

# Guidelines for Use of **BARRACUDA**

## Student Lesson Plan

To be completed after viewing the Barracuda User Training Video

Issue No. 3  
July 2010



# Guidelines For Use of BARRACUDA

## Student Lesson Plan

### *Student Lesson:*

Before reading these guidelines, WATCH the Barracuda User Training Video and READ your agency's Pursuit Policy.

### **⚠ WARNING**

You or others can be killed or seriously injured if you don't follow safety messages.

Your safety and the safety of others is very important. We have provided many safety messages in this lesson plan. A safety message alerts you to potential hazards and instructs you on how to avoid or reduce the hazard. Each safety message is preceded by a safety alert symbol ⚠. Please carefully read and follow these important messages.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Barracuda is one of a series of law enforcement tools that have been developed by StopTech, Ltd., to assist law enforcement agencies in stopping and preventing vehicle pursuits. In the course of this lesson, you will be instructed on methods of deployment for Barracuda.

## **II. LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

At the conclusion of this training, each participant should be able to:

1. Describe the basic construction of Barracuda.
2. State, orally or in writing, the recommended surface for successful deployment of Barracuda.
3. State, orally or in writing, the safety and tactical considerations when deciding to deploy Barracuda.
4. State, orally or in writing, the type of vehicles Barracuda should **NOT** be deployed against.
5. State, orally or in writing, the **MAXIMUM** speed at which Barracuda may be deployed against a four (4) wheel passenger style vehicle.



**Barracuda**

# Guidelines For Use of BARRACUDA

## Student Lesson Plan

### *Student Lesson:*

6. State, orally or in writing, the various methods of deployment.
7. Demonstrate the proper method for reloading Barracuda.

### **III. OVERVIEW AND NOMENCLATURE**

Barracuda is 3 feet (91cm) in length and weighs 3 pounds (1.36kg) Barracuda is comprised of the following components and sub-assemblies:

1. Eleven (11) black polypropylene SHROUDS, to allow easy handling and camouflage to the surface.
2. Eleven (11) Teflon® coated hardened steel QUILLS; 3/8 inch (.95cm) in diameter and 2 inches (5.08cm) in length.
3. Eleven (11) glass polypropylene CARTRIDGES, keyed for fail proof installation.
4. Thirty-six (36) inch (91.4cm) ABS plastic BASE.
5. Two (2) rollover END CAPS, facilitate proper deployment.
6. One (1) LOOP connector for attaching to cord reel or lanyard.
7. Two (2) Fastening SCREWS.
8. Accessories:
  - a. Reusable nylon SLEEVE.
  - b. CORD REEL with 80 feet (24m) of 150 pound (68kg) test, woven polyester line.
  - c. LANYARD with 5 foot (1.5m) cord.
9. Two WARNING LABELS appear on each Barracuda. Be sure to READ AND FOLLOW all safety messages on-product and in this lesson! If you haven't seen these warnings before, turn to the last page of this lesson plan to read these important messages.

# Guidelines For Use of BARRACUDA

## Student Lesson Plan

### *Student Lesson:*

#### IV. DEPLOYMENT OF BARRACUDA

- ⚠** ALWAYS follow the policies and procedures of your Agency when deploying Barracuda.

Barracuda training materials are intended to supplement the formal Pursuit Policy of your agency. StopTech, Ltd. recommends that these “Guidelines For Use” be incorporated into your agency’s written Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). However, the training, policies, and procedures of your agency – including when and how to deploy Barracuda – supersede any written or verbal instructions from StopTech, Ltd.

##### A. Before Deploying Barracuda

Before deciding to deploy Barracuda, many factors must be considered. The following are some important safety and tactical issues to think about.

##### Safety Considerations:

The circumstances of each pursuit are very different, but safety is always the most important factor. Suspects can abruptly swerve, stop, or otherwise maneuver their vehicle in an unexpected manner while attempting to avoid Barracuda.

ALWAYS avoid deploying Barracuda in locations or situations that limit the ability of the fleeing suspect to safely maneuver their vehicle. These situations can endanger you, other officers, the public, and the suspect.

The following warnings appear on every Barracuda and should ALWAYS be kept in mind when using Barracuda:



# Guidelines For Use of BARRACUDA

## Student Lesson Plan

### *Student Lesson:*

**▲ CAUTION**

This device contains **SHARP SPIKES!**

- **NEVER** bend this device or push spikes through housing
- **READ** and **FOLLOW** the "Reload Instructions" when replacing spent cartridges
- **DO NOT** attempt to repair or disassemble spike cartridges

Visit [www.stoptech.com](http://www.stoptech.com) or call 1-800-537-0102 for more information.

DO NOT use on standard passenger vehicles traveling at a speed in excess of 25 mph (40 Km/h). **RAPID DEFLATION WILL OCCUR. Under some circumstances tire deflation can increase the possibility that a driver may lose control of the vehicle and crash, resulting in SERIOUS or FATAL INJURIES.**

NEVER deploy Barracuda if you believe the location or circumstances of your pursuit make it unsafe to do so!







