



Newport News Sheriff's Office

224 26th Street; Newport News, VA 23607 • 757.926.8535 • fax: 757.926.8429



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact:

Kathleen Carey, PIO
Newport News Sheriff's Office
Office: 757.926.8747
Cell: 757.813.6139
E-mail: kcarey@nngov.com

FOR RELEASE: **Immediate**

DATE: April 4, 2012

Newport News Sheriff's Office deputies being trained on the use of TASER

NNSO the first agency in Virginia to deploy newest TASER - X2 ECD

The Newport News Sheriff's Office is the first law enforcement agency in the Commonwealth of Virginia to purchase the latest electronic control device, or ECD, from TASER International, Inc. The X2 model was selected for its enhanced safety features.

Each device is equipped with a high definition camera activated when the TASER is pulled from the holster. It begins recording prior to the shot allowing for review of the suspect's action before, during, and after the TASER was fired. The camera is for the protection of the deputy, the department and the public. Additionally, the X2 model has two cartridges allowing for immediate re-fire in case the target was missed during the initial deployment of the device.

Now that the Newport News Sheriff's Office has received shipment of the TASER X2, its personnel is undergoing training on its use. There are two training sessions scheduled for April: April 5 and April 6.

ECD technology provides another layer to the use of force continuum. This intermediate level of force is proven to reduce injuries to the suspect and to the officer if used properly. Not only do TASERS provide the least ratio of injuries as compared to other levels of force (bare or open hands techniques, OC spray, or batons), they are a visual deterrent. Just the threat of the TASER will stop a lot of actions.

Any media wishing to cover the training should contact the Public Information Office to make arrangements.

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For more information, contact Lt. Kathleen Carey at 757-926-8747 or 757-813-6139.