

Police Department
City of Keene, New Hampshire

Date: 28 January 2019

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

Through: Steven Stewart, Captain *SMS #153*

Through: Todd Lawrence, Captain *TJ-1123*

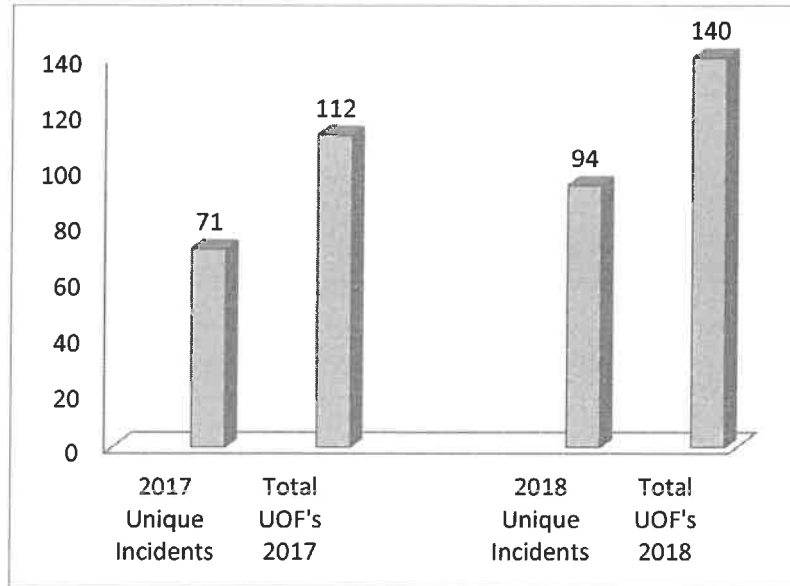
From: Shane C. Maxfield, Lieutenant *Shane C. Maxfield*

Subject: 2018 Use of Force Analysis

During January of 2019, I conducted an analysis of all 2018 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.

Over the course of 2018 there were a total of 94 unique incidents (80 Arrest Reports (AR's), 14 Offense Reports and Field Interviews (OF's and FI's, exclusive of "Dispatched Animals")) resulting in 140 Use of Force reports filed. Arrest Reports produced 121 UOF filings, while OF's and FI's produced the remaining 19 UOF's.

The 94 unique incident total for 2018 was a 32.39% increase from 2017, which had 71 unique incidents. The 140 total UOF's filed in 2018 was also higher (25% higher) than 2017, which had 112 UOF's filed. This relationship is illustrated, below.

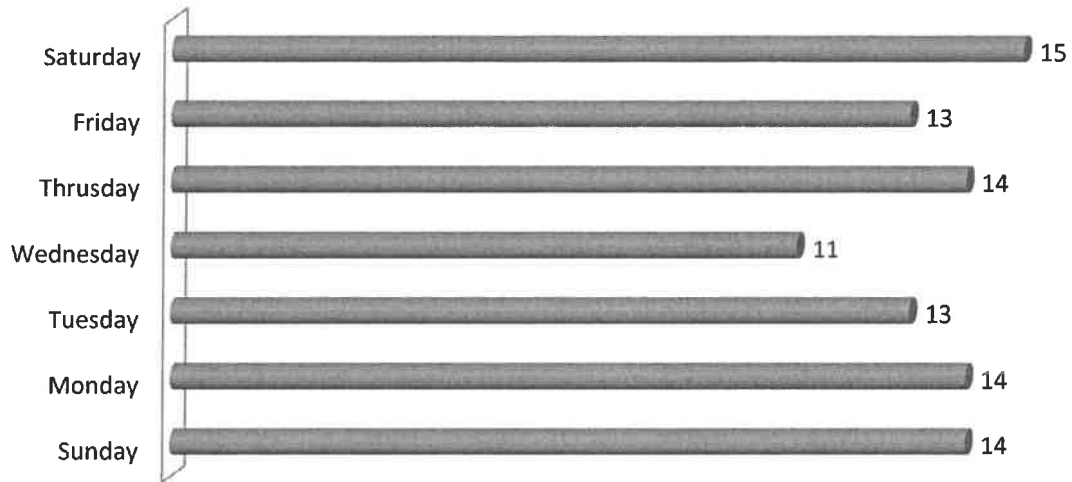


Analysis of the UOF's themselves revealed no specific reasoning for the increase from 2017 to 2018, nor could any correlation be made regarding call volume. The "Calls For Service" total from 2018 (28053) was 3.8% lower than 2017 (29168).

