

8. February 18, 2007 from William Blair, Chief of Police
Re: 2006 Annual Report: Use of Tasers

February 18, 2007

To: Chair and Members
Toronto Police Services Board

From: William Blair
Chief of Police

Subject: ANNUAL REPORT ON THE USE OF TASERS - 2006

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board receive the following report.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendations contained within this report.

Background:

At its meeting of March 8, 2005, the Board directed the Chief of Police to provide an annual report to the Board on the use of TASERS within the Toronto Police Service (Min. No. P74/05 refers). The following information is provided in response to the request:

- Officer Training
- Incidents of TASER Deployment
- Injuries
- Deaths
- Civil Action
- Location of TASER incidents
- Subject's condition during TASER incidents
- TASER effectiveness

The Toronto Police Service (Service) deploys 22 M26 Advanced TASERS and 66 X26 TASERS. The 22 M26 Advanced TASERS are assigned to the Emergency Task Force (ETF), 3 X26 TASERS are assigned to the Public Safety Unit (PSU) and 63 X26 TASERS are assigned to front-line supervisors (FLS).

Purpose:

This report will provide a review of TASER use by members of the Service for the period of January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2006.

Discussion:

On January 1, 2006, there were no TASERS deployed by any divisional front-line supervisors. Use of the TASER by the Service at this time was limited to the ETF and the PSU.

As of March 30, 2006, the Service commenced the TASER pilot project in Divisions 31, 42 and 52. This pilot project was directed at use by front-line uniform supervisors. The pilot project was successful demonstrating that the Service had in place clear policy and procedure, comprehensive training and a firm reporting structure. At the conclusion of the TASER pilot project, approval was granted for expansion to all front-line supervisors. (Min. No. P281/06 refers). The Service is currently in the process of training the supervisors prior to issuance.

Officer Training:

All TASER training is conducted by a certified instructor on the specific device used and approved by the Service. For initial training, approved Service members receive a *minimum of eight (8) hours of training*, which includes theoretical components, practical scenarios, as well as a practical and written examination. All training is conducted in accordance with the guidelines established by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (the Ministry). Re-certification training takes place at least once every 12 months, in accordance with the Ministry guidelines and Ontario Regulation 926 of the Police Services Act.

Incidents of TASER Deployment:

The following information has been extracted from the Police Services Act - Use of Force Report (Form 1), the Toronto Police Service Use of Force Report (TPS 911), and the Toronto Police Service TASER Deployment Report (TPS 584). In 2006, the TASER was used 174 times during 156 incidents within the defined categories of TASER deployment. Some incidents required more than 1 TASER to be used during a single deployment.

(1) Demonstrated Force Presence: A spark is demonstrated or the laser sighting system is activated. This illustration of the TASER's capability is utilized in order to gain compliance of the subject. At no time does the TASER and/or its darts make contact with the subject.

The TASER was deployed in demonstrated force presence in 69 incidents for operational calls. This total accounts for 44% of the total TASER usage.

(2) Drive Stun Mode: The electrodes on the TASER are touched to the subject's body transmitting electrical energy.

The TASER was deployed in the drive stun mode in 29 incidents for operational calls. This total accounts for 19% of the total TASER usage.

(3) *Full Deployment: Darts are fired at a subject.*

The TASER was fully deployed in 58 incidents for operational calls. This total accounts for 37% of the total TASER usage.

The relative percentages mentioned for each type of deployment are appended to this report (see Appendix A). Each incident is further itemized in the appended chart (see Appendix B).

Injuries:

In 2006, there were *no injuries* sustained as a result of TASER deployment by members of the Service. Note: the TASER, when deployed in the “drive stun” mode, may leave signature marks on the skin. When the TASER is deployed in the “full deployment” mode the subject is likely to receive minor skin punctures. As each of these injuries is anticipated with the deployment of the TASER, they are not included under the classification of “injury” for the purposes of this report.

Deaths:

In 2006, there were no deaths attributed to the deployment of the TASER by members of the Service.

