

*Herbert T. Jenkins  
Atlanta Police Academy*



*2018 Use of Force Report*

*Completed By  
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## 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.

**C.A.L.E.A. Manual for Law Enforcement Standards  
2018 Use of Force Report and Use of Force Standards**

**4.2.4 (LE1)**

**(M M M M) (LE1) Analyze Reports from Use of Force47**

· **Annually, the agency conducts an analysis of its use of force activities, policies and practices. The analysis should identify:11**

**a. Date and time of incidents;11**

**b. Types of encounters resulting in use of force;11**

**c. Trends or patterns related to race, age and gender of subjects involved;11**

**d. Trends or patterns resulting in injury to any person including employees; and11**

**e. Impact of findings on policies, practices, equipment, and training.11**

· **Commentary--**

· **A review of incidents of force may reveal patterns or trends that could indicate training needs, equipment upgrades, and/or policy modifications. The process of collecting and reviewing the reports is also critical to this analysis. Time sensitive standard. (M M M M) (LE1)**

**4.2.5**

**[Print]**

**(M M M M) Assault on Sworn Officer Review36**

· **Annually, the agency conducts a review of all assaults on law enforcement officers to determine trends or patterns, with recommendations to enhance officer safety, revise policy, or address training issues. --**

· **Commentary--**

· **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 the review should evaluate the implications of each type of event based on these and other criteria. Other criteria**

**might include time of day, type of initial call, presence of multiple officers, or prior history of the arrestee(s). The purpose of the review is to determine what actions the agency may take to enhance officer safety, prepare the organization for request for information regarding use of force events, and maintain training curriculums that are predicated on real data from field-based events.**

## Executive Summary

Atlanta Police officers arrested **31,034** individuals in 2018, compared to **32,997** individuals in 2017. That puts our arrest totals down **-6.3%** for the year. The Atlanta Police Academy reviewed **528** Use of Force Reports associated with those arrests compared to **477** Use of Force Reports in 2017.

*It is important to note that these statistics 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, 911 calls for service and routine police encounters) Also note that some information was omitted from the 2018 report due to corrupted or lost information.*

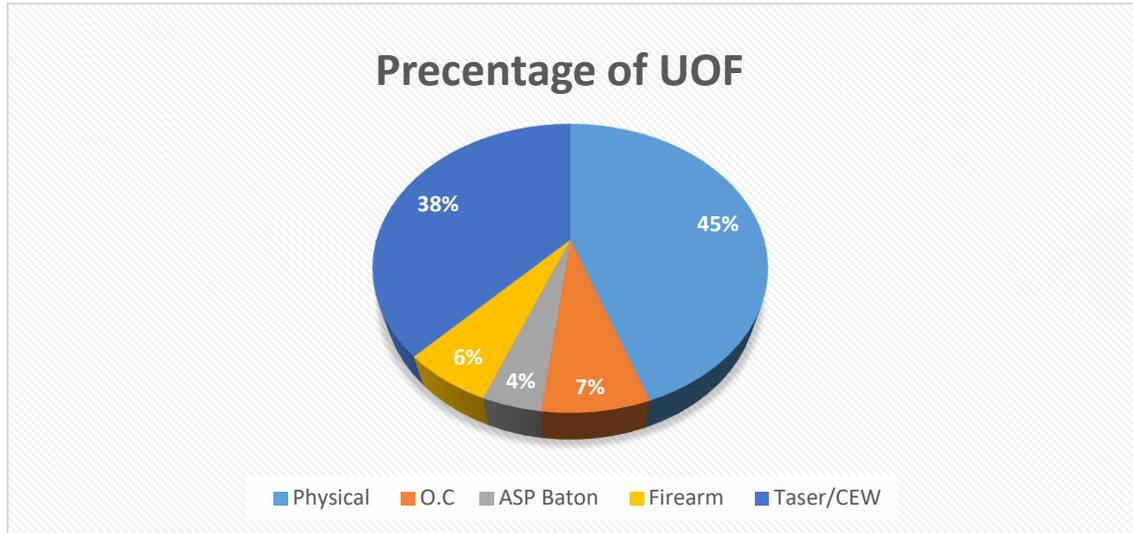
Totals	2018	2017	2016	2015
Arrests	31034	32997	35669	40021
Use of Force Reports	528	477	433	618

In 2018, the Atlanta Police Department received a total of **528** Use of Force Reports compared to **477** Use of Force Reports received in 2017 for an increase of **9.6%** in reported use of force incidents.