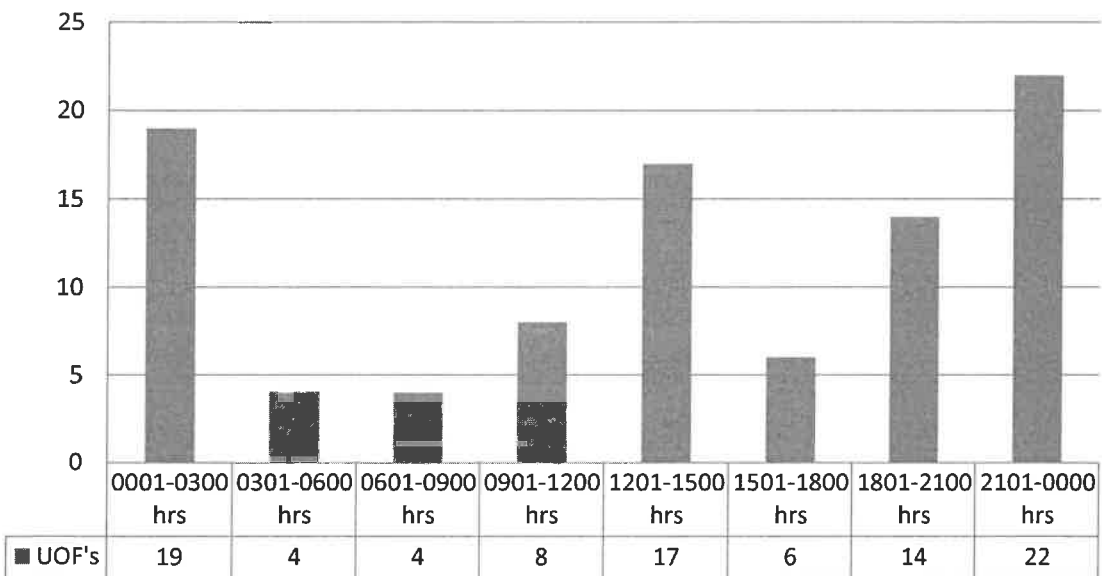
The characteristics of the AR-involved UOF's were varied and included pre-arrest UOF's to booking room UOF's. The OF-related UOF's involved IEA's, "assist other agency" cases and tactical team callouts for counter-drug operations.

A day / time analysis of the 94 unique UOF incidents showed the following breakdown by day of week and then by time of day. Saturday and Sunday accounted for the most UOF incidents, followed by Monday and Thursday. The six hours bracketing midnight were the heaviest. No specific reason for this day / time breakdown was explained by the raw data, though one could surmise that these are the days and times when the Police are more likely to engage in encounters necessitating the use of force, such as alcohol- or domestic-related incidents.

