


Seeing red helps deter criminals

 Criminals who are fans of films such as Terminator are likely to be deterred from making rash moves when caught in the beam of a Taser.

Ian Arundale, ACPO lead on less-lethal weapons and deputy chief constable of West Mercia Police, said that films such as those featuring Arnold Schwarzenegger using the red dot on weapons psychologically puts criminals off.

He told *Police* in an exclusive interview: 'The red dot on the Taser is very effective psychologically on people. Because of films such as Terminator, there is a common perception that the red dot is followed by something nasty.'

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) released findings of a 12-month operational trial of the device in September.



Taser red dot deters criminals

The trials carried out in Lincolnshire, the Met, Northamptonshire, North Wales and Thames Valley Police concluded that in many cases production of the less-lethal weapon was enough to deter.

During the trial, which ended in April 2004, the Taser was used in 60 situations where people were either armed or thought to pose such a threat that the use of a firearm may have been authorised.


The electrical stun gun was aimed in 40 of the incidents, but only fired 13 times during the course of the year.

Paul Davis, secretary of the Federation's operational sub-committee, said: 'A person gets this ball of light in their face and they are thinking they don't like the look of what's coming next.'

Memorial service held for Ian Broadhurst



PC Broadhurst

 Family and friends were due to remember PC Ian Broadhurst at a memorial service held on Boxing Day - a year after he was killed while on duty.

Tom McGie, chairman of West Yorkshire federation, said that the day was planned for family and colleagues to be able to pay their respects to the officer and the sacrifice he made while on duty.

The day was planned to take place at The Church of the Epiphany in Leeds, the division where PC Broadhurst worked.

Mr McGie: 'It will be one year to the day and it is hoped that this will help his family and colleagues that worked alongside Ian to remember him and the sacrifice he has made.'

David Beiber, 38, a former US marine, was put behind bars for life after being convicted of the

murder of PC Broadhurst on Boxing Day 2003.

Mr Justice Moses jailed the body builder for life at Newcastle Crown Court last month, telling him: 'You have shown no remorse for, or even understanding of, the brutality of his murder.'

Beiber, who had been living in Leeds and working as a doorman, was also convicted of attempting to murder PC Neil Roper and PC James Banks, who both survived.

Beiber shot at PC Broadhurst point-blank after he and his colleagues carried out a routine check-up on a stolen vehicle.

Mr McGie said: 'We think the sentence sends out a strong message to criminals, that, if they use firearms against a police officer they will go to prison for life and that's as it should be.'