Los Angeles Police Department

M26 ADVANCED TASER Product Evaluation and Field Test

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Tactics Training Unit
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Tactics Training Unit

- 16 Full Time Sworn Officers
- 2 Full Time Sworn Supervisors
- Responsible for training in-service and recruit officers in tactics including ambush attacks, vehicle pullovers, crimes in progress, patrol techniques, the use of deadly force, TASER and shooting on the move.

Los Angeles Police Department

- Approximately 8,400 sworn personnel
- 3.8 million citizens living in Los Angeles
- 18 Geographical Patrol Divisions

L.A.P.D. and TASER History

- First began deploying TASERs in 1980
- First major department nationwide to deploy the original TASER with the line officer as opposed to the supervisor.
- Approximately 322 TASERs department wide prior to product evaluation.
- Last recent major purchase of TASERs was in 1994

Reason for Product Evaluation

- Cost of repairs
- Effectiveness of current TASER

Effectiveness of original LAPD TASER prior to Product Evaluation

- January 1997 through March 2000
  - 44 deployments with 29 effective incidents (66% effective)
  - 0 injuries to suspects (other than puncture wounds) when original TASER was effective
  - 0 injuries to officers when TASER was effective
  - Secondary injuries: 1 suspect; 1 officer
  - 27% of officers and 40% of suspects injured when TASER was ineffective and officers resorted to other types of force

January 1997 through December 2001

- 72 deployments with 41 effective incidents (59% effective)
- 0 injuries to officers or suspects (other than puncture wounds) when the TASER was effective
- 39% of officers and 58% of suspects injured when the original TASER was ineffective and officers resorted to other U.O.F. options

Narcotics and Mental Illness

- 90% effective on suspect's under the influence of alcohol
- 67% effective on suspect's under the influence of PCP
- 40% effective on suspect's under the influence of other narcotics
- 71% effective on 5150 suspects
- 67% effective on suspects under the influence of any combination of the above

TASER Ineffectiveness prior to M26 ADVANCED TASER

- 10 incidents one or both probes missed the suspect or did not stick to suspect
- 9 incidents due to narcotics
- 6 incidents the suspect removed the probes.
- 2 incidents due to suspect's clothing
- 1 incident, the officer stopped the flow of energy to the suspect prematurely
- 3 incidents the ineffectiveness was unknown

Noteworthy Original TASER Deployments

- Central Patrol Incident
- Harbor Patrol Incident
- S.W.A.T. Incident

Goal of Product Evaluation

- Increase standoff distance between officer and suspect while maintaining accuracy
- Reduce injuries to officers and suspects involved in use of force incidents therefore reducing city liability
  - 2000 1746 U.O.F incidents resulted 33% officers and 57% of suspects being injured

L.A.P.D. Policy

- TASERs can be deployed on aggressive/ combative suspects when the following condition exists;
  - Deadly force does not appear to be justifiable and/or necessary; and
  - Attempts to subdue the suspect with other less lethal tactics have been or will likely be ineffective in the situation; and
  - There is a reasonable expectation that it will be unsafe for officers to approach within contact range of the suspect

Testing

- In-House Testing
  - Accuracy
  - Strength
  - Laser sight/Ease of use
- Outside Testing
  - Scientific Investigation Division
  - Los Angeles County Coroners Office
  - Outside Departments
- Field Test

M26 Accuracy

	10’	15’	20’
Spread	16”	24 ½”	31”
Drop	1 ½”	3 ½”	9”
Effectiveness	100%	100%	95%

Competitor Results
Concerns Noted

- Overall effectiveness beyond 15’
- 5 neck shots, 3 head shots, and several near misses to head
- Numerous cartridges ejected from firing bay during deployment
- Numerous probes bouncing off the target
- Several cartridges remained jammed in firing bay after deployment

Strength Testing

- Method
- Test Participants
- Results
  - Competitor was 1/2 the strength of M26
  - Several participants able to walk through effects of competitor but were immediately controlled with the M26

Laser Sight/Ease of Use

- Method
- Test Participants
- Test
  - 12’ deployment inside
  - 12’ deployment outside with laser sights
  - 12’ deployment outside without laser sights
- Results

M26 Results

- 12’ deployment inside
  - 100% deployments
  - All completed within 3 seconds
- 12’ deployment outside with laser sight
  - 100% deployments
  - All completed within 3 seconds
  - All found laser dot
- 12’ deployment outside w/o laser sight
  - 100% deployments
  - All completed within 3 seconds
  - Better accuracy without laser sights

Outside Testing

- Scientific Investigation Division
- Coroner
- Outside Departments
  - Mailed surveys
  - Phone surveys

M26 Field Test

- Training
- Units/Divisions Assigned
- Deployment
- Results

M26 Results

- 19 reported uses with 15 effective deployments (79%). Overall effectiveness was 94% when officer error is removed
- Breakdown
  - 11 deployment of probes with 8 incidents effective (73%)
  - 7 of 7 incidents laser sight gained compliance (100%)
  - 1 “Touch Stun” incident reported with an unsuccessful use

Ineffective Incidents

- Probes Deployed
  - 2 due to misses
  - 1 incident suspect pulled probes out
  - Without including missed probes, the effectiveness improves to 89% compared to Department's original TASER which was 66%. (Not including missed probes)
- "Touch Stun" Deployment
  - Location of application and duration

Narcotics and Mental Illness

- In 6 deployments, the suspect was 5150. Their were 5 successful deployments (83%). Original TASER was 71% effective with 5150 suspects.
- 2 deployments involved suspects under the influence of narcotics and 5150. The M26 was successful in both incidents compared to the original TASER which was 67% effective.

Deployments of Interest

- Hollywood Incident
- S.W.A.T. Incidents
- 77th Incident
- Metro Jail Incident

M26 vs. Original TASER

- 2001 Statistics (Probes deployed only)
  - Original TASER
    - 16 deployments with 7 effective incidents (44%)
  - M26 ADVANCED TASER
    - 11 deployments with 8 effective incidents (73%)

Lessons Learned

- Rechargeable vs. alkaline batteries
- Holsters
- Training issues
  - Touch stun
  - Close quarter deployments
  - “Going hands-on”
  - Effectiveness vs. ineffectiveness

L.A.P.D. Deployment

- Equipment Purchased
- Recruit Training
- Location deployed
- Current Statistics

- Written documents such as lesson plans, training bulletins, etc. or the training video produced by the L.A.P.D. can be obtained by writing your request on department letterhead to:

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