



Force and Tactics Assessment Unit

20
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Annual Use of Force Report



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Message from Chief of Police Al Jones

2020 was one of the most unique and trying years in recent history. Among some of the trials that came along with the year was a calling to re-evaluate police use of force from a national level. I believe that, through constant self-evaluation and looks at best practices across the nation, Arlington keeps records and documents its uses of force in a way that is second to none.

The Arlington Police Department values and respects human life and strives to serve and protect the citizens of our community, and visitors to our city, with the utmost courtesy and professionalism. Our officers constantly put themselves in harm's way to protect those we swore to serve. It is an unfortunate truth that, at times, force must be used in order to protect other's lives and property. When an officer is faced with these situations of force, the decisions they make have significant consequences and we constantly strive to ensure our officers are equipped with the knowledge and skills to make sound decisions that are ethical, moral, and legal.

All Arlington Police Officers are required to attend at least 40 hours of In-Service training each calendar year. Subjects that are covered include: defensive tactics, firearms, de-escalation techniques, and tactical medicine to provide first aid in the field until EMS arrives. Through training and discussion, the department recognizes that de-escalation is a key component of use of force and aligns with our organizational priority to look for innovative approaches to deal with non-compliant individuals to reduce or eliminate use of force occurrences. Our department strives to provide excellent service to our community in a procedurally just and fair manner.

We have an established unit for Force and Tactics that is staffed by senior personnel who are experts in the field. This unit analyzes all use of forces documented by the department and ensures that our officers in the field are utilizing the skills and training given to them, and that all uses of force are justified and legal, as well as in line with our department policy.

We remain committed to an open and transparent dialogue with the community, so that citizens gain a better understanding of what the department is doing to mitigate use of force occurrences. Effective public reporting of use of force incidents is a key aspect of that strategy.



2020 Summary

This summary provides details related to how the Arlington Police Department (APD) reports and tracks use of force by police employees.

2020 Use of Force Report Highlights

- APD responded to 229,310 total Calls for Service, a 23.1% decrease from total Calls for Service in 2019.
- There were 930 UOF Incidents during 2020.
- There were 1,317 subjects involved in the UOF Incidents, three of which involved animals.
- Only 0.4% of the Calls for Service in 2020 resulted in a reportable UOF Incident. That amounts to 4 UOF Incidents for every 1,000 Calls for Service.
- There were two incidents in which an officer discharged a firearm at a subject. Neither incident resulted in injury or death.
- In 2019, the department began to capture two new UOF categories, *CEW – Drew* and *CEW – Pointed*, ensuring consistency with APD’s reporting of firearm usage.

Use of Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW, i.e., TASER) Highlights

In 2018, the Force and Tactics Assessment Unit (FTAU) recommended, and APD implemented, a UOF policy modification, which elevated the CEW on the APD UOF continuum. The new policy requires “Assaultive Resistance,” or “When an employee reasonably believes it would be unsafe, or likely to cause more severe injury to the employee or others, to move into contact range of the subject without the use of the CEW,” or “To address an immediate safety threat of serious bodily injury to any person and no reasonable alternatives exist.” This policy change resulted in a significant drop in CEW usage over the last three years, accounting for just 0.6% of all force reported in 2020.

