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CLOVERDALE, IN - The Cloverdale Police Dept. will conduct a public demonstration of its recently purchased Advanced Taser M26es at the Cloverdale town hall at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30.

Chief Don Pearson researched the practicality of these weapons and found them to be both effective and safe.

"It becomes another alternative to the responding officer on a call that is forced to use a non-lethal weapon (batons or impact munitions) when dealing with a suspect," he said.

Assistant Chief/K-9 Handler Charles Hallam was selected to go through the advanced training and become Instructor Certified through Taser International. He recently completed his requirements, which included feeling the consequences of such a weapon when used on a suspect or target.

"When used as trained, the target or suspect will definitely be immobilized," Hallam said. "I was incapacitated and couldn't do anything to resist, which is in the officer's favor. When the impulse was complete, I was fully functional within one minute and it left no permanent damage or injury on me."

The Advanced Taser fires two probes up to 21 feet and when they make contact with the target, the Advanced Taser transmits powerful electrical pulses into the target's body. This Electro-Muscular Disruption (EMD) weapon uses a powerful 18-26 watt electrical signal to completely override the central nervous system and directly control the skeletal muscles.

This EMD effect causes an uncontrollable contraction of the muscle tissue, allowing the M-Series to physically incapacitate a target regardless of pain tolerance or mental focus.

In most all cases, the individual is immobilized in less than half a second. Further studies show that in more than 20 years of field use, Taser International, manufacturer of Advanced Taser M26, reported there has never been a death attributed directly to Taser technology.

The Advanced Taser also uses the same movements and muscle memory as a firearm, making the system extremely instinctive and easy to use for any firearm-qualified officer.

Accordingly, the unit is more accurate and reliable under high-stress environments than other less lethal weapons that require new and unfamiliar motor skills. This allows officers to remain focused on the target or suspect, a key asset in any high-stress situation.

The Advanced Taser M26 is a valuable tool that CPD is proud to add to its equipment and will enable officers to maintain a safe environment for the public. Hallam is the first to be certified in Putnam County as an instructor of the Advanced Taser M26 and will be training/qualifying remaining CPD officers later this month.