

Training Memorandum 16-038

DATE: February 29, 2016
TO: Chief Linda Stump-Kurnick
FROM: Sergeant Darin Gentry
CC: Deputy Chief Tony Dunn, Office of Professional Standards, file
SUBJECT: Annual Analysis of Response to Resistance for 2015 Calendar Year

In the 2015 calendar year, we reviewed a total of twelve response to resistance incidents. Of the twelve incidents, eight involved officers drawing their firearm, one involved an accidental discharge of a firearm, two involved the use of soft empty hand controls, and there was one deployment of the Taser.

For comparison:

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
TOTAL REVIEWS	10	12	8	9	12
Firearm discharged					1
Firearm displayed	5	4	5	4	8
Taser deployed	1	2	1	2	1
OC deployed	1	1			
Baton strike					
Hard hand control	1	2	1		
Soft Hand control				1	2
Less Lethal Impact					
Ripp Hobble	2	2	1	2	
Suspect injured		1		1	

Further analysis of the 2015 data reveals that of the twelve incidents where response to resistance was used, four occurred at incidents where officers were responding to a call for service, two occurred during a traffic stop, one occurred while assisting the Gainesville Police Department on a felony traffic stop, one occurred in response to a person who had fired a gun into the air, one occurred when an officer detained a subject for an alcohol violation, one occurred when an officer observed and responded to an armed disturbance, one occurred when an officer was approached by an aggressive dog, and one occurred when an officer had an accidental discharge of his firearm while conducting a building search. Of the twelve incidents, the data revealed only two involved University of Florida students. Other factors that were noted in the reports included that two incidents involved drugs or alcohol, four incidents escalated from a physical fight, and five incidents involved a suspect with a weapon or implied weapon.

An analysis of the eight incidents where officers displayed their firearms revealed the following information: one involved a suspect involved in a physical altercation firing a handgun in the air, one involved officers responding to a call of shots fired and once on scene assisting Gainesville Police Department with a felony traffic stop, one involved officers conducting a felony stop on a stolen vehicle, one involved officers confronting suspected bike thieves who were dressed all in black and were attempting to conceal themselves and their hands, one involved an officer confronting a large aggressive dog that had been attacking other dogs in the neighborhood, one involved officers responding to a suicidal subject reportedly armed with a handgun, one involved a report of a suspect pulling a gun on another person, and one involved an officer responding to an armed physical altercation with participants armed with a baseball bat and a knife.

Comparison of 2014 and 2015 incident factors:

INCIDENT FACTORS	2014 (9)	2015 (12)
UF Student	3	2
Call for Service	5	4
Proactive Response	3	4
Traffic Stop	1	2
Stolen Vehicle	0	1
Burglary Response	0	0
Fighting	1	4
Drugs/Alcohol	5	2
Excited Delirium	0	0
Weapons	2	5

A review of the application of force patterns over the last five years showed a slight increase from 2013 through 2015. The number of incidents in 2015 was slightly above the average of the last five years. Factors contributing to officer responses to resistance are widely varied and within the scope of this report cannot be fully determined based on available data. However, there are factors worth noting. One notable factor possibly contributing to the increase in officers displaying their firearms is a 150% increase from the previous year in the number of calls officers responded to where weapons were involved or implied. Another notable factor is a 300% increase from the previous year in the number of subjects who were combative or fought with officers. Another contributing factor may include a 15.38% increase in violent crime from the previous year; however, non-violent crime decreased by 16.9% (according to UCR).

Uniform Crime Reporting Comparison Between Local Agencies						
UCR Comparison	2014			2015		
	UFPD	GPD	ACSO	UFPD	GPD	ACSO
Violent Crime	13	817	572	15	930	543
Non-Violent Crime	574	4580	2086	477	4617	1864
Total Part 1 Crimes	587	5397	2658	492	5547	2407
Violent Crime Includes: Murder, Rape, Robbery, & Aggravated Assault/Stalking						
Non-Violent Crime Includes: Burglary, Larceny, & Motor Vehicle Theft						

Agency Comparisons

	2014			2015		
	UFPD	GPD	ACSO	UFPD	GPD	ACSO
CALLS FOR SERVICE	31,549	117,235	99,887	34,435	109,369	108,842
<i>Factor over UFPD</i>		3.7	3.2		3.2	3.2
Response to Resistance	2	85	122	2	66	63
<i>Factor over UFPD</i>		42.5	61.0		33.00	31.50
Firearm	0	0	2	1*	0	4
Taser	1	36	76	1	22	40
Baton	0	2	0	0	0	0
OC Spray	0	0	0	0	0	3
Hard Empty Hand	1	29	33	0	31	15
K-9	0	18	11	0	7	9

* *Accidental Discharge*

For compatibility purposes these figures do not include the drawing of a firearm or use of Hobble restraints.

Out of the twelve Response to Resistance incidents reviewed, the officers were found to be acting within the Department's policies, procedures, and directives on all, but one of the incidents. One incident involving the discharge of a Taser was initially deemed to be unjustified by the Response to Resistance Review; however, an Internal Affairs Investigation reversed that finding and deemed the officer was acting within Department policy and procedures. The only finding of a violation was the incident involving the accidental discharge of a firearm. The officer involved in this incident received extensive remediation totaling over forty hours. No other training deficiencies were identified in reviewing these twelve cases. In 2015 the Training Division took a proactive measure of increasing the amount of response to resistance training provided to officers during in-service training. The number of in-service hours of response to resistance training was increased from 16 hours the previous year to 18 hours.

In 2015, there were four incidents when the Taser was drawn but not deployed. The number of Taser deployments continues to be low over the last five years with only one in 2015. The Taser deployment incident in 2015 involved a suspect in a physical altercation with an officer. I believe the low occurrences of responses involving the Taser continues to be indicative of the officers' knowledge and understanding of the current Department policy regarding the use of the Taser. This can also be attributed to the increased training previously mentioned. 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.

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 2001-2014

METHOD	TOTAL			TOTAL		TOTAL	
	2001 - 2013	2014		2015		2001 - 2015	%

UF Students							
Drive Stun	6	1		0		6	54.55%
Darts Fired	5	1		0		5	45.45%
FACTORS DOCUMENTED FOR TASER INCIDENT							
Active Resistance	8	1		0		8	72.73%
Fighting	4	1		0		4	36.36%
Suicidal	2	0		0		2	18.18%
Drugs	0	0		0		0	0.00%
Alcohol	5	2		0		5	45.45%
Weapon	4	0		0		4	36.36%
Exited Delerium	0	0		0		0	0.00%
Injuries	0	0		0		0	0.00%

Non-Students							
Drive Stun	12	0		0		12	54.55%
Darts Fired	10	0		1		11	45.45%
FACTORS DOCUMENTED FOR TASER INCIDENT							
Active Resistance	16	0		1		17	72.73%
Fighting	11	0		1		12	50.00%
Suicidal	0	0		0		0	0.00%
Drugs	5	0		0		5	22.73%
Alcohol	7	0		1		7	31.82%
Weapon	2	0		0		2	9.09%
Exited Delerium	1	0		0		1	4.55%
Injuries	0	0		0		0	0.00%