



Firearms Training Officer Robert Mentink



The 2007 firearms training program saw the continued development of the rifle program, as well as the implementation of outside individual officer improvement training. Many of the officers attended an individual development program in firearms at Camp Grayling. This training focused on techniques and skill improvement. All of the officers also attended Active Shooter training, sponsored by the Ingham County Sheriff's Office, at the old White Pine Academy Building in Leslie, Michigan. Simmunitions—live fire-marking rounds—had been integrated into both of the specialized training sessions. This provided the officers with a real world situation response to critical situations training. The Department has also obtained two handguns to be dedicated as simmunition training weapons for future training. Officers now train four times annually in proficiency, basic skill, and decision making. Two of the sessions are outside training; one, an indoor low-light training; and the fourth, a simmunitions, live fire situational training.





TASER 2007

Officer Richard Girard

The Taser has become one of the most amazing tools implemented into law enforcement in recent years. The Taser is a safe and effective way to subdue violent subjects without causing permanent injuries to the offender or to the officer. The Taser deploys 2 probes out to a maximum of 25 feet and gives a 50,000-volt shock for a full 5 seconds. The “shock” overrides the central nervous system, causing immediate incapacitation of the offender.

The Mason Police Department has utilized the Taser, “Electro Muscular Disruption Device” or EMD since 2003. The Department has 4 M26 Tasers, and each officer is trained yearly in the use of the Taser. Officers receive 6 hours of training each year. They must pass a written test, show knowledge in the way the Taser operates, and are required to deploy two air cartridges during the training process. I am required to recertify my instructor license every two years.

I have been assisting the Ingham County Sheriff’s Office for the past two years in training their officers. Sharing resources and personnel not only builds strong working relationships, but it also allows smaller departments like ours to get valuable training that we would not otherwise be able to afford. We help them by supplying me to assist in training, and in return, our officers are invited to attend other types of in-service training at little or no cost.

Although officers at the Mason Police Department have only deployed the Taser twice since it was implemented, it has been used many times as a deterrent. Officers have found that when the decision has been made to administer the Taser, merely displaying the device, or using the laser, has made potentially-violent offenders reconsider and comply with the officers’ directions.

As with any tool used in law enforcement, the Taser does not replace anything we currently have. The Taser is another tool now available to law enforcement to assist us in doing our jobs as safely and affectively as possible.

PPCT Defensive Tactics

Officer Matt Thorne

This year was the first in several years the Department has held in-service defensive tactics training. In prior years, our officers attended training through other area departments. In January, 2006, I attended Pressure Point Control Tactics (PPCT) Instructor Training, sponsored by the Lansing Police Department. This was an intense 40-hour block of instruction, with extra hours for homework and readings. I was put through many practical exercise scenarios and hours of lecture which covered application of force, and medical and legal support for the principals of PPCT. Instruction concluded with a final examination of practical skills and knowledge.

The Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards has adopted an “Officer-Subject Control Continuum,” as a guide for escalation and de-escalation of use of force and subject control. PPCT complies with this recommended standard in its application of appropriate subject control techniques.

PPCT is supported by medical and legal review, having stood up to the challenge of courtroom scrutiny as a viable non-lethal form of subject control and officer use of force. All Mason Police officers

now receive a mandatory block of annual in-service training in PPCT, as they do for Tasers and firearms.

One component of PPCT is Officer Retention of Weapons. During a 2006 incident in Mason, a suspect attempted to relieve an officer of his handgun by grabbing it from the officer’s holster. The officer reacted instinctively, retained his weapon, and applied appropriate subject control and restraint techniques to arrest his assailant. This was due to PPCT training the officer received in his MCOLES Academy.

I look forward to my continued role as a PPCT Trainer for the Mason Police Department—an organization that believes in preparation and safety in confronting high-risk situations.