930 Use of Force Incidents

1,317 Subjects, which includes three Animals, involved in Use of Force Incidents

105,429 Dispatched Calls for Service

47,680 Self Generated Calls

76,201 Traffic Stops

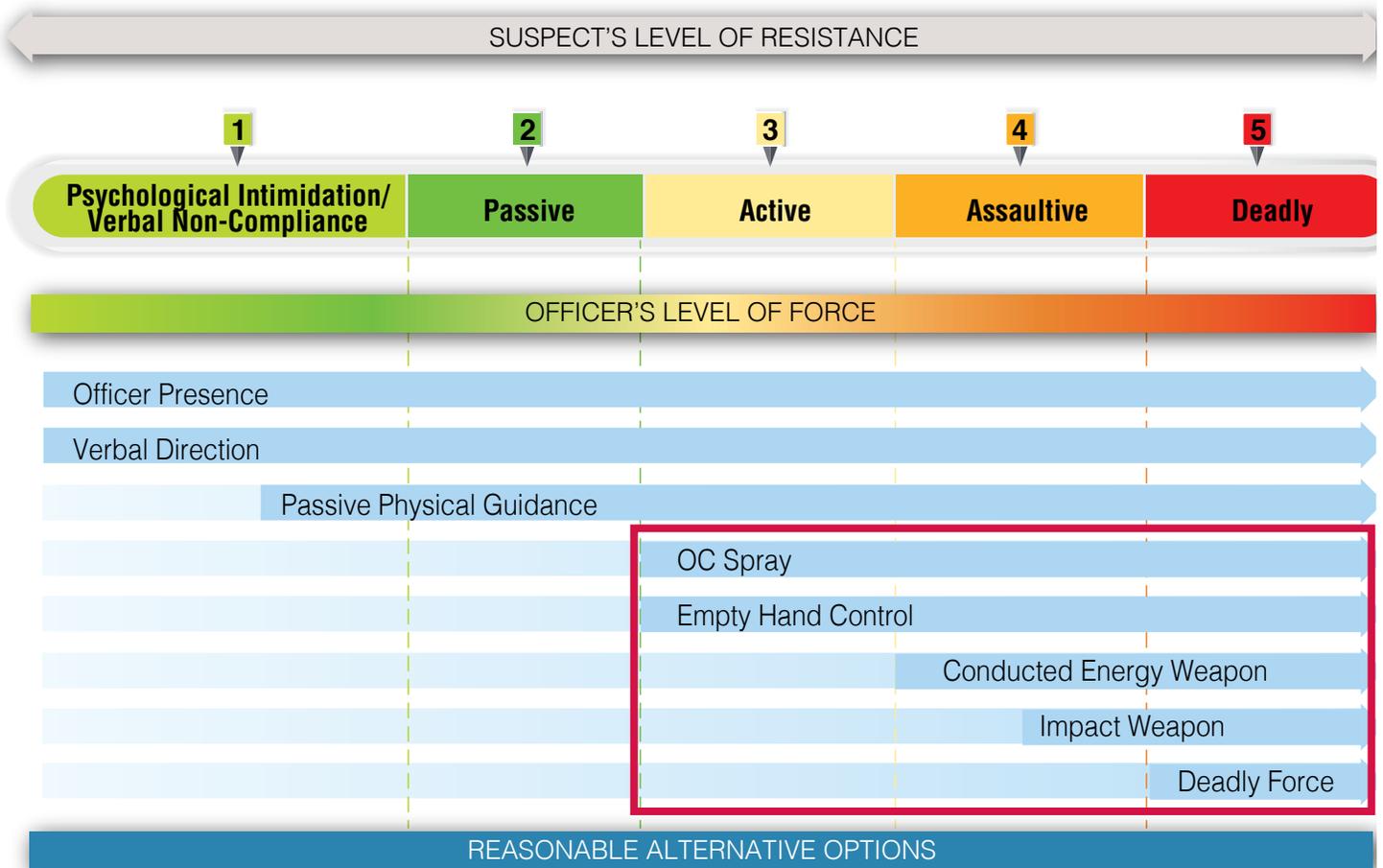
229,310 Total Calls for Service

23.1% Decrease as Compared with 2019

4 Use of Force Incidents for every 1,000 Calls for Service

2 Incidents Involving *Firearm - Discharged* at Subjects Resulting in No Injuries or Death

Totality of Circumstances Model



Red box indicates when a Use of Force Report must be completed.



APD Policy on Reporting Force

The Arlington Police Department requires employees who use force to document the force usage on a Use of Force Report. This is in accordance with standards established by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and as a matter of good community-based policing.

