

Herbert T. Jenkins Atlanta Police Academy



2017 Use of Force Report

Completed By
Sgt Steven Stewart
PDU Supervisor

Use of Force Policy

The following excerpts are taken from the Atlanta Police Department Policy Manual, APD.SOP.3010 Use of Force:

The Atlanta Police Department recognizes and respects the value of human life and the right of people to be secure in their persons and property. Sworn employees who, in the performance of their duties, encounter situations where the use of force reasonably appears necessary to effect an arrest or detention, overcome resistance, control a subject, or protect themselves or others from injury or death, will only use that force which is reasonable and necessary to accomplish lawful objectives.

Any employee who applies force or takes an action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, the physical injury or death of another person is required to immediately notify his or her supervisor. An incident report describing the incident must be completed on ICIS and submitted prior to the end of that employee's tour of duty.

An employee may use deadly force to apprehend a suspected felon only when:

1. He or she reasonably believes that the suspect possesses a deadly weapon or any object, device, or instrument which, when used offensively against a person, is likely to or does result in serious bodily injury and when he or she reasonably believes that the suspect poses an immediate threat of serious bodily injury to the officer or others; or
2. When there is probable cause to believe that the suspect has committed a crime involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical harm (O.C.G.A. Section 17-4-20) and the employee reasonably believes that the suspect's escape would create a continuing danger of serious physical harm to any person."

The responding supervisor must complete a Use of Force Report (Form APD 809) on any incident defined in sections 4.5.2 through 4.5.7 before the end of that tour of duty. A hard copy of this form will be forwarded to the Central Records Unit.

The Training Section will conduct an annual analysis of all use of force reports filed to determine if any patterns or trends in the use of force exist within the Department that would affect the training needs of employees, equipment issued to employees, or Departmental policy and procedure. Copies will be provided to the Chief of Police, the Assistant Chief of Police, the Office of Professional Standards, Planning and Research/Accreditation Unit, and the City Attorney. Copies of this report will be kept on file for five years.

Executive Summary

Atlanta Police officers arrested **32,997** individuals in 2017, compared to **35,669** individuals in 2016. That puts our arrest totals down **-7.4%** for the year. The Atlanta Police Academy reviewed **477** Use of Force Reports associated with those arrest compared to **433** Use of Force Reports in 2016. In 2017, the force was used is one-point four percent (**1.4%**) of all arrests.

It is important to note that these numbers do not take into account the hundreds of thousands of other police-citizen encounters that did not result in any use of force. (These include traffic stops and 911 calls for service.)

Totals	2017	2016	2015	2014
Arrests	32997	35669	40021	43242
Use of Force Reports	477	433	618	608
% Use of Force*	1.4%	1.2%	1.5%	1.4%

**Use of force as a percentage of total arrests*

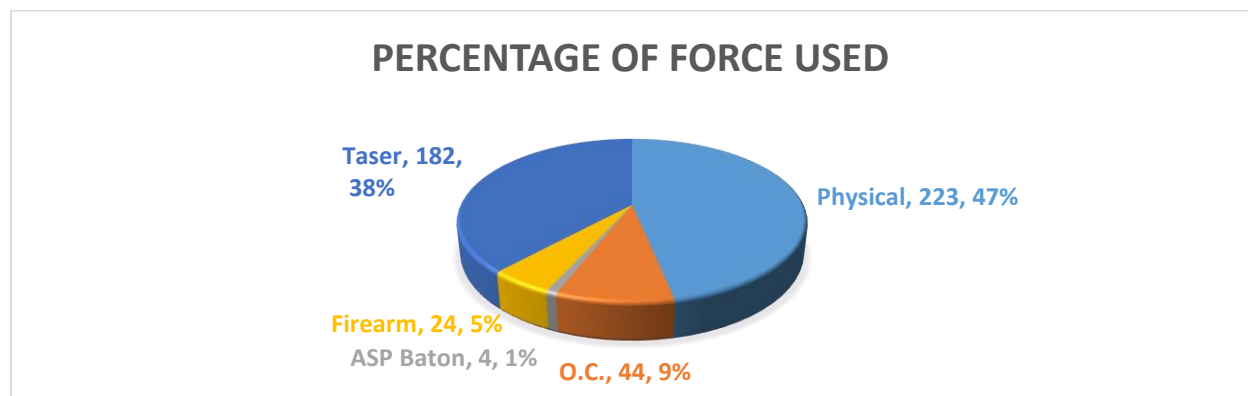
In 2017, the Atlanta Police Department received a total of **477** Use of Force Reports compared to **433** Use of Force Reports received in 2016 for an increase of **10.1%** in reported use of force incidents.

Type of Force	2017	2016	Change +/-	% Change
Physical	223	201	+22	+10.9%
O.C.	44	30	+14	+46%
ASP Baton	4	8	-4	- 50 %
Firearm	24	16	+8	+50 %
Taser	182	178	+4	+2.2%
Total Reports	477	433	+44	+10.1%

In 2017, most Use of Force incidents involved officers using physical force to obtain control of an arrestee. The use of **physical force** increased from **201** incidents in 2016 to **223** incidents in 2017 (+10.9%) when attempting to control citizens. Of the remaining use of force options, officers used **O.C. spray** in **44** incidents, up from **30** occurrences in 2016 (+46%); **ASP Batons** in **4** incidents, down from 8 occurrences in 2016 (-50%); **firearms** in **24** incidents, up from **16** occurrences in 2016 (+50%); and their **Taser** in **182** incidents, up from 178 occurrences in 2016 (10.1%).

The 2017 analysis shows that force usage is down in one category: ASP Baton. According to the 2017 Use of Force Analysis, Physical, OC and Firearm usage are up slightly.

Physical force had the greatest increase of reported incidents for 2017, there was a total of 22 more incidents documented for 2017 than 2016. The largest increase was in the use of force reported against property, there were 54 incidents documented in 2016 compared to the 78 incidents in 2017, this was a 44% increase of incidents documented. As we improve our methods of collecting data on use of force encounters and educating our officers on when an event should be documented. We may see an increase in the number of incidents reported.