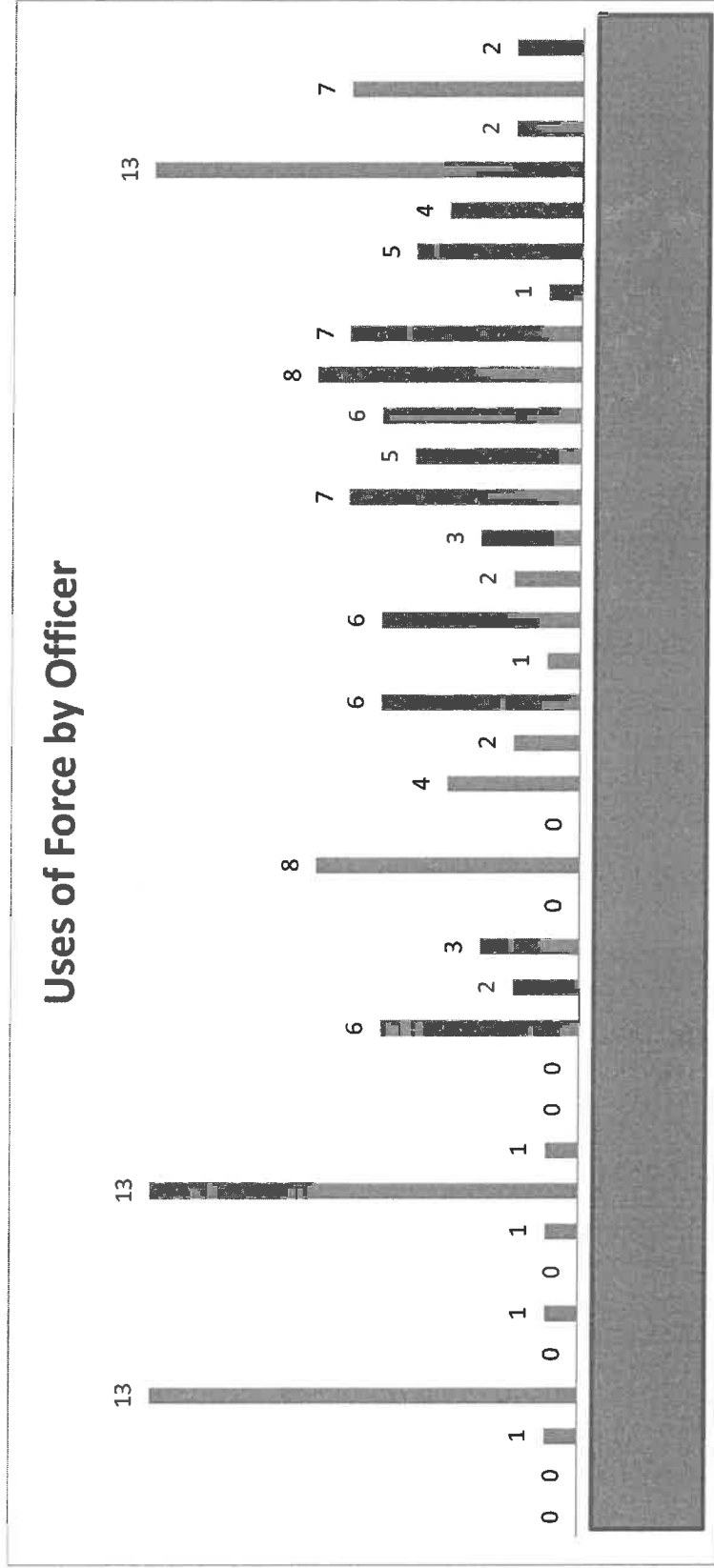
Days of the Week