Civil Action:

The Service’s Legal Services Unit has advised that there were no statements of claim issued and served during 2006.

Location of TASER Incidents:

The following table indicates the total TASER usage in 2006. These totals have been formatted in a graph form and appended to this report (see Appendix C).

Division	# of incidents
11	2
12	3
13	3
14	6
22	8
23	7
31	11
32	3
33	5
41	5
42	23
43	7
51	4
52	43

53	6
54	6
55	12
Outside Toronto	2
TOTAL	156

Subject Condition During TASER Incidents:

There has been much discussion regarding the issue of TASER use on emotionally disturbed subjects (EDPs). The following statistics report the condition of subjects involved in TASER incidents. The relative percentage of each situation is appended to this report (see Appendix D).

Situation	Number of Subjects
Subject perceived to be in crisis	97
Subject perceived to have a mental disorder	50
Undetermined	3
Animal	3
Total subjects involved	153

TASER Effectiveness:

The TASER is reported as having successfully de-escalated 147 or 94% of the total incidents in 2006, while 9 or 6% of the total incidents required another force option to de-escalate the incident (see Appendix E). The incidents where the TASER was ineffective can be attributed to shot placement or poor conduction.

Conclusion:

The TASER has been proven to be an effective intermediate force option for front-line policing in the de-escalation of violent incidents and is being used across the city of Toronto.

Deputy Chief Keith Forde, Human Resources Command, will be in attendance to respond to any questions that the Board may have regarding this report.

Respectfully submitted,

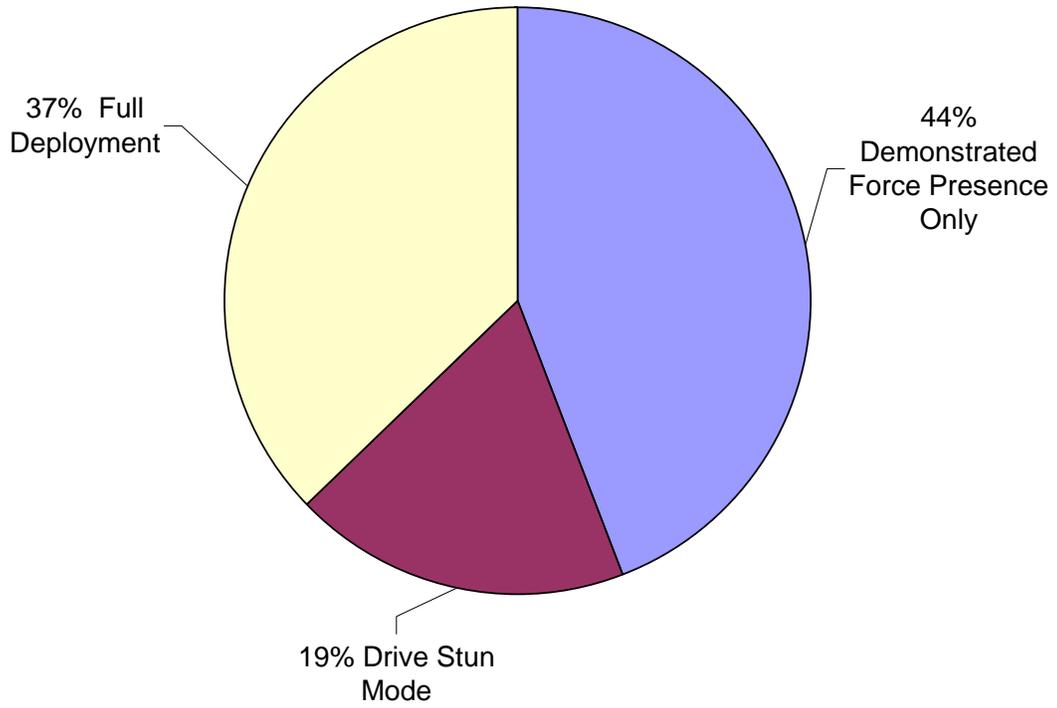
William Blair
Chief of Police

WB/gt

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APPENDIX 'A'

