

Police Department
City of Keene, New Hampshire

Date: 17 February 2021

To: Steven Russo, Police Chief *SA-140*

Through: Steven Stewart, Captain *SA-140 SMS #156*

Through: Todd Lawrence, Captain *[Signature]*

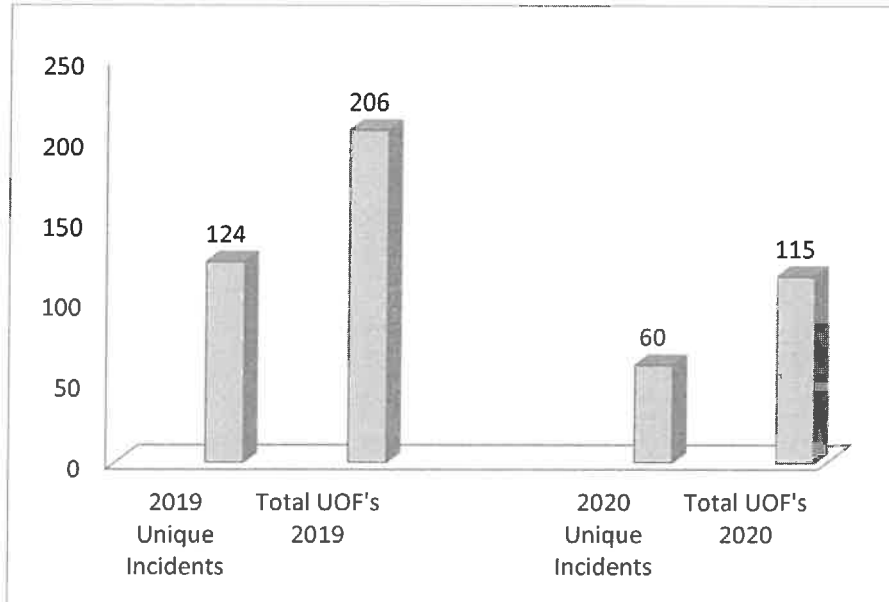
From: Shane C. Maxfield, Lieutenant *Shane C. Maxfield 083*

Subject: 2020 Response to Resistance Analysis

During January of 2021, I conducted an analysis of all 2020 Use of Force (UOF) reports filed by Keene Police Officers. An analysis and review of the UOF reports for completeness, developing trends and effectiveness of weapons, techniques and training was completed.

In calendar year 2020 the Keene Police Department made 1025 arrests, including releases on Court Summonses. Suspect initial behavior or resistance towards KPD officers lawful commands led to some level of force response in 60 unique incidents (43 Arrest Reports (AR's), 17 Offense Reports (OF's, exclusive of "Dispatched Animals")), or 5.8% of total arrests. From these 60 unique incidents, 115 Use of Force reports were filed, the result of multiple officers often being present. Arrest Reports produced 87 UOF filings, while OF's produced the remaining 28 UOF's.

The 60 unique incident total for 2020 was a 51.6% decrease from 2019, which had 124 unique incidents. The 115 total UOF's filed in 2020 was also less (44.2% less) than 2019, which had 206 UOF's filed. This relationship is illustrated, below.

