

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cleveland Spruill, Sr.
Chief of Police

DATE: July 15, 2019

Jeff Clark
Deputy Chief

TO: Cleveland Spruill, Sr., Chief of Police

Mike Hunsinger
Deputy Chief

FROM: Jeff Clark, Deputy Chief of Police

RE: 2018 Use of Force Analysis / Assault on Sworn Officer Review

A. Introduction

1. **Analysis Period:** January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

2. **Data Reviewed:**

- Use of Force Report Data from Crime Analysis Unit for 2014-2017
- Use of Force Report Data from Excel Spreadsheet for 2017
- CAD Event Data for 2014 - 2017
- Arrest Data for 2014 - 2017
- Use of Force Policy
- Use of Force training for 2014 - 2017
- Attrition rate for 2014 – 2017



B. Data, Statistics and Charts:

1. **Use of Force Data**

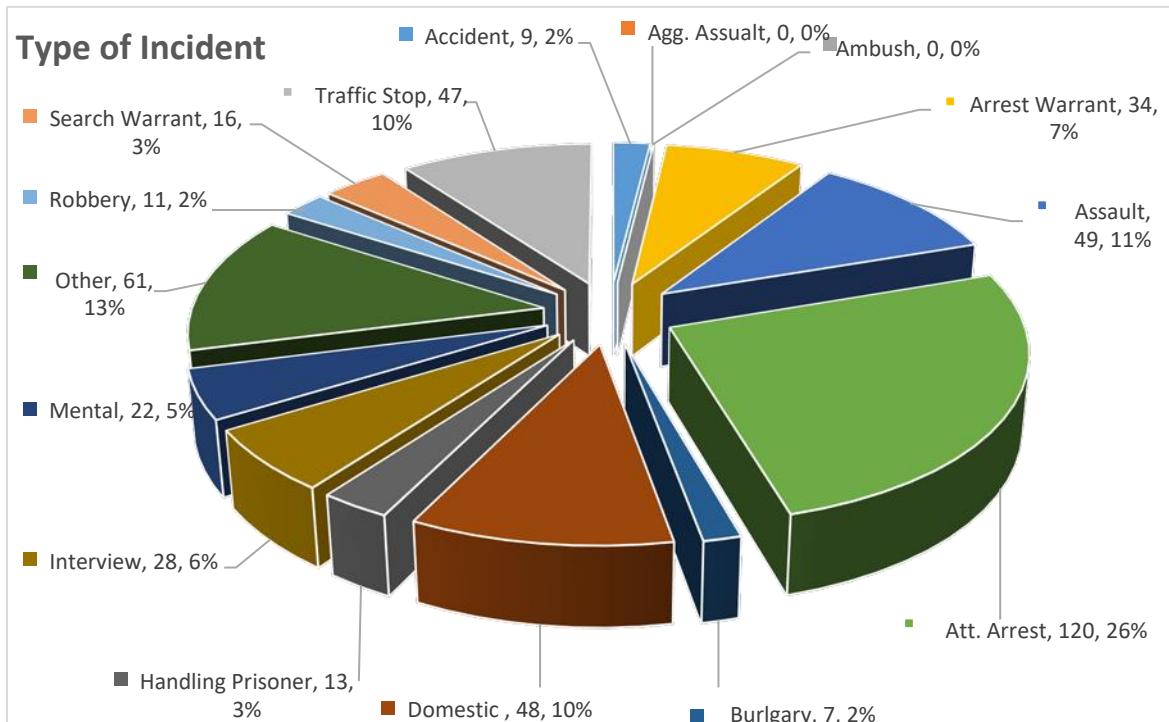
Total Use of Force Incidents:	2015	2016	2017	2018
	268	204	264	298

