

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Interoffice Communication**

**DATE:** 16 October 2001

**TO:** Christie Pope, President, Faculty Senate  
Rex Heer, President, P&S Council  
Andrew Tofilon, President, Government of the Study Body  
Debbie Martinez, President, Graduate Student Senate

**FROM:** Gregory L. Geoffroy  
President

The Critical Incident Response Team has given Vice President Warren Madden two recommendations that he has brought to me on public safety items at Iowa State University.

Before deciding whether to send these to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, for final discussion and approval, I am seeking review and comment from the campus community.

The two recommendations are as follows:

- #1. Within the Department of Public Safety, to rename the "Law Enforcement Division" the "Police Division" and the sworn personnel from "Public Safety Officers" to "Police Officers."
- #2. Authorize the Advanced Taser stun device as part of the duty equipment regularly carried by all certified and trained officers.

I am attaching the memorandum and discussion from Vice President Madden to facilitate your review. Both Warren Madden and Jerry Stewart, Interim Director of Public Safety, will be available for discussion on these issues. I recognize that these recommendations entail major changes for the operation of the Department of Public Safety, which are designed to keep our campus safe and secure. But such changes must reflect broad agreement within the university community that they are timely and appropriate.

Please send me your comments on these two recommendations by December 1, 2001.

Attachment

xc: Warren Madden  
Jerry Stewart

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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**Interoffice Communication**

**DATE:** October 11, 2001

**TO:** Gregory L. Geoffroy  
President

**FROM:** Warren R. Madden  
Vice President for Business and Finance

Based upon the unanimous recommendation of the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT), extensive discussions with various individuals including students both on and off campus, and the other Regents universities, I am recommending you approve two proposals:

1. Within the Department of Public Safety, rename the "Law Enforcement Division" the "Police Division" and the sworn personnel from "Public Safety Officers" to "Police Officers."
2. Authorize the Advanced Taser stun device as part of the duty equipment regularly carried by all certified and trained officers.

These recommendations are being made after careful evaluation and review. They will permit the Department of Public Safety to better serve the university community. The department works in partnership with the university community to improve the quality of life by enhancing the safety and personal security of students, faculty, staff and visitors. In many respects the university community is a part of our larger society and faces many of the increasingly complex issues regarding protection of life, safeguarding of property, prevention of crime and preservation of peace and order. Current events nationally have increased many of these concerns.

Although the Iowa State University campus and the Ames community are a relatively safe learning and working environment, the range of situations continues to change. These proposals will improve our ability to respond to a wider range of situations and increase the safety and security of the university community. These recommendations are supported by the other local law enforcement agencies, the external reviews of the department, many members of the university community and will permit the use of the best available technology.

The Department of Public Safety is staffed by 33 state-certified, sworn peace officers. The majority of them have college degrees. They have successfully completed training at the Iowa

Law Enforcement Academy and extensive additional training that is on-going to maintain certification. We have one of the most highly educated law enforcement agencies in the state. In 1998 the department received national accreditation through CALEA, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. They are one of seven agencies in the state and one of only 25 campus law enforcement agencies in the nation to achieve accreditation.

Of our peer institutions that comprise the Land Grant 11 and Big 12 universities, Iowa State is the only campus where law enforcement officers routinely work without carrying firearms. More than 94 percent of the campuses comparable in size to Iowa State have armed patrol officers. The Taser technology has developed to the point where we believe it will provide a non-lethal tool that will effectively assist in serving the university community to respond to a wider range of situations. Appropriate training and policies regarding when these devices may be used will be required before equipping individual officers.

The attached material provides additional background information. As you know, these recommendations are also under consideration by the other Regent universities. The University of Iowa has indicated a desire to have the Regents consider this issue in November. We will be happy to provide additional information or meet with groups or individuals who would like further information.

cc: Stewart  
Members of CIRT

**ENHANCING SAFETY-RELATED SERVICES  
TO THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY - A PROPOSAL**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Iowa State University Department of Public Safety recommends the following:

- 1) The Department of Public Safety will rename the "Law Enforcement Division" the "Police Division." Similarly, the department will change the designation of all sworn personnel from "Public Safety Officers" to "Police Officers." These changes will be prominently displayed on officer uniforms, credentials, marked patrol vehicles and crime prevention materials.

Rationale: This action will assist the community in understanding the role of the department.

- 2) The Department of Public Safety will be authorized to include the Advanced Taser stun device (or equivalent model) as part of the duty equipment regularly carried by all officers.

