



Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) Audit Report - Final April 2025

Report # CEW042025
(Data Sample – Oct 2024-Mar 2025)

Submitted by PSAB: April 16, 2025
Response from FOB: April 30, 2025
Final Report: May 6, 2025

Audit Team

This audit was managed and conducted by the Auditing and Review Section of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau

Executive Summary

The Audit and Review Unit (ARS) of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau (PSAB) initiated a Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) Audit in April 2025. The audit covered the period from October 2024 to March 2025. This audit is conducted to ensure that New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) officers' deployment of CEW's and follow-up investigations are conducted in accordance with the rights secured or protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States. NOPD agrees to ensure that audits are conducted professionally and effectively, to elicit accurate and reliable information.

This process is regulated by Consent Decree (CD) paragraphs include 54, 56, 57, 67, 78, 79, 81, 86. Also, Chapter 1.3.6 Reporting Use of Force, Chapter 1.7 Taser Energy Weapon (TEW), Chapter 1.7.1 Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW), and Chapter 41.3.10 BWC.

This audit was conducted on the following levels of force using the Use of Force Protocol:

- CEW Use of Force. The CEW audit addresses nine (10) checklist questions.

Number of Non-Compliant CEW Checklist Questions (3):

- BWC was activated as required by officer who made scene (90%)
- Did Supervisor review the BWC if stated in report (90%)
- # CEW cycles explained in force statement / Total # CEW cycles (92%)

Number of Completed Entries Used to Create the CEW Sample (10)

L1-L4 Sample Target to Audit (10):

The sample target represented **100%** of available CEW entries less the entries that were part of previous Use of Force audit, or deselected. Of the Six (6) entries deselected, 3 were exhibits (not deployed), and 3 were duplicates of entries already in sample.

The overall score of the CEW Audit is as follows: Overall – **97%**

More detailed results are embedded in the Scorecards and Conclusion sections.

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Introduction

The Auditing and Review Section (ARS) of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau conducted an audit of CEW incidents. The time span to conduct the audit was from March 28th, 2025, to April 10th, 2025.

Purpose

The CEW audit is conducted to verify Departmental compliance with the Consent Decree and NOPD Operations Manual as it pertains to the use of CEWs and the subsequent investigations.

Consent Decree (CD) paragraphs include 54, 58, 67, 78, 79, 81, and 87. The following are the NOPD Policy Chapters involved:

Chapter 1.3.6 Reporting Use of Force

Chapter 1.7.1 Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW)

Chapter 41.3.10 BWC

Scope

This audit assesses and documents whether the force employed by New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) officers is documented and recorded properly, and whether supervisors conducted thorough follow-up investigations related to use of CEWs. Once the review is completed, the audit manager will submit a report to the Deputy Chief of Field Operations Bureau (FOB), and the Captain of the Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau (PSAB) pointing out any deficiencies or confirming a thorough investigation. These audit reports will assist in ensuring officers and supervisors are informed of opportunities for improvement as it relates to the proper reporting and documentation of CEW use in the future. A “final report” will also be sent to the appropriate monitor from the OCDM. The audit assesses the following aspects of officer and supervisor responsibilities:

- Whether involved officers appropriately complied with pre-CEW requirements (e.g., de-escalation, warnings)
- Whether audited CEW use is consistent with policy and law
- Whether involved officers appropriately complied with post-CEW requirements (e.g., immediate notifications, provision of medical aid)
- Whether the involved officers and witness officers completed required reports
- Whether supervisors appropriately investigated, including reviews of available recordings
- Whether supervisors appropriately reviewed reports

Methodology

Population source – IAPro Force Investigation Team (FIT) Incident List (NOPD source file)

Sample size – 100% of CEW incidents.

Documentation to be reviewed – All documents and investigative material contained within each individual Force Investigation Team (FIT) file, as well as associated police reports.

BWC/Video/Audio to be reviewed – All associated video footage for involved and/or witness officers, as well as Use of Force investigative rank or supervisor, as needed to corroborate the written reports and statements.

Testing Instrument(s) – New Orleans Police Department’s Operations Manual Chapters and ten (10) Checklist questions.

Each individual incident file will be audited in its entirety via “double-blind” auditing process by two (2) members of the Auditing and Review Section (ARS), to give a reliable and thorough review of each use of force incident.

Data

While the audit range is usually set for every three months (Quarterly), this review encompassed a period of five (5) months. The FIT IAPro system file dump provides the ARS team all item numbers that were investigated during that audit period. ARS then takes those item numbers and removes items previously audited. ARS then reviews 100% of the items within the audit range.

This audit’s universe consisted of 11 selected case files. The raw data used was for the period of November of 2023 to March 2024.

