



# The Reserve NEWSLETTER

2007

1st Quarter

*MPROA Spring Conference  
Information INSIDE!*

**A Word from the  
President**

## Tasers Becoming a More Common Tool for Reserve Officers

**By Jeremy Shackle  
Board Member**

In the past few years a number of agencies in Minnesota have enacted policies allowing reserve officers to carry Tasers while on duty. While the number of agencies that have done so is relatively small (fewer than 20) compared to the total number of agencies with reserve programs, the idea continues to grow in popularity. Every month the MPROA receives calls and e-mails from reserve officers and reserve coordinators inquiring about how to make the case for Tasers in their agencies. Here is a brief summary of how reserve units have been successful in equipping volunteer officers with these safe and effective weapons.



stories reported from officers and agencies around the country clearly show that Tasers have resulted in fewer injuries and deaths to officers and suspects and – despite continued skepticism by law enforcement administrators, risk managers, politicians, and watchdog groups – Tasers actually reduce agencies exposure to liability because the effects of the Taser on suspects are not life-threatening and relatively minor. Compared to injuries from firearms and impact weapons (i.e. batons) Tasers are remarkably safe. At the same time, Tasers lower workers' compensation costs because officers now have a tool for incapacitating and gaining compliance from suspects that forcefully resist arrest, resulting in fewer injuries to officers.

Of course, the argument has been made that reserve officers in most agencies are discouraged from going hands-on and arresting suspects, and with a few exceptions are unarmed,

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*I would like to welcome you to the second edition of our newsletter and share some great news: MPROA membership enrollment is up this year. More and more people are hearing about us and the things we do!*

*Well, it's just around the corner and the planning for this year's conference is going very well. I am very excited to tell you about the topics scheduled so far for the conference. We have the Special Agent in charge of the United States Secret Service. Mark Johnson, the Director of Technical Services at Taser will be in from Arizona to speak, (this should be a very informative topic, I know many of you are interested in getting more information on this) the Minnesota Gang Task Force will be talking about the what, why, where and how in identifying gangs, their affiliations, and the regions in Minnesota they are located. And we will also hear from the little known Forensics Crime Lab setup by the Target Corporation (this crime lab is serving all aspects of Law Enforcement all over the country). There should be plenty of useful information, and you never know, there may even be a few surprises thrown in along the way, but we are still working on that.*

*I feel this year's conference will be very well attended now that communication lines to the members are better established. The discrimination of information is flowing much better, the website is being updated on a regular basis with new information, e-mail blasts, and the newsletter.*

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### **MPROA Board of Directors**

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## GUEST COLUMN

### The Beginning of a New Year!

Jim Franklin

Executive Director – Minnesota Sheriffs Association

Ready or not, the New Year 2007 has arrived. The fall elections are now complete, our year end reports are all finished and our target goals and 2007 priorities are all organized ready for implementation. (Well okay maybe we aren't that ready!)

As with the start of each New Year, a number of resolutions are made but how many are actually fulfilled during the course of the year. According to some statistics experts, ninety percent of our New Year's resolutions are abandoned or broken before the completion of the first quarter of the year. Question is, what do they do for the remaining three quarters of the year?

The 87 Sheriffs that represent the Minnesota Sheriffs Association recognize the importance of developing trust and local community support when it comes to meeting the demands of providing today's public safety services. But developing that community support is a daily duty that belongs to every law abiding citizen that resides in our cities and counties. In many ways, a law enforcement agency is like an engine where a spark plug is needed to ensure a smooth operation. The spark plug in a law enforcement agency is all the men and women who daily don the uniform and participate in the delivery of the public safety services.

A special recognition must go to all the Reserve Officers and deputies that volunteer thousand of hours each year to help build that community trust and support. While full time officers often receive the main recognition, in many cases it is the reserve officers and Sheriffs Posse members that provide many of the "behind the scenes" support that makes the tasks or projects an operational success. Reserve members also provide a very important link directly



to the citizens in our respective communities. You already know that a reserve officer is often seen as the neighborhood's direct extension of the local law agency. These neighborhood contacts give each reserve the opportunity of being a law enforcement good will ambassador who continues to work on building the agencies public support and trust.

So next time you think all of the new year's resolutions have fallen apart and things are not going according to your annual plan, refer back to the basics. Providing law enforcement services in our respective communities is a privilege, building the community trust and public confidence is a direct outcome that you can affect each and every day. On behalf of all Sheriffs and Chief of Police we thank you for your leadership, service and support that you give to your agencies and communities. May your 2007 be a very productive and safe year of service. Thank you.

### A Word from the President

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*Myself, as well as the board members, are working very hard on your behalf to create a good line of communication, especially regarding the conference. This has been one of my main goals. This year we are making registration for the conference easier by having online registrations available. This saves the association the cost of printing and mailing and should work well for everybody.*

*Lastly, I would like to invite any members that will be in town on Friday the 23rd of March to attend the President's reception between 7.00 and 9.00p.m. (the night before the conference) The reception will be held at The Northland Inn. I look forward to meeting all of you at the reception or the conference.*

*Todd Schmeltzer  
President, MPROA*

## WHAT'S NEW?

- Reserve Leadership Award
- Officer of the Year Award

### Ronald E. Perry Lifetime of Service Award

By Jeremy Shackle

The Board of Directors of the MPROA is proud to announce the creation of another award to recognize reserve law enforcement officers for their volunteer service. In 2006, the MPROA created the Lifetime of Service Award to recognize those exceptionally dedicated officers who have served for at least 30 years. The award is named for its first recipient, Ronald E. Perry, who retired from the Minneapolis Police Reserve after 42 years of service, including 15 years as chief of the police reserve.