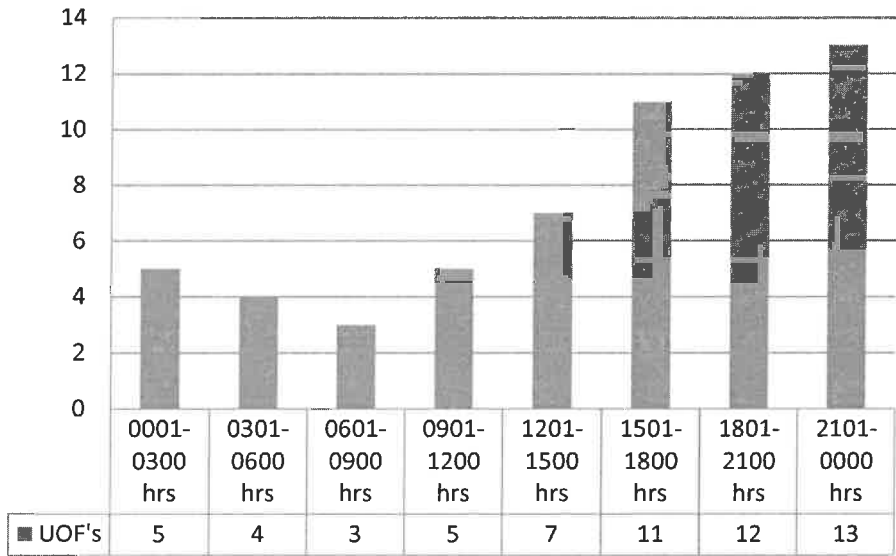


Call volume decreased from 2019 to 2020. The "Calls For Service" total from 2020 (27112) was 7% lower than 2019 (29165). KPD's operations were noticeably affected by the COVID-19 conditions throughout 2020, both in tempo and in the nature of calls. This resulted in fewer close-contact calls, and fewer calls progressing to where a suspect's resistance necessitated the use of force. As is typical, there were many individual calls resulting in multiple UOF reports per call, indicating that more than one officer at that call responded to resistance with some level of force. A pair of examples include a car stop for a felony driving offense transitioning into a foot pursuit through a heavily residential neighborhood producing six (6) UOF reports and a narcotics-related car stop producing five UOF reports from aimed weapons. There were many unique incidents producing four, three or two different UOF reports.

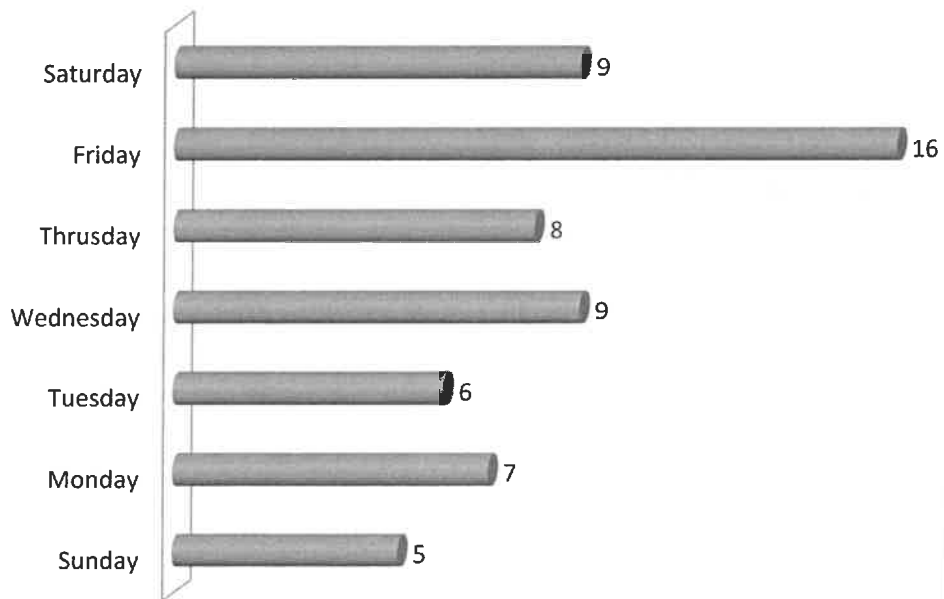
The nature of the arrest-related UOF incidents varied widely, from subduing homeless aggressive shoplifters, several foot- and motor vehicle pursuits, several domestic violence incidents and a handful of drug transportation cases. The OF-related UOF's involved IEA's or suicidal subjects who were combative, or miscellaneous felony-level investigations.

A day / time analysis of the 60 unique UOF incidents showed the following breakdown by time of day and then by day of week. The hours between 0300hrs and 0900hrs saw the fewest UOF's, which includes typical sleep times and low activity levels. Thursday through Saturday, the traditional weekend, accounted for the most UOF incidents.