Type of Force	2018	2017	Change +/-	% Change
Physical	231	223	+8	3%
O.C.	38	44	-6	-16%
ASP Baton	21	4	17	80%
Firearm	42	24	+18	42%
Taser	196	182	+14	7%
<b>Total Reports</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>+51</b>	<b>9.6%</b>

In 2018, most of Use of Force incidents involved officers using physical force to obtain control of an arrestee. The use of **Physical Force** increased from **231** incidents in 2018 to **223** incidents in 2017 (+3%) when attempting to control citizens. Of the remaining use of force options, officers used **O.C. spray** in **38** incidents, down from **44** occurrences in 2017 (-6%); **ASP Batons** in **21** incidents, up from **4** occurrences in 2017 (+80%); **Firearms** in **42** incidents, up from **24** occurrences in 2017 (+42%); and their **Taser** in **196** incidents, up from **182** occurrences in 2017 (+7%).

The 2018 analysis shows that force usage is down in one category: OC Spray. According to the 2018 Use of Force Analysis, Physical, Asp Baton and Firearm usage are up slightly.



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 95% of the department has been outfitted with the Taser. 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 has been consistent the last two years only having the variance of fourteen additional incidents in 2018.

Remedial training has been provided to officers who have used their Tasers in conditions that would present a hazard to the suspect (i.e. rain, wet conditions, uneven terrain and while the suspect is fleeing).

***Note: 2018 historical data for remedial training for officers was corrupted or lost. Statistics for officers who received remedial training for the year 2018 will not be reflected in this report.***

Officers who did receive remedial training with their Taser were instructed by Inv. Mills. The remedial training was conducted in a classroom via power point (Use of Force) and the gymnasium using practical application of the Taser. Officers who received remedial training for other types of UOF were instructed via power point and the MILO simulator.

*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.*

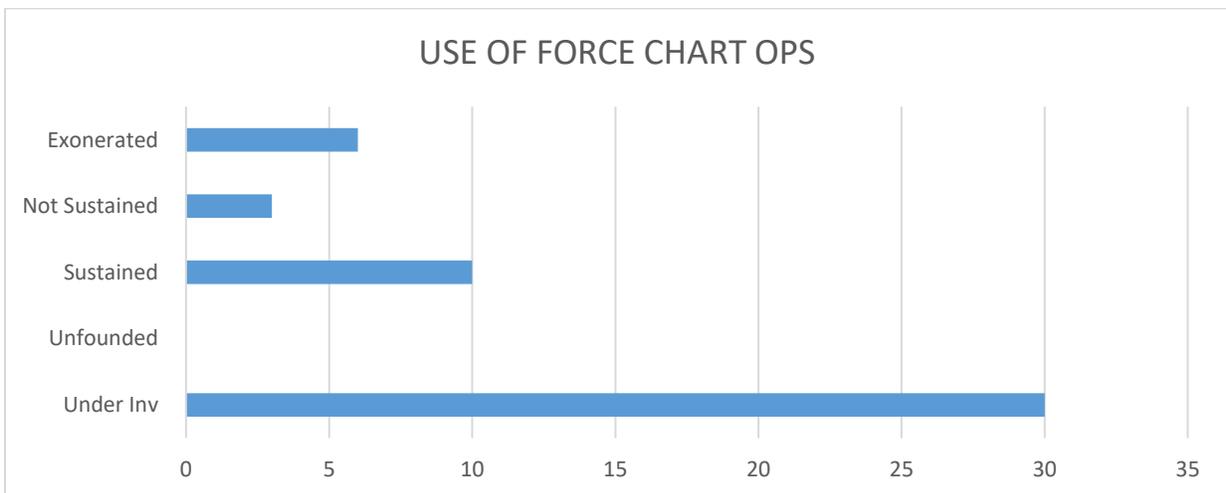
Those cases that presented evidence indicating that unreasonable or necessary force was used were directed to the department’s Office of Professional Standards (OPS) Unit for further review. OPS handled 49 cases of UOF in 2018, compared to the 46 cases 2017 (+6.1%).

