

NEWS  
**Cop gets discharge for stunning recruit**

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In a variation of the old "I didn't know the gun was loaded," a former Manitoba cop has admitted to accidentally shocking a potential recruit with a Taser.

Randoph Chudyk, 56, pleaded guilty to assault and received an absolute discharge Thursday.

Judge Tim Preston said the former Ste-Anne Police sergeant has already been effectively punished. Chudyk retired three months after the Nov. 2011 incident, ending an otherwise unblemished 30-year career.

Court heard Chudyk had just finished a ride along with the 40-year-old victim, an aspiring officer, when they returned to the police station and saw a holstered Taser on a table.

The victim "commented that she was concerned that it was unsafe to be left out," Crown attorney Deann Sahulka told court. "At that time, Mr. Chudyk advised her that he believed it wasn't charged, picked it up, and pointed it in her direction."

The woman had asked Chudyk to put the Taser down when it discharged, firing electric darts into her leg and groin area.

"I can't believe it happened," the woman quoted a shocked Chudyk saying.

The woman removed the darts herself and was preparing to go on a second ride-along when she started to feel sick and drove herself to hospital, Sahulka said. She was examined, quickly cleared and suffered no injuries.

Chudyk "was trying to explain to (the victim) how (the Taser) worked when it accidentally discharged," defence lawyer Daniel Wolson said. "This was an accident. He never intended to discharge that Taser."

Court heard Chudyk had not been trained to use the weapon.

"If a person is not trained in a weapon that can do serious harm, then that weapon should stay where it is," Preston said.

The woman, who suffered another setback when she later she broke her leg, "is continuing with her efforts to become a police officer, but obviously not with the Ste-Anne Police Department," Sahulka said.

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