

ADVANTAGES OF TASER TECHNOLOGY:

“The advantages to TASER® technology are dramatic reductions in injuries to both suspects and law enforcement officers. Nationwide with over 11,000 law enforcement agencies deploying TASER devices, a law enforcement revolution has occurred in which officers can temporarily incapacitate subjects from zero to 35 feet away. No other use of force tool has undergone as extensive international scientific testing and scrutiny as TASER technology. Although, no use of force device is risk free, medical experts and recent independent comprehensive reports from the governments of Canada, United Kingdom and the U.S. have concluded that TASER systems are among the safer use of force alternatives to subdue violent individuals who could harm law enforcement officers, innocent citizens or themselves.

The advantage is that TASER technology can truly immobilize a suspect who can overcome pain, might be on dangerous drugs like cocaine or methamphetamine or even emotionally disturbed, whereas other non-lethal tools rely upon pain compliance. The TASER system doesn't use pain compliance but immediately stops any coordinated action by the subject only while the TASER system's current is flowing. Recovery is instantaneous so the TASER system only provides a window of opportunity to temporarily stop someone's dangerous actions.”

“When used properly, medical and law enforcement experts have concluded that TASER technology is among the most effective use-of-force interventions available to law enforcement officers to halt violent situations that pose a safety risk to an officer, suspect or innocent citizens. There have been thousands of documented cases in which multiple applications from the TASER system were not only appropriate but were absolutely critical to a safe outcome of the situation. TASER technology isn't a magic bullet but its 94% actual field rates are impressive and unmatched by any other law enforcement non-lethal weapon. Our technology continues to prevent numerous injuries and save lives every day at over 11,000 law enforcement agencies worldwide deploying TASER brand devices.”

MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS OF TASER DEVICES:

“On June 28, 2006 TASER International issued a training bulletin reminding officers to only use the necessary amount of force, in this case exposure from the TASER system, to safely gain compliance of a subject. There have been thousands of documented cases in which multiple applications from the TASER system were not only appropriate but were absolutely critical to a safe outcome of the situation.

“The warning never indicated that our technology has caused death. The media has somehow managed to misrepresent this common-sense guideline into sensational and misleading headlines that could have serious adverse effects on the safety of law enforcement officers and citizens.”

“Statistics from agency after agency show beyond a shadow of a doubt that an officer armed with a TASER device is far less likely to injure or be injured than one without this life-saving tool.”

TASER INTERNATIONAL'S POSITION ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL:

“In custody deaths are a tragic aspect of law enforcement and have been occurring long before TASER International came to market. Nearly ten years ago, the public, as well as police critics, were debating a nearly identical argument concerning in custody deaths and pepper sprays. Before that, the same issues were raised with the so called 'choke-hold' as well as positional asphyxia.”

“Amnesty International's 'studies' on TASER devices tend to be nothing more than the clipping of newspaper articles. Even after an autopsy determines the death was caused by a lethal dose of illegal drugs or a physical abnormality, Amnesty refused to subtract that incident from its total. This hardly makes Amnesty International's analysis scientific or credible.” (BACKGROUND: Reporters need to what

specifically this so-called "documentation" is that Amnesty International claims to have other than headline clippings as opposed to medical examiner's autopsies.)

"We agree with Amnesty International that law enforcement should follow the U.N. code of conduct, which recommends police use the least amount of force possible in resolving a conflict. We further agree with Amnesty that law enforcement experts should be the ones to develop these use-of-force guidelines that determine where the TASER technology best fits in a local use of force continuum. While Amnesty International has recommended that TASER devices be used only as an alternative to deadly force, field data has time and again overwhelmingly demonstrated that placing TASER systems lower in the use of force continuum often prevents many incidents from escalating to a situation where deadly force is necessary. Furthermore, TASER International has taken it upon itself to implement numerous measures to ensure that its weapon system is among the safest and most accountable, use-of-force alternatives in the world. We believe in the life saving value of TASER technology and the tremendous number of suspect and officer injuries it has prevented."

"The truth of the matter is that America has a drug problem which claims an average of over 20,000 deaths annually. Many overdoses don't occur quietly especially with methamphetamines or cocaine. When this occurs, law enforcement is the first responder to the erratic and wild behavior of an individual threatening harm to himself or worse to someone else. The use of TASER systems often allows law enforcement to bring these individuals into custody so they can get the medical attention that they need."

TASER TECHNOLOGY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTINGS:

"Many agencies have experienced dramatic reductions, 50 to 80 percent, in officer injuries when TASER systems are deployed on the belts of every patrol officers. These same agencies report a drop in suspect injuries of 20 to 67 percent. Many of these law enforcement agencies also have experienced tremendous drops in officer involved shootings such as the Phoenix Police Department's 54 percent drop in officer involved shootings in the first year that all patrol officers fielded TASER systems. The answer is in the actual field statistics. The proof is in the numbers."

What is TASER International's stance regarding the Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice research project titled "Deaths Following Electro-Muscular Disruption?"

"In custody deaths are a tragic aspect of law enforcement and have been occurring as long as police have been enforcing the law. The more we can understand and research the circumstances leading to in custody deaths, the more opportunity law enforcement will have to develop tactics and procedures that may help prevent these unfortunate incidents in the future."

"Given that the NIJ conducted a similar study on pepper spray which effectively ended the debate regarding its safety, we are hopeful this study will lead to the same outcome regarding electro-muscular disruption devices."

TASER DEVICE USAGE AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

"TASER International has taken it upon itself to implement numerous measures to ensure that its weapon system is among the safest and most accountable, use-of-force alternatives in the world. We have added another layer of accountability with our new TASER CAM system which provides an audio/visual MPEG 4 video of any activation. Just as car cameras were implemented in squad cars in response to racial profiling and to monitor a suspect's behavior, the TASER CAM captures the event on video when the officer is out of range of the car cameras."

"What's truly compelling is that according to an International Association of Chiefs of Police study called Complaints Concerning Police Practices, the study found the significant impact that the in-car cameras have on improving the officers' ability to respond to complaints regarding professionalism and courtesy. Most of the officers in this study reported that the camera had ultimately cleared them of accusations of

wrongdoing; very few reported that the camera sustained a complaint filed against them. The statistical data indicates that 96.2 percent of the time, the recording of the event exonerated the officer of the allegation or complaint. Complaints were sustained by video evidence 3.8 percent of the time.”

“TASER International continually remains on the cutting edge with effectiveness, accountability and safety.”