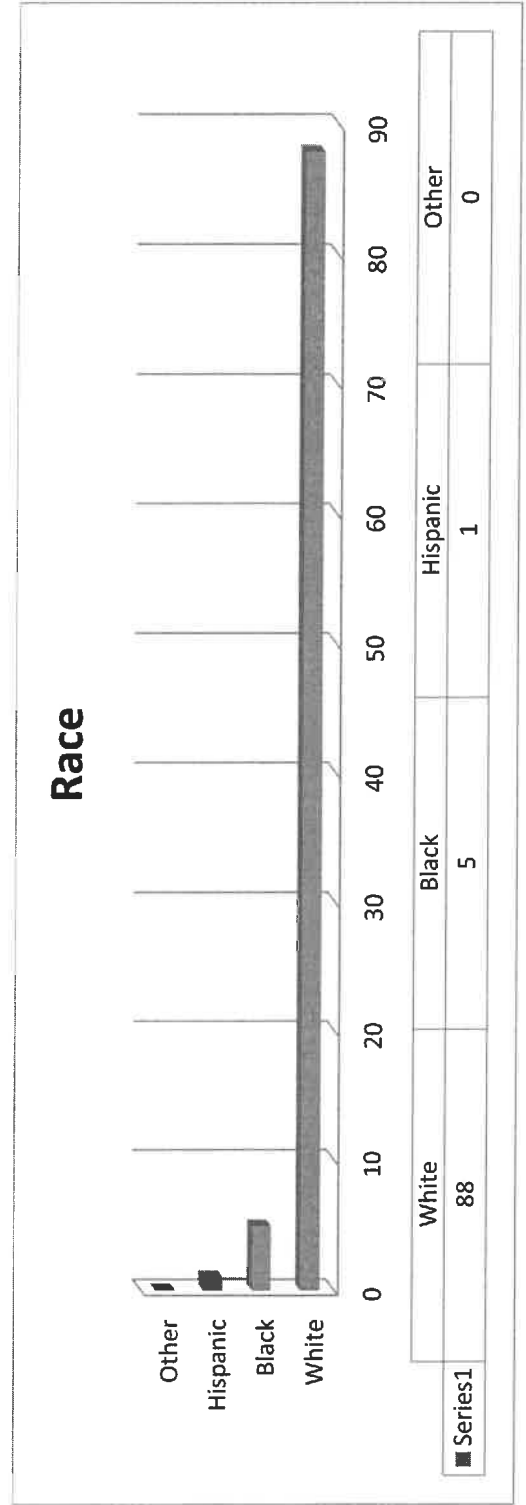
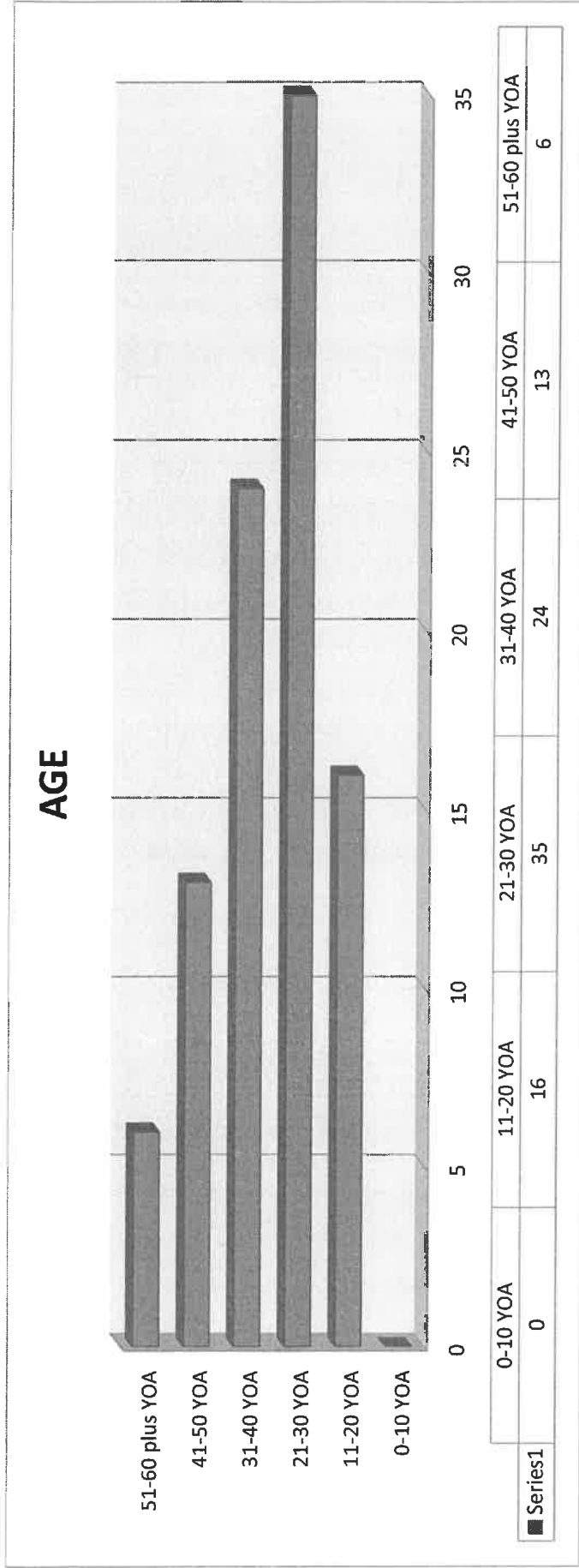
Times of Day