Times of Day

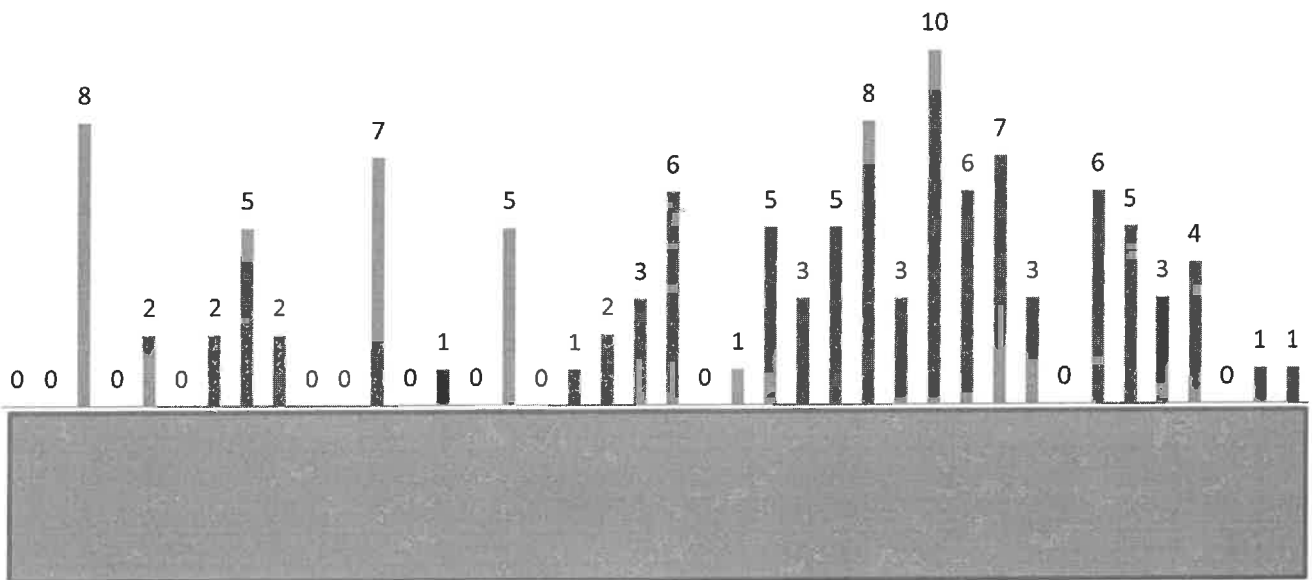


Days of the Week

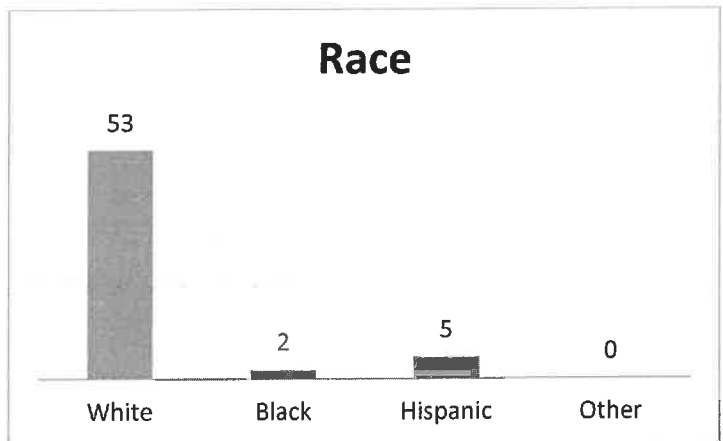
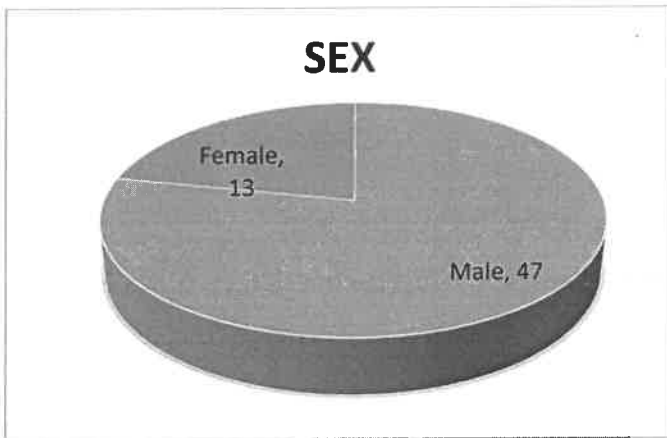
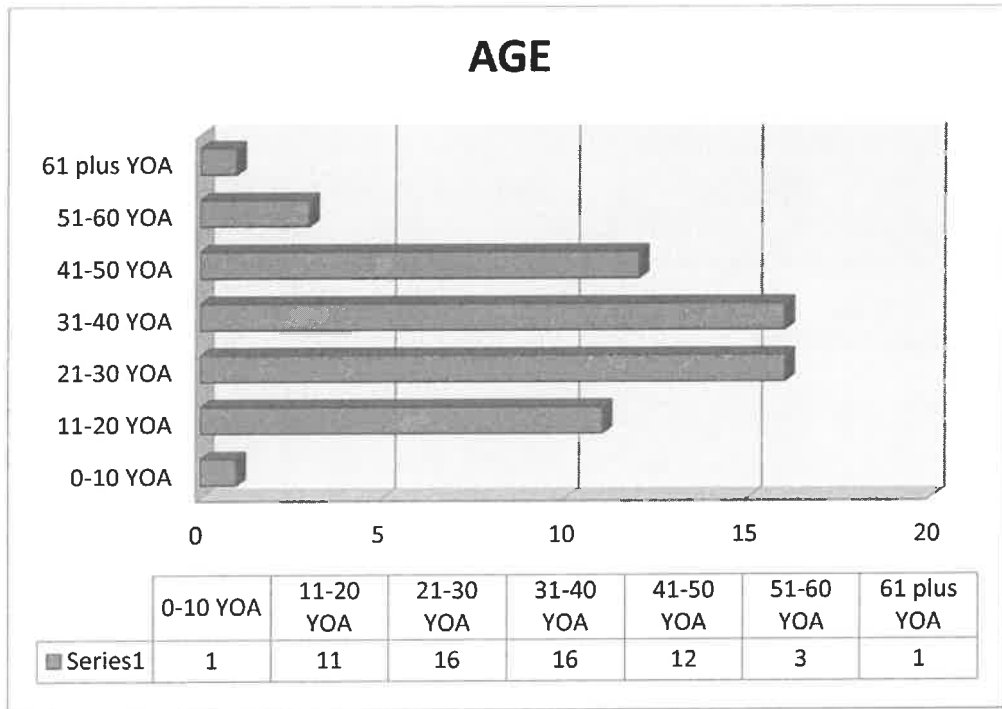


Analysis of the numbers of UOF reports filed by individual officers generally showed the predictable (and historic) trend that dayshift officers report fewer uses of force than evening or night shift officers. All uses of force were reviewed for compliance with NH statutes and Department policy, and all were found to be compliant.