CALEA Standard 4.2.1 states, in part, *A written report is submitted whenever an employee:*

- a. Discharges a firearm for other than training or recreational purposes;*
- b. Takes an action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, injury or death of another person;*
- c. Applies force through the use of lethal or less lethal weapons; or*
- d. Applies weaponless physical force at a level as defined by the agency.*

The departmental policy on reporting force is outlined in General Order 401.07.A. and 401.07.E. Specifically, the policies state:

- A. Use of Force Report Required.** *Unless injury prevents it, before the end of the employee's shift, a Use of Force report will be submitted when an employee:*
 - 1. Takes an action that results in or is alleged to have resulted in injury or death of another person;*
 - 2. Applies force through the use of:*
 - a. Empty hand control;*
 - b. Leg restraints;*
 - c. Drawing a firearm or CEW (Taser) directed at or in response to any person(s) within their presence;*
 - c. Pointing a firearm or CEW (TASER) at any person(s);*
 - d. Discharging a firearm or CEW (TASER) (drive stun or probe mode);*
 - f. Handcuffing a person who is released without an arrest;*
 - g. Oleoresin-Capsicum (OC) spray or (approved chemical irritant);*
 - h. Impact weapon;*
 - i. Vascular Neck Restraint;*
 - j. Diversionary device;*
 - k. Apprehension by dog;*
 - l. Jail restraint chair;*
 - m. Any other method that a reasonable officer would believe to be reportable force but does not fit into an above listed category.*
- E. Reporting Exception.** *Personnel assigned to a tactical operation who participated in both a pre-operation briefing and a post-operation debriefing or evaluation and whose actions were reviewed according to the procedures of the Special Operations Standard Operating Procedure are exempt from completing the Use of Force Report form.*

FBI National Policies on Reporting Use of Force

2020 FBI National Use of Force Report

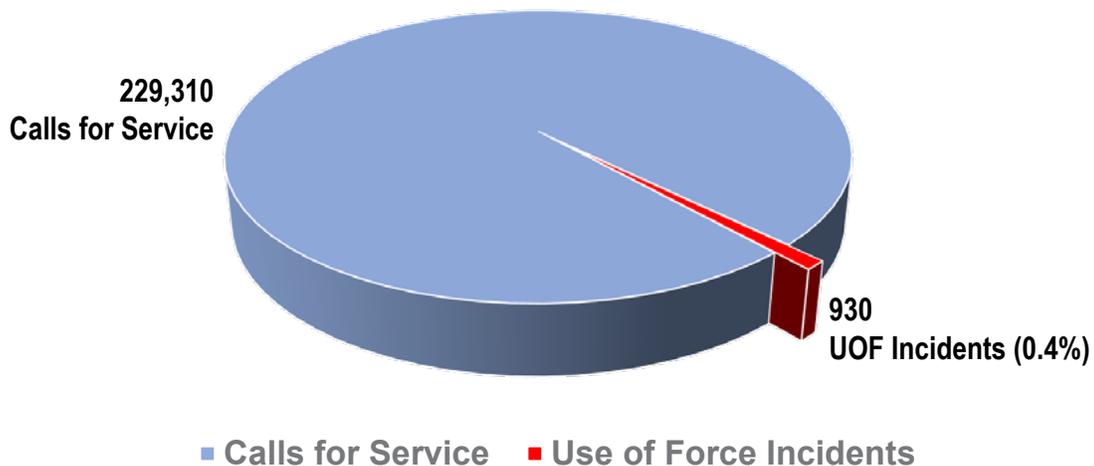
The FBI manages the National Use of Force Data Collection Program*. While there is no legal mandate for any police agency to report its use of force data to the FBI, APD is committed to transparency and voluntarily provides data to the FBI each month. In order to be reportable, the incident must:

1. result in the death of a person;
2. the serious bodily injury of a person; or
3. when a law enforcement officer discharges a firearm at or in the direction of a person.

In 2020, APD reported two incidents which met these criteria. Both involved officers who discharged a firearm at or in the direction of a person. Neither incident resulted in officer or subject injury or death.