The introduction of the Conducted Electronic Weapon (CEW - Taser) and its usage has minimized the amount of physical force and injury causation to both officers and arrestees. Taser dependence amongst officers has grown continuously since the introduction of the device in 2013. More than 90% of the department has been outfitted with the Taser, compared to the 70% in 2015. This increase of personnel having access to the Taser device as an option of force has increased its use and dependency. The CEW (Taser) has been a very effective tool in gaining compliance with potentially combative subjects, as well as, actual combative subjects with minimal mechanical issues and minimal injury to both officers and subjects. The deployment and use of CEW -Taser amongst officers have been consistent the last two years only having the variance of four additional incidents in 2017.

Remedial training has been provided to officers who have used their Taser in conditions that would present a hazard to the suspect (i.e. rain, wet conditions, uneven terrain and while the suspect is fleeing). Eight (8) officers were given remedial training with their Taser at the Academy by SPO Banja, SPO Payne, and Officer Hilton. The remedial training was conducted in a classroom via PowerPoint (Use of Force) and the gymnasium using practical application of the Taser.

During the practical application of the Taser, officers were instructed to run the length of the gymnasium towards two pictures of a suspect in a fighting stance. The officer was then given a command (Threat Right) or (Threat Left) at which time the officer would draw their Taser and fire one practice cartridge either left or right. The Officer would then be given instruction on how to "Arch" their Taser, best and safest location of the body of the suspect to make contact with prongs and how to safely remove fired cartridges from the Taser.

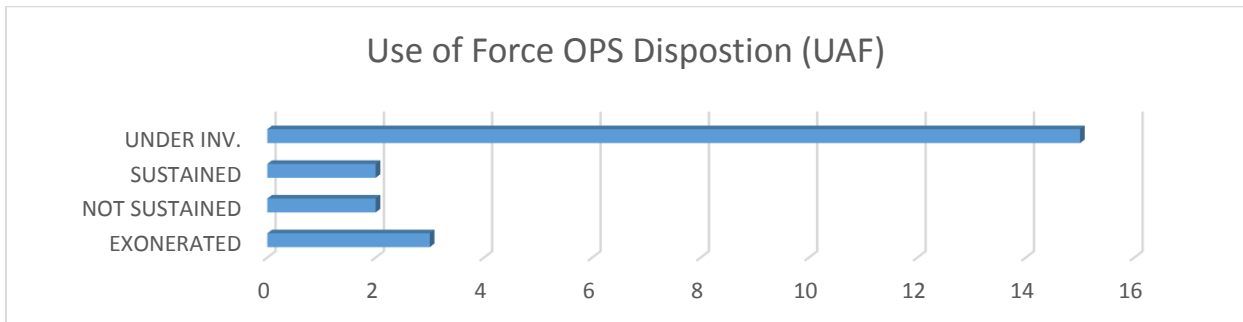
Those cases that presented evidence indicating that unreasonable force was used

were directed to the Department’s Office of Professional Standards (OPS) Unit for further review. OPS handled 22 reported cases of UOF in 2017, compared to the 29 cases 2016 (-24%).

Please note that OPS also investigated 24 cases where officers discharged their weapons. a detail review of those incidents can be found in the **Officer Involved Shooting** portion of this report.

Use of Force OPS Disposition (UAF)

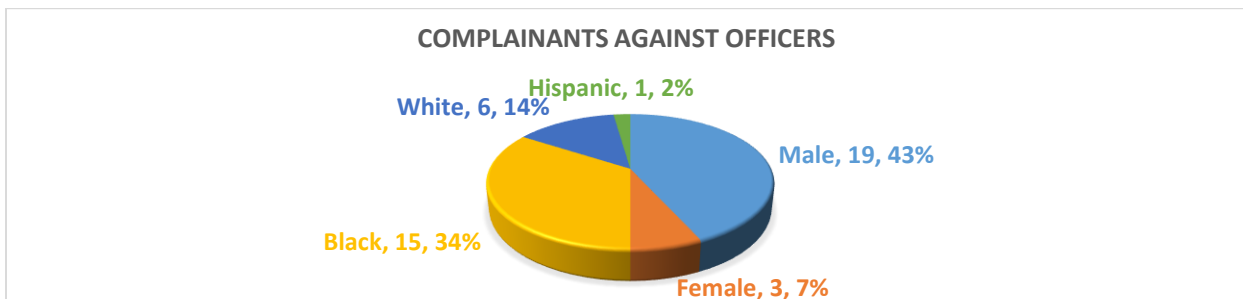
DISPOSITION	TOTAL
EXONERATED	3
NOT SUSTAINED	2
SUSTAINED	2
UNDER INV.	15
Grand Total	22



Complainants Against officers

Male	Female
19	3

Black	15
White	6
Hispanic	1



Officer Involved Shootings

There were 24 officers involved in a shooting or weapon discharge in 2017. Seven (7) officers were involved in a person being shot (PS) and 17 involved in a firearm discharge (FA)

These breakdowns are only for the 7 Person Shot Files:

Officer	Totals
Black	5
White	2

Suspect	Totals
Black	6
White	1

Nature of Stop by Officer

Call Type	Race B/W	Gender M/F
<i>Stolen Vehicle</i>	Black	Male
<i>Suspicious Person</i>	Black	Male
<i>Extra Job</i>	White	Male
<i>Domestic / Armed Suspect</i>	Black	Male
<i>Shots Fired</i>	Black	Male
<i>Carjack Suspect</i>	Black	Male
<i>Suicide Attempt</i>	Black	Male