Firearm Presented:	2015	2016	2017	2018
	65	56	86	214

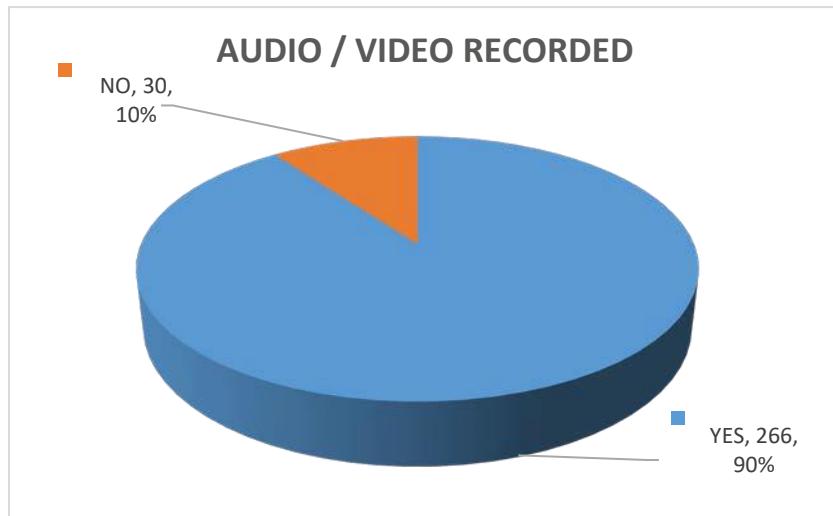


Compliance Tools:	2015	2016	2017	2018
	35	38	23	12
Hard Control / Strikes:	2015	2016	2017	2018
	16	7	17	0
Taser (CEW):	2015	2016	2017	2018
(Implemented July 2015)	3	17	37D/58P*	39D/66P*
Soft Control / Empty Hands:	2015	2016	2017	2018
	198	142	155	365
Impact Weapon / Baton:	2015	2016	2017	2018
	3	1	1	3
Lethal Force:	2015	2016	2017	2018
	0	0	1	0
Stop Stick Deployment:	2015	2016	2017	2018
	0	2	9	6

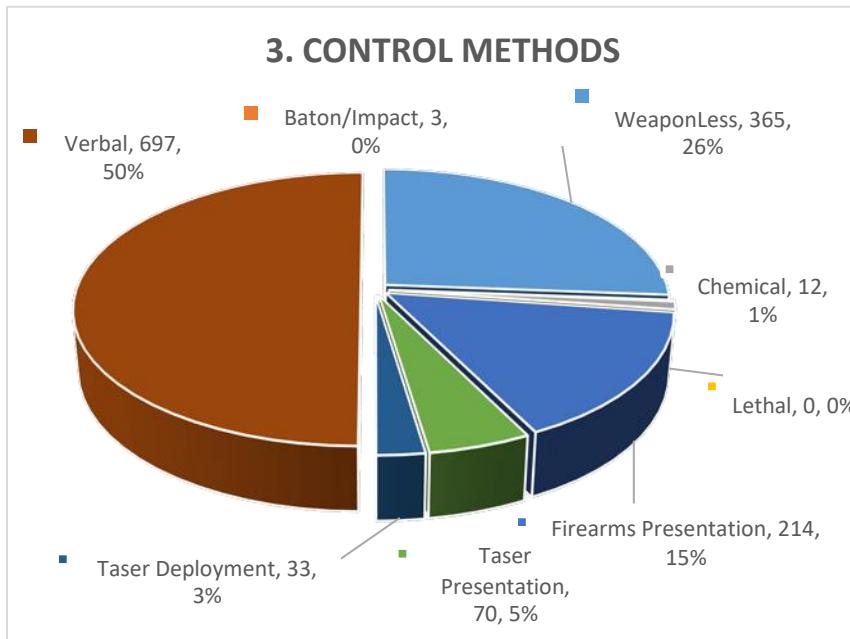
*CEW presentation was added in the last quarter of 2016. "D" = Deployed, "P" = Presentation.