**UOF Categories and Complaints Filed**

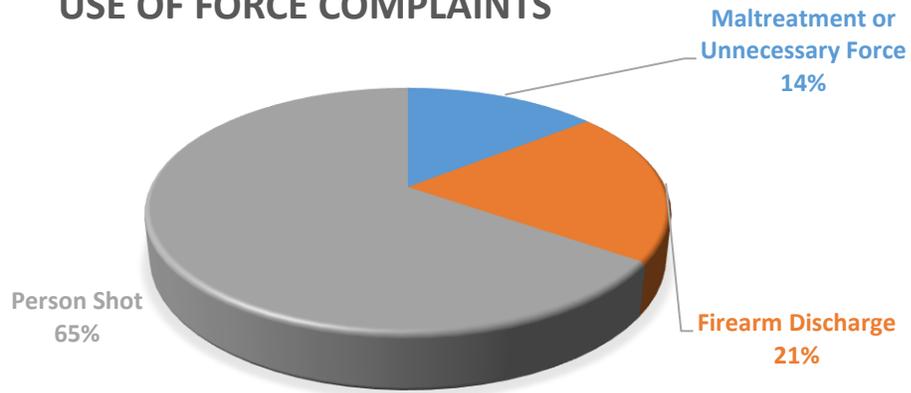
There were 42 officers involved in a shooting or weapon discharge in 2018. Thirty-two (32) officers were involved in a person being shot (PS) and Ten (10) involved in a firearm discharge (FA). OPS handled 7 cases that involved Maltreatment or Unnecessary Force.

Officer Race

Officers Total	49
Black Male	28
White Male	13
Black Female	6
White Female	0
Other	2



## USE OF FORCE COMPLAINTS



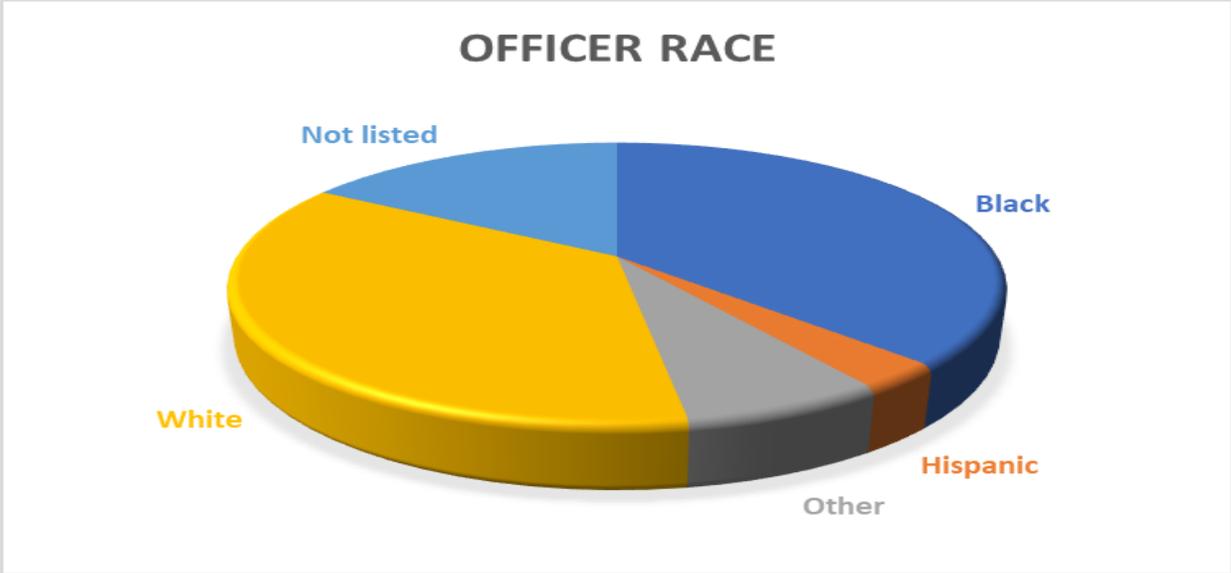
**Note: 2018 historical data for injuries to officers was corrupted or lost. Statistics for officers who received injuries while using UOF or injured from a UOF incident for the year 2018 will not be reflected in this report.**