Suspect Injury Totals

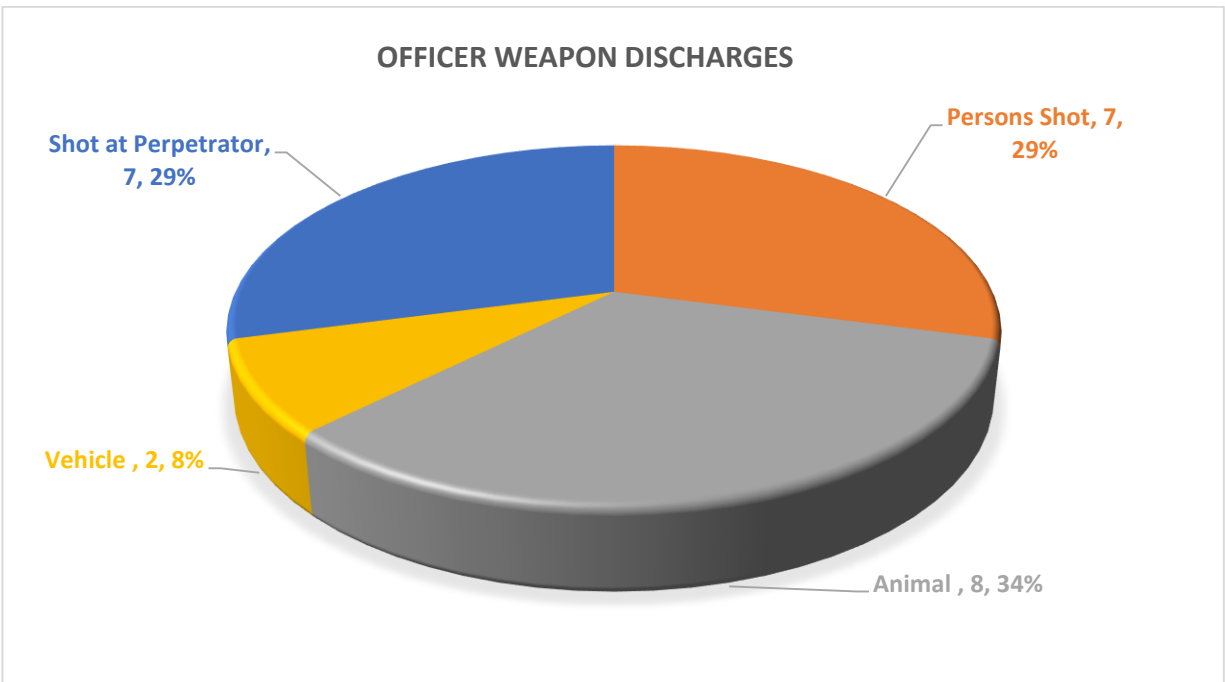
Death: 2
Injured: 5

One case was sustained and as a result that officer was dismissed, remaining 6 cases are pending active investigations*

Officer Involved Shootings

Below are the breakdowns for the 17 Officers who discharged their weapons in 2017:

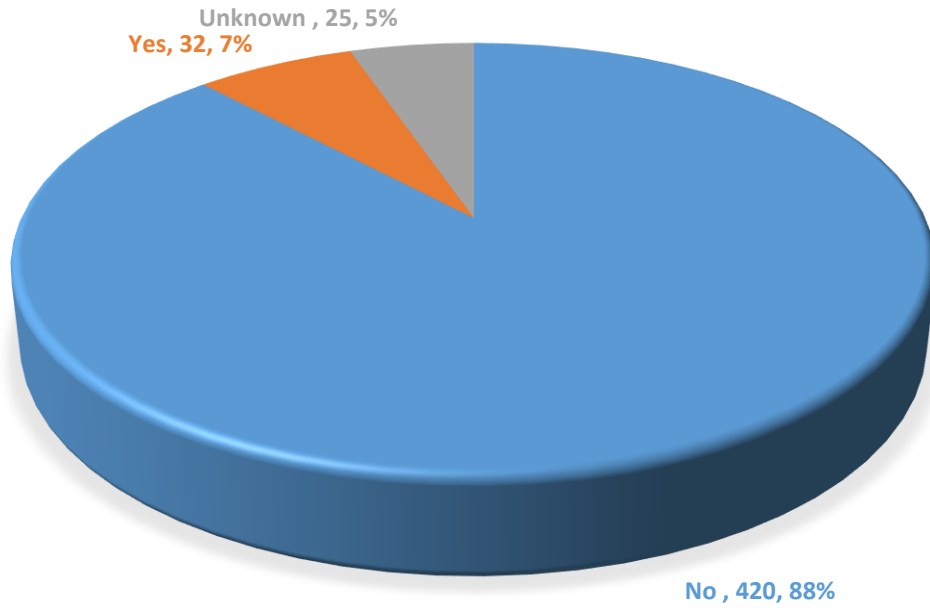
Race	
Black	9
Hispanic	1
White	7
Sex	
Female	1
Male	16
Rank	
Officer	16
Sergeant	1
Discharge Type	
Animal	8
Perpetrator	7
Vehicle	2



Officer Injured During Use of Force

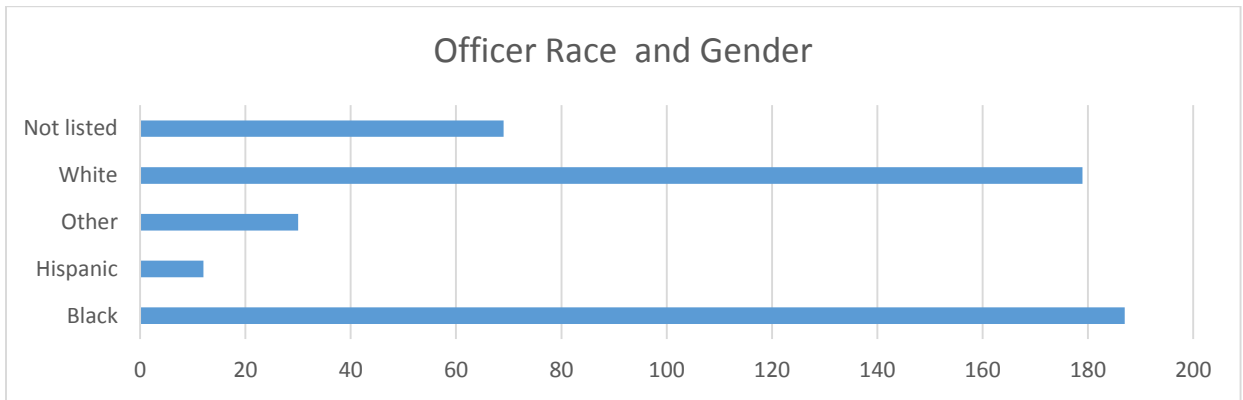
Officer Injured	2017
No	420
Yes	32
Unknown	25

