



Anchor On Patrol (part 4): Use Of Force

April 6, 2009 11:11 AM

April 9, 2009 07:27 PM



The News Station's Heath Heggem is going back to school - to attend the Great Falls Police Department "Citizens' Academy." The 10-week long program is designed to teach citizens about the basic roles of the police department, including patrol functions, insight into investigation techniques, and a look at the High Risk Unit. This is part four in the "Anchor On Patrol" series.

Last week in the Anchor On Patrol segment, we learned how effective tazers can be, but a tazer isn't the only tool on the belt of Great Falls Police Officers.



Simulation

Officers will tell you their most effective tools are their words - but they can't always reason with the suspects they're trying to apprehend, which sometimes leads to the use of force.

And for an officer to carry a weapon, he must be trained in how to use it.

Sergeant John Schaeffer, training officer for the GFPD, explained, "Part of that training that they get is on what they can and cannot do when it comes to use of force, using firearms, tazers, and batons. All of those things, they have to know when and where they can use those things."

The officers are trained to make their decisions in just a fraction of a second.

One of the methods of training involves a state-of-the-art simulator. Officers are presented with simulated dangerous situations, they then must decide if deadly force is needed, or if other measures will resolve the situation.

There are multiple scenarios and officers can use anything from a baton to a firearm to resolve the situation. This simulator is used to train law enforcement personnel from all over the state.

It was made possible by an \$80,000 appropriation secured by U.S. Representative Denny Rehberg.

Coming up on the next Anchor On Patrol segment: a special edition in which Heath Heggem suits up for a confrontation with Rhingo, one of the Great Falls Police Department's K-9 Officers.

You can learn more about the Citizens' Academy [at the GFPD website](#).



All content © Copyright 2004 - 2009, WorldNow, Montana's News Station and Cordillera Communications. All Rights Reserved. For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).