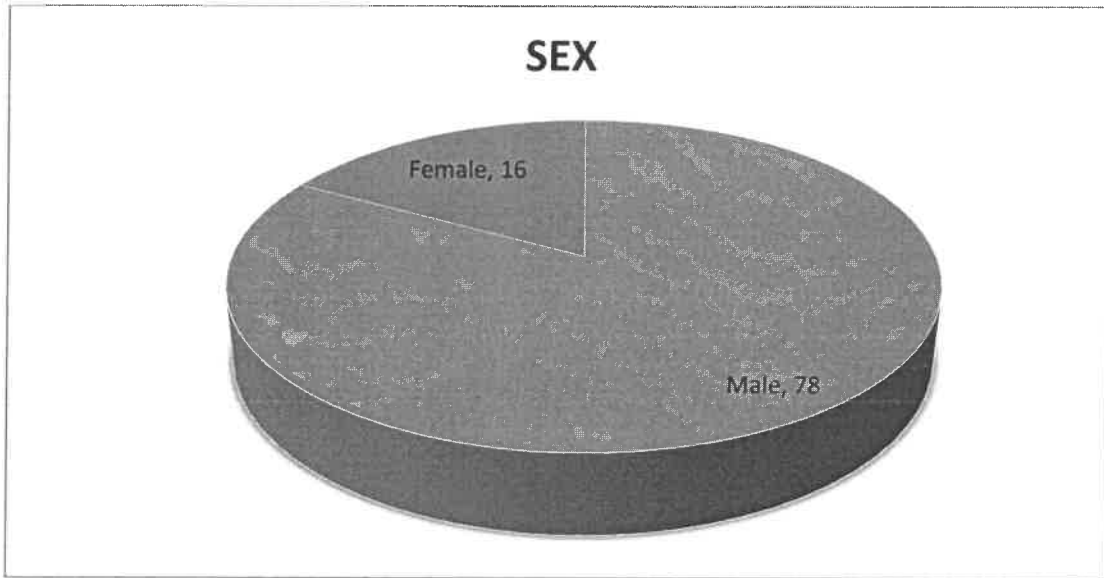


Analysis of the numbers of UOF reports filed by individual officers showed the predictable (and historic) trend that dayshift officers report fewer uses of force than evening or night shift officers. Three personnel, two Supervisors and an Officer, showed noticeably more UOF's filed than the other officers. I pulled and reviewed each UOF case for those three, and found them to be reasonable and within policy. In the case of the Supervisors, it was common for them to go to "disturbance" calls in support of their Officers. Many of these calls developed into arrests where the suspect refused to cooperate, and the Supervisor would assist with the arrest. Additionally, one of the Supervisors completed required UOF reports for Tactical Team callouts, several of which were done this year in support of counter-narcotic operations. The Officer's UOF filings appeared to be a function of active night shifts and calls leading to arrests or PC's with uncooperative suspects, or assists in felony-level narcotic arrests.