The total numbers of each column may add up to more than the total number of reports since some incidents document more than one single type of force application. Example: A report may document a presentation of a firearm and use of a compliance and control tool.



2. ACCPD fully implemented the AXON camera system. As a result of this implementation, only 30 out of a total 266 went without a recording. The non-recorded incidents were a result of officers not wearing their AXON or forgetting to turn on camera.



3. During the 2018 year, ACCPD officers engaged in 365 Use of Force incidents. During these incidents:

White Male Officers - engaged in 298 incidents, 186 incidents involved the display of firearm or Taser. The ECW was displayed 60 times while being discharged 26 occasions.

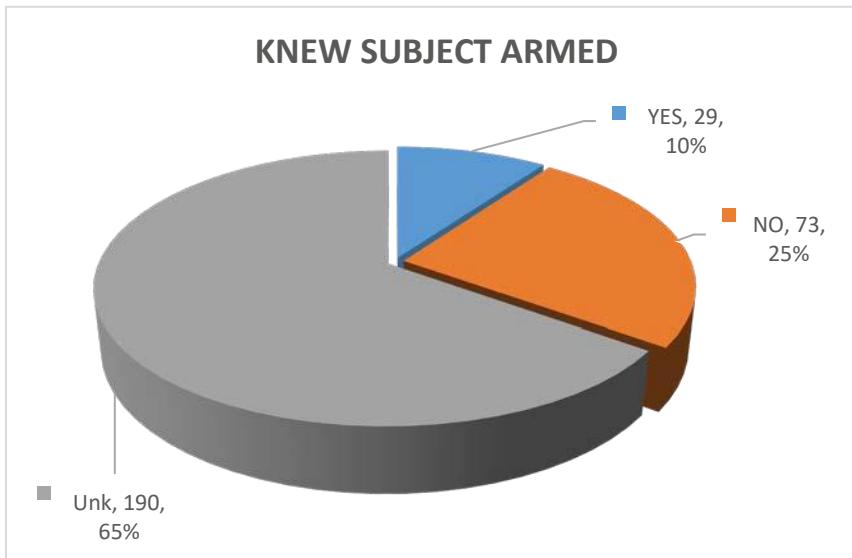
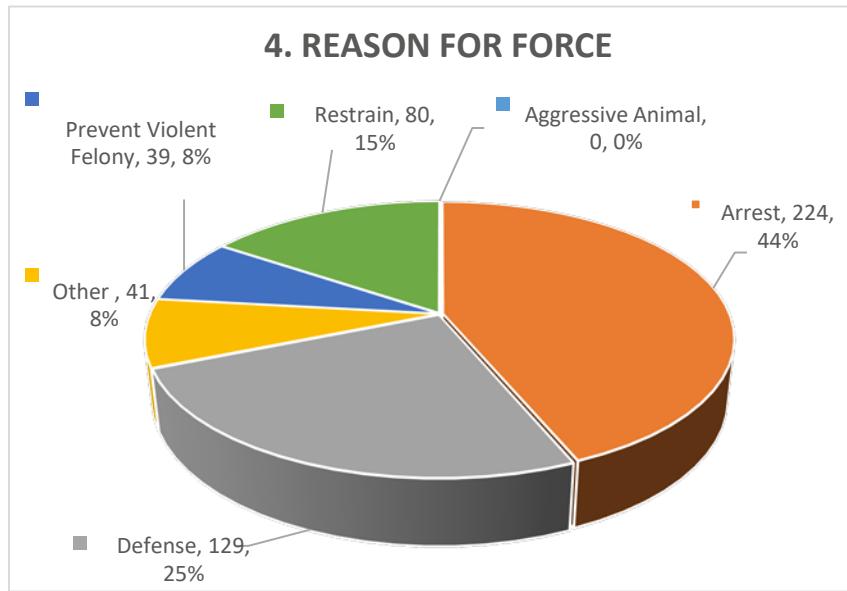
White Female Officers - engaged in 17 incidents, 6 incidents involved the display of firearm or Taser. The ECW was displayed 6 times while being discharged 4 occasions.

