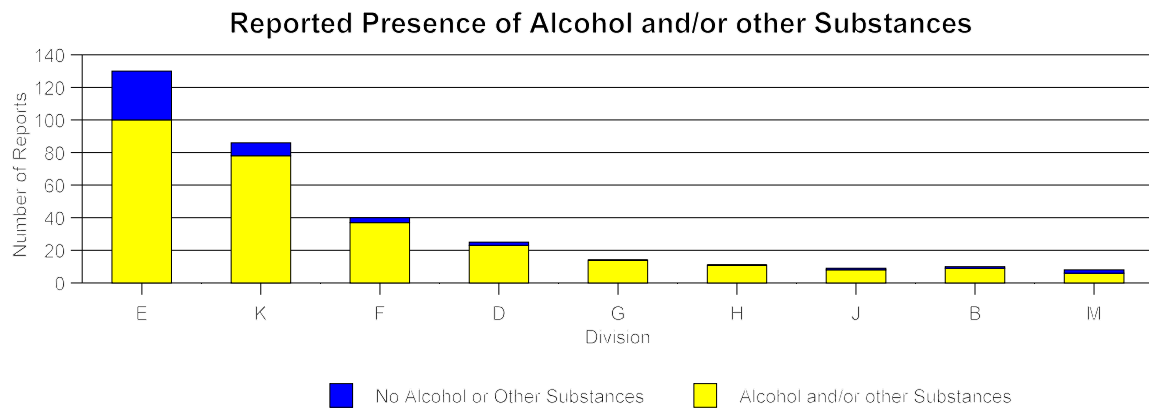
(*“Other”category includes the cases of Robert Dziekanski and Robert Knipstrom which are still under investigation, as well as deployments against animals or unintentional discharges.)

The CEW database does not currently have a specific data field for recording subject behaviour. Information from the summary narratives on completed Forms 3996 was used to determine subject behaviour. The identification of behaviour will be included in the Subject Behaviour Officer Response (SBOR) reporting form currently being developed.

There were 79 incidents in which members deployed the CEW even though they reported facing a threat of death or grievous bodily harm (DGBH) in the absence of lethal force overwatch (i.e. another police officer present with a firearm).

Conducted Energy Weapon - Presence of Alcohol and/or other Substances

Nationally, the presence of alcohol or other substances was reported in 288 incidents (85.4%).



(Note: Not included above is information for “V”, “L” and “HQ” Divisions. “V” Division noted a substance presence in 1 of 2 submitted usage reports, and “L” and “HQ” Divisions each noted 1 for 1.)

(Note: “Other Substances” include:

1. Cocaine
2. Heroin
3. Amphetamines
4. LSD
5. PCP
6. Ecstasy
7. Steroids
8. Ketamine
9. Solvents and inhalants
10. Prescription drugs
11. Cannabis
12. Other)

Conducted Energy Weapon - Subject Injuries

The following chart outlines the types of injuries sustained by subjects.

SUBJECT INJURIES				
TOTAL SUBJECTS	NO INJURY	MINOR SECONDARY INJURY	MAJOR SECONDARY INJURY	DEATH PROXIMAL TO CEW USAGE
331	319	8	2	2

Injuries associated with CEW usage are categorized as follows:

- No injury - includes the immediate effects of CEW usage (slight burns and/or probe marks).
- Minor secondary injury - this would include slight bruising and cuts due to falls or physical struggles with police.
- Major secondary injury - major injury requiring subject to be treated by medical staff. This would include broken bones, large cuts or contusions due to a fall or physical struggle with police.
- Death proximal to CEW usage - death occurring after the deployment of the CEW.

The following chart indicates that 319 subjects (96.4%) sustained no injury other than the immediate effect of the CEW, such as a slight burn or probe mark. Eight subjects (2.4%) sustained a minor secondary injury and two subjects (0.6%) sustained a major secondary injury. During this period two deaths proximal to CEW usage were recorded.

Most reported injuries were attributed to minor cuts on the facial area as a result of subjects falling after a CEW had been deployed. Of the major secondary injuries, one was a fracturing of ribs while the other was a complaint of increased heart rate for which the subject was hospitalized for observation. The rib fracture appeared to be the result of a physical altercation with members subsequent to the CEW deployment.

Information on the deaths proximal to CEW usage is not contained in this report, as these incidents are the subject of ongoing reviews.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Scenario training involving cell block altercations be developed.

Approximately 10 per cent of all CEW deployments are identified as occurring in a cell block, yet there are currently no cell block scenarios in the RCMP's training material. It is recommended that cell block altercation scenarios be developed for inclusion in the course training standard and lesson plans for all levels of CEW instruction.

2. There be a requirement for subject behaviour reporting.

Information on subject behaviour had to be gathered manually from the summary portion of the usage form for all 337 reports submitted to the database. The Subject Behaviour Officer Response (SBOR) reporting process under development will address this issue. As an interim measure, a communique was forwarded to all RCMP Divisions instructing members to report subject behaviour in the summary portion of Form 3996.

3. Policy and training relating to CEW deployment in incidents involving a threat of death or grievous bodily harm be reviewed.

Several reports noted members deployed the CEW in incidents involving a threat of death or grievous bodily harm. Current training instructs members that the appropriate intervention option when faced with a threat of death or grievous bodily harm is lethal force.

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APPENDIX “A”

RCMP REGULAR MEMBERS ON STRENGTH AS AT 2008-01-01	
Division	Number of Members
A	196
B	454
C	890
D	921
E	5 521
F	1 086
G	167
H	855
HQ	1 506
J	814
K	2 277
L	115
M	105
O	1 059
V	105
Total	16 071

APPENDIX “B”

USER COURSE						
YEAR	NHQ	Central	Atlantic	North West	Pacific	Total
2001	47	8	7	6	121	189
2002	47	53	89	330	190	709
2003	173	216	395	1247	871	2902
2004	88	124	383	762	541	1898
2005	26	54	252	577	348	1257
2006	40	52	252	238	315	897
2007	3	24	170	443	640	1280
TOTAL						9132
INSTRUCTOR COURSE						
2001	0	0	0	0	0	0
2002	11	2	2	38	14	67
2003	12	17	30	26	74	159
2004	14	17	17	18	3	69
2005	4	2	20	22	29	77
2006	10	11	27	36	31	115
2007	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL						487
RE-CERTIFICATION COURSE						
2005	8	15	16	35	24	98
2006	46	46	129	323	394	938
2007	4	27	145	570	232	1036
TOTAL						2072
TOTAL ALL CERTIFICATIONS						11,691

APPENDIX “C”

CEWs PROCURED BETWEEN 2001 AND 2007			
DIVISION	M26	X26	TOTALS
A	11	2	13
B	62	34	96
C	15	17	32
D	134	73	207
E	630	392	1022
F	210	67	277
G	39	3	42
H	69	25	94
J	97	38	135
K	286	318	604
L	15	15	30
M	36	49	85
NHQ	34	59	93
O	29	6	35
V	42	32	74
TOTAL	1709	1130	2839