Rationale: This action will better equip officers responding to certain dangerous individuals with less-lethal intervention, thereby increasing the safety of all concerned.

# **ENHANCING SAFETY-RELATED SERVICES TO THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY - A PROPOSAL**

## **CONCEPT AND RATIONALE**

The Department of Public Safety works in partnership with the university community to improve the quality of life by enhancing the safety and personal security of students, faculty, staff and visitors. The primary responsibilities of public safety officers are the protection of life, safeguarding of property, prevention of crime, and preservation of peace and order. In support of this mission and associated responsibilities, the department proposes the following:

### **PROPOSAL 1:**

#### **Problem Statement**

The ambiguity of the terms "public safety" and "public safety officer" contribute to misunderstandings that impede officers' daily effectiveness. Community members often misperceive the role of officers as limited to that of security personnel, with little or no authority to take necessary law enforcement action. Other community members misunderstand the role of "public safety" as providing services related to occupational safety or public health. The uncertainty about role and statutory authority results in:

- 1) Confusion by community members attempting to contact the state Department of Public Safety.
- 2) Impaired access to vital services when community members who are not familiar with the department attempt to request law enforcement services. The term "police" is readily recognized as related to law enforcement functions; the term "public safety" is not.
- 3) Increased conflict during encounters between officers and community members. Officers experience resistance to lawful instructions given to citizens when those citizens do not understand the statutory authority of public safety officers. This may lead to increased risk of injury to both officers and community members.

#### **Proposed Remedy**

The Department of Public Safety will rename the "Law Enforcement Division" the "Police Division." Similarly, the department will change the designation of all sworn personnel from "Public Safety Officers" to "Police Officers." These changes will be prominently displayed on officer uniforms, credentials, marked patrol vehicles and crime prevention materials.

## **PROPOSAL I - CONTINUED:**

### **Rationale**

#### Statutory Authority

Department of Public Safety officers receive their law enforcement authority through the commissioning provided for by the Board of Regents, as authorized in section 262.13 of the Code of Iowa. The code (enacted in 1969) authorizes the board to hire officers who "shall have the powers, privileges and immunities of regular peace officers when acting in the interests of the institution by which they are employed."

Furthermore, DPS officers are required to complete training through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, leading to certification as law enforcement officers; such certification is required for employment. This standard applies to all other municipal, county and state peace officers.

Public Safety officers are defined as peace officers in Iowa Code section 801.4(11) along with all other municipal, county and state law enforcement officers in Iowa. Peace officer authority and responsibility are prescribed through the Code of Iowa as well as the constitutions of the United States and the State of Iowa.

#### Role of the Department

Since the late 1980's, there have been significant changes in the role of the Department of Public Safety. As directed by university administration, DPS has moved in function and philosophy from a security department to a broad based, multi-service, public safety agency. This includes an emphasis on crime prevention, community-based policing, threat identification and management, and active criminal patrol, all in an effort to stop crime before it happens. As the mission has broadened, so have the expectations of the ISU community.

DPS handles complicated, potentially violent conflict between members of the ISU community as well as off-campus threats to employees or students. DPS officers are involved in the Story County Drug Task Force, conduct traffic enforcement, patrol campus in cars, on foot, and on bicycle, respond to numerous burglary and distress alarms, investigate threats and harassment, protect visiting dignitaries, and make arrests for violations of State law. DPS officers also assist Ames Police officers when requested under mutual aid. DPS is a comprehensive, professional law enforcement agency serving the ISU community.

#### Expected Outcomes

Enacting this proposal will clarify the role of the department and the authority of officers in responding to the needs of the community. Expected outcomes include more direct access to services, increased recognition of officers' statutory authority, greater consistency with peer institutions and better resolution of routine and critical incidents.

## **PROPOSAL 2:**

### **Problem Statement**

#### Community Expectations

The Department of Public Safety is a comprehensive, professional law enforcement agency serving the ISU community. In times of crisis, community members expect the department to respond and protect them from harm. These expectations have been articulated through the following: a) state statutes defining the role of DPS officers; b) Board of Regents job descriptions; c) surveys of community members; and d) calls for service received by the department.