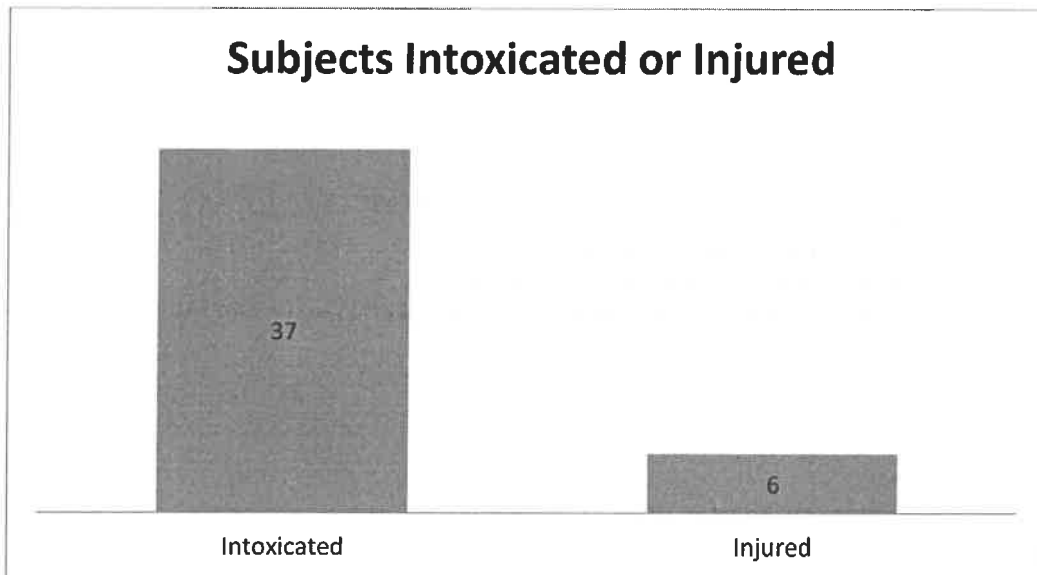


Analysis of the suspects involved showed the bulk of UOF's applied on white males in their early twenties to early thirties.





Of the 94 unique incidents, suspects were intoxicated in 37 of them and injured in 6 instances.



This translates to a 39.4% intoxication rate and a 6.4% injury rate for 2018. Comparable data for 2017 showed a 39.4% intoxication rate and a 5.6% injury rate.

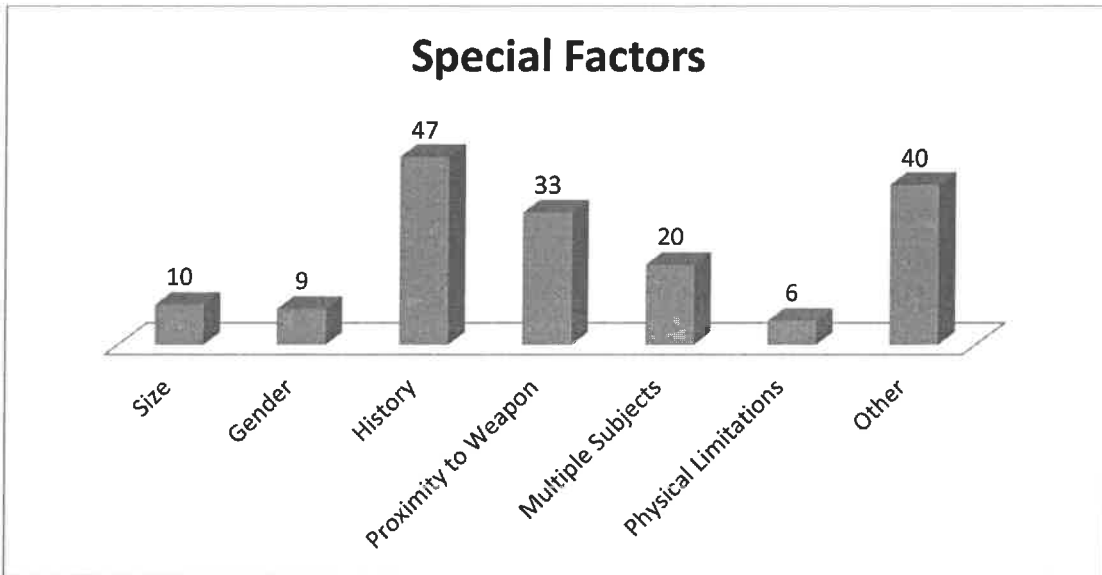
Of the six subjects listed as "Injured" in the 2018 UOF's, four received minor scrapes or abrasions by actively resisting arrest, one was injured while attempting to assault ambulance personnel and one was injured while fleeing on foot from arrest.

