# TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

# **INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT**

# 2009 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS REPORT



Chief of Police Dennis M. Jones

Internal Affairs Commander Edward E. Smith

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#### **Internal Affairs Investigators**

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#### **INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT** INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The mission of the Internal Affairs Unit (IAU) is to protect and uphold the public trust in the Tallahassee Police Department and its members. The IAU is dedicated to providing citizens with a fair and effective avenue to address legitimate complaints against department members, and to protect Department members from false allegations of misconduct. The IAU is comprised of three investigators, an administrative assistant, and a lieutenant. The lieutenant reports directly to the chief of police.

Complaints on member conduct may be made in person, by letter, electronic mail, or telephone to the IAU or to any Department supervisor. Additionally, complaints may be made directly to the IAU via the Internet at Talgov.com. Each complaint received by the IAU receives an initial assessment and is then classified as either an Internal Investigation or a Contact Report.

Contact Reports are informal inquiries utilized for allegations of minor misconduct, and are typically addressed with the member by his or her chain of command, although some are resolved by the IAU. In either case, IAU maintains managerial control of all Contact Reports. Internal Investigations are formal investigations of alleged member misconduct of a more serious nature, and are conducted or managed by the IAU.

The IAU also conducts in-depth policy compliance reviews, called Special Investigations. These investigations typically involve duty-specific incidents such as officer-involved firearm discharges, in-custody deaths, and utilizations of the Tactical Apprehension and Control Team.

In addition to complaint resolution management and special investigations, the IAU is responsible for the following tasks in the Department's effort to maintain the highest professional standards in service to the community: 1) Policy compliance reviews of member-involved use of force incidents, vehicle pursuits, and secondary employment activities, and 2) Monitoring member work-related information – such as citizen complaints, use of force and traffic crash incidents, and policy violations – for indications of work-related stress and job performance problems. This information is used to make informed recommendations to the chief of police for mandatory member participation in the Department's Early Intervention Program.

IAU members remain committed to receiving, reviewing, and impartially resolving all complaints against Department members, whether the complainant is a citizen or another Department member. During 2009, the IAU undertook the preliminary steps to becoming more transparent to Department members through an interactive software program on the Department's intranet. The interface will allow members quick access to closed cases, provide detailed information on what the Department's expectations are when a member is complained upon, and allow members to make inquiries about internal affairs related topics.

### **INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS** HISTORICAL COMPARATIVE DATA

## **Internal Investigations Conducted**

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	2009
32	37	31



### Internal Investigations

## **Classification of Internal Investigations**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Improper Procedure/Excessive Force	4	6	3
Improper Procedure (all other)	9	7.7	17
Improper Conduct/Neglect of Duty	2	2	2
Improper Conduct (all other)	17	22	9

# 2009 INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

Disposition	Excessive Force	Neglect Of Duty	Improper Conduct	Improper Procedure	Total
Withdrawn	-	-	2	4	6
Unfounded	_		1	-	1
Exonerated	3	-		-	3
Not Sustained	-	-	3	3	6
Sustained	-	2 .	3	10	15
Total	3	2	9	17	31

# **Case Dispositions**

# Race and Gender Data

	Member Demographics							
Complainant Demographics	Black Female	Black Male	Hispanic Female	Hispanic Male	White Female	White Male	Total	
Black Female	2	2	-	1		4	9	
Black Male	-	3	-	1	-	1	5	
Hispanic Female	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	
Hispanic Male	-	-	-	-		-	-	
White Female	-		-	-	_	-	-	
White Male	_			-	_	-	-	
Internally Initiated	2	5		4	6	12	29	
Total	4	11	-	6	6	17	44	

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# SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS ANNUAL COMPARISON

2009		
Case #	Date	Subject and Disposition
09-01	02/05/2009	Vicious animal shooting – Policy compliance
09-02	02/14/2009	Vicious animal shooting – Policy compliance
09-03	04/09/2009	Missing property – $\Pi$ opened
09-04	06/22/2009	Citizen informant file audit – Policy compliance
09-05	06/19/2009	TAC call out – Policy compliance
09-06	07/10/2009	Vicious animal shooting – Policy compliance
09-07	07/19/2009	TAC call out – Policy compliance
09-08	11/18/2009	Missing property – Policy compliance
09-09	12/31/2009	TAC call out – Policy compliance

-<u>2008</u>

Case #	Date	Subject and Disposition
08-01	05/12/2008	Death of confidential informant – II opened