** There is no national use of force standard. Each police agency creates its own use of force reporting standards based on jurisdictional requirements. Therefore, comparing agencies to one another is remarkably difficult.*

Calls for Service vs. Use of Force Incidents



Key Analysis Points

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Difference 2019-2020
Total Sworn Officers Departmentwide	617	649	671	673	676	0.4%
Total Detention Officers Departmentwide	44	38	41	44	40	-9.1%
Number of UOF Incidents	860	969	1,007	1,131	930	-17.8%
Number of Subjects Against Whom Force Was Used	1,197	1,307	1,384	1,636	1,317	-19.5%

Total Incidents by Call Type

Call Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% for 2020	% Difference 2019-2020
CID Investigative Contact	*	*	*	14	7	0.8%	-50.0%
Dispatched Call	578	661	667	752	591	63.5%	-21.4%
Jail Custody	24	19	16	14	23	2.5%	64.3%
On-View Call	157	188	175	170	142	15.3%	-16.5%
Traffic Stop	74	72	86	115	92	9.9%	-20.0%
Warrant Service	*	*	*	66	75	8.1%	13.6%
Other	27	29	63	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	860	969	1,007	1,131	930	100.0%	-17.8%

* In 2019 APD began to capture CID Investigative Contact and Warrant Service. The contact category "Other" was eliminated.

Race of Subjects Against Whom Force Was Used

Race of Subject	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% for 2020	% Difference 2019-2020
White Male	276	300	297	340	226	17.2%	-33.5%
White Female	108	100	108	129	75	5.7%	-41.9%
Black Male	471	473	497	587	493	37.4%	-16.0%
Black Female	82	129	133	177	180	13.7%	1.7%
Hispanic Male	193	214	249	282	238	18.1%	-15.6%
Hispanic Female	28	56	69	70	65	4.9%	-7.1%
Asian Male	27	21	21	41	19	1.4%	-53.7%
Asian Female	6	6	6	5	4	0.3%	-20.0%
Animal	4	4	1	2	3	0.2%	50.0%
Unable to Determine*	2	4	3	3	14	1.1%	366.7%
TOTAL	1,197	1,307	1,384	1,636	1,317	100.0%	-19.5%

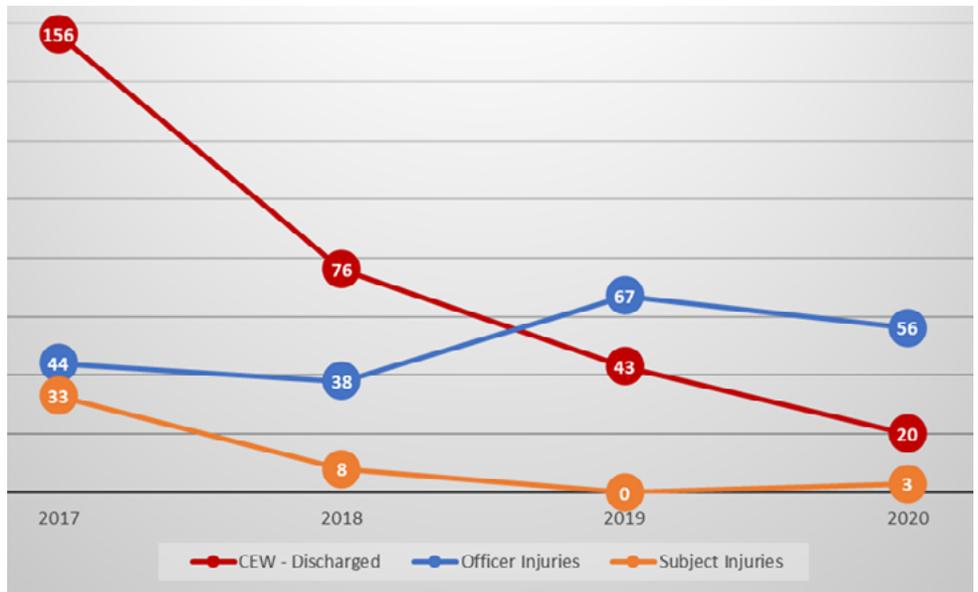
* There are rare instances in which an officer is unable to determine the race of a subject against whom force was used. This usually involves an officer pointing or drawing a firearm in response to a subject inside a vehicle at night. In these instances, the subject drives away without further officer contact. While the officer did use force, they were unable to determine the race of the subject and/or the sex of the subject.

