

2016 Annual Use of Force Report

TO: Barrie Police Services Board
FROM: Chief Kimberly Greenwood
DATE: April 04, 2017
SUBJECT: 2016 Annual Use of Force Report

BACKGROUND

Provincial Adequacy Standard #AI-012 of the Police Services Act requires that the Chief of Police report annually to the Board on the use of force by members of the Service.

“Use of Force” reports are required to be submitted by every member of the Service who uses force in any one of the following situations:

- A firearm is drawn in the presence of a member of the public (excluding other police officers or auxiliary members while on duty or a "ride along" observer);
- A firearm is pointed at any person;
- A firearm is discharged;
- A weapon other than a firearm, including a weapon of opportunity is used on another person;
- A Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) is pointed at a subject to gain compliance; and,
- Physical force is used on a person resulting in an injury requiring medical attention.

Statistics on the use of force are maintained by the Training Unit. The statistics are compiled from the review, evaluation and analysis of mandated “Use of Force” reports. These Use of Force reports are collected and used only to identify individual and group training requirements, or organizational Use of Force policy requirements.

Officers interact on a daily basis with members of the public in which their issues and concerns are resolved without having to use force at a level that would require the submission of a report as indicated above. There are also times when the interactions are dynamic and more than one use of force option may be required to control and resolve the situation.

Analysis

In 2016, Police received 62,316 calls for service. This number does not accurately capture the exponentially larger number of Police/Public interactions that occur every single day in every month throughout the year. Of the vast number of these interactions only an exceptionally low number of the Police/Public interactions involve any use of force. Pursuant to Provincial Adequacy Standard #AI-012 of the Police Services Act, the vast majority of police/subject interactions which are resolved with using force is not of a level requiring the submission of a Use of Force report.

Situations involving use of force are dynamic and many involve the use of more than one use of force option.

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The total number of reports increased from 2015 to 2016. A total of 134 reports were submitted as a result of 103 calls for service. Of the 103 calls for service, 17 calls required more than one Officer to submit a Use of Force Report, 13 of which were weapons calls requiring numerous Officers to draw or point their firearm.

The Province of Ontario provides police services in Ontario with a standard Use of Force Model. This model depicts the use of force options which are appropriate based on the situation the officer encounters. The model considers that the same situation faced by different officers may lead to the use of different force options based on the perceptions of the officers and their individual characteristics. It does not mandate single specific force options; rather it provides a range of options that may be appropriate for the situation based on the subject's behaviours. For reference, the Use of Force Model is attached to this report.

Officers submitted a use of force report for **0.16%** of all occurrences attended.

PHYSICAL CONTROL	2015	2016
	7	3
Physical control continues to be on par with past years, with a slight drop in 2016.		

IMPACT WEAPON	2015	2016
	0	0
Impact weapons continue to show a low usage rate. Traditionally, impact weapon use is low throughout the Province, not being the use of force option the majority of Officers choose.		

OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) SPRAY	2015	2016
	1	1
OC use remains relatively low and that trend has continued over the years.		

ARWEN	2015	2016
	0	0
ARWEN use is extremely low. ARWENs are utilized solely by the Tactical Support Unit and it has only been utilized twice in the Barrie Police Service – 2005 and 2006.		

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CANINE	2015	2016
	1	3
<p>The use of the canine continues to be an effective tool. While the canine is routinely used for tracking suspects, it very seldom requires a use of force report – only being required if the canine bites a suspect and causes an injury requiring medical attention.</p>		

FIREARMS	2015	2016
DRAWN/POINTED	29	34
DISCHARGED	3	2
<p>Firearm drawn/pointed increased in 2016. The increase was due to the increased number of armed suspects and the number of weapons calls that required multiple Officer response, that were required to utilize their firearm – 13. This increase also takes into account High Risk warrants undertaken by the Tactical Support Unit. Firearms were discharged solely for the purpose of destruction of injured and suffering animals.</p>		

CONDUCTED ENERGY WEAPON	2015	2016
DISPLAY ONLY	21	29
DRIVE STUN	6	10
3 POINT CONTACT	2	3
PROBE DEPLOYMENT	16	19
<p>Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW) usage has increased from 2015. Officers are attending more situations where violent behavior and/or non-compliance have increased. The Barrie Police Service continues to have a stringent oversight of the use of the CEW, with use of force reports being checked by supervising NCOs, Divisional Inspectors, and Training officers. The Barrie Police Service training standards for the CEW exceeds the Provincial requirements and relies just not on legislative requirements but also a large dynamic training component not usually seen throughout the province.</p> <p>It should be noted that 49% of the deployments of the CEW were display only, indicating that the Officers, while prepared to use the CEW, displayed professionalism in only using the minimum amount of force required. Many assaultive situations have been controlled and diffused with the display only mode, preventing injury to the public and officers.</p>		

