

## Use a Riot Baton

191-376-4121

**Conditions:** You are a member of a riot control formation and must position yourself in a crowd control situation. You are given a riot baton, a flak vest, shin guards, and a helmet with a face shield.

**Standards:** Perform all necessary steps to properly use the riot baton and position yourself to defend against individuals in a crowd. Observe all safety precautions.

### Performance Steps

1. Grip the riot baton.
  - a. Put the thong over the right thumb as shown in Figure 191-376-4121-1 and bring it around so that the thong wraps over the back of the hand as shown in Figure 191-376-4121-2. This is called the baton thong position.



Figure 191-376-4121-1  
Baton Thong Position, Graphic 1



Figure 191-376-4121-2  
Baton Thong Position, Graphic 2

**Performance Steps**

- b. Rotate your right hand over and onto the baton handle and grasp it about 6 inches from the end. The thong will be pressed against the back of the hand as shown in Figure 191-376-4121-3. This is called the right-hand grip.



Figure 191-376-4121-3  
Right-Hand Grip

NOTE: This gives you a secure grip and allows for a quick release of the weapon when the hand is relaxed.

2. Assume the parade rest position.
  - a. Place your feet a comfortable distance (about shoulder width) apart.
  - b. Grip the baton in the right hand and allow your right arm to hang naturally.
  - c. Hold the baton horizontally across your body.
  - d. Grasp the baton with your left hand, palm facing out and away from the body and about 6 inches from the end of the baton as shown in Figure 191-376-4121-4.

**Performance Steps**



Figure 191-376-4121-4  
Parade Rest Position

3. Assume the port position. This is a ready position for individual defensive tactics.
- NOTE: Assemble and move to all formations in the port position.
- a. Lift the left end of the baton up by bending your left elbow while in the parade rest position. Your left hand should be level with your left shoulder.
  - b. Ensure that the striking end of the baton bisects the angle between the neck and the left shoulder.
  - c. Hold the baton about 8 inches from the body as shown in Figure 191-376-4121-5. This is the port position.

**Performance Steps**

Figure 191-376-4121-5  
Port Position

4. Assume the on-guard position.

NOTE: This is a ready position used in making initial contact with rioters. Do not hold it for long periods because it is tiring to the body. Protective movements are normally executed from this position.

- a. Stand with your feet apart, left foot forward. Bend your knees slightly and lean forward.
- b. Hold the baton against your hip with your right hand.
- c. Hold your left forearm horizontally across your body with your palm up and at a level that will protect your throat area.
- d. With your left hand, grasp the baton about 6 inches from the end. Figures 191-376-4121-6 and 191-376-4121-7 shows the guard position from the front and side.

**Performance Steps**



Figure 191-376-4121-6  
On-Guard Position (Front View)

**Performance Steps**



Figure 191-376-4121-7  
On-Guard Position (Side View)

5. Ensure that a blow is not directed to one of the five fatal points. Refer to Figure 191-376-4121-8.

## Performance Steps



Figure 191-376-4121-8  
Five Fatal Points of Impact

**WARNING: NEVER DIRECT A BLOW TO ANY OF THE FIVE FATAL POINTS OF IMPACT ON THE HUMAN BODY. THESE ARE THE HEAD, THE SIDE OF THE NECK OR THROAT, THE CHEST CAVITY (HEART AREA), AND THE ARMPIT. DELIVER BLOWS ONLY TO VULNERABLE PARTS OF YOUR OPPONENT'S BODY, SUCH AS THE SHOULDER.**

6. Perform the short-thrust offensive technique from the on-guard position.
  - a. Take one rapid step forward with the left foot.
  - b. Snap your left arm straight and push your right hand to drive the striking end of the baton into a vulnerable point on the opponent's body.
  - c. Return to the on-guard position.
7. Perform the long-thrust offensive technique from the on-guard position.
  - a. Hold the baton in your right hand, take one rapid step forward with your right foot, and simultaneously release the left hand grip.
  - b. Snap the baton forward by rapidly extending your right arm, driving the striking end of the weapon into a vulnerable point of the opponent's body.
  - c. Return to the on-guard position.
8. Perform the butt-stroke offensive technique from the on-guard position.
  - a. Raise the right hand (while keeping the left hand level with the left shoulder) until the baton is almost parallel to the ground.
  - b. Advance the body rapidly by moving the right foot forward one step.

**Performance Steps**

- c. Snap the right arm straight forward by sliding the right hand up the baton until the thong is tight across the back of the hand.
- d. Drive the butt end of the baton to the left, striking the opponent's shoulder.
- e. Return to the on-guard position.

