

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

April 28, 2021
1.1

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: BOLAWRAP PILOT PROGRAM EXTENSION

RRECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners REVIEW and APPROVE the BolaWrap Pilot Program Extension.

On February 5, 2020, the 180-day BolaWrap Remote Restraint Device (BolaWrap) pilot program was authorized. As of August 10, 2020, the BolaWrap had been utilized nine times. Due to an insufficient sample size, an additional 180-day extension was requested and approved to evaluate the effectiveness of the device. The 180-day extension expired February 2021 with one additional activation and a total of ten activations in 360 days.

The pilot program yielded useful data regarding the deployment, operations, and use of the BolaWrap in a field environment. The Department submitted recommendations to the vendor to improve serviceability of the less lethal platform. The requested changes were to have a dedicated ambidextrous holster, integrate a lighting system, and incorporate a longer-lasting battery which can be easily replaced. It is anticipated that the vendor will implement the recommendation by June 2021, at which time a one-year pilot program should resume at Hollywood and Central Areas to make a final evaluation. Hollywood and Central Areas were selected due to the high volume of calls where this device may be useful.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Commander Marc R. Reina, Training Bureau, at (213)486-7090.

Respectfully,



MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

April 16, 2021
1.12

TO: Chief of Police

FROM: Director, Office of Support Services

SUBJECT: BOLAWRAP PILOT PROGRAM EXTENSION

On February 5, 2020 the 180-day BolaWrap Remote Restraint Device (BolaWrap) pilot program was authorized. As of August 10, 2020, the BolaWrap had been utilized nine times. Due to an insufficient sample size, an additional 180-day extension was requested and approved to evaluate the effectiveness of the device. The 180-day extension expired February 2021 with one additional activation and a total of ten activations in 360-days.

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Lieutenant Robin Petillo, Training Bureau, at (213)486-7090.



DOMINIC H. CHOI, Deputy Chief
Director, Office of Support Services

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

April 5, 2021
1.12

TO: Director, Office of Support Services

FROM: Commanding Officer, Training Bureau

SUBJECT: BOLA WRAP REMOTE RESTRAINT DEVICE PILOT EXTENSION

On February 5, 2020, the 180-day Bola Wrap Remote Restraint Device (Bola Wrap) pilot program was authorized. As of August 10, 2020, the Bola Wrap had been utilized nine times. Due to an insufficient sample size, an additional 180-day extension was requested and approved to evaluate the effectiveness of the device. The 180-day extension expired February 2021, with one additional activation and a total of ten activations in 360 days.

The pilot program yielded useful data regarding the deployment, operations and use of the Bola Wrap. In the interest of obtaining additional data to evaluate the device, the Department has requested the following changes to the device. Wrap Industries has agreed to implement these changes by June 2021:

- Dedicated ambidextrous holster
- Integrated lighting system
- Common usage battery that lasts longer and is easily swapped out

In the 360-day pilot the devices were distributed to all geographic Areas and a limited number of employees were trained in its use. Training Bureau proposes the following changes to better evaluate the updated devices:

- Dedicate all devices in two areas – Hollywood and Central
- Train field personnel at those areas with the device

These two areas have a high volume of radio calls where this device may be useful. By concentrating the devices in these areas, it will increase the likelihood that an officer will have the device available if the need to utilize this tool were to occur.

Upon receipt of these updated devices and holsters, the Department will request to initiate a third 180-day Bola Wrap pilot program to see if it is a variable non-lethal tool to be used in the field.

Director, Office of Support Services

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1.12

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Sergeant David A. Sanchez, Training Bureau, at (213) 486-7090.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MARC R. REINA', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MARC R. REINA, Commander
Commanding Officer
Training Bureau

FIELD TEST FACT SHEET
WRAP Technologies BolaWrap Remote Restraint Device
360-Day Pilot Program Results
March 30, 2021

Background:

The Department's current inventory of less lethal devices for patrol consist of the Conducted Energy Weapons (TASER), Oleoresin Capsicum Spray (OC), Beanbag shotgun, and 40mm Less Lethal Launcher. The Department is committed to researching additional less lethal platforms that provide officers with more options that adhere to the principal of proportionality and reasonableness when engaging individuals that pose an immediate threat to the safety of the officer or members of the public. Without introducing new less lethal force option officers are restricted to verbalization or using physical force with a person who may be unsafe to approach.

