

Terre Haute Police Department

Use of Force Annual Report 2020-2021

Date: June 8, 2021

To: Chief Shawn Keen
Captain Aaron Loudermilk

From: Captain Michael Mikuly

The Employee Use of Force Annual Report covers the period of June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021. This report includes the review of all agency use of force reports.

During the above stated period, the Terre Haute Police Department responded to 43,801 calls for service. There were 603 Use of Force Reports filed for 337 separate incidents of force. It should be noted that there were only 316 (0.7%) calls for service in which force was used, but in several calls for service, force was used on multiple arrestees. This would occur in cases such as when firearms are drawn during a felony traffic stop in which the suspect vehicle was occupied multiple times.

Electro-Muscular Disruption Technology devices (Tasers) were used 80 times. The taser being drawn resulting in compliance was reported 41 times. It was used in drive stun only deployment 13 times. The taser was fired 26 times recording 11 failures. It was fired a second time in two incidents resulting in an effective deployment. Four times it was used in drive stun mode after a failure.

Police K-9s were deployed 27 times resulting in eight bites. One of these incidents resulted in serious bodily injury and the arrestee (W/M/33) was admitted to the hospital. Impact weapons were not used during this reporting period. Chemical spray (OC) was deployed one time. Firearms were drawn/pointed 103 times, and fired in one of those incidents (F/W/33) following a vehicle pursuit in which she attempted to strike an officer with her vehicle. She was not injured. 19 times guns were drawn as procedure to conduct a felony traffic stop at the conclusion of a vehicle pursuit.

During this period, 21 arrestees were treated for injuries after a use of force incident. Two separate incidents resulted in two arrestees being admitted to the hospital. One of those incidents was the K9 deployment noted above. The other incident involved a stabbing suspect (M/W/31) being struck in the back of the head with a taser probe while fleeing. He was still armed with the knife at the time of the use of force. 31 use of force incidents resulted from the immediate detention or emergency detention of the arrestee. 10 arrestees were treated at a hospital facility for minor injuries and released.

16 officers received injuries as a result of incidents involving the use of force. All injuries were minor. During use of force incidents, nine suspects were armed with firearms (one was later determined to be a toy gun (BB gun). 10 were armed with knives. Six others had other weapons including an ax, scissors, a screwdriver, a machete, a club, and a box cutter.

During this period, 321 (95%) use of force incidents occurred during the officer's shift, and 16 (5%) use of force incidents occurred when officers were working off duty. Off duty use of force incidents occurred six times at hospital facilities, and six times at a juvenile correctional facility.

There was not a correlation or set pattern of any employee that stands out as using or demonstrating excessive force to affect an arrest or using force disproportionately toward one specific demographic over another.

	Number of force reports
<u>Sex</u>	
Male	274 (81%)
Female	63 (19%)
<u>Race</u>	
Caucasian	251 (74%)
Black	76 (23%)
Hispanic	9 (3%)
Other/Unknown (Biracial or undetermined)	1 (<1%)
<u>Shift</u>	
A Shift	90 (30%)
B Shift	107 (35%)
C Shift	106 (35%)
<u>Residency Status</u>	
Terre Haute area	38 (13%)
Non Resident	248 (87%)
Unknown/Not recorded	51
<u>Drugs/Alcohol</u>	
Under the influence	93 (33%)
Sober	193 (67%)
Unknown/Not recorded	51

2019/20-2020/21 Comparison

	2020	2021
Calls for service	46,987	43,801
Calls resulting in use of force	309	316
Force Reports filed	564	603
Individuals involved in use of force incidents	338	337
Tasers drawn	74	80
Tasers fired	23	26
Impact weapons used	4	0
Chemical Spray used	1	1
K9 deployed / bites	25/13	27/8
Firearms drawn / fired	101/1	103/1

2020/2021 Use of Force Comparisons by Race

	Number of incidents	White	Black	Hispanic	Other/Unknown
Individuals involved in use of force incidents	337	251	76	9	1
Tasers deployed (drawn)	80	59	18	3	0
Tasers fired	26	22	3	1	0
Drive Stun mode	17	15	2	0	0
Impact weapons used (leverage/strike)	0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Chemical Spray used	1	1	0	0	0
K9 bites	8	8	0	0	0
Firearms drawn / fired	103/1	66/1	35/0	1/0	0/0

On June 8, 2021, I met with Sgt. Blunk and Sgt. Chambers for an annual review of our Use of Force Policy and statistics. Prior to the meeting, they were given copies of all Use of Force Reports filed during this period. Any issues were addressed as they occurred throughout the year. Sgt. Blunk also discussed the statistics and reports with the other use of force/defensive tactics instructors prior to our meeting.

During a review of our policy, suggestions were made regarding changes to our current policy and use of force reporting form. Changes to the reporting form included differentiating between vehicle and foot pursuits and adding a section to document if firearms were drawn as the result of the reporting officer conducting a “felony stop.” Sgt. Chambers is preparing a proposal to carry less lethal rounds for the shotgun. We are also recommending further training related to the placement of combative arrestees into and removing them from vehicles.

Upon administrative review, any accepted changes will be placed into practice as soon as possible, and version 21.1 of the Terre Haute Police Department Use of Force Report will go into effect.