

GEORGETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

USE OF FORCE

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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USE OF FORCE

2019 Annual Report

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

For 2019, the Georgetown Police Department (GPD) had 8 events where Police Officers utilized force in accordance with Policy 300 Use of Force. Total incidents may exceed events because an event may have resulted in the application of more than one type of force during the event. The following chart highlights the types of force utilized by GPD officers during 2019 as compared to the previous two years:

USE OF FORCE INCIDENT TYPE	2017	2018	2019
Incidents Involving Escort Compliance Techniques	0	0	0
Incidents Involving Soft Empty Hand Control	6	2	5
Incidents Involving OC Spray	0	0	0
Incidents Involving Pepperball (Non-Impact)	1	0	1
Incidents Involving Chemical Munitions	0	0	0
Incidents Involving Hard Empty Hand Control (Strikes)	3	1	2
Incidents Involving Batons	0	0	0
Incidents Involving the Taser	1	2	3
Incidents Involving Batons	0	0	0
Incidents Involving Impact Munitions	0	0	1
Incidents Involving Firearms	0	0	0
Total Incidents	11	5	12
Total Use of Force Events	7	4	8

This annual report will highlight the following use of force information for the Georgetown Police Department in 2019:

- Statistical Analysis
- Trends
- Opportunities for Improvement & Recommendations
- Summary

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The below is a summary analysis of statistical data compiled from the use of force incidents by GPD officers in 2019:

- In 2019 the Georgetown Police Department responded to 33,579 calls for service, made 10,972 traffic stops, and made 1,224 arrests. With eight use of force events, this means that force was used in only 0.00018% of the calls for service and traffic stops. The 1,224 arrests would be part of the 33,579 calls for service.
- Uses of force by the Central Texas Regional SWAT (CTRS) are not included in this report. They are a multi-jurisdictional team that incorporates officers from 4 different agencies operating in multiple jurisdictions.
- There was one use of force event in January, one in March, two in June, one in August, one in September, and two in December.
- There were 11 police officers involved in use of force incidents for 2019 and all were males.
- Of the eight suspects involved in use of force incidents, seven were male and one was female. Three suspects were hispanic males, three were white males, one was a black female, and one was a black male.
- Soft empty hand control techniques were used five times in the eight events. Soft empty hand control techniques include strength techniques, joint locks, pressure points, and proportional force knee strikes or other distraction techniques.
- The Taser was used three times in the eight events.
- Hard empty hand control techniques were used two times in the eight events. Hard empty hand control techniques include the use of defensive counter strikes such as punches, kicks, hard knee strikes, and stuns.
- Pepperball (Non-Impact) and impact munitions each had a single use in the eight events.
- In the eight events, escort compliance techniques, OC spray, chemical munitions, batons, and firearms were not used.
- Five subjects received minor injuries (taser probe impact marks, bruising, and lacerations. All subjects are cleared medically after a use of force event.
- One officer received minor injuries (redness and swelling). One officer suffered a broken hand.
- An analysis of the Taser deployments was conducted with the following noted:
 - Each use of the Taser involved a single deployment or Taser cycle.
 - The Taser involved other uses of force in two of the three uses.
 - The Taser was effective in two of the three deployments. The incident where it was not effective involved only one of the two probes striking the subject. Both probes are required to achieve the desired effect.

TRENDS

The following are trends identified during the annual review of the use of force incidents by GPD officers in 2019.

- GPD experienced eight use of force events in 2019 compared to four in 2018, an increase of 100%.
- Of all the use of force events in 2019, 37.5% involved the use of the Taser compared to 50% in 2018 and 14.29% in 2017.
- Baton strikes and OC spray were not used. This trend has been seen for multiple years.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

The following are opportunities for improvement and recommendations in use of force incidents:

- The use of force policy was updated in August of 2019. It is recommended that Lexipol updates and TPCA best practices updates continue to be incorporated into the use of force policy.
- It is recommended that all use of force instructors review this report to better assist them in evaluating the effectiveness of their training methods as they apply to actual applications of force in real world environments.

SUMMARY

The Georgetown Police Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation, and a careful balancing of all interests.