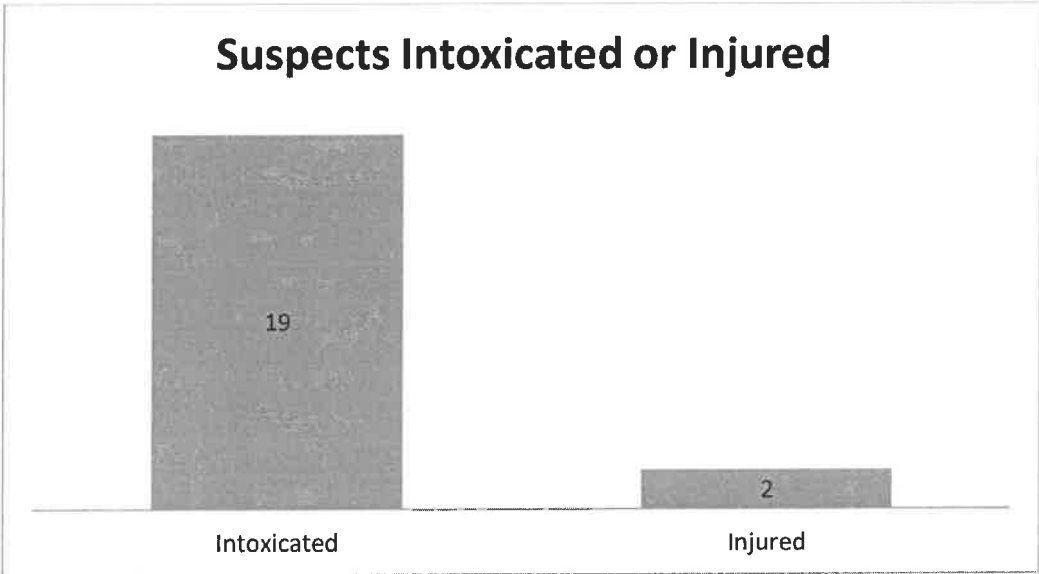
Uses of Force by Officer



Analysis of the suspects involved showed the bulk of UOF's applied on white males in their twenties and thirties.

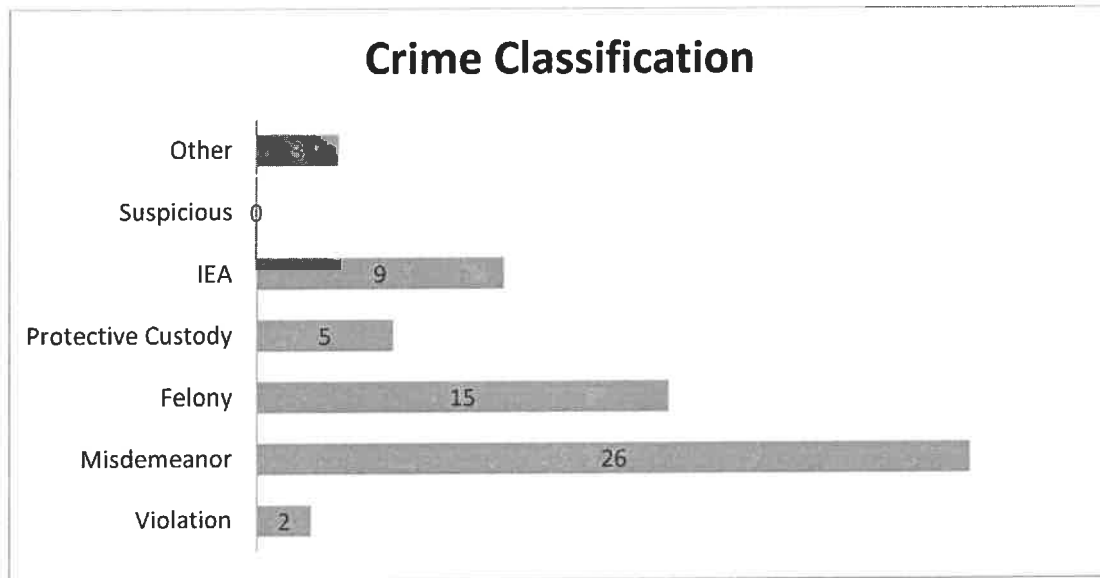


Of the 60 unique incidents, suspects were intoxicated in 19 of them and injured in 2 instances. Regarding the injuries, one suspect was taken to the ground when he prepared to assault an officer, suffering a bloodied nose. Another suffered an abrasion and OC spray exposure while vigorously resisting officers arresting him for trespass.



