

JUN 13, 2001



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N5982

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Air Taser stops man

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Safford police officers subdued a man with a knife without the use of deadly force to end a chase and confrontation on May 28.

It was the second time in the past few months they were able to arrest a suspect threatening officers or a victim with a weapon without the use of guns.

Safford Police Officer Shawn Dolan was patrolling on Eighth Street near Fifth Avenue about 12:30 a.m. when he saw a vehicle run a stop sign and began pursuing the vehicle, said Lt. John Griffin.

Dolan pulled the vehicle over at the intersection of Seventh Street and Fifth Avenue. The male driver, the only one in the vehicle, got out of the car and told the officer he was lost and did not see the stop sign. The driver could not produce an ID and gave the officer a name that turned up with no record on the computer check for a drivers license.

Dolan was joined by Safford Officer Wendell Norton and they received consent to search the vehicle. The officers found drug

paraphernalia and a substance believed to be methamphetamine. Dolan told the man he was under arrest and started to search him. The man told the officer he was carrying a gun and they found a 9mm pistol.

The officer went to handcuff the man, the suspect pushed the officer away and took off. The officers chased the man and were able to corner him about a block away.

The man pulled out a pocket knife with a three-inch blade and started waving it in front of him and walking back and forth in front of the two officers. According to the police report he told the officers: "I am not going to Jail." The officers, with guns drawn, told the man several times to drop the knife and surrender.

While the confrontation continued, Safford Officer Norton retrieved a special non-lethal weapon, an Air Taser.

Norton "shot" the man with the Air Taser. The gun-like weapon shoots a prong into the clothing and shocks the person. The first shock knocked the suspect to the ground.