OFFICER INJURED DURING USE OF FORCE 2017



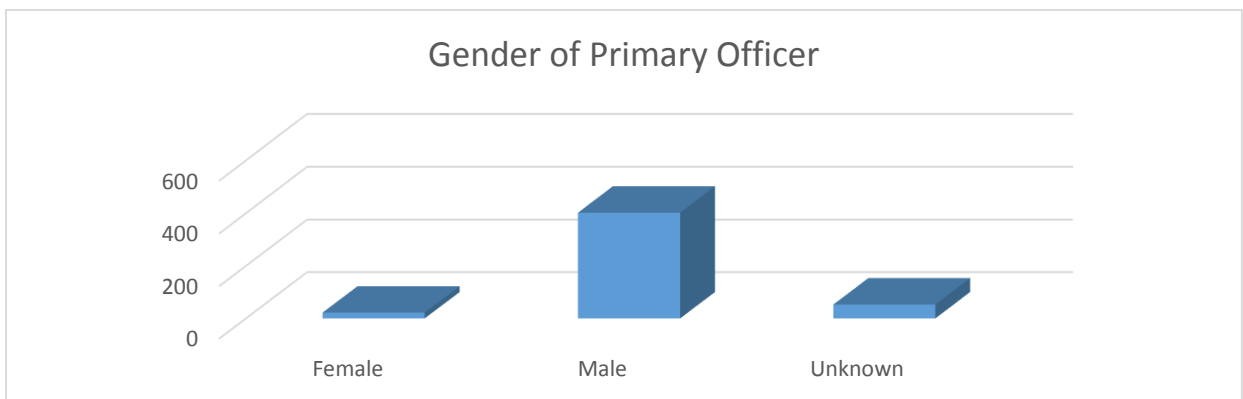
Officer Race and Gender in UOF Incidents

OFFICER RACE	TOTAL
Black	187
Hispanic	12
Other	30
White	179
Not listed	69



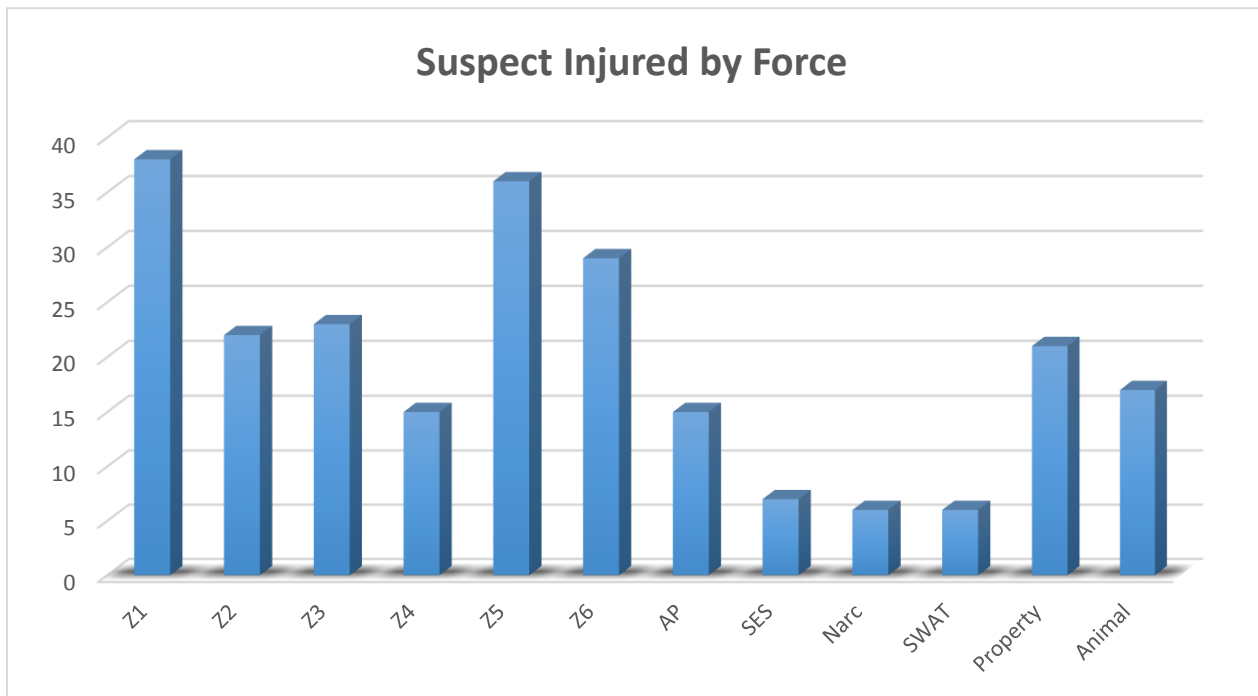
***Information pertaining to officer demographics was not previously included in the Supervisor's Use of Force Incident Supplement (APD Form 809). Following the 2016 Use of Force Analysis, these fields were added to the 2017 UOF Forms.**

OFFICER GENDER	TOTAL
Female	22
Male	402
Unknown	53



Suspects Injured by Force in UOF Incidents

Unit	Z1	Z2	Z3	Z4	Z5	Z6	AP	SES	Narc	SWAT	Property	Animal
Total	38	22	23	15	36	29	15	7	6	6	21	17

