



University of Rhode Island
Department of Public Safety
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND POLICE
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS & TRAINING



TO: URI Community

FROM: Chief Michael Jagoda

DATE: January 11, 2024

SUBJECT: Annual Analysis of Use of Force Incidents for Calendar Year 2023

Background:

In January of each year, the department compiles statistics for the previous year in preparation for an annual Use of Force report to the Director of Public Safety & Chief of Police in compliance with department policy. Throughout each year, reports are reviewed and entered into a central database. The review of the 2023 reports and statistics included analysis of the incidents from a response-to-aggression point of view, going beyond the traditional statistical analysis. This was done to detect trends and determine whether in-service training conducted in 2023 influenced officers' decision-making related to use of force and whether modifications are necessary for future training and policy implementation.

Procedure:

Use of Force Reports/Investigations are completed in the field by supervisors, reviewed by the Deputy Police Chief, and forwarded to the Chief for final review and approval. If it is determined there is a training deficiency or policy compliance issue, the report is forwarded to the department training coordinator/accreditation manager for review and follow up. These reports are submitted through the chain of command to document the incident type, ensure compliance with Department policy, and to identify and address training needs. Each report is reviewed for accuracy and content problems, and if necessary, routed back through the chain of command for correction or further investigation.

Each report was reviewed for content and completeness, and the subject matter experts reviewed the specific circumstances of each incident in an effort to analyze the type of force and level of force utilized. Moreover, the incidents were reviewed with an eye toward identifying specific patterns of activity by personnel, trends in type of force, frequency of use, type of instrument/tool, associated injury to subjects and personnel, and training.



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Analysis of Use of Force:

This document encompasses the Department’s use of force incidents for 2023. For the 2023 calendar year, Two (2) Use of Force incident was documented/reported.

A comprehensive review of all investigative reports for 2023 supports that our personnel continue to use sound judgment with respect to Use of Force incidents. Moreover, in a majority of cases, personnel use a minimal and appropriate amount of force. We have continued with use of force training, specifically with *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989) and *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1 (1985). Instructors and subject matter experts review the specific elements of both cases annually during firearms training, as well as at Taser® training for both new and previously certified operators. Heavy emphasis is placed on the “objective reasonableness standard,” as this is how all use of force incidents are analyzed.

| <u>Incident Type</u> | <u>2023</u> |
|--|-------------|
| Oleoresin Capsicum Spray | 0 |
| Baton | 0 |
| Taser® | 2 |
| Firearm | 0 |
| K-9 Bite | 0 |
| Physical Force | 0 |
| Report of Injury to Prisoner | 0 |
| Complaint of Injury by Prisoner | 0 |
| Totals for the Year (Incidents) | 2 |