TASER Force Options Utilized



APPENDIX 'B'

TPS TASER Deployment 2006

#	Division	Incident	Deployed by	Reason	Type of Deployment
1	11	Violent Prisoner	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
2	11	Cell Extraction	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
3	12	Weapons Call	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
4	12	Search Warrant	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
5	12	EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
6	13	Assault	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
7	13	Violent Uncooperative Prisoner	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
8	13	EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
9	14	EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
10	14	Violent Prisoner	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
11	14	EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
12	14	Search Warrant	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
13	14	Cell Extraction	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
14	14	Violent Prisoner	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
15	22	Violent EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
16	22	Weapons Call	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
17	22	Subject wanted attempt murder	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
18	22	Weapons Call	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
19	22	Weapons Call	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Drive Stun
20	22	Cell Extraction - EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
21	22	Search Warrant	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
22	22	Intoxicated Male	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
23	23	Violent Prisoner	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
24	23	EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
25	23	Search Warrant	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
26	23	Weapons Call	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
27	23	Robbery - Firearms Used	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Drive Stun
28	23	Search Warrant	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
29	23	Domestic Disturbance	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
30	31	Search Warrant	ETF	Assaultive behaviour	Full
31	31	Weapons Call	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
32	31	Search Warrant	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
33	31	Weapons Call	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Drive Stun
34	31	Weapons Call	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
35	31	Weapons Call	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
36	31	Weapons Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
37	31	Weapons Call	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence

38	31	Injured Animal Complaint	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
39	31	Unknown Trouble Call	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
40	31	Assault Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
41	32	Threaten Suicide Call	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
42	32	Unknown Trouble Call	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
43	32	EDP	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Drive Stun
44	33	Unknown Trouble Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
45	33	Weapons Call	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
46	33	Search Warrant	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
47	33	Search Warrant	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
48	33	Weapons Call	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
49	41	Weapons Call - EDP	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
50	41	Domestic Disturbance	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
51	41	Armed Subject - barricaded	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
52	41	EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
53	41	Violent Prisoner	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
54	42	Weapons Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
55	42	Assault Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
56	42	Break and Enter Call	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Drive Stun
57	42	EDP	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
58	42	Domestic Disturbance	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
59	42	Armed Robbery	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
60	42	EDP	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
61	42	EDP	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
62	42	EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
63	42	EDP	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
64	42	Assault Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
65	42	EDP	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
66	42	Assault	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
67	42	Robbery - Knife Used	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
68	42	Violent EDP	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
69	42	Weapons Call	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
70	42	Partially Barricaded EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
71	42	Barricaded EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
72	42	Stolen Vehicle	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
73	42	Weapons Call	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
74	42	Assault Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
75	42	Assault Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
76	42	Weapons Call - EDP	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Drive Stun
77	43	EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
78	43	Obstruct Police	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
79	43	Weapons Call	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
80	43	Violent Prisoner	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
81	43	Pit bull Dog Attacking Police	ETF	Bring Dog Under Control – Protect Officers	Full

82	43	Domestic Disturbance - EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
83	43	Search Warrant	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
84	51	Violent Prisoner	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
85	51	Violent Prisoner	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
86	51	Search Warrant	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
87	51	Violent Prisoner	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
88	52	Weapons Call	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
89	52	Cause Disturbance	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
90	52	Demonstration-Obstruct Police	FLS	15 Subjects Interfering With Lawful Arrest	Presence
91	52	Threaten Suicide	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
92	52	Intoxicated Male	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
93	52	Obstruct and Assault Police	FLS	Resist Arrest – Assaultive Behaviour	Full
94	52	Assault	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
95	52	Naked EDP Walking Around	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
96	52	Hostage Situation	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
97	52	Obstruct and Assault Police	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
98	52	Violent EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
99	52	Drug Investigation	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
100	52	Assault	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
101	52	Large Fight Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
102	52	Drunk and Disorderly	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
103	52	Assault Police Officer	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
104	52	Assault	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
105	52	Assault Police Officers	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
106	52	Semi-naked EDP	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
107	52	Violent Prisoner	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
108	52	Assault	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
109	52	Assault Police	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
110	52	Drug Investigation	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Drive Stun
111	52	Large Fight Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
112	52	Violent - Intoxicated Person	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive stun
113	52	Fight Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
114	52	Fight Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
115	52	Fight Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
116	52	Fight Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
117	52	Subject in alcohol + drug crisis	ETF	Attempting Suicide	Full
118	52	Homicide	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
119	52	Fight Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
120	52	Assault Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
121	52	Obstruct Police	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour- Large Crowd Advancing	Presence
122	52	Assault	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
123	52	Obstruct Police	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour-	Presence