### Officer Injured During Use of Force

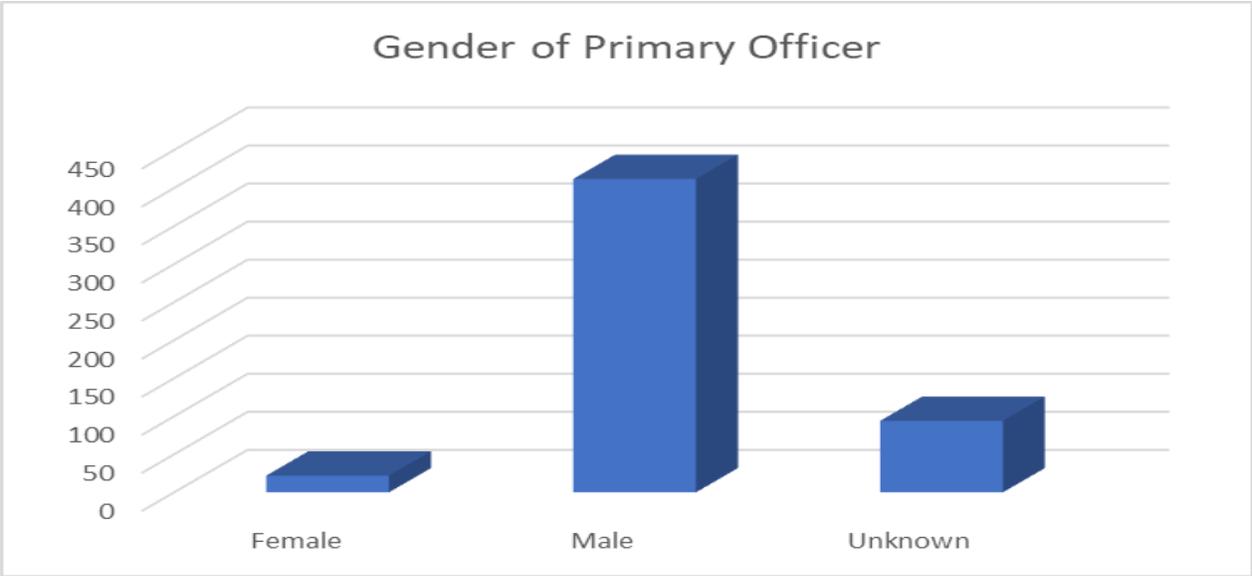
Officer Injured	2018
No	N/A
Yes	N/A
Unknown	N/A