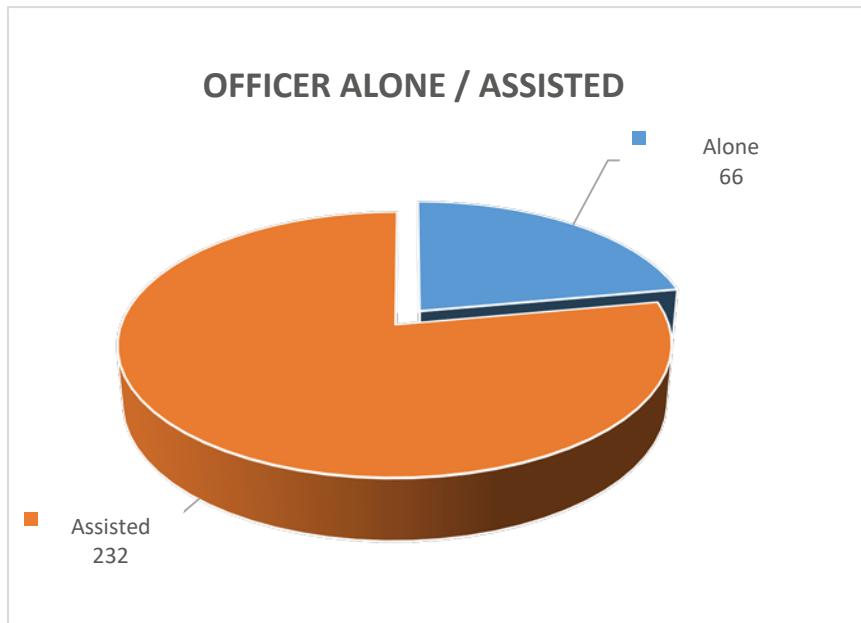
Black Males - engaged in 22 incidents, 9 incidents involved the display of firearm or Taser. The ECW was displayed 1 time while being discharged 1 occasions. , 186 incidents involved the display of firearm or Taser. The ECW was displayed 60 times while being discharged 26 occasions.

Black Females - zero incidents involved the display of firearm or Taser. The ECW was displayed 0 times while being discharged 0 occasions.

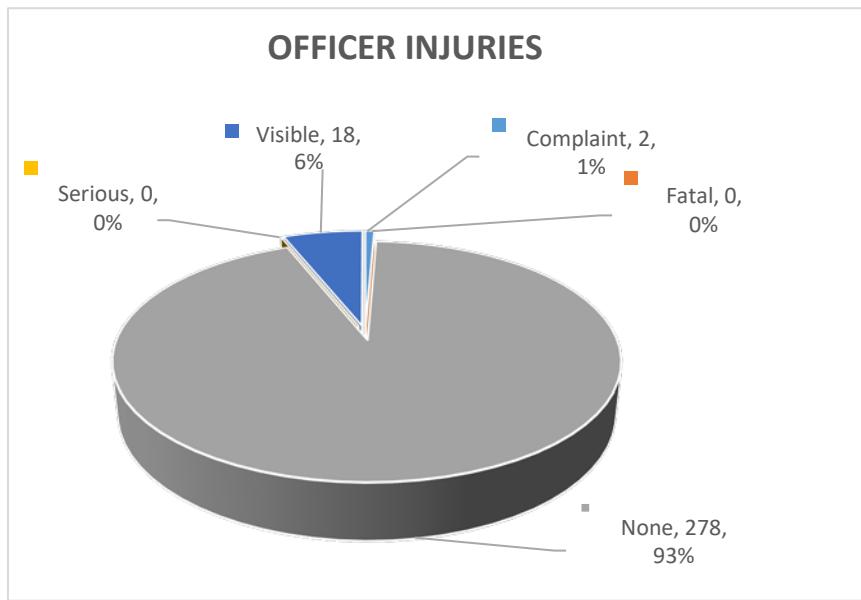
Other Males - 13 incidents involved the display of firearm or Taser. The ECW was displayed 4 times while being discharged 0 occasions.