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. Other level charges and dispositions were far fewer.



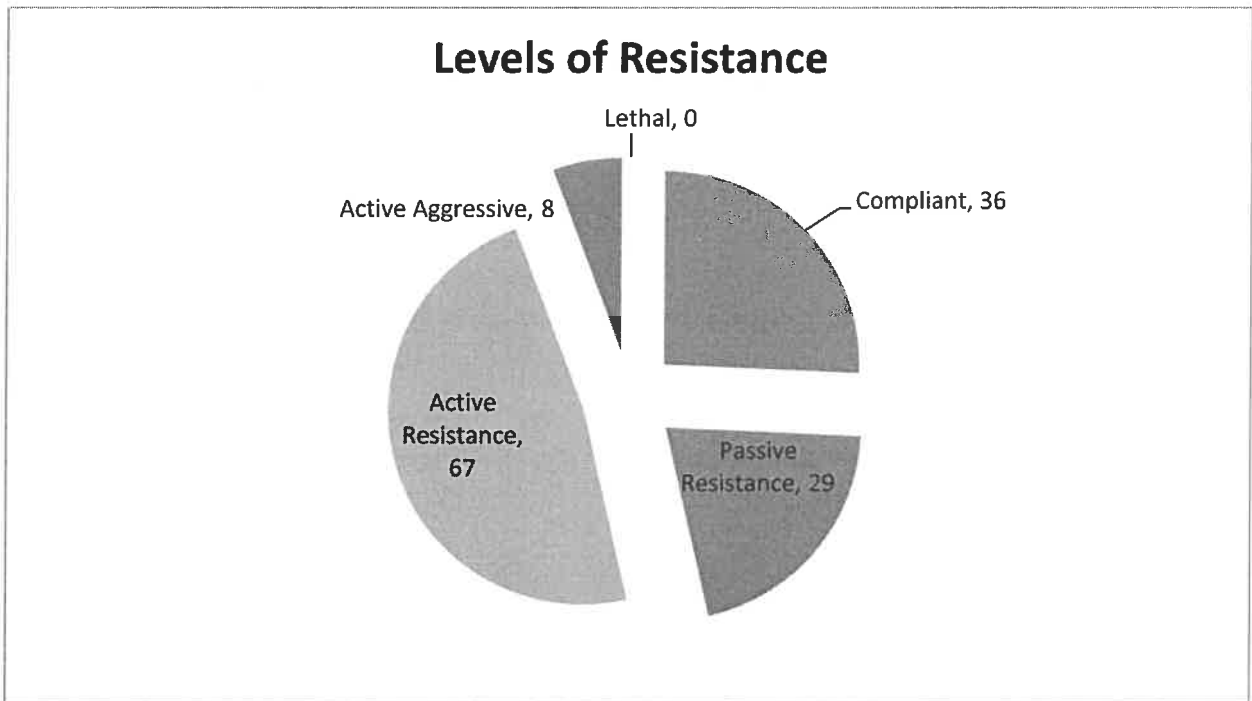
A comparison of 2018 UOF by Crime Classification to the same categories from 2017 showed violations for 2018 at two, 2017 at three. Misdemeanors for 2018 were at thirty-nine of the total, 2017 were at eighteen. Felonies for 2018 were at twenty-nine of the total, 2017 were at twenty-four. Protective Custodies for 2018 were at fourteen of the total, while 2017 PC's were at seven.