<u>2007</u>

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Case #	Date	Subject and Disposition
07-04	02/07/2007	In-custody death – Policy compliance
07-07	02/28/2007	Vicious animal shooting – Policy compliance
07-21	05/08/2007	Firearm discharge/No injury – Policy compliance
07-39	12/03/2007	Firearm discharge/Injury – Policy compliance

### INTERNAL INVESTIGATION & SPECIAL INVESTIGATION DATA ANALYSIS

The IAU conducted 31 Internal Investigations (IIs) in 2009. Thirty-one represents a 16% decrease in IIs when compared to the 37 in 2008. This decrease cannot be attributed to any particular causation factor, but what is certain is the average number of IIs has remained consistent throughout this decade. From 2000 – 2004, the mean number of IIs was 30, and the average was 31 from 2005 - 2009.

Analysis of the allegation classifications for the IIs conducted in 2009 reveal 10% were for excessive force, 55% were for various other procedural issues, 6% were for neglect of duty, and 29% were for various other conduct issues. While the excessive use of force and neglect of duty complaints remained relatively steady over the past three years, there is a measurable deviation from the norm concerning complaints on procedural matters versus conduct issues. For every year from 2000 through 2008, improper conduct complaints have outnumbered complaints of improper procedure; in some years almost two to one. That is not the case in 2009, in which there was almost double the amount of procedural complaints compared to conduct complaints (17 versus 9).

Although the reason for this shift in complaint classifications may appear to be due to complainant or member behavior, it has little to do with either. The shift is the direct result of a 2009 refocus by the IAU in being more precise in terming allegations, including the restrictive use of the over used classification of "Unbecoming Conduct." In 2008, 38% of all IIs were classified as "Unbecoming Conduct." In 2009, that figure dropped to 10%. With the sole exception of the 2008 II concerning the death of a confidential informant, the circumstances of the 2008 and 2009 IIs were not significantly dissimilar. Yet, the strict adherence to policy language in terming allegations in 2009 resulted in the significant change of procedural and conduct complaint classifications.

Because some IIs involved multiple Department members, the 31 investigations involved allegations against 44 members. Of the 44 member complaints, 66% (29) were internally initiated, typically by command staff members, on allegations of misconduct brought to their attention. The high percentage of internally initiated investigations – another consistent mark throughout this decade – reflect the fact the Tallahassee Police Department is committed to maintaining high professional standards, and is willing and able to police itself to insure member accountability.

The IAU sustained allegations of misconduct in 15 of the 31 IIs; equaling 48% of the total investigations conducted. In the remaining 16 IIs, the allegations were either withdrawn (6), not sustained (6), or unfounded (1), or the Department member was exonerated (3). This data reflects another deviation from the norm of the last ten years in conducting IIs. For most years in this past decade, the IAU has sustained about 33% of all allegations in IIs. However, in 2006 and again in 2009, almost 50% of all IIs resulted in sustained findings.

Of the 44 Department members who were the subject of internal investigations, seven were civilian members, and 37 were sworn officers. The vast majority (41) of the members were line personnel, while three were supervisors (one sergeant and two civilians). Concerning the subject member's work assignment, 82% were assigned to the Districts (uniformed patrol), 7% to Criminal Investigations, and 11% were civilians from either the Communications Section or the Property and Evidence Section.

The race/gender classifications of the 44 Department members who were the subject of a formal complaint in 2009 are as follows: 39% - white males, 25% - black males, 14% white females, 14% - Hispanic males, and 9% - black female. There were no IIs against Department members of other race/gender classifications. The Department's 2009 workforce race/gender percentages in these same classifications are 57% white male, 17% white female, 11% black female, 10% black male, and 3% Hispanic male.

The percentage of complaints against white male and black female Department members is less than their representation in the workforce, and the percentage of complaints against black male, white females and Hispanic males is more than their representation in the workforce. While worth mentioning, the comparative differences are statistically insignificant.

Additionally, there is no discernable difference in the types of complaints received against members of different race/gender categories.

To dissect the data even further, 2009's 16% decrease in formal complaints is also reflected in decreased complaints against specific race/gender member categories as follows: white females – down from 13 in 2008 to six in 2009, and white males – down from 26 in 2008 to 17 in 2009. There have been very few formal complaints against Hispanic males and black females since 2000, and there were none in 2008. That changed in 2009. As shown above, there were four formal complaints against black female Department members in 2009, and six such complaints against Hispanic males. Although statistically speaking such an increase is significant, the reality is these complaint numbers – when compared to all complaints and the groups' race/gender representation in the Department – are not of great concern, and do not presently reflect the need for counseling or remedial training specific to race/gender issues.