Other females - 2 incidents involved the display of firearm or Taser. The ECW was displayed 0 times while being discharged 0 occasions.

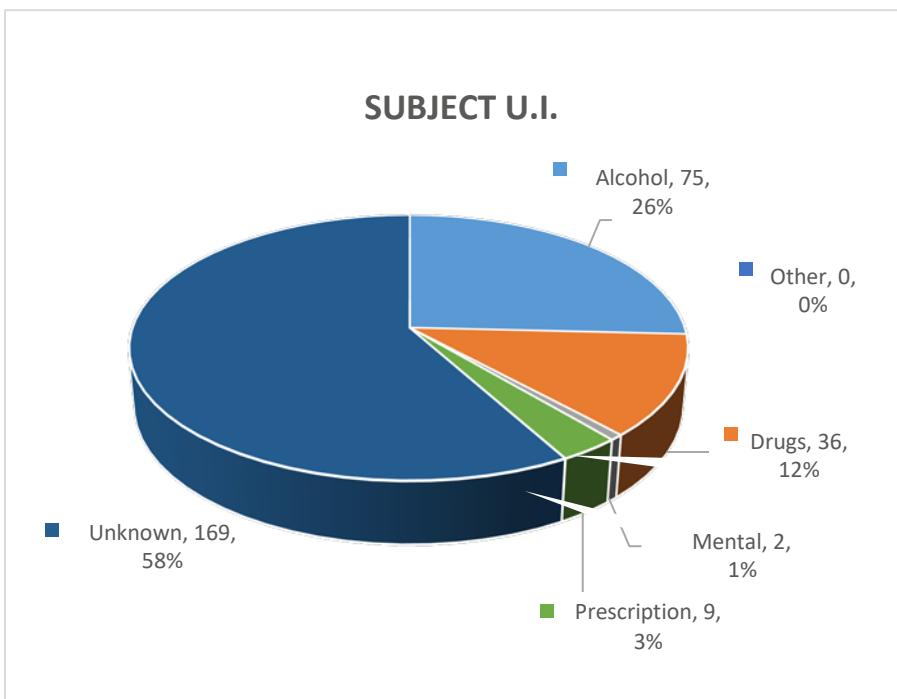
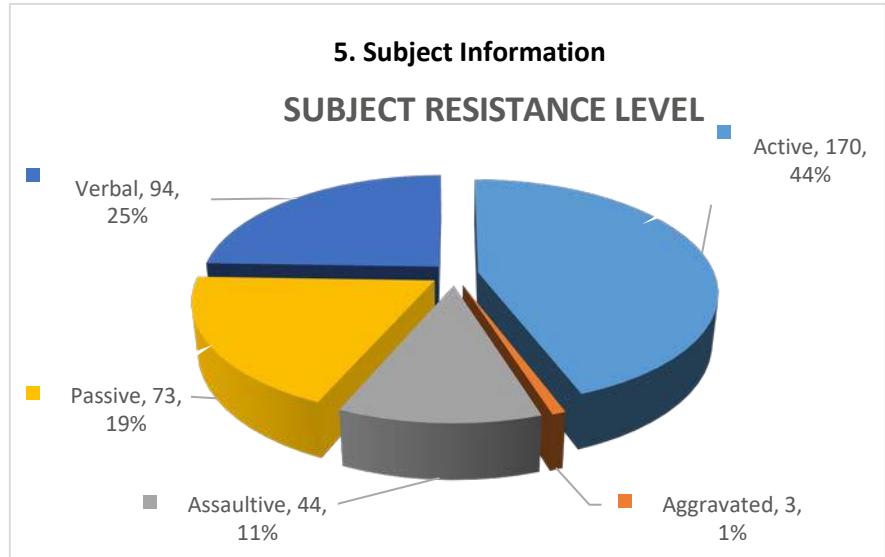


