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Force and Tactics
Assessment Unit

Annual Use of Force Report

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Message from Chief of Police Al Jones

In 2021, the Arlington Police Department continued to effectively balance use of force with high quality service to the community. Finding and maintaining that balance is ongoing and essential, and an annual review of our records allows us to methodically reflect on what has worked and what can be adjusted and improved.

The Arlington Police Department values and respects human life, and strives to serve and protect the residents of our community and visitors to our city with the utmost courtesy and professionalism. As such, we are constantly innovating to accomplish these goals. One example of innovation in 2021 was improving and expanding the use of drones. While APD does not use drones as a use of force option, we have learned they can be effective de-escalation tools. In 2021, we were able to use drones during multiple operations to monitor and subsequently apprehend fleeing or hiding suspects. On one occasion, an APD drone operator followed a suspect fleeing from police and was able to radio a nearby officer who called to the fleeing suspect notifying him that he was being observed. The officer then gave the suspect commands with which the suspect complied. This allowed other officers to safely apprehend the suspect without any further escalation of force, thereby increasing the safety for all parties.

When an officer is faced with situations where force is needed, the decisions they make have significant consequences. APD constantly strives to ensure its officers are equipped with not only the knowledge and skills to make sound decisions, but also the technology to allow them to expand their options.

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 allow our officers to provide required first aid in the field until EMS arrives. This training ensures that our department provides excellent service to all our community members in a procedurally just and fair manner.

In addition to training, we have an established Force and Tactics Assessment Unit that is staffed by senior personnel who are experts in the field. This unit analyzes all uses of force documented by the department and ensures that our officers in the field are utilizing the skills and training provided to them. The Force and Tactics Assessment Unit also monitors that all uses of force are justified and legal, and in line with our department policy. They are also tasked with conducting constant research in the area of force tactics. This ensures we continue to evolve and grow as an agency by implementing industry best practices.

APD will always remain committed to an open and transparent dialogue with the community. We not only want residents to gain a better understanding of how and why we use force, but also what the department is doing to reduce use of force occurrences as well.



2021 Summary

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

2021 Use of Force Report Highlights

- APD responded to 215,129 total Calls for Service, a 6.2% decrease from total Calls for Service in 2020.
- There were 934 UOF Incidents during 2021.
- There were 1,294 subjects involved in the UOF incidents.
- No reportable force was used against an animal in 2021.
- Only 0.4% of the Calls for Service in 2021 resulted in a reportable UOF incident. That amounts to 4.3 UOF incidents for every 1,000 Calls for Service.
- There were two incidents in which an officer discharged a firearm at a subject. Both incidents resulted in the death of the subject.

Important Policy 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 policy requires:
 - Assaultive Resistance, “mere passive or active resistance does not justify the use of a CEW,”
 - “When an employee reasonably believes it would be unsafe, or likely to cause more severe injury to the employee or to 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.”
- Over the last five years, the number of times an officer has discharged their CEW at a subject has dropped by 91.7%
- 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.
- In 2020, policy was revised and now clearly states, “An employee has a duty to intervene to prevent or stop the use of excessive force by any public safety employee or volunteer when it is safe and reasonable to do so,” and “An employee who witnesses, participates, or intervenes in an act of excessive force shall immediately report that event to a supervisor.”