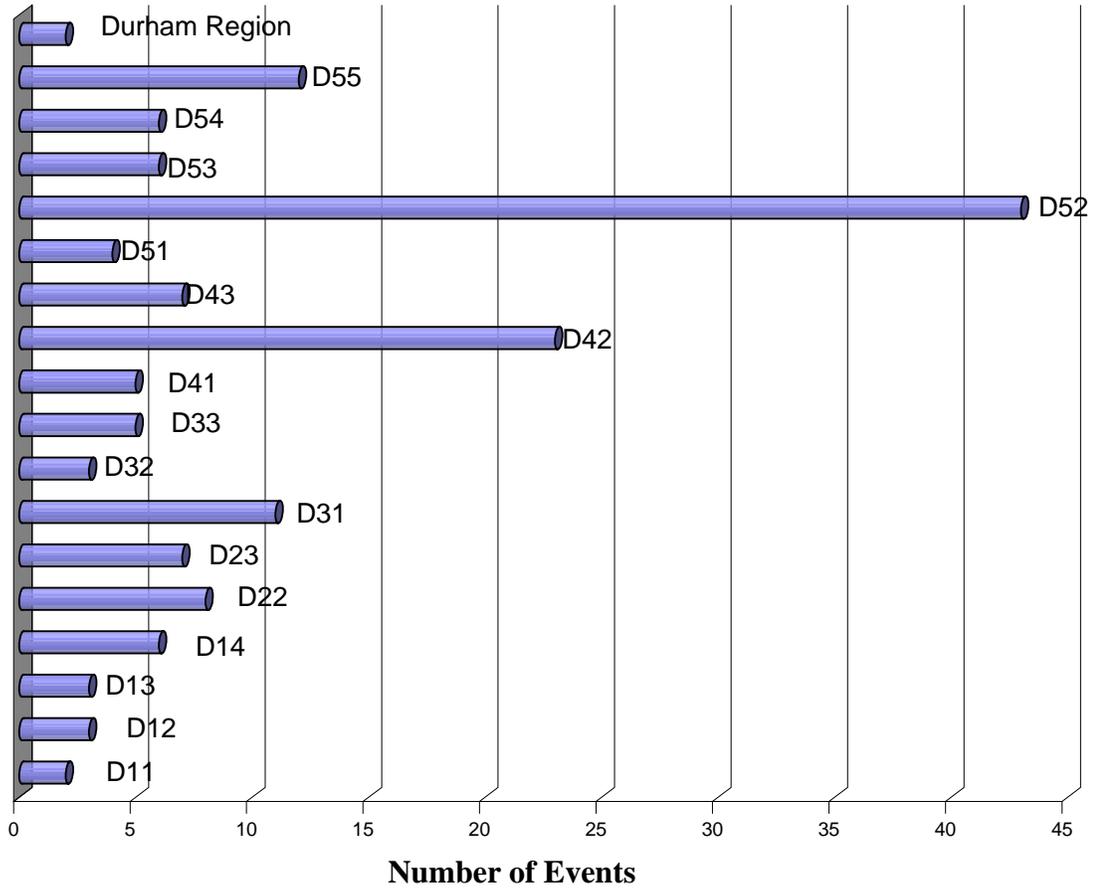
				Large Crowd Advancing	
124	52	Weapons Call	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
125	52	EDP	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
126	52	Assault	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
127	52	Fight Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
128	52	Weapons Call	FLS	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
129	52	Warrant	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
130	52	Fight Call	FLS	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
131	53	EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
132	53	Weapons Call	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
133	53	Bomb Threat	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
134	53	Cell Extraction	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
135	53	Wanted Party	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
136	53	Barricaded EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
137	54	Immigration Warrant	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
138	54	EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
139	54	Search Warrant - Grow-op	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
140	54	EDP	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
141	54	Robbery	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun
142	54	EDP	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
143	55	EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
144	55	EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
145	55	Barricaded EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
146	55	Wanted Party	ETF	Assaultive behaviour	Full
147	55	Weapons Call	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
148	55	EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
149	55	Search Warrant	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Full
150	55	Search Warrant	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
151	55	Barricaded+ Armed EDP	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Full
152	55	EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
153	55	EDP	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Presence
154	55	Wanted Party Barricaded	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Drive Stun
155	Durham	Search Warrant - Weapons	ETF	Serious Bodily Harm or Death	Presence
156	Durham	Search Warrant -Firearms	ETF	Assaultive Behaviour	Drive Stun