Reverence for human life is the primary consideration in developing tactics and strategies in pursuit of the Department motto, "to Protect and to Serve." Because of this, Training Division (TD) sought out products that could be used when the suspect's actions do not rise to level of intermediate force.

On July 11, 2018 representatives from Wrap Technologies, Inc. provided a product demonstration for their BolaWrap 100 Remote Restraint Device. The demonstration consisted of classroom presentation followed by a brief range session. Command Staff present at the demonstration determined that the BolaWrap 100 may fulfill an operational need and requested that a product evaluation be initiated.

From December 2019 to January 2020, the Force Options Training Unit at In-Service Training Division trained approximately 1000 officers to deploy the BolaWrap Remote Restraint Device for the field test.

Physical Examination/Product Description:

The BolaWrap is a hand-held device consisting of a launcher body, which is approximately 5.75" long, 2.75" wide and 1.75" thick with the included laser aiming device and a replaceable machined aluminum cartridge. The cartridge contains a modified .380 blank cartridge which propels a tether consisting of two weighted pellets connected by an eight-foot Kevlar cord. The pellets are weighted metal bars, which have four barbed hooks on one end and the Kevlar tether attached to the other end. The Kevlar tether is rated at 360-pound breaking strength. Because of the use of a modified .380 blank cartridge as a propellant, the BolaWrap is classified as a firearm by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The primary target area indicated by the manufacturer is the lower legs, from the knees to mid-calf. A secondary target area, if the circumstances permit, would be the lower arms, from elbow to wrist. The manufacturer provided a fully clothed department store mannequin to use as a test target. When fired, the cartridge expels the tether at approximately 640 feet per second, per the manufacturer. The pellets leave the cartridge at a divergent angle, trailing the Kevlar cord as they spread. Once the tether strikes its target, it begins to quickly wrap around the lower legs allowing the hooks on the pellets to grab onto the suspects clothing. Once the hooks embed in clothing the wrap is completed. The desired effect is to limit or remove the target's ability to fight or flee.

The device should be held flat and parallel to the ground when fired to avoid the pellets striking the ground and failing to wrap the target.

The minimum deployment distance per Wrap Technologies, Inc. is 10 feet.

The maximum deployment distance per Wrap Technologies, Inc. is 25 feet.

Due to the need for the tether to wrap around the target, the area must be clear of obstructions (three-feet in all directions).

Findings:

On February 6, 2020, the field test program began. The test was set for 90-days, with a 90-day extension, if necessary. In order to achieve additional data, the field test period was extended. Prior to the conclusion of the pilot program, it was extended for a second 180-day period by the Honorable Board of Police Commissioners and ultimately concluded on January 31, 2021.

During the 360-day field test, the Bola Wrap Remote Restraint Device was deployed ten times. The circumstances and effectiveness are listed below.

Note: The deployment of the BolaWrap was considered effective when the tether wrapped the intended target.

- On February 22, 2020, Hollywood Patrol officers responded to a naked man running in and out of traffic. Upon contact, he walked toward the officers, who deployed the BolaWrap. The tether made contact above the suspect's ankles, but did not wrap, as he was naked and there were no clothes to anchor to. The suspect took a fighting stance and, once an officer deployed his baton, the suspect was taken into custody without further force.

The BolaWrap was considered not effective. It should be noted that the suspect did not have any clothes for the tether to wrap, thus, did not meet the manufacturer's deployment criteria.

- On February 27, 2020, Hollywood Patrol officers responded to a radio call of a male with mental illness. Upon contact, they deployed the BolaWrap. The tether made contact around his arms and the wrap was complete; however, the suspect was wearing a "puffy jacket" and immediately pulled his arms out of the tether. The use of the BolaWrap was considered not effective since the suspect defeated the tether.
- On February 29, 2020, Van Nuys Patrol officers responded to a radio call of an ADW suspect. Officers observed the suspect with a pipe in his hands. Officers gave numerous verbal commands for him to drop the pipe and get down on his knees. Suspect refused to

comply. Officers deployed the 40 mm less lethal launcher striking the suspect with negative results. A second officer deployed the BolaWrap at the suspect's legs. Although the cord did not completely wrap around his legs, the suspect immediately complied and was taken into custody without further necessary force. The use of the BolaWrap was considered not effective.