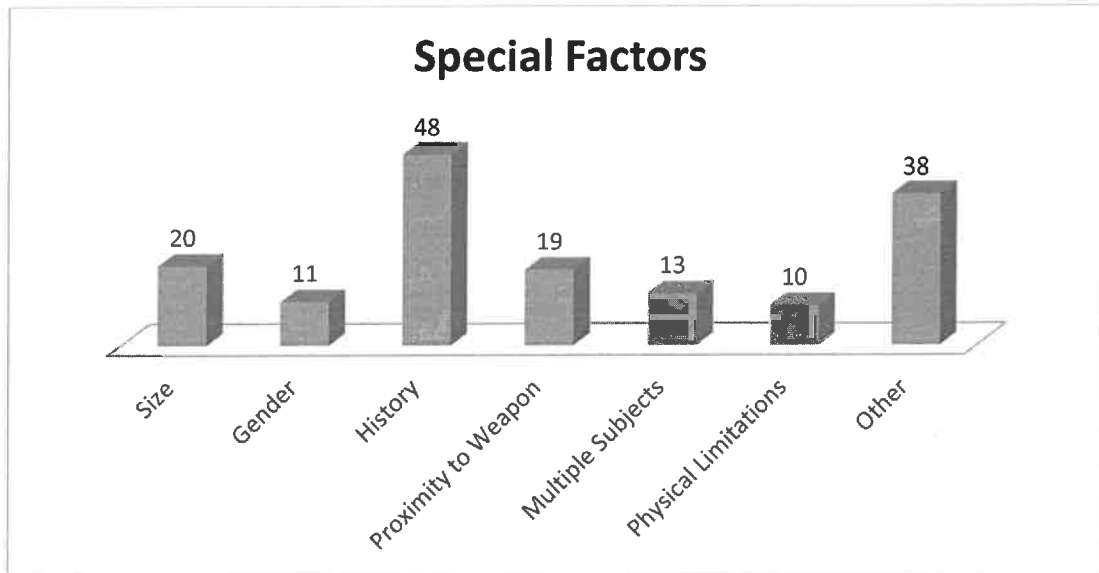
This translates to a 44.2% intoxication rate and a 4.6% injury rate for 2020. Comparable data for 2019 showed a 30% intoxication rate and a 7.2% injury rate.

Analysis of the encounters themselves showed that the majority of them resulted in (or stemmed from) misdemeanor charges for the suspects, followed by felony incidents and Involuntary Emergency Admissions. Other level charges and dispositions were fewer.



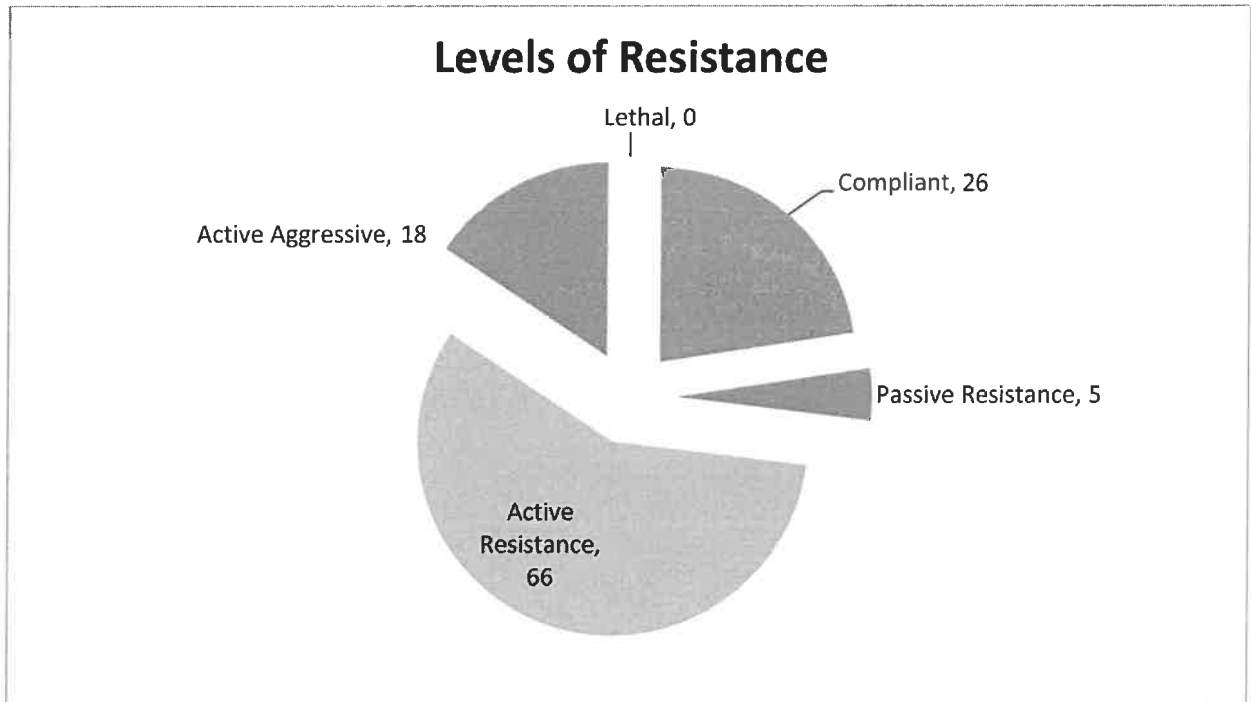
A comparison of 2020 UOF by Crime Classification to the same categories from 2019 showed violations for 2020 at two, 2019 at four. Misdemeanors for 2020 were at 26 of the total, 2019 were at 43. Felonies for 2020 were at 15 of the total, 2019 were at 25. Protective Custodies for 2020 were at five of the total, while 2019 PC's were at 15.