934 Use of Force Incidents

1,294 Subjects (no animals) involved in Use of Force Incidents

110,985 Dispatched Calls for Service

43,920 Self-Initiated Calls

60,224 Traffic Stops

215,129 Total Calls for Service

6.2% Decrease as Compared with 2020

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

2 Incidents Involving *Firearm - Discharged* at Subjects, both of which Resulted in Subject’s Death

13 Occurrences of *CEW - Discharged* at a Subject

91.7% Decrease in *CEW - Discharged* Over Last Five Years

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.*

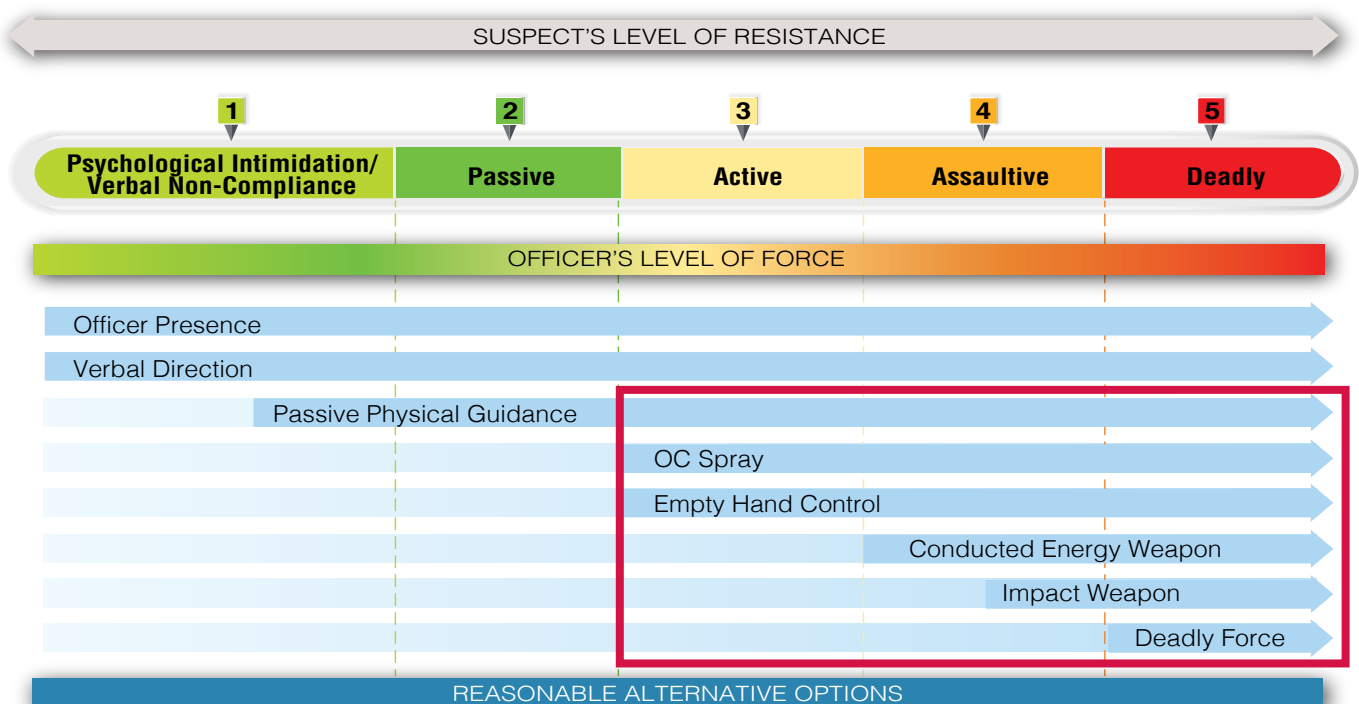
The departmental policy on reporting force is outlined in General Order 401.07.A. and 401.07.E. Specifically, the policies state:

- 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. *Diversionsary 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.*

3. *Applies force to a canine or aggressive animal using:*
 - a. *Empty hand control;*
 - b. *Deployment of OC Spray;*
 - c. *Deployment of CEW;*
 - d. *Impact weapon (to strike or as a bite alternative);*
 - e. *Fire Extinguisher;*
 - f. *Firearm;*
 - g. *Or 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.*