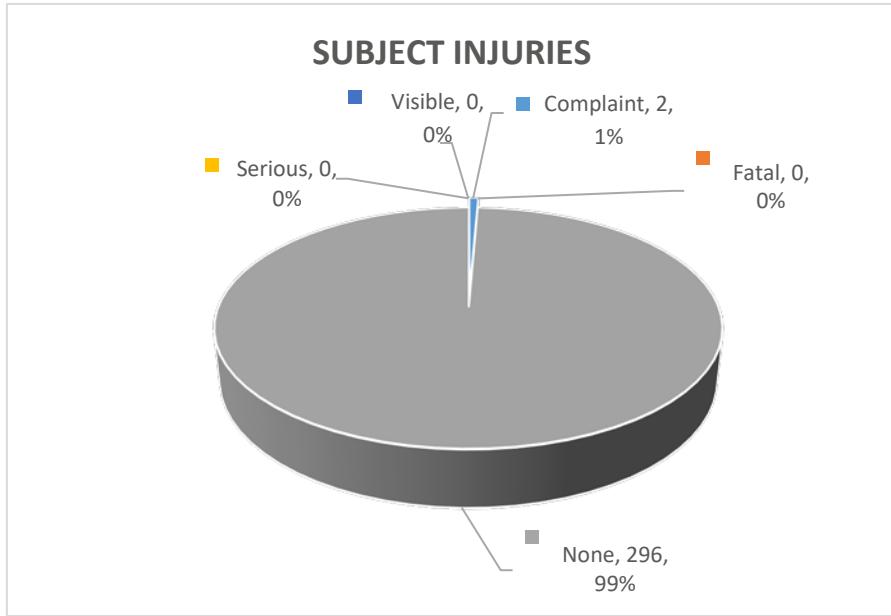


During the year 2018, ACCPD responded to 101,781 calls for service. During this time 3,395 arrest were made. Officers responded to 244 incidents in which the arrest coincided with some form of UOF. In 66 occasions the officer acted alone while 232 occasion, the officer had some form of back up available.



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6. Use of force incident complaints, discipline or termination:

- There were no excessive force complaints filed regarding use of force in 2018.
- There were no officer involved shootings for the year of 2018.

C. Training and Equipment

1. Training Unit Commander Suggestion for Improvements

- a. There has been a high rate of misses during Taser deployment. After analyzing deployments, Sgt. Ryan McGee of the CDTU noted that officers were canting the Taser when deploying them. Emphasis was placed on effective distance and ensuring a vertical grip on the device during deployment to increase the hit rate of the second probe. Additionally, stressful scenarios were added as part of the re-certification that required very rapid deployment, activation and decision making. 2018 courses will continue emphasize the best deployment methods and scenario based training.
- b. For 2018, some training courses to be conducted online. GPSTC has done a very good job of re-tooling their online training courses. Utilizing this type of training will provide the CDTU with more time to emphasize other training and advanced topics in classroom based in-service.

2. Effectiveness of Current Training

- a. The low percentage of use of force incidents vs. CAD Events (citizen/police contact measure), low percentage of incidents vs arrests and low number of complaints suggest an effective program.