### Officer Race and Gender

OFFICER RACE	TOTAL
Black	197
Hispanic	16
Other	38
White	191
Not listed	86



OFFICER GENDER	TOTAL
Female	22
Male	412
Unknown	94



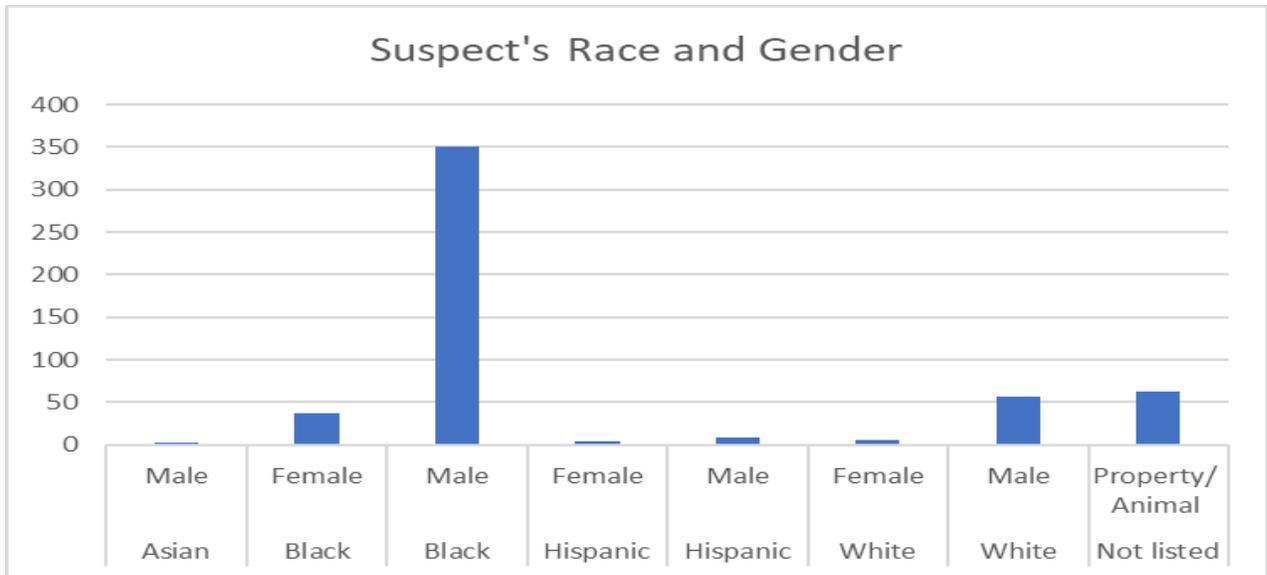
## Suspects Injured by Force

**Note: 2018 historical data for injuries to suspects was corrupted or lost. Statistics for suspects injured from a UOF incident for the year 2018 will not be reflected in this report.**

## Suspect's Race / Gender

SUSPECT RACE	SUSPECT GENDER	TOTAL
Asian	Male	3
Black	Female	37
Black	Male	351
Hispanic	Female	4
Hispanic	Male	9
White	Female	5
White	Male	57
Not listed	Property/ Animal	62

\*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/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
Demented Person	38	10	11 or more
Dogs	8	16	
Drug Arrest	35	25	8 or more
Fight	93	16	19 or more
Fugitive	41	8	6 or more
Intoxicated Person	23	10	6 or more
Suspicious Person	31	18	5 or more
Traffic Stop	43	21	5 or more
Other	5	6	3 or more
<b>Total</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>63</b>

### Number of Suspects Present

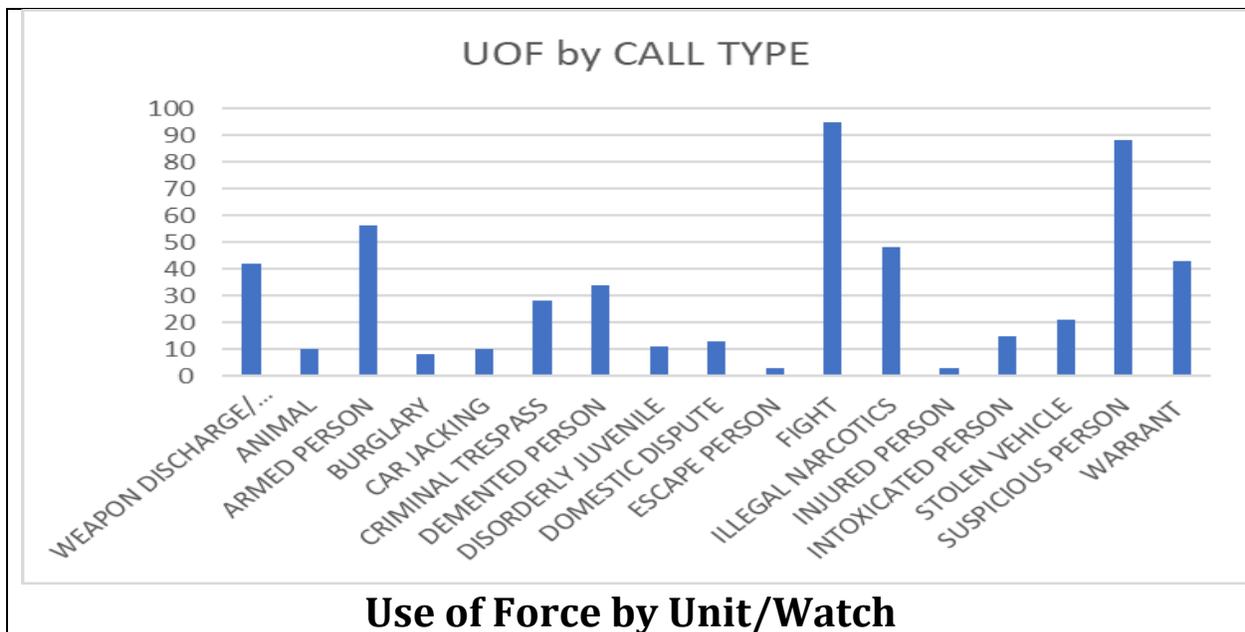
Number of Suspects	1	2	3
Demented Person	52	2	
Drug Arrest	71	14	1
Fight	118	23	
Fugitive	50	6	
Intoxicated Person	33		
Suspicious Person	51		
Traffic Stop	70	4	
Other*	27		
<b>Total</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1</b>