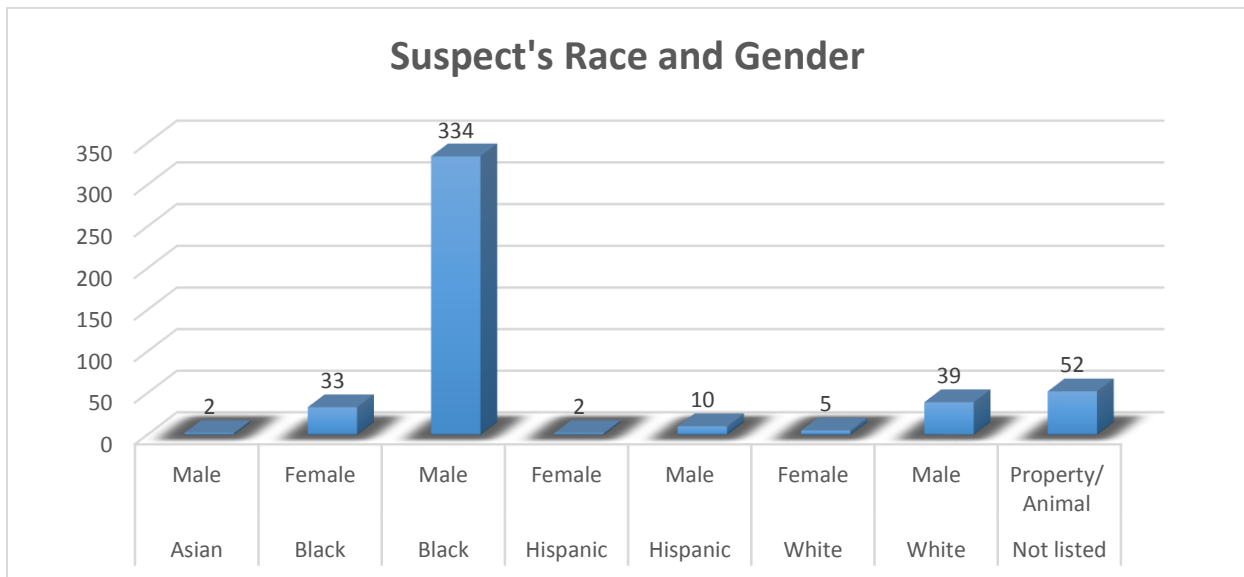


Zone 1 leads in suspects being injured by force. Many of the injuries were minor; a result of Taser prongs attaching to the skin, abrasions from falling and complaints of injury. Those reports that did indicate that an injury may have occurred did state that medical treatment was offered.

Suspect's Race / Gender in UOF Incidents

SUSPECT RACE	SUSPECT GENDER	TOTAL
Asian	Male	2
Black	Female	33
Black	Male	334
Hispanic	Female	2
Hispanic	Male	10
White	Female	5
White	Male	39
Not listed	Property/ Animal	52

***Please note that some data on gender and race of the suspects was not gathered due to incomplete UOF forms. This has been addressed with Roll Call training.**



Officer vs Suspects Present

Number of Officers Present

Numbers reflect the number of incidents 1, 2, or 3 or more officers were involved in UOF

Number of Officers	1	2	3 or More
Demented Person	34	4	10
Dogs	6	19	
Drug Arrest	30	29	8
Fight	82	11	16
Fugitive	36	4	3
Intoxicated Person	19	7	4
Suspicious Person	26	15	2
Traffic Stop	38	23	8
Other	24	10	9
Total	295	122	60

Number of Suspects Present

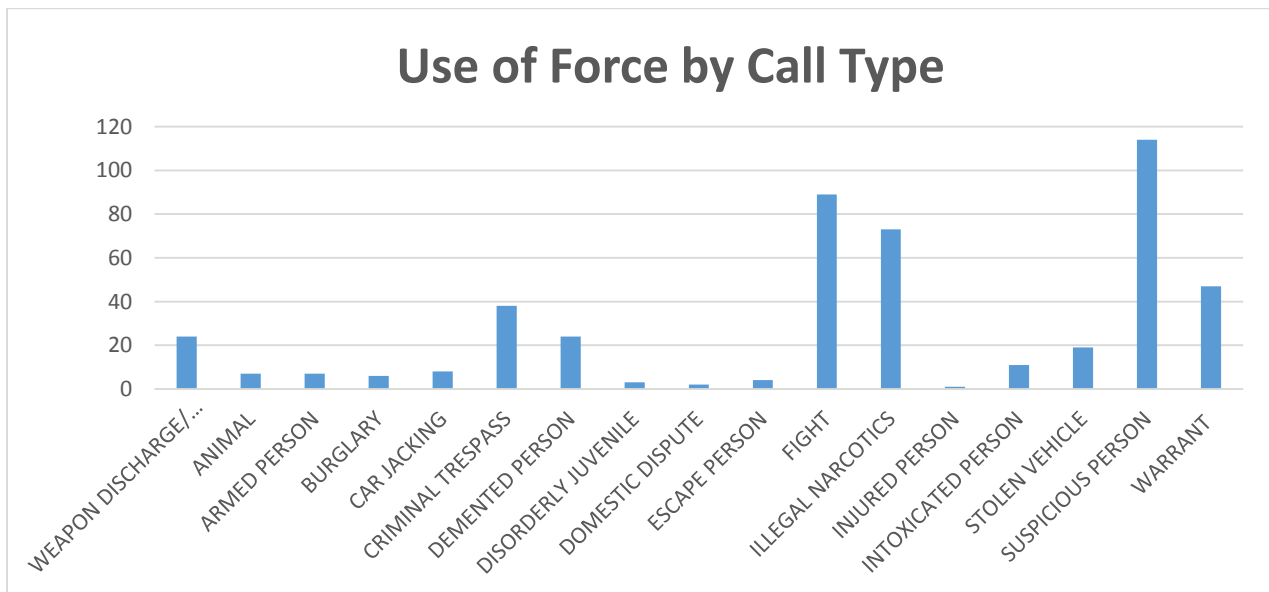
Number of Suspects	1	2	3
Demented Person	48		
Drug Arrest	67	15	
Fight	109	10	
Fugitive	40	3	
Intoxicated Person	30		
Suspicious Person	43		
Traffic Stop	62	6	
Other*	30	6	8
Total	429	40	8

**Note: The "Other" column was UOF that involved damage to property for a law enforcement action (i.e. search warrant, damage to windows, and doors).*

