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Firearms simulator prepares officers

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You're a police officer who just pulled over a car. The driver looks as if he's aiming a shiny object at you. Is it a gun or a cell phone? Do you shoot? Ripon police officers are practicing handling such life-or-death decisions. They are testing firearm simulations systems for the U.S. Department of Justice. Sgt. Timothy Bailey trains Wednesday as Sgt. Steve Merchant works the computer that controls various scenarios that can change in real-time based upon the trainees' reactions.

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The Ripon Police Department has received a new firearms training simulator called the PRISim Portable Trainer from the Rural Law Enforcement Technology Center (RULETC) out of Hazard, Kentucky, that will allow officers to train for situations that they may not have been exposed to in previous training. Pictured, Sgt. Timothy Bailey trains on the system as Sgt. Steve Merchant works the computer that controls various scenarios that can change in real-time based upon the trainees reactions. March 11, 2009. (Brian Ramsay / The Modesto Bee) - -