In 2009, Tallahassee Police Department sworn members were involved in 211,708 nontraffic stop incidents and calls for service, worked 9,650 secondary employment events, and conducted 35,912 traffic stops (t = 254,570). In addition, Department members of all ranks and assignments had countless contacts with citizens on a daily basis (e.g., telephone calls, follow-up investigations, community meeting, and special events). Of these hundreds of thousands of contacts in 2009, only 31 resulted in Internal Investigations.

There were nine Special Investigations (SI) in 2009. This is a significant increase from 2008, when there was only one. All SIs, except one, concluded members complied with Department policy in their actions. The one exception was a case involving the Property and Evidence Section. The conclusion of that SI was to open an internal investigation into the circumstances surrounding an allegation of missing property.

# **CITIZEN CONTACT REPORTS**

# **Citizen Contact Reports Received Annually**

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
295	242	163



# **Contact Report Classifications**

CLASSIFICATION	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Improper Conduct – Rudeness	21%
Improper Conduct – Various	17%
Improper Procedure – Various	47%
Documentation Only	15%

#### CITIZEN CONTACT REPORTS DATA ANALYSIS

The Tallahassee Police Department processed 163 Contact Reports (CRs) in 2009. This is 79 less than 2008, and 132 less than 2007. Those numbers reflect a 33% decrease in CRs when compared to 2008, and a 45% decrease when compared to 2007. Since the CR process has only been in existence since 2006, a long-term review of CRs is not possible at this time. There is insufficient data to derive an informed supposition about the three-year decline in CRs.

It is worthy to note CRs are initiated from both line level supervisors and the IAU. If the CR is initiated in the IAU, the information is forwarded to the appropriate chain of command for resolution, and conversely, if the CR is initiated at the line level, it is resolved there unless circumstances dictate the incident be addressed more formally. Regardless of the method of receipt, all CRs are processed (and records maintained) in the IAU.

Although there are a wide variety of allegations included in CRs, IAU collates the data into four categories: 1) Improper Conduct/Rudeness, 2) Improper Conduct/Various, 3) Improper Procedure/Various, and 4) Documentation Only. Additionally, bias-based profiling complaints are tracked as a sub-category of Improper Conduct/Various.

In 2008, rudeness and various improper procedure allegations each accounted for 30% of all CRs. In 2009, rudeness allegations dropped to 21% of total CRs, while improper procedure complaints jumped to 47% of the total.

The nine percent drop in rudeness complaints is a positive sign, but with 1/5 of CRs still involving real or perceived rudeness by Department members, supervisors must remain vigilant in their leadership and mentoring role with their work unit.

The 17% increase in procedural-based CRs mirrors a similar rise in Improper Procedure IIs for 2009, and this increase is likely the result of the IAU's efforts in being more precise in terming allegations, as mentioned on page 7.

For reporting purposes, Improper Procedure – Various includes complaints such as improper search, traffic offenses, improper investigations, unlawful detention and arrest, and failure to write a report.

Seventeen percent of the CRs were classified as Improper Conduct – Various. Allegations in this category include complaints of laziness, taking official action in a personal matter, lying, and bias-based policing.

In 2009, there were nine bias-based policing complaints against Department members, which accounts for 6% of the CRs received (eight such complaints were received in 2008). All of the bias-based policing complaints involved the citizen being stopped as either a pedestrian or a motor vehicle operator. The bias allegations made by the citizens were not solely based upon race. In one incident, the allegation was gender-based, while in another the citizen alleged a bias due to his mental illness. Four of the

nine (44%) of the complainants were white persons complaining black officers were biased against them because of their race. The remaining three bias-based complaints were black citizens complaining the white or Hispanic officer with whom they had contact stopped them based solely upon the color of their skin.

Based upon the evidence reviewed (in-car video, offense reports, citations) in each of these CRs, the Department member's actions were clearly based upon the actions of the person (traffic violation, crime committed) and not their association with, or sharing a common trait of, any particular group. No formal investigations were initiated in 2009 for a bias-based policing complaint.

Another 15% of the CRs in 2009 are classified as "documentation only." These CRs record non-complaints by citizens who are dissatisfied with a police action, but there was no specific complaint of a policy violation by a Department member. Examples of this type of CR include: search warrant service, being cited for a traffic violation, and being issued a trespass warning.