In addition to the product label warnings, ALWAYS keep the following important safety considerations in mind when using Barracuda:

- ▲** **LIMIT TRAFFIC** on the roadway. Heavy or congested traffic increases the chance of an accident, resulting in injury or property damage. Whenever possible, limit or isolate traffic from the pursuit or location where Barracuda is being deployed.
- ▲** **RESTRICT PEDESTRIANS.** Bystanders, observers and other pedestrians in the surrounding area are especially vulnerable to injury if they are struck by a vehicle. NEVER deploy Barracuda with pedestrians in the immediate vicinity.
- ▲** NEVER use Barracuda on vehicles with fewer than four wheels. Vehicles such as motorcycles and 3-wheeled ATVs are less stable and persons driving these vehicles are more likely to lose control when their tires deflate.
- ▲** To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injuries resulting from a vehicle crash  
Use **EXTREME CAUTION** when:
  - Pursuits reach **EXCESSIVE SPEEDS**; suspects have an increased risk of losing control of the vehicle if tires are deflated while driving at above normal highway speeds.
  - Fleeing suspects appear to be under the influence of **DRUGS** or **ALCOHOL** or similar impairments which may increase the risk of losing control of the vehicle.

# Guidelines For Use of BARRACUDA

## Student Lesson Plan

### *Student Lesson:*

-  CONSIDER that the driver may attempt to continue operating the target vehicle after deployment of Barracuda. Vehicles with one or more deflated tires may still be operated. In this event, the driver may lose control of the vehicle while attempting to operate it with one or more deflated tires, potentially endangering you, pedestrians and other motorists.
-  ALWAYS move to a SAFE LOCATION after deploying Barracuda. The cord reel has 80 ft. (24m) of cord to allow you to move as far as possible from the road so that you can avoid fleeing or pursuing vehicles.
-  NEVER wrap the cord around your hand or any portion of your body.
-  NEVER rush a deployment. Allow enough time to correctly deploy sleeved Barracuda and retreat to a safe location. Rushed deployments can be dangerous and may fail to deflate the suspect's tires.
-  ALWAYS use caution when removing Barracuda from the road. DO NOT enter the roadway if target and pursuing vehicles have not passed. Handle carefully, Barracuda may break open exposing sharp spikes after being struck by a vehicle.
-  ONLY deploy Barracuda when you have a safe location to observe the target vehicle. You could be struck if suspects unexpectedly swerve, stop, or lose control of their vehicle. You must be able to safely observe the target vehicle and other traffic.

### **Tactical Considerations:**

Before deploying Barracuda, you should consider the following:

1. Barracuda may be deployed on paved surfaces, soft ground, gravel or sand surfaces.
2. Regardless of the method of deployment, consider deploying Barracuda so that a suspect has limited ability to avoid striking the device.
  - Is it possible to deploy in the middle of a bridge?
  - What types of natural barriers or man-made obstacles would prevent suspects from avoiding Barracuda?

# Guidelines For Use of BARRACUDA

## Student Lesson Plan

### *Student Lesson:*

3. If deploying near an intersection, deploy Barracuda just before entering the intersection on the road the target vehicle is traveling. Deploy before reaching any driveways or parking lots near the intersection. Deploying just after an intersection, driveway or parking lot allows the target vehicle to turn and avoid Barracuda.
4. ONLY deploy Barracuda after you have identified a SAFE LOCATION to observe the pursuit.

- What makes a good escape route or safe location?
- What are some safe locations to deploy Barracuda on your current patrol?

**⚠** ALWAYS move to a SAFE LOCATION after deploying Barracuda. The cord reel has 80 ft. (24m) of cord to allow you to move as far as possible from the road so that you can avoid fleeing or pursuing vehicles.

### **B. Deploying Barracuda**

**⚠** ALWAYS advise pursuing units when and where Barracuda is being deployed.

Provide fellow officers with ample warning to avoid striking the device. Barracuda is an equal opportunity tire deflator, it can not distinguish police tires from suspect tires.

There are five (5) suggested methods to deploy one or more Barracudas: **Pre-Loading, Tossing, Placing, Stationary Placement, and Tactical Tossing.**

**Pre-Loading** is the primary recommended method of deployment. Pre-load three (3) Barracudas in the nylon sleeve. With the cord reel attached to the end of the sleeve, place the loaded sleeve in the selected storage area until needed.

1. At the time of need, remove the sleeved Barracuda from the selected storage area, by utilizing the red sleeve handles.
2. Placed the sleeved Barracuda on the ground and unlock the cord reel that is attached to the sleeve
3. Then, while holding the unlocked cord reel, safely move to the opposite side of the road while allowing the cord reel to dispense as you change location.




