



Nevada Highway Patrol

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Media Release

Nevada Highway Patrol Deploys Taser to Control Man Wielding Knife

On Sunday, November 13, 2016 at approximately 8:40 a.m., Nevada Highway Patrol Trooper Gocke was completing a traffic stop on South Virginia Street just south of Kietzke Lane. While completing the initial traffic stop, Trp. Gocke observed a white passenger vehicle pull up behind his marked patrol vehicle and come to a stop. Trp. Gocke finished with his initial stop then walked back to the vehicle that had parked behind him.

As Trp. Gocke approached the white vehicle, he observed that the sole occupant of the vehicle, a white male (later identified as Steven Mumper) had exited the driver's seat and was now standing at the rear of his white vehicle. Trp. Gocke approached the rear of the vehicle using the sidewalk. As Mumper was opening the trunk of his vehicle, Trp. Gocke asked Mumper how he was and what was going on. Mumper apologized. Trp. Gocke replied, "For what?" Mumper then stated, "I can't do it myself, I'm sorry, I need you to do it". With that, Trp. Gocke observed Mumper pull a black curved knife approximately 14" in length from the trunk of his car. Trp. Gocke drew his firearm and radioed the Department of Public Safety's (DPS's) dispatch center to call for assistance.

Gocke directed Mumper to drop the knife and began to ask him questions to learn more about him and what he wanted. While addressing the questions being asked, Mumper continued to hold the knife in his right hand and continued to disobey the orders given by the Trooper to drop the weapon.

Mumper then stepped upon the sidewalk and began to walk away from Trp. Gocke still holding the knife in his right hand. Trp. Gocke repeatedly ordered Mumper to drop his knife. While walking, Mumper struck road signs with his knife. As Trp. Gocke continued to follow Mumper, he entered the roadway and directed traffic away from Mr. Mumper. Back up units arrived. As Trp. Gocke kept Mumper's attention, Nevada Highway Patrol's Lieutenant Larsen approached Mumper from behind and deployed his Taser, striking Mr. Mumper in the back. Mr. Mumper dropped his knife and was subdued without further incident.

Mr. Mumper was taken to a local area hospital by Trooper Gocke for evaluation. Mr. Mumper was placed on a Legal 2000 hold so he could be evaluated and get the help he required. Once at the hospital, Mumper remained apologetic.

A person is placed under the care of medical staff and the Legal 2000 if they lack the capacity to exercise self-control, judgment and discretion in the conduct of their affairs and social relations, or to care for their personal needs; and as a result presents a clear and present danger of harm to themselves or others.

“This is an example of Troopers of the Nevada Highway Patrol and officers across the country that demonstrate tremendous restraint and discipline during very deadly and ever changing situations. From time to time, devices such as the Taser have come under scrutiny nationally. However, when deployed effectively, these less than lethal alternatives can render situations less vulnerable to injury or death for both citizens and officers alike”. (Captain Rob Stepien)

Nevada Highway Patrol Captain Stepien is available should you have any further questions on this use of less than lethal force option that was utilized in this incident. He can be reached at 775-689-4638.



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