The CR process continues to provide citizens an informal, yet structured, process to promptly address their grievances against Department members. Involving the member's supervisor and commander in the resolution of these minor complaints is beneficial to improving member behavior, quickly recognizing frivolous complaints, and instilling citizen trust and confidence in the Tallahassee Police Department.



### **Online Satisfaction Surveys**

Accreditation and Inspections Unit

The Accreditation and Inspection Unit conducted a tabulation of Internet-based customer satisfaction surveys, encompassing automated responses from our website, received between January 17<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup> of 2009.

#### As reported:

• Did you receive prompt service?

Nine (9) citizens responded with a rating of **Excellent**. One (1) citizen responded with a rating of **OK**. Five (5) citizens responded with a rating of **Unacceptable**.

• Were responding officers courteous?

Nine (9) citizens responded with a rating of **Excellent**. Zero (0) citizens responded with a rating of **OK**. Six (6) citizens responded with a rating of **Unacceptable**.

How useful was the information provided to you?

Eight (8) citizens responded with a rating of **Excellent**. One (1) citizen responded with a rating of **OK**. Six (6) citizens responded with a rating of **Unacceptable**.

Were you satisfied with the overall level of service received?

Nine (9) citizens responded with a rating of **Excellent**. Zero (0) citizens responded with a rating of **OK**. Six (6) citizens responded with a rating of **Unacceptable**.

In the comments section, the survey indicated the following:

Six (6) were **positive comments**. Four (4) were **negative comments**. Five (5) **did not provide a comment**.



Excellent OK DUnacceptable







#### Driver Training, Traffic Crashes and Vehicle Pursuits - 2009

#### Officer Michael Walker Emergency Vehicle Operations and Control Coordinator

#### DRIVER TRAINING

#### **In-Service** Training

In 2009 a total of 353 officers participated in five hours of driver training during our annual in-service training program. The 18 sessions consisted of analyzing national and departmental crash trends and an in-depth lecture and discussion of General Orders 22 (Emergency Response Driving) and 27 (Vehicle Pursuits). The driving sessions consisted of re-training members in Stinger Spikes deployment, safety concerns, as well as a new swerve, cornering and backing drill. There were no injuries or vehicle damage reported during 2009 in-service training.

#### In-House Training

This 40-hour training for police recruits covered basic driving skills from the academy as well as an advanced braking and backing drill developed by the driving staff. Additional training included vehicle operations, pursuit policy, vehicle maintenance, basic and pursuit driving, along with forcible vehicle stop techniques. Officers were trained in the Precision Intervention Technique (PIT), implementing roadblocks, channeling and Stinger Spike deployment. Additionally, more scenario-based vehicle pursuit training was implemented for more real life application. A comprehensive written test on emergency vehicle operation and vehicle pursuit polices was administered to each student. The Training Section conducted one in-house training session in 2009 with 17 students in attendance.

#### Other Driver-Related Training

In addition to the normal in-service and in-house training sessions, the Training Section conducted four SUV Familiarization sessions for Department members assigned sport utility vehicles.

No remedial driving sessions were needed or conducted this year.

#### EVOC Equipment

There are 20 vehicles assigned to the Training Section at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy for use in the Department's EVOC training (track car) program.

The City's Fleet Division continues to comment about how the track car program has saved the Department and City countless dollars. By using these vehicles during training we are not putting additional wear on our member's assigned vehicle. Furthermore, the training cars are meticulously maintained and any vehicle issues are

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diagnosed before they deteriorate, which saves the City money in the short and long term.

We are equipped with spare tires, battery chargers and all fluids for the vehicles so ongoing maintenance can be conducted. Fleet has also arranged for fuel to be delivered to the academy thus eliminating the need for us to shuttle the vehicles to City fueling sites, saving us valuable time and money.