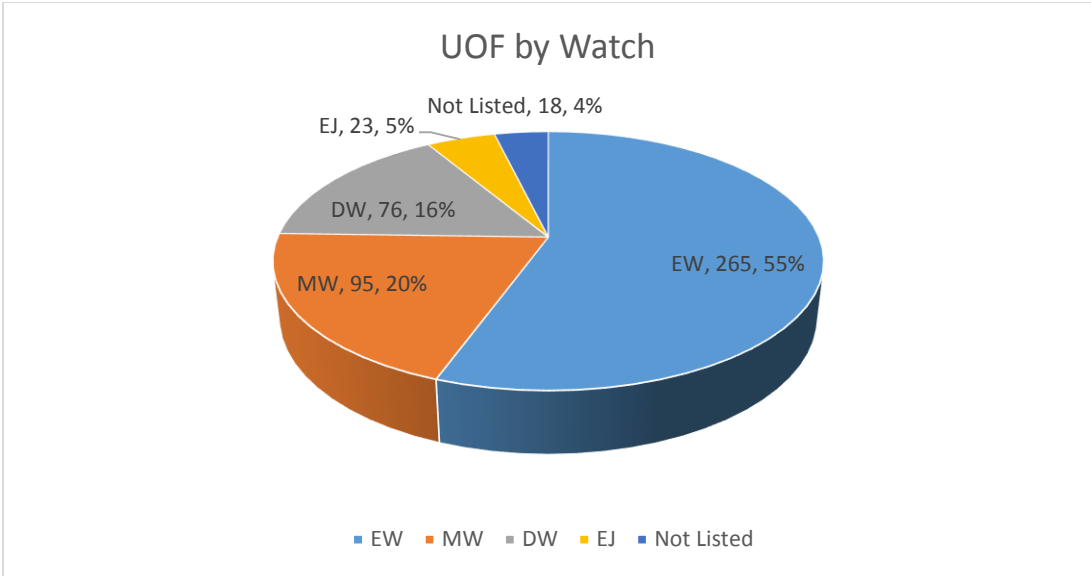
Use of Force by Call Type

The majority of use of force incidents involved one officer and one suspect. Most incidents involved **“Fight”** calls (Signal 29) and **“Suspicious Persons”** calls (Signal 54). Most incidents occurred during the evening watch hours of 3pm-11pm.

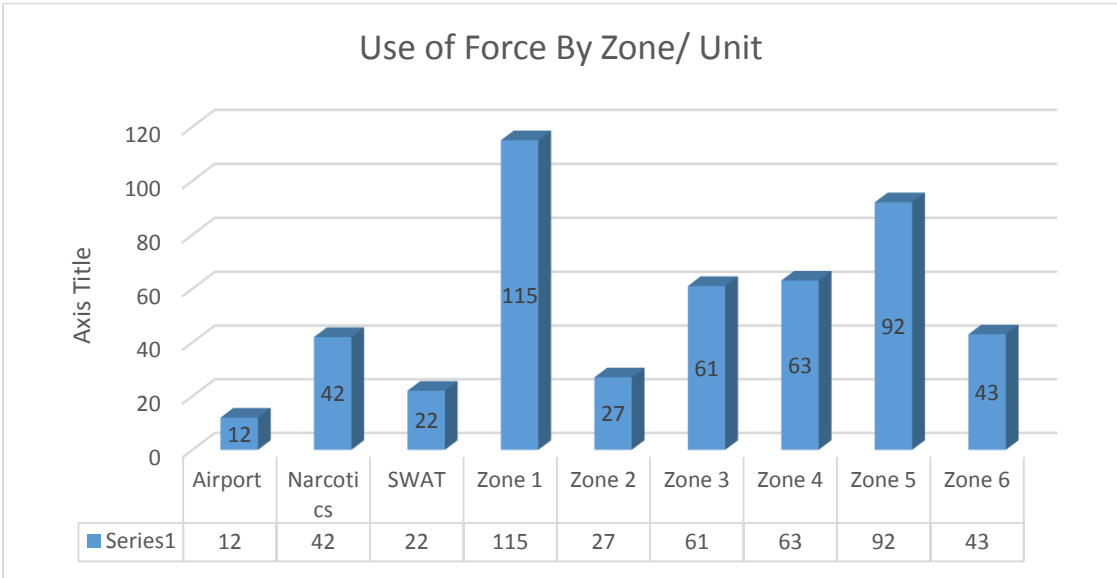
Type of Call	Total
WEAPON DISCHARGE/ PERSON SHOT	24
ANIMAL	7
ARMED PERSON	7
BURGLARY	6
CAR JACKING	8
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	38
DEMENTED PERSON	24
DISORDERLY JUVENILE	3
DOMESTIC DISPUTE	2
ESCAPE PERSON	4
FIGHT	89
ILLEGAL NARCOTICS	73
INJURED PERSON	1
INTOXICATED PERSON	11
STOLEN VEHICLE	19
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	114
WARRANT	47



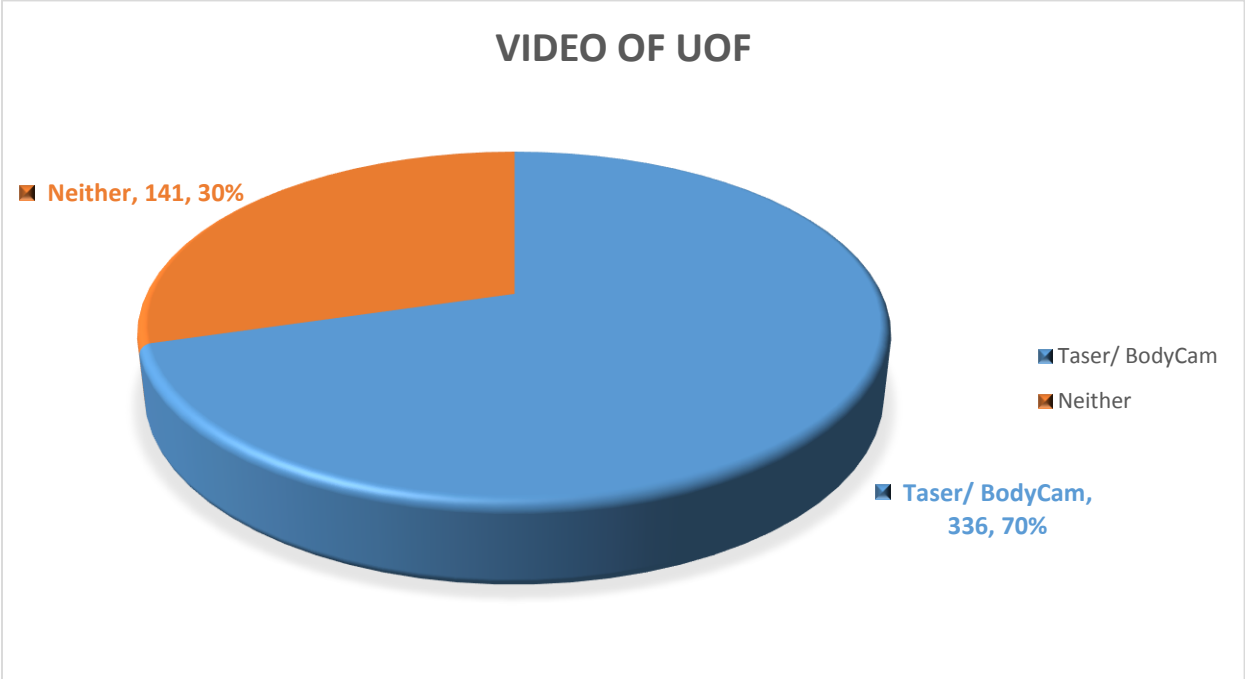
Use of Force by Unit/Watch



Zone 1 led the Department in Use of Force Reports (115), followed by **Zone 5** (92) and **Zone 3** (65).