**Sleeved Barracuda**

# Guidelines For Use of BARRACUDA


## Student Lesson Plan

### *Student Lesson:*

4. Once the sleeved Barracudas are on the opposite side of the road, position yourself in a safe location for the impending deployment.
  - a. While waiting for the target vehicle to arrive, reel in any slack with the cord reel.
  - b. Keep the cord line flat on the road surface, allowing non-target vehicles to drive over the dispensed cord without interfering with the impending deployment of the sleeved Barracudas.
5. Lock the cord reel and hold the cord reel by the handle while awaiting the target vehicle.

 NEVER wrap the cord around your hand or any portion of your body.

6. As the target vehicle approaches, carefully step backward with the cord reel in hand, to pull the sleeved Barracudas into the path of the target vehicle.
  - a. Before pulling the sleeved Barracudas into position, be sure there are no other vehicles between the target vehicle and the point of deployment.
  - b. Do not wait until the last possible moment to deploy the sleeved Barracudas.

 NEVER rush a deployment. Allow enough time to correctly deploy sleeved Barracuda and retreat to a safe location. Rushed deployments can be dangerous and may fail to deflate the suspect's tires.

7. After the sleeved Barracudas have been struck, step backward with the cord reel in hand to remove the sleeved Barracudas from the roadway.

The remaining four (4) methods of deployment, presume Barracuda is stored **WITHOUT** being preloaded in the sleeve.

**Tossing** - Toss one or more Barracuda(s) into the path of the target vehicle.

1. Use this method when time of deployment versus time of impact is imminent.
2. Barracuda should land perpendicular to the target vehicle.
  - a. The rollover end caps will ensure the proper side of Barracuda is facing the road surface.



# Guidelines For Use of BARRACUDA

## Student Lesson Plan

### *Student Lesson:*

3. Use extreme caution with this method of deployment. Keeping in mind that the driver of the target vehicle may take evasive action to avoid striking Barracuda.
4. Use extreme caution when removing Barracuda from the roadway after the target vehicle and pursuing vehicle have passed.

Position yourself in a safe location, away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and the deployed Barracuda.

**Placing** - Place one or more Barracudas end to end in the path of the target vehicle.

1. Use this method when adequate time is available.
2. When using this method it should be determined there are no other vehicles traveling between the target vehicle and the point of impact with Barracuda.
3. Use extreme caution when removing Barracuda from the roadway after the target vehicle and pursuing vehicle have passed.

Position yourself in a safe location, away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and the deployed Barracuda.

**Stationary Placement** - When a target vehicle is stationary, place Barracuda at any of the following locations:

1. Place between the front and rear tires of the stationary target vehicle.
2. Place ahead of front tire or behind rear tire.

Tactical considerations for deploying multiple Barracudas should be considered when the target vehicle may attempt to flee by forward or in reverse.

- In most circumstances the best tactical placement of the Barracuda will be between the front and rear tires.
- Utilization of the lanyard allows the officer to retrieve the device without taking his/her eyes off the occupants of the vehicle.

Position yourself in a safe location, away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and the deployed Barracuda.

# Guidelines For Use of BARRACUDA

## Student Lesson Plan

### *Student Lesson:*

**Tactical Tossing** – The Tactical Tossing method is used when the target vehicle cannot be safely approached.

1. Attach cord reel to loop connector on Barracuda.
2. Unlock cord reel.
3. Toss Barracuda into position between front and rear tires.
4. Lock cord reel.
  - a. If Barracuda has been thrown past the vehicle tire, pull the Barracuda into the correct position.
  - b. If Barracuda lands short of target vehicle, retrieve and redeploy it.
5. **DO NOT** use the cord reel to “reel- in” Barracuda. This action could cause the line to bind inside the cord reel, which could prevent the line from being properly dispensed.

Position yourself in a safe location, away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and the deployed Barracuda.

**⚠** ALWAYS move to a SAFE LOCATION after deploying Barracuda. The cord reel has 80 ft. (24m) of cord to allow you to move as far as possible from the road so that you can avoid fleeing or pursuing vehicles.

### **C. After Deploying Barracuda**

If Barracuda **was struck** by any vehicle:

- refer to reload instructions included with each Barracuda.
- contact StopTech, Ltd. at 513 202 5500 to order a Barracuda Hit Kit if no replacement cartridges are available.

If Barracuda **was not struck** by any vehicle:

- inspect Barracuda for damage.
- return Barracuda to your selected storage area for the next deployment situation.



**Barracuda Reload**

# Guidelines For Use of BARRACUDA

## Student Lesson Plan

### *Student Lesson:*

---

#### **V. CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

With reasonable care, your Barracuda will be ready to aid you in prevention or terminating a pursuit that creates a hazard to you and the public.

Follow these simple guidelines to ensure your Barracuda is ready for use:

- Keep Barracuda separate from other equipment to prevent inadvertent contact that could damage Barracuda or other equipment.
- Store Barracuda in a location that is easily accessible for rapid deployment.

#### **VI. CONCLUSION**

Barracuda provides a viable alternative to extended vehicle pursuits that endanger you, the public, and the fleeing suspect.