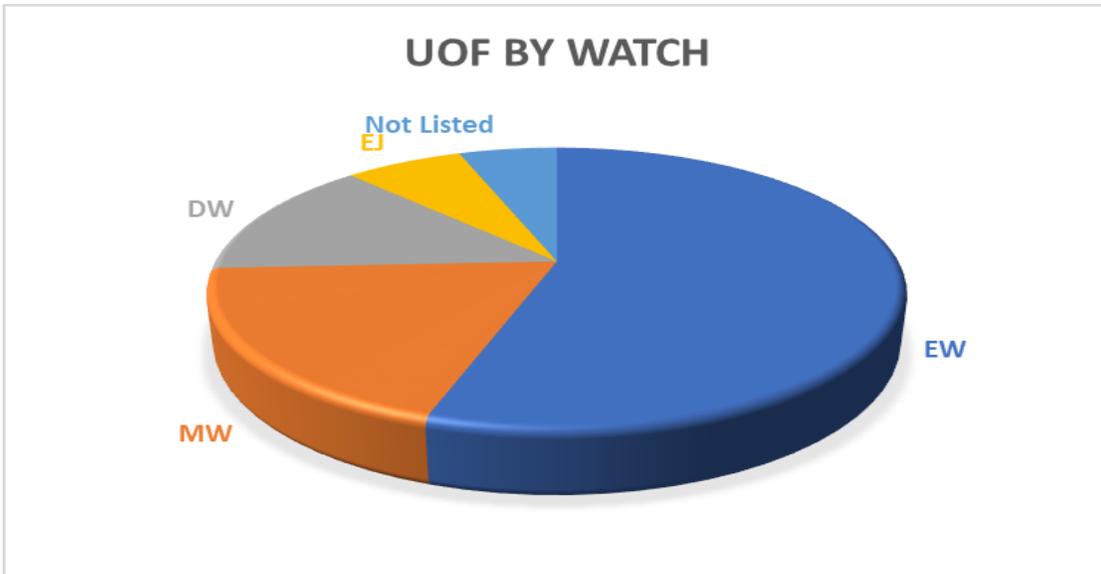
**\*Note:** The "Other" column was UOF that involved damage to property for a law enforcement action (i.e. search warrant, damage to windows, and doors).

## Use of Force by Call Type

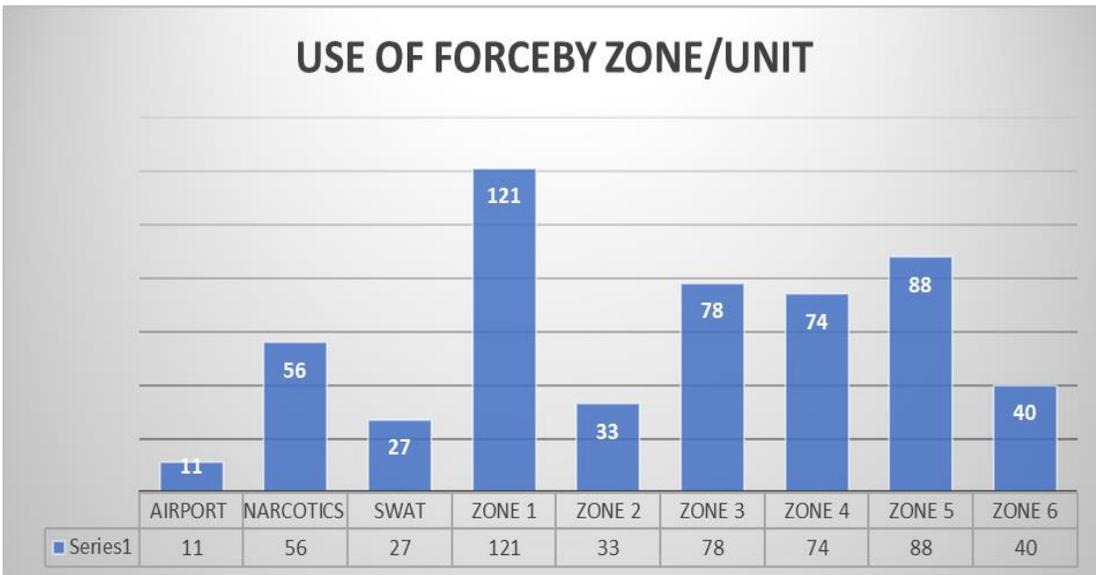
Most of the use of force incidents involved one officer and one suspect. Most incidents involved **“Fight”** calls (Signal 29) and **“Traffic Stops/Suspicious Person”** calls (Signal 72). Most incidents occurred during the evening watch hours of 3pm-11pm.

