

*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 15, 2022

TO: DON HAYES  
ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE

FROM:  SERGEANT ALOYSIUS ASONGLEFAC   
OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS & PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

SUBJECT: ANNUAL USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS – CY2021

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the CY2021 Annual Analysis of Departmental Uses of Force. This analysis is required by Police Directive 1.9 Administrative Reports, Appendix A. This analysis was conducted by reviewing all Use of Force (UF) investigations in CY2020.

**Definitions:**

Incident – a dispatched call for service or other encounter between police and the community.

Force Incident – an encounter between police and subject(s) where force was applied.

Use of Force/Application – the application of a specific force method on a subject by a police officer.

Use of Force Investigation – the investigation into the appropriateness of the application(s) of force by one or more officers against one or more persons in a single incident.

**Evaluation Triggers:**

Force, especially item/weapon use, is evaluated in all applications, as well as upon complaint of injury (regardless of type of force employed), actual injury (regardless of type of force applied), or complaint of excessive/improper use of force.

Note: Typically, two officers are dispatched to most calls for service, so it is not uncommon for each use of force investigation to involve multiple officers, however they are tracked and numbered internally by individual officer. It is possible that a single incident can result in multiple force evaluations arising out of the results of the comprehensive investigation.

In September of CY2016, tracking of force investigations changed to include all levels of force used. This reporting captures officers' attempts to use lower levels of force before escalating. For instance, if two officers utilize different types of force to affect a lawful objective, the incident will be categorized as one incident involving two applications of force, capturing the type of force used by officer, rather than just as one single incident. The reason for this method is to review each individual use of force on its own. During an incident, one officer's application of force may be appropriate while another officer's may be inappropriate.

Table 1 below lists the types of force applied by officers in CY2021 compared to the preceding three years.

*Table 1 – Use of Force Classification*

Level of Force Deployed, by Officer	CY2018	CY2019	CY2020	CY2021
Firearm	1	2	3	0
Impact Weapon (Baton, Sage Gun, LLM)	0	0	0	0
Canine	0	3	2	0
OC Spray	2	3	2	1
CEW (Taser)	9	12	9	8
Weaponless Force/Injury/Complaint	23	25	40	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>22</b>

\* In CY2018, CY2019, CY2020, and CY2021 all levels of force deployed were counted regardless of effectiveness, therefore resulting in what appears to be more force deployed than incidents recorded.

Compared to CY2020, CY2021 saw a 67.5% decrease in the number of weaponless force applications (strikes, control holds, and takedowns resulting in a complaint of injury). There were 22 applications of force or complaints of injury resulting in investigation. Among these 22 applications of force, officers used weaponless tactics and control holds 13 times. This is attributed to the fact that in most encounters, the officer(s) first attempt weaponless techniques before resorting to higher levels of force.

In CY2021, there were no of uses of any impact weapons. In CY2021, there were eight (8) incidents involving Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW), a decrease of one from CY2020. In CY2021, the Department had 200 CEWs in operation. The Patrol Operations Divisions, from the rank of Sergeant and below, are all issued CEWs. OC Spray deployments dropped by one in CY2021 to only a single deployment. There were no K9 deployments in CY2021, a decrease of two from CY2020.

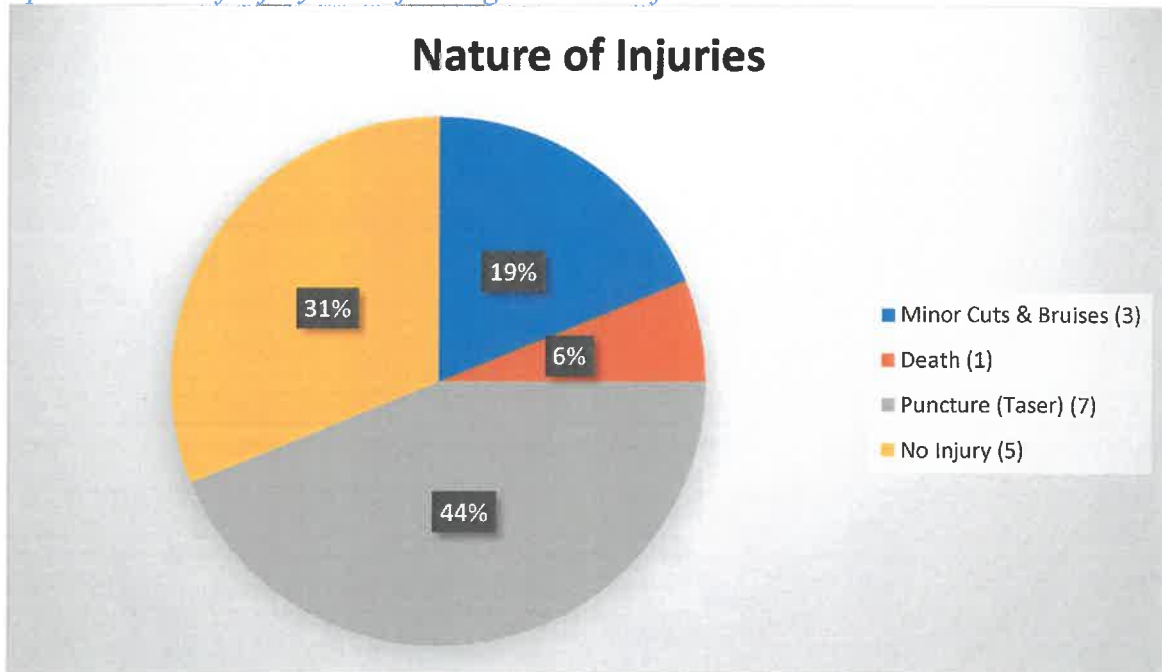
There was one incident in which the subject fled from APD units, led them on a vehicle pursuit into Maryland and Washington, DC. The subject crashed his vehicle in Washington, DC, fled from the scene on foot, jumped/fell from an overpass and sustained grave injuries. Shortly after the fall, the subject struggled with six (6) APD officers and an officer from the US Park Police as they attempted to place him in handcuffs. The subsequent use of force investigation determined the actions of the officers involved were within policy. The US Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia also ruled the officers had not violated any laws and their actions did not play a factor in the death of the subject.