Understanding that an officers perception of their opponent plays a big part in their choice of tactics to deal with them, I noted that the majority of total UOF's filed listed "Special Factors" relating to either the choice to employ force or the choice of tactic:



Note the high number for "Prior History / Knowledge," which suggest prior encounters with the same suspects, or in some cases effective dispatchers conveying information more than the minimum. Historically, the "Other" category scores high each year in the Special Factors group. Officers are directed to explain what unlisted factors influenced their use of force, several indicate an officer used force to safeguard other individuals in close proximity to the incident or to head off a potentially dangerous position (such as yanking a suicidal subject away from the edge of a bridge).

Also pertaining to officers' perception of opponents is the level of resistance encountered. Similar to historical data, "Active Resistance" by far outnumbers other levels of resistance perceived by Officers, as illustrated here:



Officers used "Hand Techniques" most often (106 during the year), which is logical as it is the most readily available force option. The most commonly used techniques within that category included "arm bars," "wrist locks," and "other" techniques such as tackling or just pushing, pulling or holding a suspect down. A single instance of a "strike" being used was during a lengthy foot chase, through an area of sparse woods, of a burglary suspect. This suspect was halted by a forearm strike across his chin.

Next common was "Firearms or Special Weapons" (30 uses, "displayed only"). Within this category there were several instances of felony vehicle stops of drug transporting cars, in-progress burglaries, vehicle pursuits and other incidents where officers aimed firearms or less-lethal special weapons at suspects and successfully gained their compliance. Issued weapons, such as the Glock pistol, M4-style patrol rifle and the 40mm Less Lethal Launcher were utilized.

OC spray was used six times with excellent results. In each of these incidents the application of spray quickly ended the suspects will to resist with violence.

The expandable baton was used a single time, to "arm bar" a resisting suspect's arm behind his back for handcuffing.

There were no K9 uses or Tactical Team Deployments this year.

Many of the UOF reports filed indicated the officers utilized more than one force option to resolve the incident, starting with their own official presence and escalating from there, based upon the suspect actions. Officers generally attempted to de-escalate situations by using verbal negotiating and smart physical tactics. Police response to suspect resistance elevated, in most cases, only when the suspect refused to be reasonable and comply, and they themselves increased the tensions of the incident. A disturbing and increasingly common trend among these incidents is a suspect's willingness to outright reject a police officer's authority. When officers attempted to detain suspects or inform them they were under arrest, it was not rare for suspects to just ignore the officer or respond with profanity and "No, I'm not under arrest."

There was a single case of an officer being injured during an incident, this during a foot pursuit of a felony suspect through back yards of a dense neighborhood. The officer lacerated a finger on a fence, necessitating stitches.

Pursuant to this UOF Analysis, coordination is ongoing with the UOF staff to ensure that future UOF training is pertinent and effective, as well as the continual review of equipment, techniques, practices and policy, to support the officers in the field in keeping with the Department mission. We are also conducting De-Escalation training in a more formalized fashion at all defensive tactics or weapons training. At present, current training appears to be meeting this agency's needs, and the training calendar covers all force options, concentrating on mastery of basic skills.