#### **TRAFFIC CRASHES**

#### 10 Years of Police-Involved Crashes

NP= Non-Preventable Crash P= Preventable Crash

Year	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
<u>NP</u>	55	42	53	28	37	40	28	42	40	31
<u>P</u>	34	29	45	49	38	38	.38	40	28	30
Total	-		98				-		68	61

#### 2009 Preventable Traffic Crash Details

A. Most prevalent vehicle movement at time of crash:

- 1. 33% Backing into an object
- 2. 13% Hitting another vehicle in the rear end
- B. Half of the crashes were single vehicle involved
- C. 43% of the crashes occurred in a parking lot
- D. Two crashes occurred during an officer's emergency response to a call for service
- E. One crash occurred during a vehicle pursuit
- F. There were no reported injuries in any of the 30 preventable crashes
- G. 36% of the crashes occurred between 7pm and 7am
- H. 97% of the drivers were sworn members (only one civilian driver involved)

#### 2009 Traffic Crash Monetary Damages

• Total damage: \$28,395.00 (average of \$946.50 per traffic crash)

### 2007 – 2009 Vehicle/Crash Details

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
• Total miles driven:	3,958,200	4,085,625	3,792,139
• Total fleet vehicles:	485	485	485
• Average mile per vehicle:	8,161	8,423	7,818
• Miles per crash:	48,270	60,082	62,166
• Miles per preventable crash:	98,955	145,915	126,404

### Preventable Crashes by Member Years of Service (2007 - 2009)

#### <u>2009</u>

Service	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20+
Crashes	12	5	1	4	8
% of Total	40%	17%	3%	13%	27%
<u>2008</u>			•	· •	
Service	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20+
Crashes	5	10	1	5	7
% of Total	18%	36%	3%	18%	25%
<u>2007</u>					
Service	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20+
Crashes	15	9	1	8	7
% of Total	38%	22%	2%	20%	18%

# VEHICLE PURSUITS

### 10 Year Vehicle Pursuit History

<u>Year</u>	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Total										

#### **Vehicle Pursuit Termination Classifications**

Spikes Deployed – Arrest	1
Crash/Foot Pursuit – Arrest	1
Crash/No Foot Pursuit – Arrest	6
Lost Sight of Suspect Vehicle – No Arrest	2
Sergeant Ordered – No Arrest	2

### Vehicle Pursuit by District and Shift:

<u>District</u>	<u>Shift</u>
Alpha = 1	Days = 3
Bravo = 1	Afternoons = 5
Charlie = 10	Midnights = 4

#### Monetary Damage Due to Vehicle Pursuit Related Traffic Crashes:

Suspect Vehicle Damage:	\$18,600
Police Vehicle Damage:	\$ 5,300
Other Vehicle Damage:	\$ 4,920
Total Damage:	\$28,820

#### **Other Vehicle Pursuit Notes:**

- None of the crashes resulted in injuries to any person.
- There were two PIT maneuvers attempted in 2009; both were unsuccessful.

#### **TRAINING OVERVIEW**

#### **Training Sessions**

This year we set a record with 353 members trained during 18 EVOC sessions for inservice training. Realizing that more officers' lives are lost each year in traffic-related incidents than gunfire drives the point home of the need for ongoing EVOC training.

Our 2009 training consisted of a backing/cornering drill as well as the proper deployment of Stinger Spikes for the 5-hour training block. Backing is always included since backing crashes are consistently the #1 cause of preventable crashes for Department members operating City vehicles.

#### **Traffic Crashes**

This year backing continued to be the #1 vehicle movement resulting in a preventable crash (10 out of 30). This phenomenon is commonly overrepresented in the law enforcement driving community as a whole, not just our Department. Several factors contribute to this, including the diminished rear visibility due to the transport cage mounted behind the front seats. We will always include a backing or close quarters driving skills drill during in-service training sessions in an effort to combat this issue.

#### Vehicle Pursuits

In 2009 members initiated 12 vehicle pursuits. Each pursuit was documented, and subjected to a supervisory, Internal Affairs Unit, and Training Section review. Each pursuit was conducted within applicable department policy. The review of the 2009 pursuit data revealed 58% of the incidents resulted in the suspect's arrest at the termination point, 100% of the pursuits were injury-free, and of the nearly \$29,000 of vehicle damage caused in these pursuit incidents, well over half of the damage was to the suspect's vehicle in single vehicle crashes.



### Use of Force Incidents - 2009

Officer Clay Fallis Defensive Tactics Coordinator

#### USE OF FORCE - 2009

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Total Reports	71	64	70	88	85	74	64	64	66	84	53	67	850
<b>Firearms</b> Displayed	88	35	41	79	88	47	83	45	45	55	43	56	705
Discharged	0	$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & a \end{bmatrix}$	0	0	1#	0	2@\$	0	0	0	1#	0	6
<b>Physical Control</b>	33	50	61	38	44	42	37	48	61	64	26	20	524
Oleoresin Capsicum Gas (OC)	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Displayed	. L												
Applied	1	1	0	4	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	2	16
Impact Weapons													
Displayed	0	0	0	0 .	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Applied	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	5
Canine Displayed	1	4	2	3	1	5	2	0	0	4	0	0	22
Applied/Bite	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	[ Õ	0	0	2
TASER Displayed	37	27	19	41	40	43	19	27	23	38	22	28	364
Applied	11	17	15	16	17	9	16	15	16	32	11	11	186
Sage/Bean bag Displayed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Applied	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
EVNR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possible Complaints	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hobble	1	5	1	1	5	4	2	2	4	1	2	1	29
Pepper Ball Displayed	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	5
Applied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
Unjustified Force	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	1*	1*	2&	1*	0	3&	1&	0	1*	1*	1*	2*	14

