
Technical Procedure for Serial Taser Data Download

1.0 Purpose - The purpose of this procedure is to retrieve the firing data from Serial Tasers that are submitted for analysis. This protocol provides a procedure for downloading this data without making changes to the data on the Taser.

2.0 Scope - This procedure describes the steps to be taken by personnel of the State Crime Laboratory in downloading the firing data from Serial Tasers.

3.0 Definitions

- **M26 dataport download kit** – Kit containing the hardware and software needed to download the firing information from a Serial Taser.

4.0 Equipment, Materials and Reagents

- Forensic Tower
- M26 dataport download kit from Taser International

5.0 Procedure

5.1 Install the software from the M26 dataport download kit on the forensic tower if it is not already installed.

5.2 Verify that the time and time zone information on the forensic tower are correct.

5.3 To begin the acquisition process, the Taser shall have the safety engaged, the batteries shall be in unit, and the data port plug shall be removed.

5.4 Connect one end of the 9-Pin serial cable to the serial port of the forensic tower and the other end to the interface box.

5.5 Connect one end of the interface cable (blue cable) to the interface box and the other end to the Serial Taser data port. The light on the interface box will turn green while the light on the Serial Taser will (depending on the charge in the batteries) blink three times before staying lit or continue to blink.

5.6 Open the Taser interface program and enter the number of the communications port to which the Taser is connected and the password. The password is found on the outside of the diskette in the M26 download kit.

5.7 Download the firing data.

5.8 Save the firing data to a file on the Forensic Tower.

5.9 The following firing information for each discharge will be displayed for the Taser: Line #, date mm/dd/yy, time in military time, and day of the week.

5.10 Standards and Controls - A control disk image with a known hash value is used to ensure the proper functioning of forensic computers used in casework.

5.11 Calibrations - The forensic towers used in casework shall be verified each day that they are used to ensure that the computer hardware and software are functioning properly (see the Computer Performance Verification Procedure).

5.12 Maintenance – N/A

5.13 Sampling - N/A

5.14 Calculations - N/A

5.15 Uncertainty of Measurement – N/A

6.0 Limitations

6.1 The M26 data log shows the trigger pulls in increments of 5 seconds. If the user pulls the trigger once and releases it, the M26 will fire for five seconds and the data log will show one firing. If the user pulls the trigger and holds it for longer than 5 seconds, the unit will continue to fire and the data log will show multiple firings. For example, if the user pulls and holds the trigger longer than 5 seconds but less than 10 seconds, the data log will show two firings. If the user pulls and holds the trigger longer than 10 seconds but less than 15 seconds, the data log will show three firings.

6.2 Unlike the USB Taser, there is no record of time changes stored on the Serial Taser. If the user changes the time on the Serial Taser, the time change will be reflected in the next firing entry, but there is no record stored when the user changes the time.

6.3 During verification testing, when the trigger on the Taser was held for more than 5 seconds, there were intermittent errors in the firing data (time incrementing by 6 minutes on a 10-second trigger pull, a 7-second trigger pull with only one entry instead of two, and an incorrect date on an entry for a 12-second trigger pull).

7.0 Safety

7.1 Serial Tasers are high energy weapons and shall be handled with great care.

7.2 If a live cartridge is attached to the front of the weapon, it has the ability to discharge sharp projectiles. These cartridges shall be removed from weapons submitted for examination.

7.3 A Serial Taser can still deliver an electrical shock with the cartridge removed. Forensic Scientists shall keep the safety engaged whenever possible, keep finger off the trigger unless test firing, and avoid touching the electrodes on the front of the weapon.

8.0 References

- Operational Use of Logging Program V2.0 (found as the readme file on the diskette in the M26 download kit)
- Computer Performance Verification Procedure

9.0 Records - N/A

10.0 Attachments – Attachment A: Taser Examination

Revision History		
Effective Date	Version Number	Reason
09/17/2012	1	Original Document
10/31/2013	2	Added issuing authority to header
01/24/2014	3	Title, 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 5.5, 7.1 and 7.3 - changed M26 to Serial; 6.2 - changed X26 to USB Taser and M26 to Serial Taser

ATTACHMENT A-

Taser Examination