Percentage of UOF Captured on Video



(70%), 336 of UOF encounters with officers were captured on either their body or Taser cameras. Those incidents that were not captured were the result of Evidence.Com being down, or their device malfunctioning failing to capture footage.

Assault on Sworn Officer Review

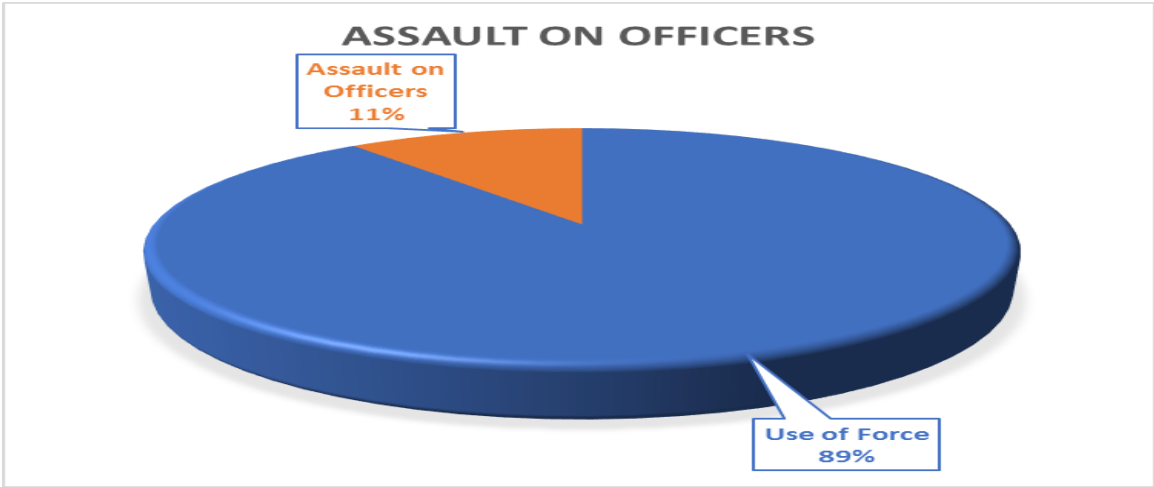
This review of assaults on Atlanta Police Officer is to determine trends or patterns, with recommendations to enhance officer safety, revise policy, or address training issues.

Following a review of the 2017 Use of Force analysis, it was determined that additional fields should be added to the Supervisor's Use of Force Incident Form (APD Form 809).

- A "Yes" or "No" field indicating if the officer's use of force was due to being assaulted by the suspect should be added to the current Use of Force Incident Form. This addition would assist in determining the number of incidents that officers were assaulted and assist in determining trends or patterns of behaviors by suspects to enhance training for officers.
- A "Yes" or "No" field indicating if the officer's use of force was due to being assaulted by the suspect should be added to the current Use of Force Review Form. This form is generally filled out by a Defensive Tactics Instructor at the Academy when reviewing the use of force reports. A narrative filed should also be added to the Review Form to note any concerns by the instructor. The addition of this field would assist in determining the number of incidents that officers were assaulted and assist in determining trends or patterns of behaviors by suspects to enhance training for officers.

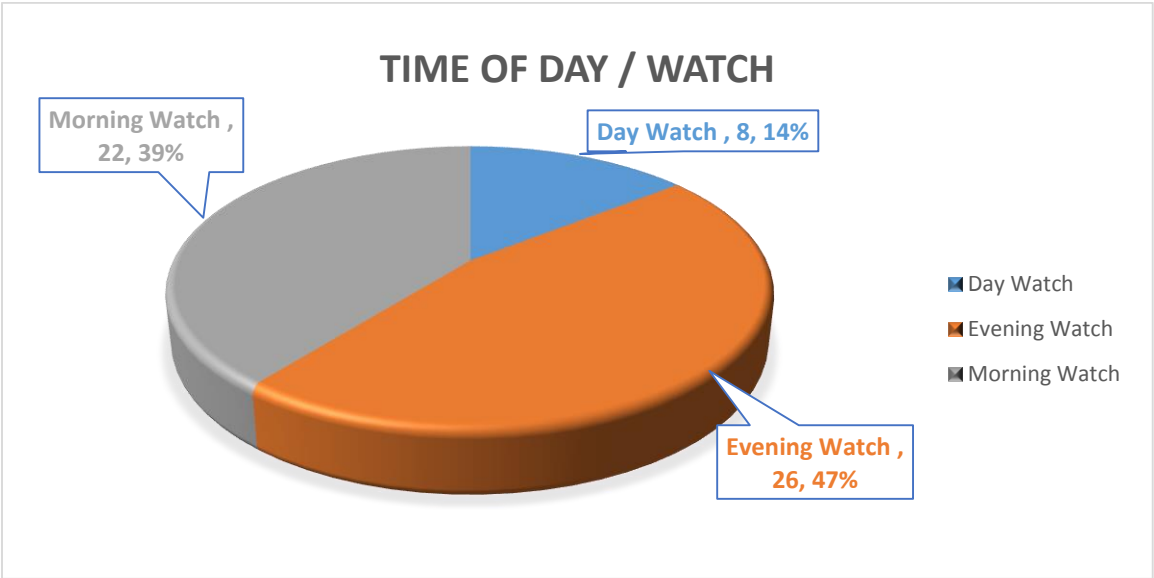
This data was partially collected in 2017; a complete analysis of these demographics will be provided in subsequent years. The process used to collect this data was determined by the officer's narrative of the events that led up to the use of force. There was a total of 477 UOF encounters that involved officers for 2017. 56 incidents (11%) were determined to fit the criteria of an officer being assaulted and force being used to neutralize or deflect the assault.

