GEORGETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

USE OF FORCE

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY:

Lieutenant Wyatt Raley

USE OF FORCE

2021 Annual Report

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

For 2021, the Georgetown Police Department (GPD) had 20 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 2020 as compared to the previous two years:

USE OF FORCE INCIDENT TYPE	2019	2020	2021
Incidents Involving Escort Compliance Techniques	0	2	0
Incidents Involving Soft Empty Hand Control	5	13	20
Incidents Involving OC Spray	0	0	0
Incidents Involving Pepperball / FN303 (Non-Impact)	1	0	1
Incidents Involving Chemical Munitions	0	0	0
Incidents Involving Hard Empty Hand Control (Strikes)	2	4	0
Incidents Involving Batons	0	0	0
Incidents Involving the Taser	3	3	2
Incidents Involving Batons	0	0	0
Incidents Involving Impact Munitions	1	0	0
Carotid Control Hold	0	0	1
Incidents Involving Firearms	0	1	0
Total Incidents	12	23	23
Total Use of Force Events	8	19	21

This annual report will highlight the following use of force information for the Georgetown Police Department in 2021:

- 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 2020:

- In 2020 the Georgetown Police Department responded to 38,154 calls for service, made 5,268 traffic stops, and made 1004 arrests. With 22 use of force events, this means that force was used in only 0.055% of the calls for service and traffic stops. The 1004 arrests would be part of the 38,154 calls for service.
- Uses of force by the Central Texas Regional SWAT (CTRS) are included in this report if the Officer that used force is part of this agency. They are a multi-jurisdictional team that incorporates officers from 4 different agencies operating in multiple jurisdictions. Those officers will report uses of force within their own representative agency.
- There was one use of force event in February, one in April, two in May, one in June, one in July, four in August, four in September, five in October, one in November and one in December.
- There were 39 police officers involved in use of force incidents for 2020 and of that number 3 of the primary reporting officers were female.
- Of the 21 suspects involved in use of force incidents, 15 were male and six were female. Six suspects were Hispanic males with one Hispanic female, eight were white males and four white females, and one was a black male and one black female.
- Soft empty hand control techniques were used 20 times in the 21 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 twice in the 21 events.
- Hard empty hand control techniques were not used in the 21 events. Hard empty hand control techniques include the use of defensive counter strikes such as punches, kicks, hard knee strikes, and stuns.
- Carotid Control Hold was used one time in the 21 events. The use of a carotid control hold is limited to those circumstances where deadly force is authorized and is subject to the following (Tex. Code of Crim. Pro. Art. 2.33)
- Although Pepperball (Non-Impact / Impact) had no uses the FN 303 was used in one incident for both Non-Impact and Direct Impact in the 21 events.
- Firearms were not used in the 21 incidents.
- In the 21 events, OC spray, chemical munitions, and batons were not used.
- Five subjects sustained minor injuries (taser probe impact marks, bruising, and lacerations. All subjects are cleared medically after a use of force event.) One suspect was admitted to the hospital for glass in his eyes.
- Three officers received minor injuries (Scrapes and scratches). One officer suffered an injury to her knee.
- An analysis of the Taser deployments was conducted with the following noted:
    - One Taser Deployment concluded with one cycle that also included a drive stun.
    - Two Taser Deployments occurred on one event with one effective and one not effective.
    - The Taser involved other uses of force in both events.
    - The Taser was effective in the two of the three deployments.

TRENDS

The following are trends identified during the annual review of the use of force incidents by GPD officers in 2021.

- GPD experienced 21 use of force events in 2021 compared to 19 in 2020, an increase of 10.5%.
- One likely cause of the increase is the greater focus on reporting "Soft Empty Hand Techniques" and "Escort Techniques" to better capture the rate in which force is used.
- Of all the use of force events in 2021, 8.6% involved the use of the Taser compared to 15.7% in 2020 and 37.5% in 2019.
- 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 revised October of 2021. 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.

Cory Tchida
Chief of Police

11/7/2022
Date