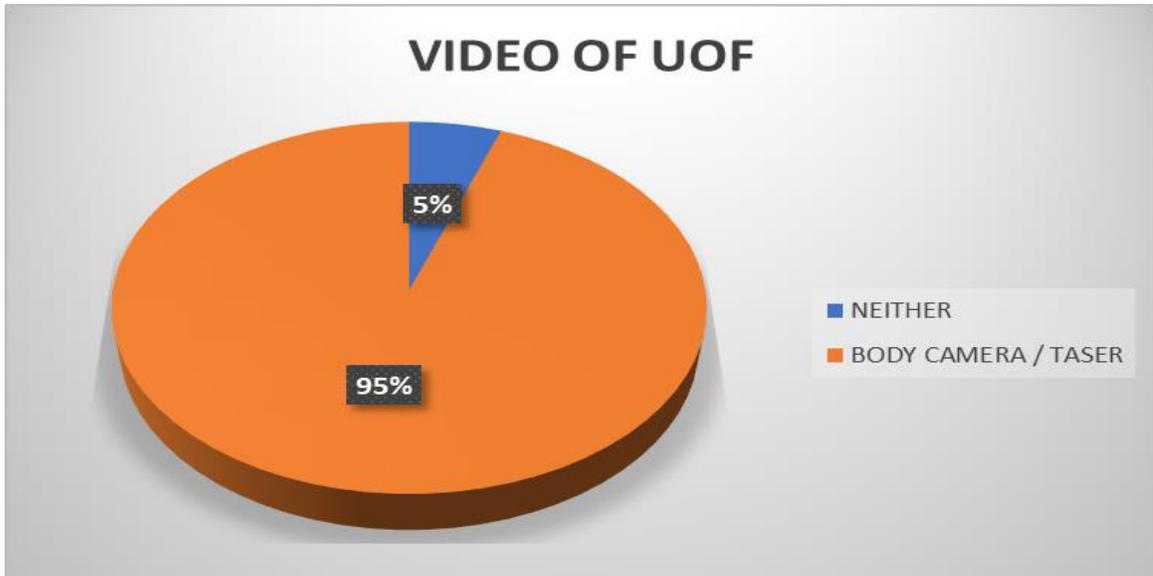
Type of Call	Total
WEAPON DISCHARGE/ PERSON SHOT	42
ANIMAL	10
ARMED PERSON	56
BURGLARY	8
CAR JACKING	10
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	28
DEMENTED PERSON	34
DISORDERLY JUVENILE	11
DOMESTIC DISPUTE	13
ESCAPE PERSON	3
FIGHT	95
ILLEGAL NARCOTICS	48
INJURED PERSON	3
INTOXICATED PERSON	15
STOLEN VEHICLE	21
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	88
WARRANT	43