Assault on Sworn Officer Review



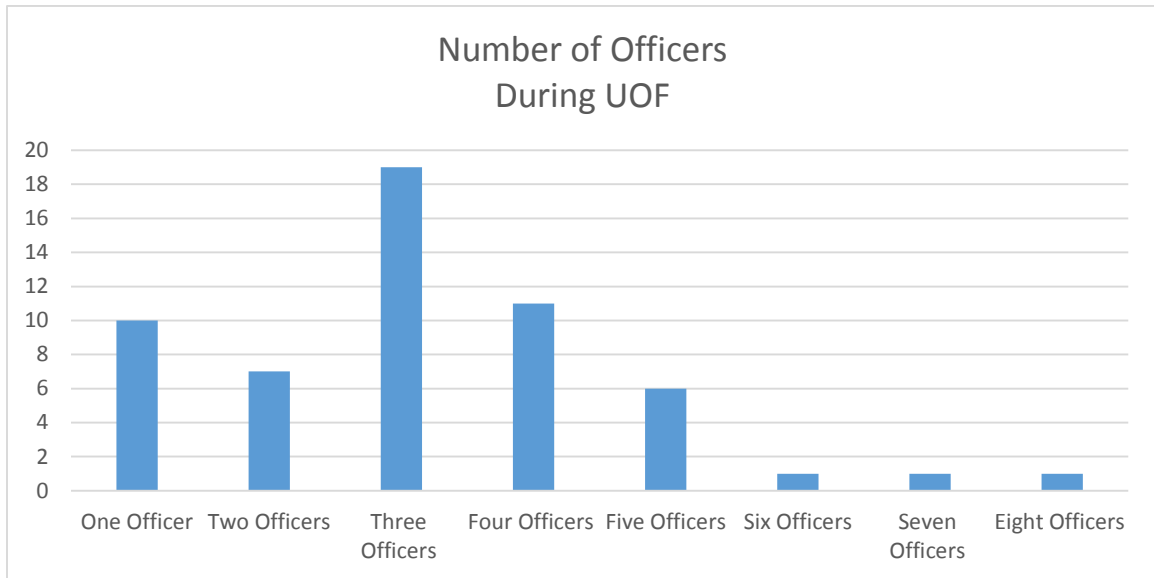
Assaults on law enforcement officers are critical events that significantly impact the safety of public safety personnel. These events can include felony or misdemeanor charges or related charges, and this review evaluates the implications of each type of event based on time of day, type of initial call, and presence of multiple officers.

Evening Watch led in the time of day UOF encounters were reported by officers.



Fight Calls led in the type of calls that were reported by officers.

Assault on Sworn Officer Review



Training recommendations for officers are:

- ***Compromised Handcuffing***, this training provides officers with the knowledge and skills to effectively secure or restrain a combative suspect using group dynamics and pain compliance. This training has been implemented into 2018 in-service and Basic Mandate for recruits.
- ***De-escalation***, this training provides officers with the knowledge and skills to resolve conflicts verbally and highlights the importance of careful assessment and situational awareness. This training has been implemented into 2018 in-service and Basic Mandate for recruits.
- ***Team Dynamic Reality Base Training***, this training provides officers with the knowledge and skills to resolve disputes and neutralize threats using a team concept. Officers enhance their communicative skills while reinforcing team work through task-oriented instruction. This training has been implemented into 2018 in-service and Basic Mandate for recruits.

Use of Force Summary

Sworn Personnel	White non-Hispanic		Black non-Hispanic		Hispanic Latino any race		Other		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Firearm									
• Discharge	2		5						24
• Number of Suspects Receiving Non-Fatal Injuries	1		4						5
• Number of Suspects Receiving Fatal Injuries			2						2
• Display only									N/A
ECW									
• Discharge	13	2	152	12	3		1		182
• Display only									N/A
Baton			3	1					4
Chemical /OC	2	2	35	4	1		1		44
Weaponless	24	1	138	16	6	2	6		223
Canine									N/A
• Release Only									N/A
• Release and Bite									N/A
Total Uses of Force									460
Total Number of Incidents Resulting in Officer Injury or Death									31
Total Use of Force Arrests									460
Total Agency Custodial Arrests									32,977
Total Use of Force Complaints									46

Please note summary does not include force the was used against property i.e., doors, windows etc.

2016 Recommendations on UOF

All recommendations that were listed on the 2016 Report were met. The PDU staff conducted training on less than lethal force weapons during in-service and specialized training. Crisis Intervention training (C.I.T) was given to recruits and sworn personnel, and a two-hour block of instruction on De-escalation was provided to all sworn personnel by the range staff. Body worn cameras were issued to sworn personnel, Reality Base Training was implemented into in-service and Fair/Impartial Policing training was provided to the SWAT and TFO teams.

Recommendations on UOF (2017)

These recommendations are in-line with the 6 Pillars of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. After reviewing the Use of Force Reports for the 2017 calendar year, the Training Academy recommendations for the Department regarding force usage involving the citizens of the City of Atlanta are:

- Continuing with the current training protocol regarding less lethal force weapons (e.g. Taser, O.C., ASP Baton, Verbal De-escalation, Compromised Handcuffing); Basic Mandate and during In-Service;
- Crisis Intervention Training C.I.T. Basic Mandate Training (40 hours) Conduct three (3) classes for 2018 training calendar;
- POST Mandated De-Escalating training (2-hour block, conducted at the Range during practical);
- Implementation of Body Worn Cameras (BWC) to document citizen encounters;
- Conducting Reality-Based Training scenarios in both In-service and Basic Mandate Classes; RBT will focus on group dynamics and teamwork.
- Conducting Fair/Impartial Policing Training (4 Hour Block) Specialized Training. Conduct three (3) classes for 2018 training calendar for APD Officers; also implement training for new recruits.

Following a review of the 2017 Use of Force analysis, it was determined that additional fields should be added to the Supervisor's Use of Force Incident Form (APD Form 809). Fields indicating if an arrest was made or not and if a canine was used to apprehend a

suspect. This data was partially collected in 2017; a complete analysis of these demographics will be provided in subsequent years.

- Conducting Reality-Based Training scenarios in both In-service and Basic Mandate Classes;
- Conducting Fair/Impartial Policing Training (4 Hour Block) Specialized Training. Conduct three (3) classes for 2017 training calendar for APD Officers; also implement training for new recruits.