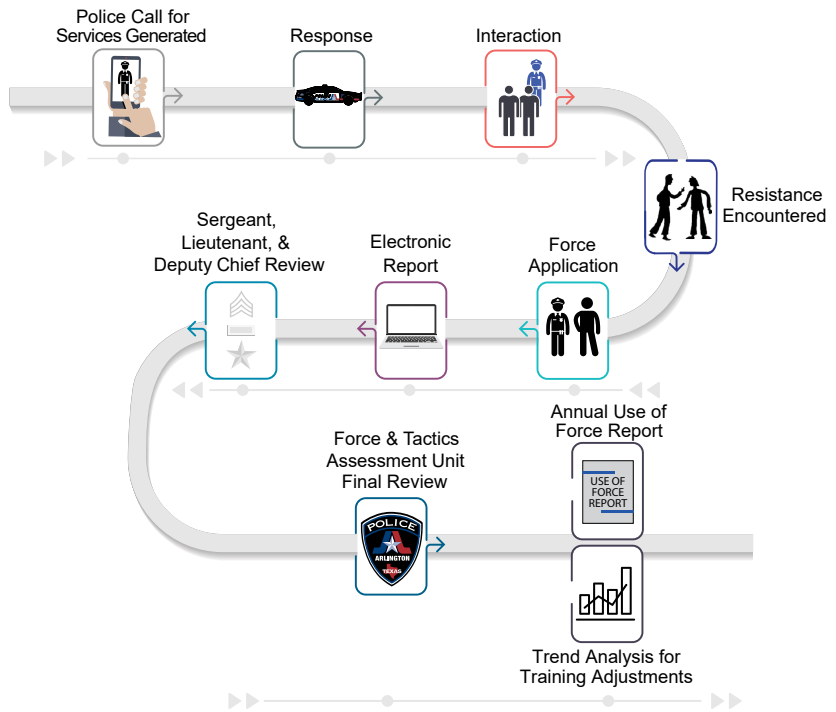
Totality of Circumstances Model



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

Use of Force Review Process

All Use of Force incidents are electronically documented and undergo a multi-tiered review process. Each incident is reviewed independently by the officer's chain of command up to three levels, concluding with the Deputy Chief. Once approved through the chain of command, the form is routed to the Force and Tactics Assessment Unit for final review to ensure the force application is consistent with training and best practices. Additionally, this unit analyzes the application of force for trends and opportunities for training enhancements.



FBI National Policies on Reporting Use of Force

2021 FBI National Use of Force Report

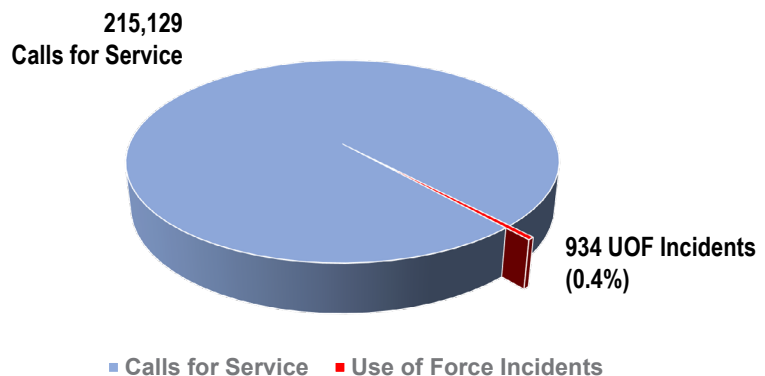
The FBI manages the National Use of Force Data Collection Program*. While there is no legal mandate for any police agency to report its use of force data to the FBI, APD is committed to transparency and voluntarily provides data to the FBI each month. In order to be reportable, the incident must:

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 2021, APD reported two incidents which met these criteria. Both involved a single officer who discharged a firearm at or in the direction of a person. Each of these incidents resulted in the death of the subject.

** 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

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Difference 2020-2021
Total Sworn Officers Departmentwide	649	671	673	676	669	-1.0%
Total Detention Officers Departmentwide	38	41	44	40	32	-20.0%
Number of UOF Incidents	969	1,007	1,131	930	934	0.4%
Number of Subjects Against Whom Force Was Used	1,307	1,384	1,636	1,317	1,294	-1.7%

Total Incidents by Call Type

Call Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% for 2021	% Difference 2020-2021
CID Investigative Contact	*	*	14	7	5	0.5%	-28.6%
Dispatched Call	661	667	752	591	620	66.4%	4.9%
Jail Custody	19	16	14	23	9	1.0%	-60.9%
On-View Call	188	175	170	142	122	13.1%	-14.1%
Traffic Stop	72	86	115	92	82	8.8%	-10.9%
Warrant Service	*	*	66	75	96	10.3%	28.0%
Other	29	63	*	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	969	1,007	1,131	930	934	100.0%	0.4%

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

Race of Subjects Against Whom Force Was Used

Race of Subject	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% for 2021	% Difference 2020-2021
White Male	300	297	340	226	213	16.5%	-5.8%
White Female	100	108	129	75	88	6.8%	17.3%
Black Male	473	497	587	493	521	40.3%	5.7%
Black Female	129	133	177	180	159	12.3%	-11.7%
Hispanic Male	214	249	282	238	221	17.1%	-7.1%
Hispanic Female	56	69	70	65	64	4.9%	-1.5%
Asian Male	21	21	41	19	15	1.2%	-21.1%
Asian Female	6	6	5	4	7	0.5%	75.0%
Animal	4	1	2	3	0	0.0%	-100.0%
Unable to Determine*	4	3	3	14	6	0.5%	-57.1%
TOTAL	1,307	1,384	1,636	1,317	1,294	100.0%	-1.7%