## The MPROA is looking to *spotlight* your unit.

Each Quarter the MPROA Spotlights a Reserve Unit for their achievements, leadership, and overall effectiveness to their departments and their communities. If you would like to nominate your reserve unit for consideration please write a letter (or email) and send it to MPROA, 10800 Old County Road 15, Suite 102, Plymouth, MN. 55441. If you wish to email, send it to [info@mproa.org](mailto:info@mproa.org). Letters of nomination will be accepted at anytime and considered for the nearest quarterly spotlight. Nomination letters will be kept and considered for a period of one year, or four quarters. Information in your nomination

should include:

your name, department, contact phone number or email address, department you are nominating, and why they deserve to be recognized for the quarterly spotlight award.

Once chosen the reserve unit will be contacted and notified of their recognition. A presentation of the plaque will be awarded to your reserve unit by a member of the Board of Directors.



## Tasers *continued from page 1*

therefore they don't need Tasers. On the contrary, the fact that agencies typically do not want reserve officers going hands-on and that reserve officers do not have the ability to defend themselves with a firearm is all the more reason to provide them with another less-lethal weapon. The fact is, Tasers are a lower level of force than impact weapons such as ASPs, which reserve officers in most agencies already have. Agencies can only benefit from providing Tasers to reserve officers.

### **How Do We Pay for Them?**

Unfortunately, most agencies have to operate on tight budgets and where scarce funds go is all about priorities. Whether we like it or not, reserve programs are almost always at the bottom of the priority list. Reserve officers typically get older and hand-me-down equipment and all too often there are limited funds for training and other resources to help volunteer officers do their jobs better. Tasers are no exception. At about \$500 a piece for the Taser M26 and around \$1,000 for the newer and smaller X26, this largely plastic device is the most expensive tool on an officer's belt after the radio and firearm, and equipping an entire agency is not a cheap proposition.

Fortunately, the MPROA has a grant program available to law enforcement agencies. Agencies that have authorized reserve officers to carry Tasers on duty and have made a

commitment to ongoing training can apply for a grant to purchase Tasers for their reserve units. Contact the MPROA for information on how to apply.

### **Can the MPROA Offer Any Assistance in Making Our Case to Our Chief/Sheriff?**

Yes, absolutely. If you are considering making the case for authorizing Tasers for your reserve officers the MPROA will be happy to help. We can provide a list of agencies that have been successful as well as talking points for your presentation.

The Board of Directors is excited to announce that a representative from Taser International will be speaking at the MPROA Spring Conference on March 24, 2007, at the Northland Inn in Brooklyn Park. If you are interested in attending the conference you are encouraged to register early, because space will be limited.

## EVENTS



Saturday, March 24, 2007 @ the Northland Inn. Cost is \$30 for members, and \$50 for non-members. Feel free to add your renewal membership fee (\$10), or join and take advantage of the lower rate. The registration fee will cover education, continental breakfast and lunch. We would encourage you to consider spending the night at the Northland Inn and joining us for the President's reception between 7:00 and 9:00pm Friday evening. This will be a low-key, informal affair and spouses are welcome.

*For more information and registration instructions please visit [www.mproa.org](http://www.mproa.org).*

If you know a reserve officer that has served for at least 30 years, please contact the MPROA. Award recipients will receive a plaque. An MPROA can send a representative to present the award at the officer's retirement party or other event, or the officer can be given the award during the awards session at the MPROA Spring Conference.

## 2007 SPRING CONFERENCE

Featuring Speakers From:



UNITED STATES  
SECRET SERVICE



MINNESOTA GANG  
STRIKE FORCE



TASER  
INTERNATIONAL



TARGET  
FORENSIC SERVICES

SAT, MARCH 24th

NORTHLAND INN BROOKLYN PARK

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS

We currently have 50 rooms held for us on Friday evening at a \$99 rate. To make your reservation either call 800-441-6422 (toll free) or locally 763-536-8300 and ask for the MN Police Reserve Officer's Association rate. This rate will be good until March 2nd, so make your reservations today!

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Please visit [www.mproa.org](http://www.mproa.org) and click on the 2007 Spring Conference link.

*We expect a great crowd this year given the increase in membership and overall interest in the association and its programs. In order to insure your space, register today!*



## Grants

Funded Last Quarter

**Police & Sheriff Reserve units that received grants:**

Plymouth PD / Driving Class

St. Anthony PD / Vests

Hopkins PD / Bicycle

New Hope PD / Tasers

10800 Old County Road 15  
Suite 102  
Plymouth, MN. 55441



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
Please visit our website  
[www.mproa.org](http://www.mproa.org) for information on  
upcoming events and how to apply  
for memberships and grants from  
The MPROA.

763-545-9499

Fax

763-231-0464

Phone