Initiating and conducting the CEW Audit

The initial raw data was downloaded from the IAPro system on March 31st, 2025, to prep the sample distribution file that would be utilized by ARS, for the current audit.

During this audit prep, the sample was then parsed and distributed to the assigned auditors for initial review of allocation count in preparation for the audit.

Each item case file was then systematically reviewed via “double-blind” audit process by the Auditing and Review Section, based on each case file’s compliance with the New Orleans Police Department’s Operations Manual Chapters, as it relates to “CEW” investigations. To facilitate this process, the team used the ten (10) point CEW audit checklist, as the tool to review and analyze the content of every case file.

List of Case Files Reviewed by Auditor

The following is a breakdown of the case files by auditors that conducted each review:

Double-Blind Review of CEW

Auditor 1 (2 cases, 1 deselected)	Auditor 2 (2 cases, 1 deselected)	Auditor 3 (3 cases, 1 deselected)	Auditor 4 (0 cases, 3 deselected)
Auditor 5 (1 case, 2 deselected)	Auditor 6 (3 cases)	Auditor 7 (2 cases, 1 deselected)	Auditor 8 (2, 1 deselected)
Auditor 9 (3 cases, 1 deselected)	Auditor 10 (2 cases, 1 deselected)		

Total: Sample 10 CEW Case Files Note: (less DS = 6 Deselected – 3 duplicated, 3 exhibitions (not deployed))

CEW Scorecards

The following scorecards below were used by the auditing team to review each CEW case file.

CEW (Conducted Energy Weapon) Summary Audit

ARU percentages for Consent Decree requirements for CEW Audit

Report Period: April 2025

Sample Period (Oct 2024 - Mar 2025)

Audit Questions		Score	Y	N	U	NA	NA Explanations	CD ¶ /Chapter	NOPD Policy Chapters
1	BWC was activated as required by officer who made scene	90%	9	1	0	0		Ch 41.3.10	Ch 41.3.10 p11
2	Did Supervisor review the BWC if stated in report	90%	9	1	0	0		86(d)	Ch 1.3.6 p33, Ch. 41.3.10 p35
3	Force Statement Found for all CEW officers	100%	10	0	0	0		78, 81	Ch 1.3.6 p16, p18
4	Force Details Documented in statement to describe force used	100%	10	0	0	0		78	Ch 1.3.6 p16, Ch. 1.7.1, p36
5	CEW activated (deployed) according to policy	100%	10	0	0	0		54	Ch 1.3.6 p28, p33
6	CEW video reviewed by Supervisor as required if video exists separately from BWC	n/a	0	0	0	10	All CEW video was BWC generated; none were from taser.	67	Ch 1.3.6 p33, Ch. 1.7.1 p 91, p104, p106, p113
7	Each Cycle Justified	100%	10	0	0	0		57	Ch 1.3.6 p16, Ch. 1.7.1, p36
8	CEW force statements consistent w/ video	100%	10	0	0	0		78, 81	Ch 1.3.6 p33, Ch. 1.7.1 p 91, p104, p106, p113
9	# CEW cycles explained in force statement / Total # CEW cycles	92%	12	1				58	Ch 1.3.6 p31, Ch. 1.7.1, p.53, p57
10	Supervisor UoF GISTS submitted before ETOD	100%	10	0	0	0		87	Ch 1.3.6 p28, Ch. 1.3 p21(e), Ch. 1.7.1 p45
Total		97%	90	3	0	10			

General Comments

ARU audited the CEW(Conducted Energy Weapon) case files for the defined period, for completeness and accuracy as required by the Consent Decree. CEW's reviewed as part of the Use of Force audit were excluded from this review.

For an explanation of the procedures and scoring system for this review, see the associated "Protocol " document.

For a list of relevant policies, contact ARU as needed.

For the audit results for each case file, see the accompanying RawData spreadsheets.

Scores below 95% are highlighted in red.

CEW (Conducted Energy Weapon) District Audit

ARU percentages for Consent Decree requirements for CEW Audit

Report Period: April 2025

Sample Period (Oct 2024 - Mar 2025)