* There are some instances where an officer is unable to determine the race and/or sex of a subject against whom force was used. For example, this may involve an officer drawing or pointing their firearm in response to a subject inside a vehicle at night. If the subject drives away without further police contact, the officer may not know the race and/or sex of the subject. However, because force was used, the officer will still complete a Use of Force report and will document that they were unable to determine the race and/or 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	TOTAL CONTACTS	% of Total Contacts 2021
White	150	11.6%	107	8.3%	41	3.2%	3	0.2%	301	23.3%
Black	358	27.7%	268	20.7%	51	3.9%	3	0.2%	680	52.6%
Hispanic	156	12.1%	108	8.3%	19	1.5%	2	0.2%	285	22.0%
Asian	11	0.9%	9	0.7%	2	0.2%	0	0.0%	22	1.7%
Animal	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Unable to Determine*	5	0.4%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	0.5%
TOTAL	680		493		113		8		1,294	100.0%
Type of Incident	Felony	52.6%	Misdemeanor	38.1%	Mental	8.7%	Jail Custody	0.6%		100%

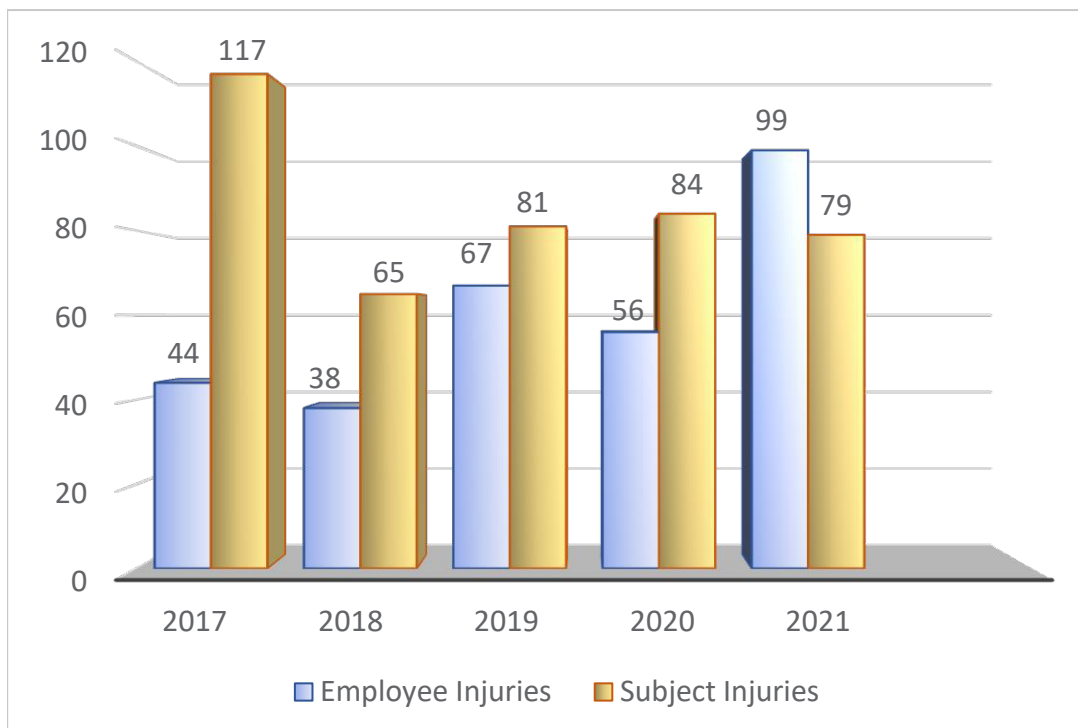
Police Employee and Subject Injuries

Police Employee Injuries

Police employee injuries, as documented on a Use of Force Report by either “Employee Injured During Force Application” or “Employee Injured by Subject” increased significantly in 2021. In 2020, there were 56 reported police employee injuries compared to 99 reported injuries in 2021. This represents a 76.8% increase. Each of the incidents was reviewed, and in every case, the employee sustained their injury while engaged in *Empty Hand Control* against a non-compliant subject. Additional analysis showed that of the 99 reported injuries, 70 required no medical treatment which was documented. The injuries were overwhelmingly described as pain, redness, soreness, abrasions, scratches, swelling, minor cuts, or strains. Eleven of the reported injuries were treated in the field by EMS and were again described as minor in nature using words such as pain, minor cuts, scrapes, road-rash, and soreness. The remaining 18 reported injuries were treated at a hospital and the employee was then released. These injuries were similarly described as minor in nature, though a few were slightly more serious. The most severe injuries noted were a dislocated finger, a fractured wrist, and in one incident, a laceration to the head which required stitches. No police employees were hospitalized or killed in 2021 during the application of force.

