

Chinese Anti-Riot Police Baton Retention Methods.

Text by Dennis Rovere

All Photos by Rick Strang

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Weapon of Choice

In China, the first line of defense and often the only weapon carried by Public Security officers is the baton. As well, the baton is considered best choice weapon in anti-riot situations. Some of the factors in its favor are:

- Non-lethal in most circumstances. The exceptions to this would be strikes to the temple/head; base of the skull; or attacks focused on 'vital' points of the body.
- Accidental injury to fellow officers is minimized.
- Good close quarter weapon into use against minimally armed and/or multiple opponents.

Additionally, if an officer is disarmed, the consequences are less severe than say for example, losing a firearm.

The majority of batons carried by Chinese security forces are approximately 26+ inches in length; straight rather than tapered; and non-collapsible. The lack of taper allows the baton to be grasped from either end. The non-collapsible feature adds to its structural stability and allows the officer to easily use two-handed blocking and restraining techniques.

Techniques of Choice

The choice of baton techniques by single officers in one-on-one encounters and groups of officers in crowd control situations are quite similar. In fact, baton 'forms' training emphasizes movements that can be used in all situations. However, the tight formations (and lack of shields) involving officers in mob control confrontations tend to prefer twohanded techniques to single-handed striking methods. These two handed methods include:

- Pushing and 'uprooting' (i.e., diagonal up and down actions that cause lifting and/or compression.)
- Redirection. These may include moving a punch, strike, knife thrusts and long weapon.
- Thrusting. (i.e., Striking with the blunt end of the baton.)
- Restraining. That is, using the baton as a mechanism for restraint.

Holding The Baton: Improper Methods

One of the most common ways of losing your baton (even when employing single hand striking methods) is through improper grip and positioning of the baton. This includes having:

1. The point of the baton facing downward. This restricts your actions to strikes involving wrist movement - as opposed to full arm motions.



2. The baton held under the arm with the tip of the baton facing to the back. This exposes the hand holding the baton to the opponent.



3. The baton held along the outside of the arm. Again, the hand faces the opponent while the baton faces away.



In these instances, the striking action of the baton can easily be stopped by pushing/striking the hand; pushing against the arm or elbow; or by grasping the wrist. If the wrist should be grabbed, there are several methods to both counter the grab and apply a restraint technique. One simple method is illustrated in the following example.

Your opponent grabs the top of your wrist. You counter by rotating your wrist and baton. The baton should be placed at an angle over the opponent's wrist so that the baton presses on his wrist bone. With

your free hand, reach under his arm and grasp the tip of your baton. Drop your weight and force him to the ground. Note: Your wrist rotation can be in either direction – two alternatives are illustrated below.



Most Vulnerable

In addition to improper grip/positioning, the baton is most vulnerable when two-handed techniques are used. Two-handed techniques are performed at close range; with limited motion and well within the critical distance necessary for striking. All of these factors make it easy for an opponent to grasp the baton and wrestle it from the officer. It is under these circumstances that a complete knowledge of baton retention techniques is needed.

General Principles For Baton Retention

Although there are numerous techniques for baton retention, they all utilize one or more of these simple principles:

1. Superiority of leverage.
2. Rotational motion.
3. Redirection of force.
4. Striking and/or kicking your opponent.

Superiority of Leverage

Superiority of leverage can be accomplished in several ways. This includes:

- Keeping your elbows down and close to your body.
- Keeping your hands near your opponent's wrists.
- Keeping your relative hand position to the 'outside' of your opponent's hands. (This not only increases your leverage but also drastically reduces your opponent's.)

Rotational Motion

There are three main types of rotational motion employed in baton retention. In no specific order they are:

- Rotation parallel to the opponent's body.
- Rotation perpendicular (and towards) your opponent's body.
- Rotation (and/or direct force) against your opponent's joints.

Of these three, rotation parallel to the opponent's body requires the greatest skill to accomplish on a consistent basis.

Redirection of Force

Redirection of force is usually coupled with rotation of the baton. (e.g., Perpendicular and towards your opponent's body or; by pushing on the base of the baton and then immediately forcing the tip of the baton against your opponent's chest.)

A particularly dangerous redirection technique involves pushing against your opponent's two-handed grab and the quickly pulling back and down as soon as you feel resistance. This sudden jerking action on your part will cause a whiplash effect to the base of your opponent's neck. The chances of breaking his neck using this technique are quite high!

Striking or Kicking Your Opponent

The strategy for successfully accomplishing a strike or kick involves misdirection or distraction on your part. For example:

1. Your opponent grasps the end of your baton. You 'try' to pull the baton away- causing your opponent to focus on holding it tighter. Immediately, kick him on the side of the knee and follow it up with a palm strike to the inside of his elbow joint.



2. Your opponent uses one hand to grasp the middle of your baton. You respond by grabbing the tip of the baton and begin to rotate it. As your opponent attempts to counter this movement, execute a toe kick to his groin/pubic area.





Restraint

Retention techniques can often be redirected and used as a mechanism of restraint. Restraints are typically applied in three ways:

1. Using the edge of the baton to apply pressure to a bone/nerve - such as the wrist bone.



2. Using the edge of the baton to control or fold a joint-such as the inside of the elbow or back of the fingers.



3. Using the point of the baton in a cavity (e.g., back of the shoulder joint) or control point (e.g., space near the base of the shoulder blade.) In these instances, baton techniques are usually coupled with a *chinna* or locking technique for extra control.

Multiple and Armed

To round out their baton retention training, Public Security officers and antiriot forces often employ "high threat" training scenarios to sharpen their skills. The threats usually involve multiple armed and unarmed assailants - including situations where the knife is around the throat of the officer and the assailant is attempting to disarm. Even under these extreme conditions, the simplicity and versatility of the baton usually prevails - truly demonstrating its value as a first and less lethal line of defense.