- b. While ACCPD enjoys a successful program, additional ideas, additional training time and improved programs can only enhance performance during use of force situations, reduce severity of events and the frequency of them.
- c. Use of force concepts are covered well from an academic sense. In 2018, additional scenario based training events were conducted via the Use of Force Simulator and in Taser re-certification. A continued increase in this type of training will occur in 2019.
- d. In 2018, Sgt. Ryan McGee conducted all training in reference to Firearms and Use of Force training. He was selected due to his very high level of expertise. His efforts have resulted in much improved, scenario based training, low-light training and a much more efficient operation of the firearms range. He has also been able to increase the frequency of those training opportunities.
- e. While still limited, 2018 did see an increase in the offering of small blocks of defensive tactics training. However, likely due to staffing levels and reluctance to attend the rigorous physical training, attendance is low. As an added benefit, in 2018, the CDTU offered a standardized defensive tactics program in NOBC with the SSGT curriculum. One of the 2018 goals was to offer mandatory defensive tactics instruction. That goal was not obtained and will remain a goal of the CDTU. It will be difficult with staff levels and the burden on the CDTU, as it is training record numbers of new officers.
- f. The academic use of force training blocks have been effective at installing a very balanced mindset regarding use of force at ACCPD. Constitutional policing foundations, Graham v Connor, and use of force modeling are emphasized and valued by department members. Additionally, the idea of using sound tactics, de-escalation, dialogue and a degree of are emphasized and evident in culture.
- g. For 2018, de-escalation concepts were heavily emphasized as part of the annual training for all officers. New officers received and extended block on this topic in NOBC and it was a mandatory part of in-service training for all other sworn employees.

3. The Current Number of Hours

- a. The current number of hours dedicated to use of force training is adequate. However, ACCPD is not defined by adequacy or a minimalist approach. We want to be the best. Currently, new officers receive 4 hours, in house training on use of force. Yearly in-service training provides 2 hours of training and additional 4 hour Taser re-certification block with scenario based elements. Additional simulator training is scheduled yearly for officers.

4. Remedial Training Provided

- a. The only remedial training provided in 2018 relating to a use of force related topic was for four firearms qualification failures.

5. New Training in 2018

- a. Improved Taser re-certification (scenario additions).
- b. De-escalation course for all sworn.
- c. Online training added.
- d. Advanced CIT training conducted.

6. New training equipment during 2018

- a. Not Applicable.

D. Policies and Reporting

1. Was policy revised during reporting period?

Yes, new policy implemented in 2018 regarding the use of choke holds. According to this policy, choke holds are prohibited.

E. Analysis and Practices

1. Training Deficiencies, Policy Failure

- a. Deficiencies - Defense tactics is inadequate. It will require considerable resource to establish an effective program.
- b. New hire training — The CDTU is required to expend tremendous effort in the training of new officers. Policies and issues effecting attrition will have to be addressed at the commission level to relieve this burden and allow the CDTU to focus on advancing training for current officers.

2. Pattern or Trend (Decrease in Use of Force)

- a. For 2018 there was an increase in use of force reporting across all of ACCPD. While the previous year's decrease was difficult to discern, this year's increase is evident. 2018 represented a full year of Taser deployment and the additional reporting of mere Taser presentation. Taser deployment increased to 39 with all personnel having them on patrol. In addition, 66 Taser presentations were documented as use of force incidents. The previous year did not require mere presentation to be reported. This considered, this year's incidents of use of force is comparable to previous years.

F. Recommendations / Conclusions

1. Suggestions

- a. Continue to increase frequency of simulator and scenario based training.
- b. Examine more advanced simulator systems and creation of a use of force training arena.
- c. More defensive tactics, control techniques.

- d. Continue to enhance the balance of use of force with COP, Fair and Impartial, restraint, dialogue, de-escalation and mental health challenges.
- e. Continue CIT training, advanced course offering.
- f. Reinforce de-escalation concepts in 2018.
- g. Identify software for use of force reporting.

2. Positive Information

- a. While the ACCPD must continue to self-reflect and improve, there is one data point that stands out: Only .225% of our contacts in our community end in some type of use of force.
- b. The last Department of Justice study conducted concluded that this figure is around 1% nationwide. While that, in itself, indicates a false narrative in the media, the ACCPD can take pride in having an even smaller percentage of use of force in our community.