

TRAINING MEMORANDUM 13-024

DATE: April 12, 2013
TO: Chief Linda Stump
FROM: Lieutenant Mitchal J. Welsh
CC: Deputy Chief Tony Dunn, Office of Professional Standards, file
SUBJECT: Annual Analysis of Response to Resistance for 2012 Calendar Year

In the 2012 calendar year, a total of twelve response to resistance incidents were reviewed. There were four incidents in which the officers drew their firearms, two incidents in which a Taser was deployed, one incident in which OC was deployed, two incidents in which hard empty hand techniques were used, two incidents in which a RIPP-hobble restraint was applied, and one incident where a suspect was injured.

For comparison:

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
TOTAL REVIEWS	17	18	7	10	12
Firearm discharged			1		
Firearm displayed	8	11	3	5	4
Taser deployed	4	1		1	2
OC deployed				1	1
Baton strike					
Hard hand control	1	2	2	1	2
Less Lethal Impact					
Ripp Hobble	4	3	1	2	2
Suspect injured		1			1

Further analysis of 2012 data revealed that of the thirteen incidents where response to resistance was initiated, eight occurred at incidents where officers were responding to a call for service, one occurred during a traffic stop, one occurred during a an officer initiated call, and two occurred while assisting the Gainesville Police Department. Data further revealed that three of the subjects were UF students, nine of the subjects did not affiliate. Other factors that were noted in the reports included that six incidents involved drugs or alcohol, three incidents escalated due to a physical fight or disturbances, and two of the incidents involved a suspect with a weapon or an implied weapon.

An analysis of the four incidents where officers displayed their firearms revealed the following information: one involved an escaped prisoner from Gainesville Police Department, one involved assisting GPD with clearing an apartment where there were possible shots fired, one involved the report of an armed disturbance in Garage 10, and one involved the traffic stop of a stolen vehicle.

* The department did experience one incident that involved the use of a Less Lethal 12 gauge drag stabilized bean bag round to destroy a deadly snake. The snake, identified as a moccasin,

was located in a storm drain but was believed to be a threat to the residents of Maguire Village. The decision was made to utilize the bean bag round to limit the possibility of injuries if a conventional firearm was used to kill the deadly snake while it was on concrete. The snake was instantly killed when struck with the bean bag round and the remains were removed. Although reviewed, since this force was used against an animal it was not included in the department's overall response to resistance numbers.

Comparison of 2011 and 2012 incident factors:

INCIDENT FACTORS	2011 (10)	2012 (13)
UF Student	2	3
Call for Service	5	10
Proactive Response	5	2
Traffic Stop	3	1
Stolen Vehicle	1	1
Burglary Response	1	0
Fighting	3	2
Drugs/Alcohol	2	5
Excited Delirium	0	0
Weapons	1	3

A review of the application of force patterns over the last five years showed a slight increase from 2008 through 2009. However, in 2010 there was a dramatic decrease in the number of incidents. Since then the number of incidents has increases slightly, but still down when compared to the recent high in 2009. The factors that cause an increase or decrease in the number of response to resistance events may never be fully known but the following may give insight as to variables that affect the numbers.

1. This slight increase in 2012 may be explained due to the increase in calls for service this year. There was an increase of 4,866 calls for service when compared to last years numbers. This can be seen in the number of events that occurred during a call for service as opposed to those that occurred as a result of proactive police work. There were 11 events that occurred as a result of a call for service and only 2 events that occurred as a result of proactive police work.
2. Additionally, the department saw a slight increase in the overall crime rate for this year as compared to last year. The increase was 2.1% with an increase in violent crimes from 10 in 2011 to 18 in 2012. This increase in crime rate could result in an increase of opportunities for officers to be involved in calls that could lead to a response to resistance event.

Taser deployments had increased through 2007, and then started to decline in 2008. The decline in Taser deployments has continued through the 2012 calendar year. This decline appears to be a result of the change in the department's policy in 2007, which changed the level of resistance that must be presented prior to the use of the Taser. The current policy requires that the suspect

be demonstrating aggressive physical resistance or transferring from active physical resistance to aggressive physical resistance. The department's policy appears to be in line with current law enforcement standards.

Additionally, in 2009 the department started to track incidents when the Taser was only drawn but was not actually deployed. In 2012, there were four incidents in which the Taser was drawn but not deployed. In all four incidents, the suspect either stopped offering resistance or reduced his/her level of resistance level; therefore 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 citizens are now more familiar with the Taser and understand that they are best served by following the instructions of the officers in these situations.

Of the twelve Response to Resistance incidents reviewed, only one incident was identified whereby the force used did not meet the department's standards regarding response to resistance. In that incident, the officer utilized his Taser on the individual when the subject's resistance level was identified only as active resistance. The department's policy requires that the subject's resistance level be active and where aggressive force is imminent. The officer involved in this incident received remedial training with regards to the use of the Taser and the department's policy on response to resistance. The officers involved in the other twelve incidents were found to have been acting within the department's policies, procedures, and directives; and it appears that the officers were well prepared and made proper decision in dispensing the appropriate level of force for the resistance level that was encountered. However, during the review process, there were issues identified where increased training would be of benefit to officer including: use of cover and concealment, empty hand techniques, Taser, baton, OC spray and continued training on the department's Response to Resistance policy. The training of current and new law enforcement officers concerning response to resistance and related issues continues to be a priority of the Training Division.

Use of Taser Statistics 2001-2012

METHOD	TOTAL		TOTAL	TOTAL	
	2001 - 2010	2011	2012	2001 - 2012	%
UF Students					
Drive Stun	5	0	0	5	55.56%
Darts Fired	4	0	0	4	44.44%
FACTORS DOCUMENTED FOR TASER INCIDENT					
Active Resistance	7	0	0	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	4	0	0	4	44.44%
Exited Delerium	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Injuries	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Non-Students					
Drive Stun	11	0	1	12	57.14%
Darts Fired	7	1	1	9	42.86%
FACTORS DOCUMENTED FOR TASER INCIDENT					
Active Resistance	15	1	1	17	80.95%
Fighting	9	0	0	9	42.86%
Suicidal	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Drugs	5	0	0	5	23.81%
Alcohol	7	0	0	7	33.33%
Weapon	1	0	1	2	9.52%
Exited Delerium	1	0	0	1	4.76%

Agency Comparisons

	2011			2012		
	UFPD	GPD	ACSO	UFPD	GPD	ACSO
CALLS FOR SERVICE	40,290	143,010	106,057	45,155	135,774	100,482
<i>Factor over UFPD</i>		3.5	2.6		3.0	2.2
USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS	10	129	94	12	106	92
<i>Factor over UFPD</i>		12.9	9.4		8.83	7.67
Firearm	0	1	2	0	2	1
Taser	1	45	31	2	45	50
Baton	0	0	0	0	4	0
OC Spray	1	5	0	1	2	0
Hard Empty Hand	1	15	8	2	42	17
K-9	0	18	26	0	11	4
<i>For compatibility purposes these figures do not include the drawing of a firearm, or use of Hobble restraints.</i>						