ISU officers are currently equipped with pepper spray and expandable batons. As such, officers are limited in their range of responses to persons who threaten violence, are physically assaultive, or display/possess dangerous weapons. DPS officers are not authorized to regularly carry firearms in the course of their duties. Currently, when ISU officers have knowledge that an incident involves a dangerous weapon, they call the Ames Police Department. Emergency situations, by their very nature, often develop with little warning, placing officers and others in circumstances where there may not be time for assistance to arrive. Ames Police may not have officers available to immediately assist or those responding officers may not know the campus location; this delays response time. In essence, the present situation results in a lesser level of protection for persons who are on campus, than when those same persons are elsewhere in the community.

With the exception of firearms, Ames Police officers and DPS officers are similarly equipped. When volatile situations arise, Ames officers can either provide the same level of force as ISU officers, or else escalate to the use of deadly force (firearms). Even when deadly force may be legally justified, the situation may be conducive to the application of a less-lethal alternative (e.g., electronic stun weapon). No area peace officers are currently equipped with such devices.

#### Nature of Incidents

From January 1997 to May 31, 2001 there were 59 incidents involving ISU community members in which the presence of dangerous weapons or other circumstances made the situations potentially life threatening; DPS officers were directly involved in 33 of these incidents. These situations included finding illegally concealed knives during traffic stops, dangerous weapons that could have been used on officers or citizens. Other situations involved finding or being confronted with weapons on the scenes of domestic assaults, reports of emotionally disturbed persons and drug calls. With increasing frequency, DPS officers are requested to be present when faculty or staff are about to communicate with individuals perceived as physically threatening. In virtually all of these incidents, the presence of these weapons could not have been predicted. Had the officers faced a deadly threat to themselves or others, there would not have been time in these highly dynamic and unpredictable moments to request permission to obtain a weapon.

## **PROPOSAL 2 - CONTINUED:**

### **Proposed Remedy**

The Department of Public Safety will be authorized to include the Advanced Taser (or equivalent electronic stun device) as part of duty equipment regularly carried by all officers.

### **Rationale**

#### Expanded Range of Service

The Department of Public Safety is committed to meeting the ever-increasing needs of the university community. To fulfill its mission of protecting life in a greater range of situations, officers should be provided with the necessary tools.

In February 1996, ISU commissioned a report evaluating the status of institutional security. The Consulting Division of Campus Crime Prevention Programs (CCPP) issued a report entitled *ISU Security Needs Assessment and Plan Development*. While the report itself was not concerned with and made no mention of arming DPS officers, CCPP issued an unsolicited, confidential supplement that strongly recommended that DPS officers be equipped with firearms. This report recognized the changing role of the agency and the necessity for changes in tactics and resources.

#### Weapons Training And Policy

DPS has comprehensive policies covering all aspects of its law enforcement functions. Included are policies regarding the use of force, authorized weapons, and weapons training. By policy, the use of force, including deadly force, is "restricted to circumstances authorized by law and to the degree minimally necessary to accomplish a lawful task." The policy applies fully to the use of deadly force and to any use of a firearm or less lethal weapon. The policy regarding authorized weapons establishes strict departmental control over all weapons officers are allowed to carry and use during the performance of official duties. Ongoing use of force training, as indicated by departmental policy, better prepares officers to act decisively and correctly when confronted with a broad spectrum of situations.

DPS officers only carry firearms on assignments of known, extreme danger and then only with the express authorization of the University President or designee. Officers maintain their firearms certification and have completed a 40-hour firearms class as part of their basic training at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. In addition to the qualification course, officers participate in live-fire exercises that require decision-making and target identification to train the officers to perform professionally and correctly in deadly force situations. DPS officers are already fully trained in use of force issues and in the use of deadly and less lethal weapons. Finally, ISU has direct control over DPS and its use of force policy. The policy is very restrictive in its authorization of the use of lethal and less lethal force. DPS officers have a vested interest in serving the needs of their community. If an outside agency must be utilized for an armed response, some degree of oversight and control is lost.



## **PROPOSAL 2 - CONTiNUED:**

### **Rationale - Continued**

#### Use of Force

DPS officers currently carry less lethal weapons and are skilled in tactics that aid in controlling dangerous situations. DPS officers have been required to use force to protect themselves, protect others, and make arrests. In 3,641 arrests from 1995 through 2000, physical force was used in 40 incidents. The level of force applied in all of these incidents involved physical control of the suspect and/or the application of chemical agents. In none of these incidents was an impact weapon displayed or used.

As of December 2000, no formal complaints or charges of excessive use of force have been registered. This level of performance will not likely change if officers are authorized to carry electronic stun devices or tasers.

#### Comparison To Other Institutions

DPS is one of the premier campus law enforcement agencies in the country. The organization differs from the majority of campus law enforcement agencies in that DPS officers are not designated as police and are not regularly armed with firearms.