**Zone 1** led the Department in Use of Force Reports (121), followed by **Zone 5** (88) and **Zone 3** (73).





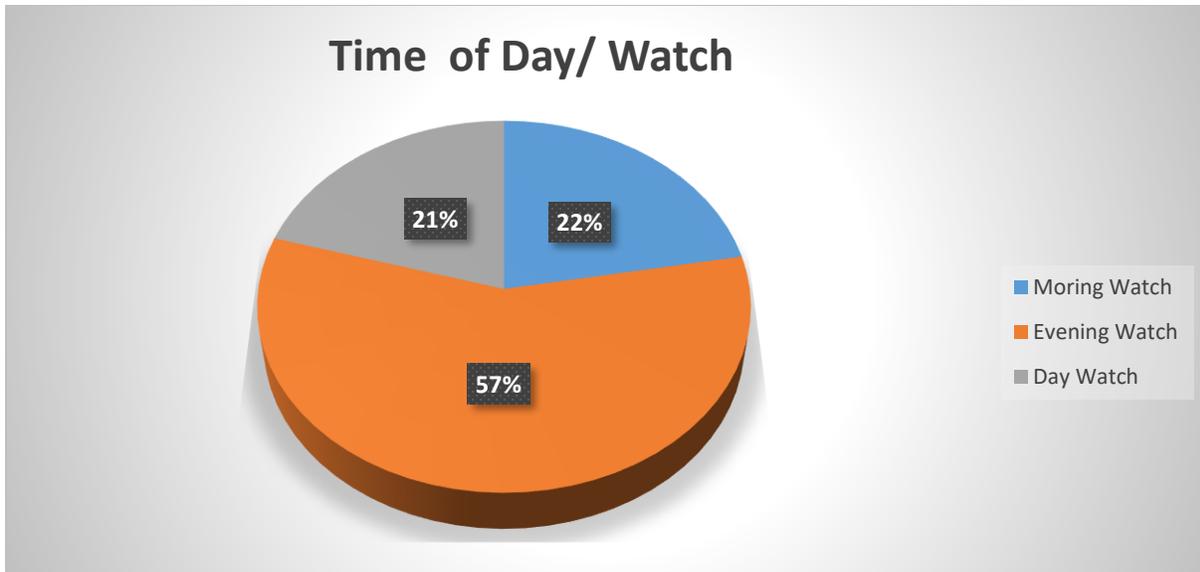
In 2016 the Body Worn Camera was issued to all personnel of the Atlanta Police Department that was required to wear the device. The Body Worn Camera has assisted officers in documenting their encounters with the public and has been a vital tool in resolving disputes and allegations of misconduct. 95% of the department's UOF incidents were recorded by Body Worn Camera (BWC) or Taser Camera. Many incidents where footage was not captured was due to the cameras falling off the officers while engaged with the suspect. This was corrected by the issuance of a BWC tether that attached to the officer's belt. Incidents where the camera battery died due to not being charged, turned off or not turned on were directed to OPS for further review and investigation.

### Assault on Sworn Officer Review

**Note: 2018 historical data for assaults on Officers was corrupted or lost. Statistics for assaults on Officers from UOF incidents for the year 2018 will not be reflected in this report.**

### Time of Day/Watch

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



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 2019 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 2019 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 2019 In-service and Basic Mandate for recruits.

## Use of Force Summary

Sworn Personnel	Total
<b>Firearm</b>	
• Weapon Discharge	42
• Number of Person Shot	32
• Number of accidental weapon discharges.	10
• Display only	N/A
<b>ECW</b>	
• Discharge	196
<b>Asp Baton</b>	21
<b>Chemical /OC</b>	38
<b>Weaponless</b>	231
<b>Canine</b>	N/ A
• Release Only	N/A
• Release and Bite	N/A
<b>Total Uses of Force</b>	528
<b>Total Number of Incidents Resulting in Officer Injury or Death</b>	N/A
<b>Total Agency Custodial Arrests</b>	31034
<b>Total Use of Force Complaints</b>	49

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

## **Recommendations on UOF (2018)**

These recommendations are in-line with the 6 Pillars of the President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing. After reviewing the Use of Force Reports for the 2018 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, and Compromised Handcuffing); Basic Mandate and during In-Service;
- 8 hours First Aid training Conduct three (3) classes for 2019 training calendar;
- POST Mandated De-Escalating training (2-hour block, conducted via online training through GPSTC);
- 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 2019 training calendar for APD Officers.

Following a review of the 2018 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 2018; a complete analysis of these demographics will be provided in subsequent years.