

TRAINING MEMORANDUM 11-025

DATE: April 04, 2011
TO: Chief Linda Stump
FROM: Lieutenant Mitchal J. Welsh
CC: Major Dunn, Office of Professional Standards, file
SUBJECT: Annual Analysis of Use of Force for 2010 Calendar Year

In the 2010 calendar year, a total of seven Use of Force Incidents were reviewed. There was one incident in which a firearm was discharged, three incidents in which officers drew their firearms, one incident in which a rip-hobble restraint was applied, and two incidents in which an officers use hard empty hand techniques.

For comparison:

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
TOTAL REVIEWS	18	14	17	18	7
Firearm discharged		1			1
Firearm displayed	8	5	8	11	3
Taser deployed	6	8	4	1	
OC deployed	2				
Baton strike					
Hard hand control			1	2	2
Rip Hobble applied	1		4	3	1
Suspect injured	1			1	

Further analysis of the information from the 2010 Use of Force statistics revealed that of the seven Use of Force incidents, four were in response to officers being called for service, one was a result of proactive work by the officers, one was in reference to a vehicle stop and one was in response to a burglary alarm. According to the findings three subjects were UF students, one was an employee and three did not affiliate. Other factors that were noted in the reports included that three incidents were involving drugs or alcohol, four incidents escalated due to a physical fight or disturbances, and two incidents involved suspects with weapons or implied weapons.

An analysis of the three incidents, where officers displayed their firearms, revealed the following information: Of the three events, one subject was armed with a knife, one event involved a burglary alarm at the UFTR and one event involved what the officer believed was a stolen vehicle. Each of these cases were reviewed and the officers were found to have been acting within the Department’s policies in each case with the exception of one. This case involved an officer that had received information regarding a possible stolen vehicle. The officer, without verifying the information, performed a felony traffic stop on the vehicle and driver. It was then discovered that the information that the officer was utilizing to validate the stop was old information and the vehicle was not stolen at the time of the felony traffic stop.

In March, 2010, the University of Florida Police Department experienced the most notable Use of Force incident in the history of the Department. Upon receiving orders to enter the residence of Mr. Kofi Abdu Brempong, officers forced their way into his residence. Upon entry into the residence, Mr. Abdu-brempong threatened the officers and was subsequently shot with a Taser, Less Lethal shotgun (bean bag round), and a .223 M4 Bushmaster rifle. The officers were cleared of any violations of law or University Policy regarding the Use of Force in this case. For a full review of the case, please go to <http://www.president.ufl.edu/incidents/2010/corryvillage/main-report.html>.

Comparison of 2009 and 2010 incident factors:

INCIDENT FACTORS	2009 (18)	2010 (7)
UF Student	3	3
Call for Service	12	5
Proactive Response	6	2
Traffic Stop	5	1
Stolen Vehicle	0	0
Burglary Response	2	1
Fighting	6	4
Drugs/Alcohol	3	3
Excited Delirium	0	0
Weapons	5	2

A review of the force application patterns over the last five years showed a steady or progressive increase in Use of Force incidents from 2007 through 2009. However, in 2010 there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of Use of Force incidents. The explanation for this decrease may not be fully identifiable at this time but could be associated to several factors including:

1. The Use of Force incident that occurred on March 2nd, referred to above potentially led to a decrease in Use of Force incidents. This incident appears to have had a profound effect on not only the police department but also the community.
2. Staffing levels could have also contributed to fewer Use of Force events. The five officers who were directly involved in the March 2, incident were placed on Administrative duty for an extended period of time. Furthermore, a decision was made to refrain from filling all vacant law enforcement positions due to the budget shortfall the state was having. Both of these issues led to few officers available to perform proactive duties, which potentially led to fewer Use of Force incidents for the year.
3. The overall crime rate for the department has decrease by 4.8%; however, the violent crime rate saw a small increase from 13 events in 2009 to 16 events in 2010. According to the UCR report there were 480 arrests made in 2009 and 320 arrest made in 2010; therefore, this would indicate that there were fewer confrontational incidents where Use of Force was necessary.
4. The Alachua County Sheriff's Office and the Gainesville Police Department have also seen a significant reduction in Use of Force incidents. GPD saw a reduction of 46 events

from 2009 to 2010 and ACSO saw a reduction of 37 Use of Force events from 2009 to 2010. These reduced numbers seen by each of these agencies directly influences the number of Use of Force events at UFPD, since there are fewer events that officers from our agency are requested to provide assistance from these agencies.