NOTE:

1. There were no deployments by PSU for 2006.
2. There were no injuries sustained as a result of these deployments for 2006.

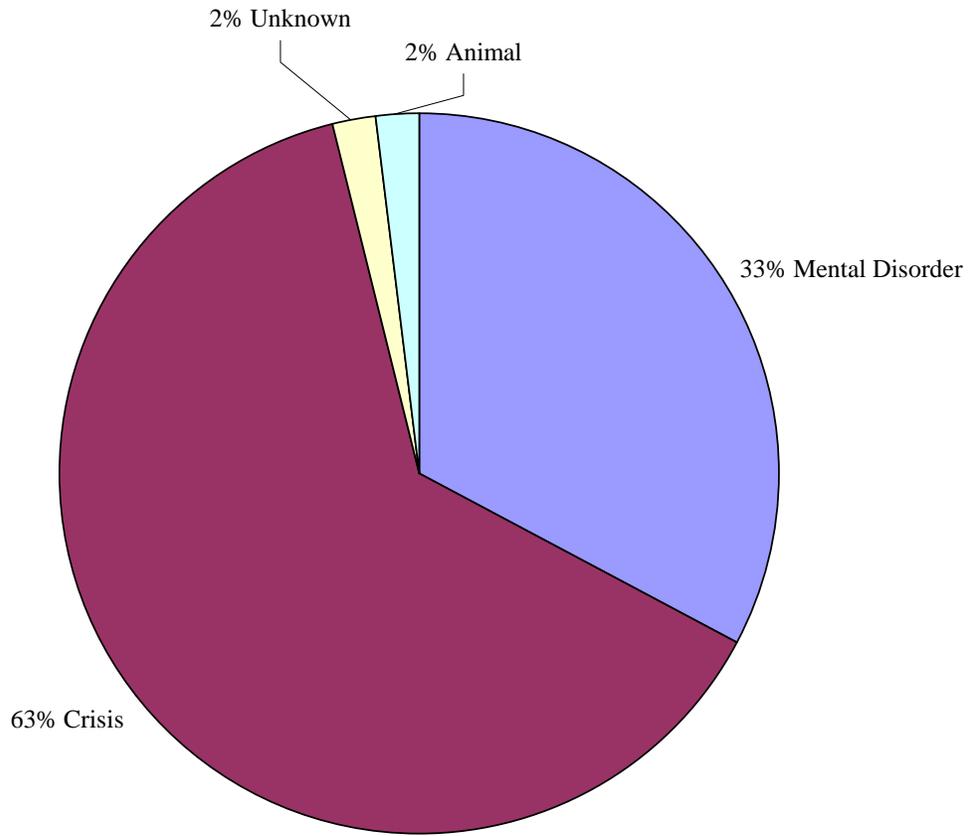
APPENDIX 'C'

TASER Incident Location



APPENDIX 'D'

Condition of Subject



APPENDIX 'E'

TASER Effectiveness