The 22 applications of force involved a total of 18 different officers handling 16 separate incidents. Of those 18 officers, three officers used some type of reportable force more than once in CY2021. The incident described in the previous paragraph involved six (6) officers, one other incident involved two (2) officers while thirteen (13) incidents only involved a single officer. All of the uses of force involved members of the Patrol Operations Bureau.

Of the 16 incidents resulting in the application of reportable force, one incident resulted in the death of the suspect (described above). As depicted on the graph below, 31% of these encounters

resulted in no visible injury to the subject against whom force was used. The use of Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW) results in small punctures at the site where the probes contact the subjects, therefore 44% of subjects sustained minor puncture injuries.

*Graph 1 - nature of injury to subjects against whom force was used.*



Of the 16 incidents and 18 officers involved, none of the officers sustained any reportable injury. The following table provides the types of encounters that officers were engaged in which led to their application of force:

*Table 2 – Types of Encounters*

Type of Encounter	Force Applications	% of Force Used
Calls for service	9	56.25%
Mental TDO	4	25.0%
Open warrants	2	12.5%
Follow Up Investigation	1	6.25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>

All but one of the 16 incidents resulted in criminal arrests or Temporary Detention Orders (TDO) for mental health evaluation. Of the 3693 (TDOs not included) criminal arrests made in Alexandria during CY2021, only 16 involved the application of a reportable level of force. **This means that in CY2021, force was deployed only 0.4% of the time in custodial situations.** In each situation where force was properly used, the need for custody or capture of a subject was legally justified.

Below is a statistical breakdown of the race and gender of our sworn staff in CY2021:

*Table 3 – All Department Sworn Staff Demographics*

RACE/GENDER	Count	% Sworn	Using Force	% Using Force
White Male/Non-Hispanic	146	49.1%	13	72.2%
White Female/Non-Hispanic	42	14.1%	1	5.55%
Black Male/Non-Hispanic	38	12.8%	3	16.7%
Black Female/Non-Hispanic	10	3.3%	0	0%
Asian Male/Non-Hispanic	15	5.0%	0	0%
Asian Female/Non-Hispanic	2	0.7%	0	0%
White Male/Hispanic	29	9.7%	1	5.55%
White Female/Hispanic	9	3.0%	0	0%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1	0.3%	0	0%
Other	6	2.0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100%</b>

Below is a statistical breakdown of the race and gender of those against whom force was used in CY2021:

*Table 4 – Race & Gender of Subjects Involved*

RACE/GENDER	Count	% Use of Force Against
Black Male/Non-Hispanic	9	56.3%
White Male/Non-Hispanic	2	12.4%
White Male/Hispanic	1	6.3%
Black Female/Non-Hispanic	2	12.4%
Asian Male	1	6.3%
Undisclosed/Male	1	6.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 5 below provides a “time of day” breakdown during which these force encounters occurred. In CY2021, most (54.6%) of the force encounters occurred between 1801 and midnight. Conversely, only two (9.1%) occurred between 1201 hours and 1800 hours.

*Table 5 – Use of Force Breakdown by Time of Day*

Time of Encounter	Force Applications	% Force Applications
0001-0600	3	13.6%
0601-1200	5	22.7%
1201-1800	2	9.1%
1801-2400	12	54.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 6 below provides an age breakdown of subjects against whom force was used.

*Table 6 – Age Breakdown of Subjects Involved*

<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of Force Application</b>
Under 20	3	18.75%
20-30	6	37.5%
31-40	2	12.5%
41-50	4	25.0%
51-60	0	0.0%
60+	1	6.25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>

A review of the information available for CY2021 does not reveal any specific needs or trends in our use of force situations. These findings bare no impact on our internal policies, practices, equipment, and training.

Should you have any questions regarding the content of this memorandum, please contact me at 703-746-6767.