Contact Category as a Percentage

Race of Subject	Felony	% of Total Contacts	Misdemeanor	% of Total Contacts	Mental	% of Total Contacts	Jail Custody	% of Total Contacts	Other	% of Total Contacts	TOTAL CONTACTS	% of Total Contacts 2020
White	171	13.0%	87	6.6%	36	2.7%	5	0.4%	2	0.2%	301	22.9%
Black	417	31.7%	220	16.7%	19	1.4%	10	0.8%	7	0.5%	673	51.1%
Hispanic	174	13.2%	109	8.3%	14	1.1%	5	0.4%	1	0.1%	303	23.0%
Asian	15	1.1%	7	0.5%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	23	1.7%
Animal	0	0.0%	3	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.2%
Unable to Determine*	7	0.5%	7	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	14	1.1%
TOTAL	784		433		70		20		10		1,317	100.0%
Type of Incident	Felony	60%	Misdemeanor	33%	Mental	5%	Jail Custody	1%	Other	1%		100%

CEW (TASER) Usage Analysis

- In 2018, the Force and Tactics Assessment Unit (FTAU) recommended a UOF policy modification which elevated the CEW on the APD UOF continuum.
- Policy now requires “Assaultive Resistance,” or “When an employee reasonably believes it would be unsafe, or likely to cause more severe injury to the employee or others, to move into contact range of the subject without the use of the CEW,” or “To address an immediate safety threat of serious bodily injury to any person and no reasonable alternatives exist.”
- Overall CEW usage shows a cumulative 87.2% drop since 2017.



- Subject injuries noted during CEW incidents shows a cumulative 90.9% drop since 2017.

Police Employee and Subject Injuries

Police employee injuries, as documented on a Use of Force Report by either “Employee Injured During Force Application” or “Employee Injured by Subject” decreased to 56 in 2020 compared to 67 in 2019. This represents a decrease of 11 injured police employees in 2020 (-16.4%). Each of the reported injuries was examined and all injuries were sustained while the police employee utilized *Empty Hand Control* against a non-compliant subject.



Analysis showed that in nearly every case, the injury was categorized as minor using terms such as pain, redness, soreness, abrasions, scratches, swelling, minor cuts, or strain to a joint. In a few incidents, the police employee was bitten by a subject, which again resulted in only minor injuries. The most severe injuries noted were a strained rotator cuff, a strained back, and strained ligaments/tendons in a police employee’s hand.

While reported police employee injuries decreased, the number of reported subject injuries increased only slightly from 81 to 84 (3.7%). Each of these 84 reported injuries was also reviewed. Only 59 of the 84 subjects had visible injury, while the remaining 25 only complained of injury, but had no visible sign of being injured. Of the 84 reported injuries, 40 required no treatment and 43 received minor medical treatment, typically in the field (mostly scrapes and minor cuts). Only one subject required hospitalization, and that was as a safety precaution due to an elevated heart rate. None of the 84 injuries resulted in death or serious bodily injury.

Officer Involved Shootings

Burleson PD Case Number 20-003835

(Arlington PD Internal Affairs Control Number 2020-FI-0018)

On Monday, December 21, 2020, a plain-clothes off-duty officer intervened in a burglary in progress while in the 1100 block of Hackberry Court, Burleson, Texas. The officer verbally identified himself as a police officer to the suspect who responded by discharging a firearm at the officer. The officer returned fire. Neither the suspect nor the officer were injured during the exchange of gunfire. Burleson Police Department handled the criminal portion of the investigation, while Arlington Police Department handled the Administrative Investigation. A ruling by Internal Affairs is pending.

Arlington PD Case Number 2020-03660525

(Arlington PD Internal Affairs Control Number 2020-FI-0019)

On Thursday, December 31, 2020, a uniformed patrol officer was investigating an aggravated assault incident at an apartment complex located in the 800 block of Timberlake Drive, Arlington, Texas. During the investigation, multiple suspects discharged one or more firearms at two security guards who were assisting the officer. The officer returned fire at the suspects. Neither the suspects or officer were injured during the exchange of gunfire, however one security guard did receive a non-life-threatening gunshot wound. A ruling by Internal Affairs is pending.





Arlington Police Department

620 W. Division
Arlington, TX 76004

