



Local officer reacts to two police-involved shootings

By [Ali Ingersoll, News 4 Reporter \(http://wivb.com/author/wivbaliingersoll/\)](http://wivb.com/author/wivbaliingersoll/)

Published: July 7, 2016, 6:11 pm



CHEEKTOWAGA, N.Y. (WIVB) — Every day, Jim Speyer walks into work at the Cheektowaga Police Department, hoping he won't have to fire the gun holstered to his hip.

"Taking someone's life is probably the ultimate last thing that anybody wants to do," said Speyer, the Assistant Chief of Police at the Cheektowaga Police Department.

In March, a Cheektowaga officer used deadly force, shooting and killing an armed man at a hotel on Genesee Street. The assistant chief says making that call and using deadly force weighs heavily on the officer and entire department.

"A police officer is a person who has a family, who empathizes with the people out there," Assistant Chief Speyer.

He's been on the force for 29 years and says they've never encountered more public scrutiny.

"We're being second guessed," said the officer.

He says now that cell phones are everywhere, the footage captured on them is being incorporated into training.

"It's very important that we communicate with our officers and train our officers in the proper policies, methods and justifications to use deadly force," said the assistant chief.

He watched the video from Baton Rouge, showing the moment police shot and killed Alton Sterling. The longtime officer says he doesn't have all the facts to disclose his opinion about what he thinks of that fatal moment.

"In every case, there's two sides of the story."

And the officer feels the video getting out before investigative information is revealed causes people to judge and jump to conclusions.

"Whether that [using deadly force] was justified or not, all people see is the ugliness of it and the officer doesn't get to explain his point of view."

Related Posts



<http://wivb.com/2016/06/13/expert-explains-how-you-can-protect-yourself-during-an-active-shooter-situation/>

Expert explains how you can protect yourself during an active shooter situation
(<http://wivb.com/2016/06/13/expert-explains-how-you-can-protect-yourself-during-an-active-shooter-situation/>)



Cheektowaga man killed in local motorcycle crash
(<http://wivb.com/2016/06/16/motorcycle-crash-closes-part-of-route-33-in-cheektowaga/>)

[http://wivb.com/2016/06/16/motorcycle-](http://wivb.com/2016/06/16/motorcycle-crash-closes-part-of-route-33-in-cheektowaga/)



Practice emergency lockdown drill held at Walden Galleria
(<http://wivb.com/2016/06/21/practice-emergency-lockdown-drill-held-at-walden-galleria/>)

[http://wivb.com/2016/06/21/practice-](http://wivb.com/2016/06/21/practice-emergency-lockdown-drill-held-at-walden-galleria/)

WIVB News 4 Buffalo, NY (<http://wivb.com/>)

© 2000-2016 LIN Television Corporation, a Media General company. All rights reserved.

Powered by WordPress.com VIP ([https://vip.wordpress.com/?](https://vip.wordpress.com/?utm_source=vip_powered_wpcom&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=VIP%20Footer%20Credit)

[utm_source=vip_powered_wpcom&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=VIP%20Footer%20Credit](https://vip.wordpress.com/?utm_source=vip_powered_wpcom&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=VIP%20Footer%20Credit))

⌵