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:



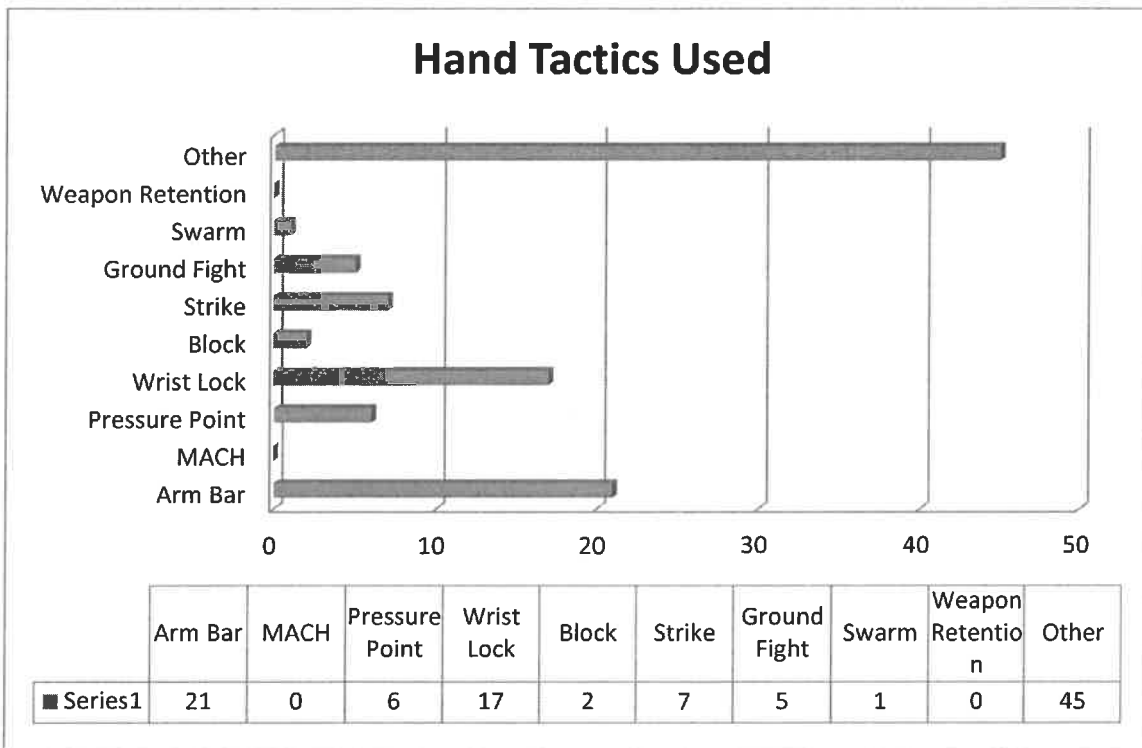
Note the high numbers for "Prior History / Knowledge," which belies multiple encounters with the same suspects, or in some cases effective dispatchers conveying information more than the minimum.

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



Officers used "Hand Techniques" most often (104 during the year), which makes sense historically and practically as it is the most readily available force option. Next common was "Firearms or Special Weapons" (52 uses, "displayed only"). OC spray and expandable baton were each used three times over the year, a K9 was deployed against a suspect once, and the Tactical Team was deployed nine times. Many of the UOF reports filed indicated the officers utilized more than one force option to resolve the incident.

Given the commonplace use of "Hand Techniques" I charted that category to aid in training planning with the UOF / Defensive Tactics team.



Arm bars were used 2nd most often for the provided techniques, proving the ease and usefulness of this technique. Things that filled up the "Other" category included many hand techniques that didn't fit into any of the classic categories, such as holding / grabbing, handcuffing, carrying, kicking etc.

"Firearms and Special Weapons" utilized in 2018 included the Glock, the M4-style rifle, and the 40mm launcher, in that order. They were "displayed only."

OC spray was used three times, and was very effective once and moderately effective the other two times. All three sprays diminished the suspects desire to fight.

Baton was used three times, for an arm lock, a strike and once just displayed.

The KPD Tactical Team filed 9 UOF reports. During the 9 incidents, their firearms or special weapons were displayed only. Most of the Tactical Team deployments were in support of counter-narcotic operations. One Tactical Team use was the result of an armed, barricaded subject, and this was resolved eventually after the deployment of gas munitions.

Three UOF reports indicated that an Officer was injured in the course of an arrest, however none of the three arrest narratives said anything about it.

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. 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 skill.