INJURIES	2015	2016
SUBJECT	21	26

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OFFICERS	0	5
Injuries to Officers increased in 2016. No injuries were serious and no time from work was lost. Injuries to suspects increased in 2016, however, 68% of all injuries were for CEW probe removal or MHA assessment at RVH.		

Financial Impact

None

Recommendation

The Board receives this report as information

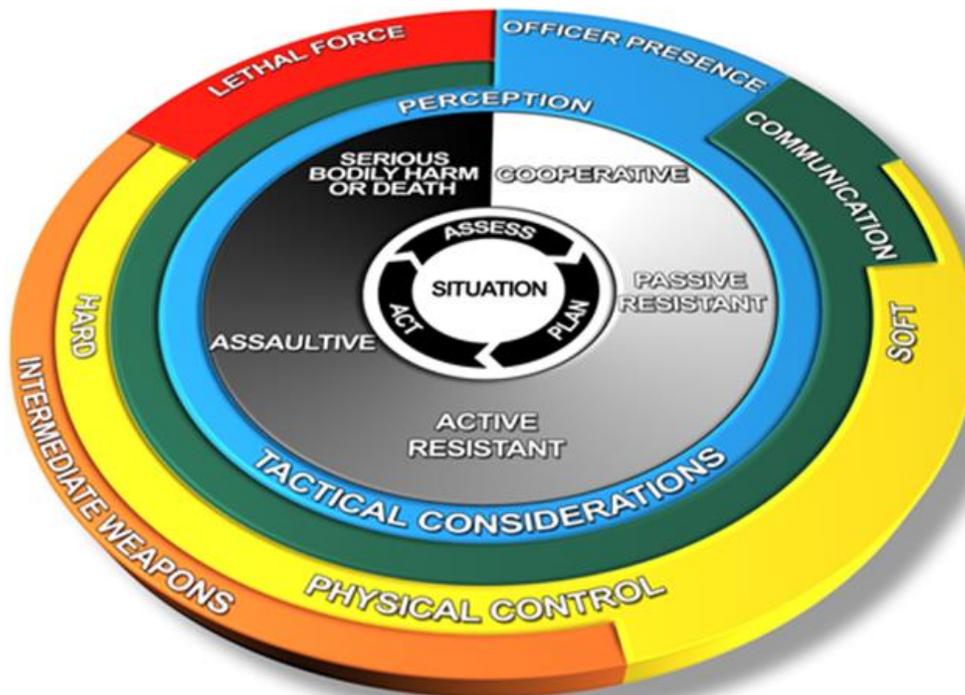
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Ontario Use of Force Model (2004)



The officer continuously assesses the situation and selects the most reasonable option relative to those circumstances as perceived at that point in time.

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Subject Behaviours

Co-operative

The subject responds appropriately to the officers' presence, direction and control.

Resistant (Passive)

The subject refuses, with little or no physical action, to cooperate with the officer's lawful direction.

Resistant (Active)

The subject uses non-assaultive physical action to resist. The subject refuses to comply with the officer's lawful direction.

Assaultive

The subject attempts to apply, or applies force to any person; attempts or threatens by an act or gesture to apply force to another person.

Serious Bodily Harm or Death

The subject exhibits actions that the officer reasonably believes are intended to or likely to cause serious bodily harm or death to any person.

Use of Force Options

Officer Presence

While not strictly a use of force option the simple presence of an officer can affect both the subject and the situation.

Communication

An officer can use verbal and non-verbal communication to control and/or resolve the situation.

Physical Control (Soft)

Control oriented techniques including restraining techniques, joint locks and non-resistant handcuffing.

Physical Control (Hard)

Techniques intended to stop a subject's behaviour or allow application of a control technique. Hard control has a higher probability of causing injury and includes empty hand strikes such as punches and kicks.

Intermediate Weapons

Force option that involves the use of a less-lethal weapon. Less lethal weapons are those whose use is not intended to cause serious injury or death.

Lethal Force

The use of a force option involving any weapon or technique intended to or reasonably likely to cause serious bodily harm or death.