2015 Annual
Use of Force Report

Austin Independent School District Police Department
February 2016

Prepared by the AISD PD
Training Unit
This annual report reviews the Austin Independent School District Police Department’s use of force during calendar year 2015. Police may properly use force in effecting arrests, protection of others, and at times use force to control a person who may harm themselves.

AISD Police Department Policy Manual Chapter 1.03 requires that the Training Sergeant prepare an annual analysis for the Chief of Police on all Use of Force reporting. AISD PD prepares this report in order to better understand the conditions under which officers use force and to make improvements to training and policy when necessary. Preparation of an annual use of force report is not a requirement for police departments but is a common practice among recognized agencies. The AISD Police Department is recognized by the Texas Police Chief’s Association as meeting best practices.

In 2015, the Austin Independent School District Police responded to 37,289 calls for service. In 2015, AISD Police Officers had 1540 contacts with persons that resulted in arrests or citations. Of those 1540 contacts, resistance, or assaultive behavior requiring the use of force by police officers occurred in 112 contacts. In the 112 instances in which force, or threat of deadly force was used represents 7.3% of the total number of contacts with persons suspected of criminal activity.

**Key findings in the 2015 Use of Force**

- In 2015, 7.3% of contacts with persons of suspected criminal activity resulted in the use of force. This represents an increase in violator contacts, however, an increase in use of force encounters from 2014.
- The calls for service did significantly change from 2014 to 2015. In 2014, AISD Police reported 35,189 and 37,289 calls for service in 2015.
- In 2014 the most frequent subject action resulting in a use of force by an officer was Active Aggression, followed by Defensive Resistance, same as 2015. Subjects of use of force reports used active aggression in 45% of the incidents in which an officer used force, and 25% used defensive resistance.
- The most often used method of officers responding to resistance was empty hand control. Empty hand control was used in 88% of the documented use of force reports. Intermediate weapons; batons, pepper foam, less lethal munitions, or K-9 holds, were used in 9% of the incidents. The threat or display of deadly force was also used in 8% of the instances.

**Background and Methodology**
A police officer’s duty is to protect the life and property of persons in their jurisdiction. It is the policy of the Austin Independent School District Police Department that officers use only minimum level of force which is reasonably necessary to bring an incident under control, while protecting the life of the officer and others. The amount of force used should reflect the level necessary to bring a situation under control. When an officer responds to an incident and when force is used to control a situation, AISD PD policy requires that the event be documented on the Use of Force Report Form, to include a description of the type of force used (i.e., hands, impact weapon, chemical weapon, Tasers (conductive energy devices), less lethal munitions, handgun, etc.). The Department voluntarily implemented collection of use of force information in effort to better understand the conditions under which officers use force, and to assist supervisors in reviewing use of force events. The Department also utilizes use of force data to improve training and policy.

Nature of Call

A breakdown of the nature of the service calls shows that force was used most often on Public Order Crimes, 36 out of 112 Use of Force incidents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Call</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Ordinance Violations</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Code Violations</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Safety Code</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Offenses</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons Offenses</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Order Crimes</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Code</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcoholic Beverage Code</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Code</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Admin</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The use of force report captures identifying data about the subject of the report to include gender, age, race and ethnicity.

Gender of Subject

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Race and Ethnicity of Subject

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
African American 44 39%
Hispanic 55 49%
Native American 0 0%
Asian 1 1%
Other 0 0%

Age of Subject

Less than 10 0
11-14 49
15-17 46
18-21 4
22-25 2
26-30 2
31-35 3
36-40 1
41-45 3
46-50 0
51-55 0

Reasons for Use of Force

The most often cited reason for using force was to effect an arrest. Other reasons that force was used included self-defense, defense of a third party, to prevent the commission of a felony and in one case to restrain a person for their own safety.

Necessary to effect arrest 52
Necessary to defend officer 7
Necessary to defend another 18
To prevent a forcible felony 0
To restrain for subject’s safety 38
Not Indicated 0

Nature of Subject’s Injuries

18 of the 112 documented cases in which force was used resulted in injury to the subject (as minor as complain of pain). 14 required medical attention.

Subject Injured 18
Subject rendered unconscious 0
Nature of injury:
  None 0
  Minor 0
Medical Attention needed 14
Not Indicated 4
Level of Resistance

Psychological Intimidation 3
Defensive Resistance 26
Verbal Threats 20
Active Aggression 60
Passive Resistance 26
Aggravated Active Aggression 4
Not Indicated 1

Numbers of officers present at the time of arrest.

In 51 cases, officers were alone when confronted with resistance. In 48 cases, two officers were present when force was required. There were 12 cases in which three or more officers were present when resistance was encountered requiring the use of force.

One Officer 69
Two Officers 24
Three Officers 5
More than Three Officers 7

Number of suspects that resisted or assaulted officer.

In 17 cases, there were multiple persons who resisted or fought with officers and 95 cases in which officers encountered resistance from a single subject.

One suspect 95
Two suspects 13
Three 2
More than three 2

Level of control generated beyond verbal directions

Empty hand control was employed 118 in of the instances reported. Intermediate weapons; batons, pepper foam, less lethal munitions, or K-9 holds, were used in 10 of the instances. The display, or threat, of deadly force was used in 9 of the incidents in which force was used.

Empty Hand Control
Muscling Techniques 93
Joint locks 15
Pressure Points 6
Hand Strikes 2
Foot Strikes 2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not Indicated</th>
<th>13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Weapons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical irritant</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taser</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student subject</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non student subject</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact weapon</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty Impact Munitions</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadly Force</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Displayed</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharged</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Officer Injuries**

Officers were injured in the 112 resistance or assaultive encounters 16 times. Of these injuries 0 required medical treatment.

**Training**

Austin Independent School District Police Department trains each officer for 80 hours during one of the two summer training academies. In 2015 all officers were trained in the following topics relevant to the use of force, or topics intended to allow officers to redirect conflict in order to mitigate the need for force:

- Practical use of Firearms: 16 hours
- F.A.T.S.: 0 hours
- Use of Force: 8 hours
- Crisis Intervention: 8 hours

In 2015 officers received 32 hours of training in the practical application of force, use of force polices, or training in topics intended to reduce or mitigate the need for the application of force, such as the Crisis Intervention and Practical Firearms. Austin Independent School District Police Department provides its officers with 80 hours of training annually, far exceeding the state mandate of 40 hours of training every biennium.

**Conclusion**

The Department’s use of force policy requires that officers use the minimum level of force that is necessary to bring an incident under control. The Department’s primary consideration is public
and officer safety. The Austin Independent School District Police Department collects use of force information in order to better understand the department’s use of force, and to determine if changes in policy, reporting, or training are called for. Reports made from this information are used to increase transparency and to enhance our service to the community. The percentage of force used increased when officers made an arrest; the report shows that the arrestee was much more likely to resist the officer’s arresting authority in 2015 than in 2014, resulting in an increase in use of force documentation.