

February 12, 1998

**PATROL BUREAU MEMORANDUM NO. 98-2 (Revised)**

**SUBJECT:** Use of Restraint Chair

I. PURPOSE

To provide guidelines and procedures for use of the restraint chair.

II. DEFINITION

The Prostraint restraint chair is a hard plastic chair with webbed restraint straps attached, which offer a safe and humane method of managing a prisoner who has demonstrated behavior that creates a substantial risk of physical harm to themselves, others, or who has shown a propensity to destroy property.

III. POLICY

- A. Prisoners who have demonstrated the above described behavior will be immediately brought to the attention of the on-duty desk sergeant. Upon approval from the on-duty desk sergeant, the prisoner may be placed in the restraint chair.
- B. If the prisoner's behavior demonstrates they are an immediate threat to themselves, other prisoners or department employees, the prisoner will be immediately restrained (i.e. placed in prone position, handcuffed with hands to the rear and leg shackles applied) pending approval to utilize the restraint chair.
- C. Only the on-duty desk sergeant may authorize the removal of a prisoner from the chair. In the event that a prisoner appears to be suffering from some medical stress while in the chair, with approval from the on-duty desk sergeant, the prisoner will be removed from the restraint chair. Necessary medical personnel will then be ordered as needed.

**NOTE:** Non-sworn personnel, excluding DFO, and sworn personnel on limited duty will not assist with the restraint of a belligerent prisoner.

#### IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Prior to utilizing the restraint chair all other prisoners will be locked down.
- B. In order to employ the restraint chair, a minimum three person team will be used. The team would preferably consist of the DFO and two sworn members and should be supervised by the on-duty desk sergeant.
- C. The prisoner will have handcuffs and shackles applied and these will be double-locked to prevent and tightening. The leg irons will be positioned so that the key hole will be pointing toward the front of the chair. The prisoner will be handcuffed with hands in the rear, with the locking mechanism positioned pointing toward the back of the restraint chair.
- D. A Red Man helmet, with face shield, will be used if the prisoner attempts to spit, bite, or head butt team members while they are restraining the prisoner. It may also be used for prisoners who are screaming to such an extent that it creates disruption. After use of the Red Man helmet and face shield, both will be cleaned with warm soap and water, and disinfected with an alcohol wipe.
- E. The three person team will station themselves one behind the chair to control the prisoner's up and down movement, as well as his head, and one member on each side of the chair to control side movements of the prisoner and to apply the lap and arm belts. Those members stationed on the sides shall be cognizant of the prisoner's head movement so as to avoid getting bitten or head butted.
- F. If the prisoner is small in stature the padded insert for the recessed part of the back of the chair will be used to move the prisoner forward and provide for the proper positioning to safely restrain him/her.
- G. Once the prisoner is positioned in the chair, the waist strap will be applied first. By design the chair has low center of gravity, and with the waist strap in place, the prisoner will be unable to eject himself/herself from the chair.
- H. The arm straps will applied next. These are to be applied around the biceps area, rather than across the shoulder, which would provide leverage which could allow the prisoner to overturn the chair. Personnel will see that the prisoner is able to effectively breathe and will not apply arm straps so tightly that the prisoner is unable to breather effectively while in the chair.
- I. The prisoner's legs will then be restrained by use of the velcro leg cuffs, and

then the chair's leg strap will be applied. It may be necessary to wrap the shackles around the support bar that the velcro cuffs are attached to. This would be necessary if the prisoner is able to defeat the cuffs and strap.

- J. The chair will be placed in a location visible by the DFO at all times.
- K. The prisoner will be physically checked every fifteen (15) minutes by the on-duty DFO. A response will be obtained from the prisoner so as to ensure his/her safety and well-being.
- L. The chair may be used to transport an uncooperative prisoner to the hospital, Western Missouri Mental Health Center, or from a division station to Headquarters, or may be used by a safety team.
- M. The chair will be placed in the wagon in such a manner as to maximize the safety of the prisoner and to isolate the subject from other prisoners being transported. Extra caution will be employed by the patrol wagon driver during the transportation of a prisoner confined in the restraint chair.
- N. The restraint chair may be used in a field scenario when approved by an on-scene supervisor.

## V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

- A. Once the prisoner is secured in the chair, immediate arrangements will be made to have the prisoner transported to the Headquarters Detention Unit. Close monitoring of the prisoner will occur until arrival of the patrol wagon. Upon arrival to Headquarters, the prisoner will be released to Detention Unit personnel for further handling.
- B. The transporting officer will be briefed as to the circumstances surrounding the placement of the prisoner in the chair so Detention Unit personnel can be advised of said facts.
- C. The Detention Unit Incident Report Form 5123 P.D. will be utilized to document the use of the restraint chair. The original form will be forwarded to the Headquarters Detention Unit with the prisoner for documentation purposes. A copy of this form will be kept at the division station and filed with the record of arrest forms. The minimal information to be contained in this report is as follows:
  - 1. Name of the prisoner (identifiers, race, sex, DOB).

2. Name of the supervisor authorizing restraint chair use.
3. Names of officers/DFO who placed the prisoner in the restraint chair.
4. The time the prisoner was placed in the chair.
5. A narrative detailing the demonstrated behavior of the prisoner which necessitated the use of the restraint chair.
6. The time removed from the restraint chair or time transported to Headquarters Detention Unit.

VI. TRAINING

- A. All DFOs will receive training in the proper use of and procedures for using the restraint chair. This training will take place during the break-in period and at least once during the calendar year for all DFOs.
- B. All division station supervisors, wagon drivers, and detention unit relief personnel will receive training on the use of the restraint chair.
- C. During this training, the tape "Exercising Restraint" will be shown as part of the instruction. The other component of this training will consist of practical application exercises.
- D. The training will be documented according to standard Department procedure.

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Deputy Chief James P.

Commander  
Patrol Bureau

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