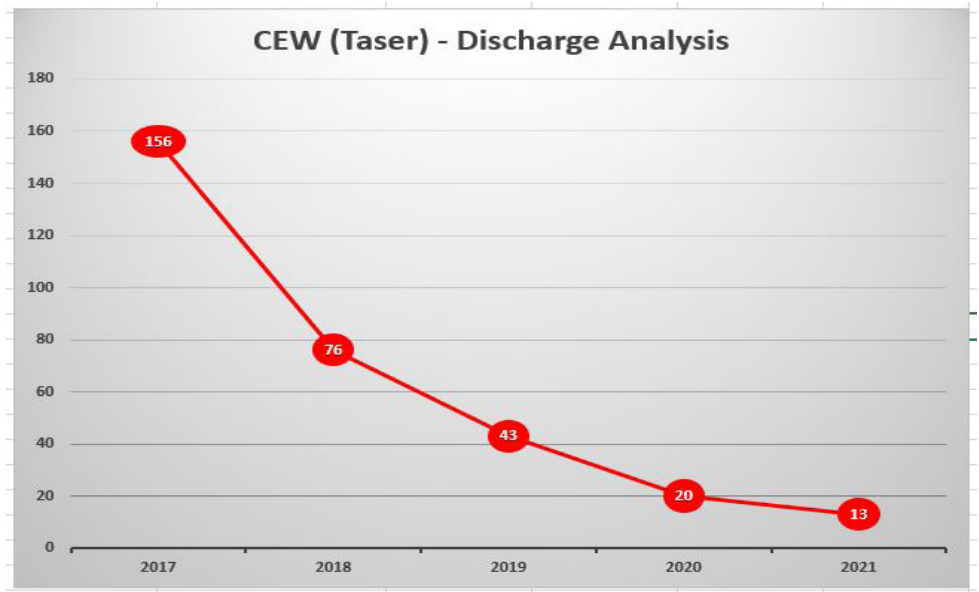
Subject Injuries

While reported police employee injuries increased, the number of reported subject injuries decreased slightly from 84 to 79 (representing a 6.0% decrease). Each of the 79 reported injuries was thoroughly reviewed. Seventy-five of the reported injuries occurred as the result of *Empty Hand Control* used by police employees. Two subjects received injury after being stunned by a CEW and falling to the ground which resulted in carpet burns in one case and scrapes from the ground in the other. Finally, two subjects were killed after being struck by gunfire. Of the 79 subjects who claimed injury, 58 had visible injury. Of the 79 reported injuries, 28 did not request or require medical treatment, 27 received minor medical treatment in the field by EMS personnel, 22 received minor medical treatment at a hospital but were not admitted, and two were killed because of the force used against them. Excluding the two deaths, all injuries were minor in nature and terms such as swelling, minor cuts, scrapes, scratches, abrasions, and bruising were used to describe their injuries. One subject reported a fractured finger. None of the injuries required hospitalization for the force used against them.



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.
- It required a higher resistance level from a subject before its use was justified under policy.
- Policy now requires (1) Assaultive Resistance, “mere passive or active resistance does not justify the use of a CEW,” (2) “When an employee reasonably believes it would be unsafe, or likely to cause more severe injury to the employee or to others, to move into contact range of the subject without the use of the CEW,” or (3) “To address an immediate safety threat of serious bodily injury to any person and no reasonable alternatives exist.”



- As a result of this policy change, the occurrence of *CEW – Discharged* has dropped 91.7% over the past five years, from 156 occurrences in 2017 to only 13 in 2021.

Officer Involved Shootings

Arlington PD Case Number 2021-00770520 (Arlington PD Internal Affairs Control Number 2021-FI-0003)

On Thursday, March 18, 2021, an on-duty detective sergeant was attempting to apprehend a known subject wanted for multiple felony warrants. After a traffic stop was made, the sergeant, who’s clothing clearly identified him as a police officer, approached the suspect’s vehicle. As the sergeant approached, the suspect pointed a handgun at the sergeant. The sergeant fired his department-issued pistol and fatally wounded the suspect. The sergeant was not injured. The Internal Affairs investigation exonerated the sergeant and the Tarrant County District Attorney’s Office declined to press charges.

Arlington PD Case Number 2021-02930505 (Arlington PD Internal Affairs Control Number 2021-FI-0008)

On Wednesday, October 20, 2021, a uniformed patrol officer was attempting to conduct a traffic stop on a suspected impaired driver which resulted in a low-speed pursuit. At one point in the pursuit, the officer exited his vehicle in an attempt to conduct a high-risk traffic stop. As the suspect vehicle continued to move in the direction of the officer, the officer fired into the suspect vehicle. The driver of the suspect vehicle was fatally wounded. The officer was not injured. The officer was terminated after an Internal Affairs investigation. The criminal case is still pending with the Tarrant County District Attorney’s Office.



Arlington Police Department

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