

# NEWS RELEASE

## ★ Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department ★

(323) 526-5541

Website: [www.lasd.org](http://www.lasd.org)

### A D V I S O R Y

#### SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT DEPLOYS SHOCKING NEW DEVICE

WHO: ASSISTANT SHERIFF LARRY WALDIE

WHAT: ASSISTANT SHERIFF WALDIE WILL ANNOUNCE THE DEPLOYMENT OF 290 M-26 ADVANCED TASERS. THIS TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED, LESS LETHAL, CONDUCTED ENERGY DEVICE HAS BEEN DEPLOYED TO DEPUTIES AT ALL SHERIFF'S STATIONS AND CUSTODY FACILITIES. THE TASER IS DESIGNED TO TRANSMIT ELECTRIC PULSES WHICH DISRUPT THE BODY'S CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM CAUSING MUSCLES TO CONTRACT. DEPUTIES TRAINED IN THE USE OF THIS DEVICE WILL HAVE IT AVAILABLE AT A MOMENTS NOTICE TO AID IN HANDLING AND APPREHENDING COMBATIVE HIGH RISK SUSPECTS. THE M-26 TASER IS ALSO EQUIPPED WITH LASER SIGHTING AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY THAT TRACKS AND RECORDS USAGE DATA.

WHEN: THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2001, AT 10:00 A.M.

WHERE: SHERMAN BLOCK SHERIFF'S HEADQUARTERS BUILDING  
4700 RAMONA BOULEVARD  
MONTEREY PARK, CALIFORNIA  
(THOMAS GUIDE PAGE 635, F-2)



*M-26 ADVANCED TASER*

**\*\*NOTE\*\*:** SHERIFF'S LIEUTENANT MIKE MC DERMOTT HAS VOLUNTEERED TO BE SHOCKED BY THE DEVICE IN A LIVE DEMONSTRATION AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE. MEDIA REPORTERS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO FIRE THE M-26 ADVANCED TASER AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT SHERIFF'S HEADQUARTER'S BUREAU AT  
(323) 526-5541.

SHB-86M-01

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MAY 22, 2001

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### SHOCKING SHERIFF'S EVENT CAUGHT ON TAPE

The deputy winced in pain and was unable to control his muscles after being shot. Fortunately, it was all part of a calculated demonstration at a press conference announcing the county-wide deployment of the Advanced Taser conducted energy device. Camera crews recorded the event and the deputy who had volunteered to be shot by the taser was not injured by the less-lethal device.

As part of a continued commitment to protect the residents of Los Angeles County, Assistant Sheriff Larry Waldie, on behalf of Sheriff Lee Baca, announced the deployment of more than 290 of these conducted energy devices. The M-26 Advanced Taser is designed to transmit electric pulses which temporarily disrupt the body's central nervous system. The device will aid deputies in handling and apprehending assaultive high-risk suspects. The taser has been deployed at all Sheriff's Stations and Custody Facilities and can now be carried by trained deputies. In the past, tasers were only carried by supervisors.

The new design of this device has many improvements over the original energy technology introduced in the early 1980's. The device is now shaped like a handgun. This physical redesign takes advantage of muscle memory functions of traditional handgun training. Its built-in laser sight and a 21 foot range will improve accuracy and increase the number of situations where it can be safely used. The increased power to 26 watts will cause electro-muscular disruption. It is designed well within electrical safety standards and has advanced weapon tracking technologies that record the time and date of each firing. Most importantly, with over 20 years of field use, there has never been a death attributed directly to taser technology, making it an effective less-lethal device. "Any effective less-lethal tool we can give our deputies reduces the possibility of a deadly confrontation," said Assistant Sheriff Waldie.

SHB-92A-01

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May 25, 2001

Photographs available.