

SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

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NEWS RELEASE

CAMDEN – December 4, 2009-The members of the Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey have received the Supplemental 'Use of Force' policy issued by the Attorney General's Office of the State of New Jersey regarding the use of electronic stun guns. We are in the process of forming a committee including an expert in the field of less lethal to review the policy. The policy, which authorizes the use of such devices in limited circumstances such as dangerous encounters with emotionally disturbed individuals, still leaves broad areas uncovered with no mention of caveats for officer safety nor the use of 'stun cuffs', restrain devices which permits the freedom of motion necessary for defendants in a courtroom setting while allowing Sheriff's Officers to ensure the proper level of safety for members of the Judiciary and other courtroom occupants.

"These guidelines are an important start in a longer dialogue about the use of these devices and their importance as a non-lethal option for officers to protect themselves and the public at large," said SANJ President Sheriff Frank J. Provenzano (Somerset County). "The members of the SANJ plan to continue this conversation with Attorney General Milgram as well as Attorney General-designee of the incoming administration so that we can continue to ensure that we have the tools necessary to protect the safety of our residents.
