2018 Annual
Use of Force Report

Austin Independent School District Police Department
March 2019

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 2018. 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 2018, the Austin Independent School District Police responded to 35,796 calls for service. Fifty-one of those contacts presented an individual with resistance, or assaulitive behavior requiring the use of force by police officers. That is .14% of all police contacts which resulted in a use of force contact by police. Out of the 51 use of force contacts, 46 were of the least amount of physical force used by an officer in restraining an individual.

**Key findings in the 2017 Use of Force**

- **In 2018, only .14% of all contacts where police was involved resulted in the use of force by AISD Police.** This represents a .03% increase in use of force encounters from 2017.
- **The calls for service had a small decrease from 2017 to 2018.** In 2017, AISD Police reported 36,698 total calls for service and 35,796 in 2018.
- **In 2018 the most frequent subject action resulting in a use of force by an officer was Active Aggression, followed by defensive resistance.**
- **The most often used method of officers responding to resistance was empty hand control.** Empty hand control was used in 90%, 46 of 51 documented use of force reports. One contact where force was used was the result of intermediate weapons; such as batons, pepper foam, less lethal munitions, or K-9 holds used by the officer. The threat or display of deadly force was also used 4 times within all contacts.

**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, 26 out of 81 Use of Force incidents.

City Ordinance Violations 0  
Education Code Violations 3  
Health and Safety Code 1  
Property Offenses 3  
Persons Offenses 17  
Public Order Crimes 16  
Traffic Code 2  
Substance Abuse 0  
Alcoholic Beverage Code 0  
Family Code 0  
Other 9  
Public Admin 0

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

**Gender of Subject**

Male 34  
Female 17

**Race and Ethnicity of Subject**

Caucasian 7 13.72 %  
African American 15 29.41 %  
Hispanic 27 52.94 %  
Native American 0 0 %  
Asian 1 1.96 %  
Other 1 1.96 %

**Age of Subject**
Less than 10  2
11-14    27
15-17    16
18-21    0
22-25    1
26-30    2
31-35    1
36-40    1
41-45    0
46-50    0
51-55    1
61-65    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 to restrain a person for their own safety.

Necessary to effect arrest 22
Necessary to defend officer 18
Necessary to defend another 0
To prevent a forcible felony 0
To restrain for subject’s safety 11
Not Indicated

Nature of Subject’s Injuries
4 of the 51 documented cases in which force was used resulted in injury to the subject (as minor as complain of pain). 2 required medical attention.

Subject Injured 4
Subject rendered unconscious 0
Nature of injury:
  None 47
  Minor 2
Medical Attention needed 2
Not Indicated 0

Level of Resistance
Psychological Intimidation 1
Defensive Resistance 13
Verbal Threats 4
Active Aggression 23
Numbers of officers present at the time of arrest.

In 45 incidents, officers were alone when confronted with resistance. In 5 incidents, two officers were present when force was required. There was 1 incident in which three or more officers were present when resistance was encountered requiring the use of force.

- One Officer: 45
- Two Officers: 5
- Three Officers: 1
- More than Three Officers: 0

Number of suspects that resisted or assaulted officer.

In 6 incidents, there was more than one person who resisted or fought with officers and 45 incidents in which officers encountered resistance from a single subject.

- One suspect: 45
- Two suspects: 5
- Three: 1
- More than three: 0

Level of control generated beyond verbal directions

Empty hand control was employed in 46 of the instances reported. Intermediate weapons; batons, pepper foam, less lethal munitions, or K-9 holds, was used in 1 of the instances. The display, or threat, of deadly force was used in 4 of the incidents in which force was used.

Empty Hand Control
- Muscling Techniques: 42
- Joint locks: 4
- Pressure Points: 0
- Hand Strikes: 0
- Foot Strikes: 0
- Not Indicated: 0

Intermediate Weapons
- Chemical irritant: 1
- Taser: 0
  - Student subject: 0
  - Non student subject: 0
- Impact weapon: 0
- Specialty Impact Munitions: 0
Deadly Force
   Displayed       4
   Discharged      0

Officer Injuries

Officers were injured 7 times in the 51 resistance or assaultive encounters. Of these injuries, 2 required medical treatment.

Training

Austin Independent School District Police Officers received 80 hours of training during one of the two summer training academies, far exceeding the state mandate of 40 hours of training every biennium. Additionally, new hires received 20 hours of state mandated training in de-escalation and recognizing and working with mental health individuals.

In 2018, AISD 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: 8 hours
- ALERRT (instructional/scenario): 16 hours
- Reality Based Training (scenario): 8 hours
- Cultural Diversity: 8 hours
- De-Escalation TCOLE Mandate: 8 hours

New hires/certification requirement officers’ additional training

- De-Escalation: 4 hours
- Adolescent-Development: 4 hours
- Mental Illness and Crisis Intervention: 4 hours
- Mental Health and Behavioral and Health Needs…: 4 hours
- Restorative Justice: 4 hours
- Mental Health: 40 hours

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 less likely to resist the officer’s arresting authority in 2017 than in 2018, resulting in a minimal increase in use of force documentation.