9. Perform the baton smash offensive technique from the parade rest, port, or on-guard position.
- a. Hold the baton at chest level, horizontal to the ground.
  - b. Advance the left foot rapidly and snap both arms straight.
  - c. Smash the length of the baton across the opponent's chest.
  - d. Return to the position.

10. Defend yourself against a blow to the head.

NOTE: All the defensive tactics are started from the parade rest, port, or on-guard position.

- a. Assume either the parade rest, port, or on-guard position.
- b. Snap your left hand to the left side of your body and your right hand up and to the left.
- c. Block an attacker's blow and immediately snap both arms up so that the left hand is near the left shoulder and the right hand is in front of the left shoulder.
- d. Execute a jab or smash by stepping forward with your right foot, driving your body forward. Jab the thong end of the baton into the attacker's upper body.
- e. Return to the original starting position.

11. Defend yourself against a backhand blow.

- a. Assume either the parade rest, port, or on-guard position.
- b. Snap both arms out and to your right or left front, depending on the direction of the oncoming blow.
- c. Raise your left hand above your head so that the grip end of the baton is pointing down.
- d. Block the attacker's blow.
- e. After blocking the blow, bring the right hand up near the right shoulder.
- f. Move the left hand down, parallel to the chest area, in preparation for a butt stroke. (Refer to step 7).

12. Defend yourself against a long thrust.

- a. Assume the parade rest, port, or on-guard positions.
- b. Move your left hand across the body toward the left.
- c. Move your right hand down and toward the left.
- d. Slide your left hand down the baton to the right hand. Your body and baton are now in position to defend with a counterblow.

13. Defend yourself against an overhead stab.

- a. Assume the parade rest, port, or on-guard position.
- b. Step backward with your left foot when the attacker stabs downward.
- c. Slide your left hand down the baton to meet the right, and raise the baton up over your left side and shoulder.
- d. Disarm the attacker by snapping the baton down against his wrist or forearm.
- e. Return your left hand and left foot to their original position in preparation to execute a baton smash.

14. Defend yourself against an upward thrust.

- a. Assume the parade rest, port, or on-guard position.
- b. Hold the baton horizontally, about 6 inches from your lower chest.
- c. Snap both arms straight down and strike the opponent's wrist to cause him to drop his weapon.
- d. Hold the baton with both your hands and immediately bring the baton close to your shoulders and hold it across your chest in preparation to execute the baton smash.

15. Defend yourself against an unarmed attacker.

**Performance Steps**

- a. Slide your left hand towards your right and lift the baton to shoulder level, parallel to the ground.
- b. Move your body slightly to the rear by withdrawing your left foot.
- c. Use your baton to deliver a counterblow to the attackers shoulder or collarbone if he attempts to strike you with a blow.
- d. Deliver a counterblow to the attacker's right forearm if he attempts to strike you with a blow.
- e. Jab the attacker in the groin or stomach with your baton if he attempts to grab you.

**Evaluation Preparation:** Setup: Provide the soldier being evaluated with a riot baton, a flak vest, and a helmet with a face shield.

Brief soldier: Tell each soldier being evaluated that he must perform each step to correctly demonstrate the riot baton grip, the parade rest, port and on-guard positions, the three offensive techniques, and the six defensive techniques as described in performance measures 1 through 14.

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<u><b>GO</b></u>	<u><b>NO GO</b></u>
1. Gripped the riot baton.	_____	_____
2. Assumed the parade rest position.	_____	_____
3. Assumed the port position.	_____	_____
4. Assumed the on-guard position.	_____	_____
5. Ensured that a blow was not directed to one of the five fatal points.	_____	_____
6. Performed the short-thrust offensive technique from the on-guard position.	_____	_____
7. Performed the long-thrust offensive technique from the on-guard position.	_____	_____
8. Performed the butt-stroke offensive technique from the on-guard position.	_____	_____
9. Performed the baton smash offensive technique from the rest, port, or on-guard position.	_____	_____
10. Defended himself against a blow to the head.	_____	_____
11. Defended himself against a backhand blow.	_____	_____
12. Defended himself against a long thrust.	_____	_____
13. Defended himself against an overhead stab.	_____	_____
14. Defended himself against an upward thrust.	_____	_____
15. Defended himself against an unarmed attacker.	_____	_____

**Evaluation Guidance:** Score the soldier GO if all steps are passed (P). Score the soldier NO-GO if any step is failed (F). If the soldier fails any step, show him how to do it correctly.

**References  
Required**

**Related  
FM 19-15**