7-08/090.00 Less Lethal Launcher (FN303)

The Fabrique Nationale Herstal 303 (FN303) Less Lethal Launcher is designed for use in a wide variety of tactical applications encountered within custody and is designated as a special weapon. The purpose of this weapon is to facilitate a safe and effective response to situations which may jeopardize the life and safety of personnel, inmates, and/or the security of the facility.

The deployment of the FN303 Launcher is a decisive action that can help achieve the goal of protection of life and property, and the restoration of order in custody facilities. Authorization for the deployment of special weapons can only be given by the watch commander/incident commander or higher authority in the chain of command. Authorization for the use of special weapons can only be given by a supervisor of a rank no less than sergeant, or by a senior deputy acting in the capacity of an emergency response team leader (refer to Custody Division Manual section, 7-08/000.00, "Deployment of Special Weapons"). In no instance will authorization be given for the use of this weapon to anyone other than qualified personnel. All members utilizing this weapon shall do so only when fully justified, and in conformance with the Department Manual of Policy and Procedures use of force policies and CDM section 7-08/000.00, "Deployment of Special Weapons."

There are two tactical applications for this weapon. First, it may be used as an area treatment device to deploy chemical agents. When used in this manner, the launcher will be aimed and pointed toward a solid object, such as a ceiling or wall, and is effective at distances up to 164 feet. Second, it may be used as a direct fire weapon against an assaultive and/or high risk individual.

The maximum effective range of the FN303 against a point target is 50 meters (164 feet). The minimum standoff distance is three (3) feet. Personnel discharging this weapon shall avoid deliberately shooting anyone in the head, neck, or spinal column unless the situation dictates the use of deadly force. The intended target zone is low center mass, unless the situation dictates otherwise (i.e. if the preferred target zone is obstructed, other areas of the body, such as the back and arms may be targeted instead). Warning shots shall not be fired under any circumstances. Personnel should always be aware of their backdrop as well as if their intended target is obstructed.

The FN303 fires a .68 caliber fin stabilized projectile with a payload of .78 grams. There are two rounds authorized to be used with the FN303. The duty round, which is filled with O.C. (pava powder) and the inert powder round that may be used for training purposes.

Members will be considered qualified to use the weapon only after attending, and successfully completing, a training class presented by the Custody Training and Standards Bureau.

The FN303 Launcher shall not be altered or modified in any way. Only approved munitions shall be fired from this weapon. All repairs to the weapon shall be made by the Department armorer