According to a 1995 report on campus law enforcement agencies by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, over 90 percent of the agencies serving campuses with more than 20,000 students used armed officers. On campuses with a total enrollment between 20,000 and 24,999, 97 percent had officers with arrest authority and 94 percent had patrol officers armed with firearms.

Of the peer institutions that comprise the Land Grant 11, only ISU has law enforcement officers who work without routinely carrying firearms. The same is true of the Big 12 universities, with ISU having the only law enforcement officers who work without routinely carrying firearms.

During the spring of 1999, a telephone survey profiling the law enforcement agencies at four-year universities with student populations above 20,000 was completed. The results indicated that at the institutions contacted, the vast majority of law enforcement officers carried firearms on a routine basis. Iowa State University, the University of Iowa and the University of Delaware were the only institutions in the sample group that employed state certified peace officers who were not regularly equipped with firearms. This arming-related status has not changed since the survey was conducted two years ago.

According to Taser International, 24 university law enforcement agencies currently utilize tasers or are considering their implementation. These departments join the dozens of other municipal and county law enforcement agencies already utilizing this device.

## **PROPOSAL 2 - CONTINUED:**

### **Rationale - Continued**

#### Crime Data

According to the uniform crime report pertaining to 1994 to 1999, national trends in violent crime, including murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault show an overall decrease. Violent crime trends within the Midwest region are similar. Crime rates in Iowa are lower than the rest of the Midwest region and the trends seem to be steady, with some minor fluctuations within the 1994 to 1999 time period. Similarly, crime rates on the ISU campus reflect a relatively safe working and learning environment.

The frequency of violent crime committed in our community does not, in itself, demonstrate a need for new or additional weapons. However, in addition to the cases of completed crimes, ISU officers are responding to an increasing number of calls for service related to threatening statements and behaviors. The department's Special Operations Unit currently manages an average of 70-80 cases involving threatening behavior per year. The nature and complexity of these calls for service necessitate the availability of the best available technology and resources.

#### Electric Stun Weapons

The Advanced Taser is designed to be carried on officer duty-belts. It is considered less-lethal weapon than a firearm, but is capable of instantaneously stopping an assailant. The device is an electrical energy weapon that utilizes compressed nitrogen to shoot two darts up to 21 feet. These probes are connected to the weapon by fine, insulated, wires. When the probes contact the target, the taser transmits electrical pulses along the wires and into the body of the target. These pulses can penetrate through up to two inches of clothing.

Upon administration of the pulses, the target experiences an instantaneous loss of neuromuscular control and loses the ability to perform coordinated actions. The targeted person will feel dazed and off balance for a few seconds to a few minutes, followed by a return to normal functioning. The capability to render an assailant instantly (but temporarily) disabled allows officers a brief time period to safely restrain and control the person. The air taser presents a less lethal alternative while meeting all the necessary departmental requirements including:

- 1) a defensive weapon that would provide instantaneous stopping power;
- 2) provide optimal distance between the target and the officer;
- 3) designed to not cause serious or permanent injury, and
- 4) be readily available to and regularly carried by the officer.

## **PROPOSAL 2 - CONTINUED:**

### **Rationale - Continued**

#### Electronic Stun Weapons - Continued

The effectiveness of the Advanced Taser has been well documented. Demonstrations conducted by the manufacturer, using 579 volunteers, resulted in 577 of the subjects being temporarily incapacitated by the taser. The remaining two subjects were significantly impaired in their ability to sustain coordinated muscular movement. None of the 579 subjects experienced any injury from the taser itself. One subject (after being struck by the taser) suffered a bruised shoulder as he fell to the ground.

Consideration was given to the use of beanbag shotguns, net guns, guns that fire rubber bullets and expanded pepper spray use. With the exception of pepper spray, none of the defensive weapons mentioned could be carried on the duty belt. Consequently, officers would be required to return to the patrol car or to the office for such additional equipment. This would be an acceptable alternative only in situations that permitted time to develop a tactical response. In the majority of cases, however, a routine situation can turn into an incident demanding immediate response, leaving the officer no time to secure additional equipment. Further, of the above-listed defensive weapons, none has immediate stopping power that would allow officers to quickly gain control of a situation, thereby minimizing the risk to themselves and to the public.