Audit Questions

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	SOD	Overall Score
1	BWC was activated as required by officer who made scene	100%	-	-	100%	100%	100%	-	67%	100%	90%
2	Did Supervisor review the BWC if stated in report	100%	-	-	100%	100%	100%	-	67%	100%	90%
3	Force Statement Found for all CEW officers	100%	-	-	100%	100%	100%	-	100%	100%	100%
4	Force Details Documented in statement to describe force used	100%	-	-	100%	100%	100%	-	100%	100%	100%
5	CEW activated (deployed) according to policy	100%	-	-	100%	100%	100%	-	100%	100%	100%
6	CEW Reviewed by Supervisor as required if video exists separately from BWC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Each Cycle Justified	100%	-	-	100%	100%	100%	-	100%	100%	100%
8	CEW force statements consistent w/ video	100%	-	-	100%	100%	100%	-	100%	100%	100%
9	# CEW cycles explained in force statement / Total # CEW cycles	-	-	-	100%	100%	100%	-	86%	100%	92%
10	Supervisor GISTS submitted before ETOD	100%	-	-	100%	100%	100%	-	100%	100%	100%
	Total	-	-	-	100%	100%	100%	-	89%	100%	97%

General Comments

ARU audited the CEW(Conducted Energy Weapon) case files for the defined period, for completeness and accuracy as required by the Consent Decree.

CEW's reviewed as part of the Use of Force audit were excluded from this review.

For an explanation of the procedures and scoring system for this review, see the associated "Protocol " document.

For a list of relevant policies, contact ARU as needed.

For the audit results for each case file, see the accompanying RawData spreadsheets.

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Case File Reviews – CEW

The below listed information reveals the outcome of the Audit Team's checklist reviews.

1. **Was BWC activated as required by officer who made scene?** The overall score for this category was **90%**. Of the 10 cases reviewed, 9 were audited as positive, and 1 was negative.
2. **Did the supervisor review the BWC if stated in the report?** The overall score for this category was **90%**. Of the 10 cases reviewed, 9 were audited as positive, and 1 was negative.
3. **Were force statements found for all CEW officers?** The overall score for this category was **100%**. Of the 10 cases reviewed, all 10 were audited as positive.
4. **Were force details documented in statement to describe the force used?** The overall score for this category was **100%**. Of the 10 cases reviewed, all 10 were audited as positive.
5. **Was CEW activated (deployed) according to policy?** The overall score for this category was **100%**. Of the 10 cases reviewed, 10 were audited as positive.
6. **Was CEW reviewed by supervisor as required if video exists separately from BWC?** The overall score for this category was **N/A**. Of the 10 cases reviewed, all were N/A (not applicable as no CEW video existed separate from BWC).
7. **Was each CEW cycle justified?** The overall score for this category was **100%**. Of the 10 cases reviewed, 10 were audited as positive.
8. **Were CEW force statements consistent w/ video?** The overall score for this category was **100%**. Of the 10 cases reviewed, 10 were audited as positive.
9. **# CEW cycles explained in force statement / Total # CEW cycles:** The overall score for this category was **92%**. Of the 13 CEW cycles used, 12 were audited as positive and 1 was negative.
10. **Supervisor GISTs submitted before ETOD?** The overall score for this category was **100%**. Of the 10 cases reviewed, all 10 were audited as positive.

Compliance Score

CEW Checklist- Based on the combined total of one hundred **(100)** checklist items rated, from the sample size of ten **(10)** case files audited; the **“overall score”** of this CEW case file checklist audit conducted by the Auditing and Review Section was **97%**.

Results (Draft)

- The overall results of the audit have revealed that **3** of the **10** checklist questions had compliance threshold scores ***below*** 95%.
 - Q1 - BWC was activated as required by officer who made scene (90%)
 - (8th)
 - Q2 - Did the Supervisor review the BWC if stated in report (90%)
 - (8th)
 - Q9 – No. CEW cycles explained in force statement / Total # CEW cycles (92%)
 - (8th)

Conclusions (Final)

The following findings are as follows for those areas where compliance was **below** 95%:

1. **None**

Recommendations

Following the CEW audit which covered October 2024, - March 2025, no “opportunities for improvement” are documented by the PSAB Audit and Review Section (ARS).

As previously identified by the Public Integrity Bureau’s (PIB’s) Force Investigation Team (FIT) for the Department to maintain or achieve 95% or better compliance rate, the following areas for improvement were communicated to the various Districts and Bureaus and are as follows:

1. Must ensure that BWCs are reviewed in a timely and effective manner by the supervisor.
2. The Consent Decree requires all taser deployments to be recorded, and as such, BWC should capture any taser deployments.

Continuing to take actions to ensure timely and effective reviews by supervisors and taking actions to review policy for enhancements which provide clarity of scope, will ensure that all Use of Force case files are complete.

CEW Responses & PSAB Notes:

District Re-evaluation Requests and PSAB Responses

None responded

Attachments:

Excel Raw Data Spreadsheets October 2024 – March 2025.

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Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau**

Appendix C – Report Distribution

Superintendent - NOPD

Deputy Supt. PSAB Bureau

Captain PSAB Bureau

Deputy Sup. FOB Bureau

Deputy Supt. PIB Bureau