- On March 3, 2020, Central Patrol officers responded to a radio call of an ADW suspect with a knife. Officers observed the suspect and he failed to comply with the officers' commands. Officers deployed the BolaWrap at the suspect's legs. The cord successfully wrapped around both the suspect's legs stopping his advancement and he was taken into custody. The use of the BolaWrap was considered effective.
- On Monday, March 9, 2020, Devonshire Patrol officers were in pursuit. At the termination of the pursuit the suspect was 415 and failed to comply with the officers' commands. Officers deployed the BolaWrap on the suspect's legs. Although it did not wrap his legs, the suspect was startled and taken into custody without additional force. The use of the Bola Wrap was considered not effective.
- On March 12, 2020, Central Patrol officers were flagged down on a 415 man at San Pedro & 4th Street. Officers deployed the Bola Wrap on the suspect's legs, the BolaWrap tether struck the suspect's legs, but did not wrap completely and he stepped out of the tether. The officers then utilized a team takedown to take the suspect into custody. The use of the BolaWrap was considered not effective since the suspect stepped out of the tether.
- On March 12, 2020, Mission Patrol officers responded to a radio call of an arson suspect in possession of a glass beer bottle. Officers deployed the BolaWrap. The tether struck his knee area, one anchor attached, while the other fell to the ground. The suspect was stunned by the impact and was taken into custody without additional force. The use of the BolaWrap was considered not effective.
- On April 18, 2020, Devonshire Patrol Officers responded to a radio call of a family dispute, where they encountered the suspect armed with a large stick. They deployed the BolaWrap and the tether impacted around his arms; however, it did not wrap. This may have been a result of the tether striking the fence behind the suspect. The officers then utilized a 40mm Less Lethal Launcher and the suspect was taken into custody. The use of the BolaWrap was considered not effective. It should be noted that there was not three-foot clearance around the suspect and the incident did not meet the manufacturer's deployment criteria.
- On June 3, 2020. Pacific Patrol officers responded to a 415 man in front of the police station. He refused to comply with officers' orders and the BolaWrap was deployed. The officer missed the suspect with the tether. The use of the BolaWrap was considered not effective.
- On November 16, 2020, Central Patrol officers responded to a radio call of an ADW suspect at Chick Hearn Court and Georgia Street. The suspect had a vehicle steering wheel locking device (Club) and refused to drop it. The BolaWrap was deployed and wrapped around the upper

torso/neck area. The suspect was taken into custody without any additional force. The BolaWrap was considered effective.

Malfunction:

On December 10, 2019, a Rampart Area employee experienced an Unintentional Discharge (UD) with the BolaWrap. The BolaWrap device was clipped onto the right front pocket of the officer when it unexpectedly deployed. The officer stated that he did not manipulate the device during the discharge. There were several employees that witnessed and corroborated the officer's account of the incident.

A preliminary investigation of the UD was conducted. The BolaWrap devices were recovered from the kit room and inspected. The BolaWrap devices were checked and a slight firing pin protrusion was identified. The cartridges were inspected, and various stages of primer strikes were observed on the cartridges.

An experienced Department armorer was asked to inspect the BolaWrap device and to attempt to duplicate the incident. The armorer was able to easily duplicate the primer strikes on the cartridges, but the UD was not duplicated.

Note: BolaWrap Technologies did not train Department personnel to service or repair the BolaWrap devices.

The incident was discussed with BolaWrap representatives and engineers. The primer strikes were explained as being caused by a floating firing pin design and were considered normal. As a result, several agencies deploying or conducting their own BolaWrap pilot program were contacted regarding this issue.

Fresno Police Department reported an incident where a BolaWrap device fell out from the door of a patrol vehicle and the BolaWrap device unintentionally discharged when it struck the ground.

Note: BolaWrap advised that the BolaWrap utilized was an older design, which is not in use any longer.

On May 26, 2020, a Volusia County Sheriff's deputy dropped his BolaWrap device from approximately four feet. The BolaWrap device unintentionally discharged when it struck the tile flooring.

BolaWrap engineers took possession of the device and were able to duplicate the unintentional discharge.

Due to the duplication of this issue, the BolaWrap devices were recalled and the firing pin mechanism was redesigned and retrofitted onto all Department issued Bola Wrap devices.

Note: The Department became aware of the UD in Rampart Area on May 21, 2020 and the incident was reported to BolaWrap representatives the same day. The device in question was recovered by BolaWrap on May 22, 2020. On May 25, 2020, the Department received an after-action report from BolaWrap advising that our unit in question was within specifications and functioning as designed. The very next day, the unintentional discharge involving Volusia County occurred. The Department was advised to recall the devices on June 15, 2020 to retrofit the floating firing pin.