Although the taser does not provide an adequate response to lethal firearms and has limited range, it also possesses features presently not available with common lethal sidearms. The taser has automatic timing control. Once activated it will give a charge for only five seconds, even if an operator continues to press the trigger; the operator must release the trigger and press again to deliver a subsequent charge. The operator may interrupt the five-second charge by simply turning the device off.

Additionally, the taser is a "smart" weapon--it is equipped with a data port that can be connected to a computer. Retrievable data includes: to whom the particular weapon was assigned; how many times the weapon has been used; and the times and dates of deployment. This unique feature provides a high level of accountability for each issued weapon.

#### Expected Outcomes

Enacting this proposal will better equip officers to respond to a broader range of incidents, thereby increasing the safety of officers and community members. The expected outcomes of implementing this proposal include:

- 1) improved officer ability to respond to a broader range of situations; and
- 2) increased safety and security of university personnel and property.

## **Regulations Governing Organizations**

### **Use of University Facilities, Outdoor Areas, and the Event Authorization Process**

The process begins in the Student Activities Center (B6 Memorial Union) where you pick up a pink Activity Authorization Form and you receive consultation by the staff on the specifics of your activity. The staff will also inform you of the "Level" of your event. Levels are assigned based on a number of factors including size of the event, location and potential risk. *When planning your event keep in mind that you should not begin advertising it until you have had a consultation with a member of the Student Activities Center staff.*

Departments of the university and organizations registered at Iowa State University are eligible to use university facilities, including classroom space, conference rooms, athletic facilities, Memorial Union meeting rooms, Iowa State Center facilities, residence halls, and outdoor areas. All events are subject to the Event Authorization Process as outlined in the Student Organization Resource Manual (<http://www.sac.iastate.edu>).

Organizations or departments wishing to utilize outdoor areas must first complete an Activity Authorization Form and receive a consultation from the Student Activities Center. There are specific areas on campus which are designated for various categories of events.

There may be a charge for a service or equipment need for the event you are holding on campus. In order to pay for these services or equipment you will be required to arrange payment by utilizing the organization intramural or departmental intramural. Organization intramurals may be obtained from the Campus Organizations Accounting Office, B4 Memorial Union (294-1633).

NOTE: The laws of the State of Iowa provide that no employee in any capacity shall use for personal purposes any university property or service. No one shall be permitted to remove for personal use from any buildings or grounds any property belonging to the university, even though it may seem to be of no value. This regulation would apply to the personal use of university property or service by members of registered organizations.

The Student Activities Center can introduce you to the Event Authorization Process and help you find out if your groups' plans interfere with any University regulations or City ordinances. If you have specific questions about an event or would like additional information about the Event Authorization Process contact a staff member at 294-1023.

### **Posting Policy**

#### **Display of (Non-instructional Materials)**

Posters, advertisements, banners, etc., may be displayed on campus only if they are clearly associated with a recognized Iowa State student, university organization or department, and then only under the following conditions:

### **Displays within Buildings**

Posters, advertisements, or other visual display materials may be affixed only on permanent building bulletin boards. "General" bulletin boards may be used by Iowa State University students and organizations without approval for posting information related to their activities.

"Restricted" bulletin boards are limited to the use of designated departments or organizations. Use of these bulletin boards must be approved by the official representative of the respective department or organization. Bulletin board notices must include the date they are posted or the date of the event and may be posted no more than one month in advance of the event. Undated and early notices will be removed. Properly posted notices will be removed after the event date.

### **Exterior Displays**

*Residence Department buildings.* Signs, banners, and other display materials may be affixed to buildings only with the authorization of the Coordinator of Residence Life in each residence complex.

*Academic buildings.* Signs, banners, and other display materials may **NOT** be affixed to buildings. Rate exceptions maybe made in cases where the display materials are clearly associated with an academic function. Prior approval must be obtained from the Student Activities Center and from Facilities, Planning and Management, General Services Building, by submitting an Activity Authorization form. Such forms are available at the Student Activities Center.

*Exterior display, not on buildings.* Signs, banners, and other display materials may **NOT** be affixed to sidewalks, trees, fences, shrubs, light poles, or any other fixture of the landscape, nor may freestanding displays be placed in any area other than those areas scheduled through the activity authorization process. Prior approval of displays must be obtained from the Student Activities Center through completion of an Activity Authorization form. Organizations, departments, and/or individuals may be billed for cleanup expenses for illegally posted materials.

### **Clean-up**

All visual displays, etc., should be removed as they become outdated or after authorization has expired. Clean-up charges may be billed to the organization/department/individual for failure to clean up promptly.