Taser deployments had increased through 2007, and then started to decline in 2008. The decline in Taser deployments has continued for the 2010 calendar year. This decline appears to be a result of the change in the department's policy in 2007, on when officers may utilize the Taser. The current policy requires that the suspect be transferring from active physical resistance to aggressive physical resistance. The department's policy appears to be in line with current law enforcement standards. There appears to be a societal desire to limit the indiscriminate use of the Taser and restrict the use of the Taser to those situations where it is needed to prevent harm to law enforcement personnel, potential victims, and suspects.

Additionally, in 2009 the department started to track situations when the Taser was only drawn but was not actually deployed. In 2010, there were six incidents in which the Taser was drawn but only displayed. In all six incidents, the suspect stopped or changed their resistance level and actual Taser deployment was not necessary. I believe that this is indicative of the officers' knowledge and understanding of the current Department policy regarding the use of the Taser. Additionally, I believe that individuals outside the Department are more familiar with the Taser and understand that they are best served by following the instruction of the officers in these situations.

Of the seven incidents that were reviewed in the 2010 calendar year, it appears that the officers were well prepared and made proper decisions to dispense the appropriate level of force for the majority of the incidents. With the exception of the one incident explained above, the Use of Force reviews determined that the officer(s) involved used the appropriate level of force for the situation. However, there were several issues that were identified as areas that officers needed additional training. Examples of areas identified that required additional training included verification and validation of information received over our in-car computers, use of cover and concealment, and continued training on the department's policy on use of force. The training of current and new officers concerning Use of Force and issues related to Use of Force continues to be a priority of the Training Division.

Use of Taser Statistics 2001-2010

METHOD	TOTAL		TOTAL	TOTAL	
	2001 - 2008	2009	2010	2001 - 2010	%
UF Students					
Drive Stun	5	0	0	5	55.56%
Darts Fired	3	0	1	4	44.44%
FACTORS DOCUMENTED FOR TASER INCIDENT					
Active Resistance	6	0	1	7	77.78%
Fighting	3	0	0	3	33.33%
Suicidal	2	0	0	2	22.22%
Drugs	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Alcohol	3	0	0	3	33.33%
Weapon	3	0	1	4	44.44%
Exited Delerium	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Injuries	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Non-Students					
Drive Stun	11	0	0	11	57.89%
Darts Fired	7	1	0	8	42.11%
FACTORS DOCUMENTED FOR TASER INCIDENT					
Active Resistance	15	1	0	16	84.21%
Fighting	9	0	0	9	47.37%
Suicidal	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Drugs	5	0	0	5	26.32%
Alcohol	7	0	0	7	36.84%
Weapon	1	0	0	1	5.26%
Exited Delerium	1	0	0	1	5.26%
Injuries	0	0	0	0	0.00%

Agency Comparisons

	2009			2010		
	UFPD	GPD	ACSO	UFPD	GPD	ACSO
CALLS FOR SERVICE	40,592	133,768	91,074	41,169	152,811	98,309
<i>Factor over UFPD</i>		3.3	2.2		3.7	2.4
USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS	4	129	101	3	83	64
<i>Factor over UFPD</i>		32.3	25.3		27.67	21.33
Firearm	0	1	0	1	0	2
Taser	1	53	48	0	47	31
Baton	0	2	1	0	1	0
OC Spray	0	8	3	0	1	1
Hard Empty Hand	3	47	11	2	11	11
K-9	0	18	38	0	23	19

* GPD did not deploy Tasers until early 2008

For compatibility purposes these figures do not include the drawing of a firearm, use of Hobble restraints, or any use of force against an animal.