Key:

@ = Firearm discharged at aggressive dog

# = Firearm discharged at injured deer
\* = Accidental discharge of TASER

\$ = Firearm discharged at injured fox & = Flashlight used as a weapon of necessity

# **USE OF FORCE – FIVE YEAR COMPARISON**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Number of - / + Comparing 2008 to 2009
Firearms Displayed	942	1210	1208	1046	705	-341
Firearms Discharged	5	8	2	9	6	-3
TASER	99	253	448	586	557	-29
Physical Control	407	624	525	461	524	+63
Impact Weapons	65	54	40	15	14	-1
Canine (K-9)	24	40	24	18	24	+6
Oleoresin Capsicum Gas (OC)	53	54	66	24	22	-2
Sage/Bean Bag	6	7	7	- 4	1	-3
Öther (Includes Pepper Ball, Hobble, EVNR, and Weapon of Necessity)	61	77	94	62	41	-21
None (Possible Complaints)	<sup>°</sup> 14	• 15	8	4	2 .	-2
Total Incidents	1,676	2,342	2,422	2,229	1,896	-333

### USE OF FORCE - SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

Department officers interacted with citizens in just over a quarter of a million (254,570) incidents in 2009. These incidents include calls for service, traffic stops, and secondary employment details. Officers used force in only 850 of these incidents. These uses of force were employed to affect an arrest, protect themselves, or protect other officers and citizens. These 850 use of force incidents show officers used force less than 0.33% of the time during interactions with citizens.

The Training Section gathered data from all 850 Use of Force Reports written during 2009. The data was not only analyzed from the checked boxes of the reports, but also from the narrative sections. The review of the narrative section provides a clearer picture of the type of resistance officers are encountering, and the types of force officers are using to combat the threat.

There were 1,878 applications of force during the 850 incidents. There are two reasons for the numerical difference: 1) a single officer using multiple force options in an incident, and 2) multiple officers using force in an incident. The intent of this review was to discover how many times officers used different force options currently available.

Of the 1,878 use of force applications:

- 1. 705 were officers giving verbal commands with a firearm displayed (38% of force applications).
- 2. Hands and feet (physical control) were used 524 times (28% of force applications).
- 3. OC (pepper spray) was used 22 times (less than 1% of force applications).
- 4. Pepper ball was utilized (displayed only) five times (less than 1% of force applications).
- 5. Impact weapons were used 14 times (less than 1% of force applications).
- 6. Canine, as a use of force option, was used 24 times in 2009 (just over 1% of force applications). Of the 24 canine applications, only two were physical apprehensions. In the remainder of the applications, the canine was only displayed.
- 7. The M/X26 TASER was utilized 550 times or 29% of the total force applications. Of the applications, the Taser was displayed 364 times (66%) and applied 186 times. Of the 186 Taser applications, 128 were in the firing mode and 58 discharged in the "touch stun" mode. Additionally, eight accidental/unintentional discharges were reported.
- 8. Officers discharged their firearms (deadly force application) six times in 2009, and all of these applications involved either a seriously injured or vicious animal.

The Department discontinued use of the SAGE in 2009, and there were no applications during the year. The Department is transitioning to the Bean Bag shotgun system as the SAGE replacement weapon, and there was one Bean Bag shotgun application in 2009. The Bean Bag system has a greater linear range than the SAGE, and should prove itself a valuable addition to the less lethal arsenal.

In further analysis of the data, during the 1,878 use of force applications, officers utilized verbal commands accompanied by only the display of a firearm or a weapon 1104 times (59%), compared to 774 (41%) use of force applications where the officer used actual physical force and/or use of a weapon or firearm against a suspect.

All 2009 use of force applications were reviewed and classified as justified. This fact is something in which the Police Department, the City of Tallahassee, and the citizens of Tallahassee should be very proud. The Training Section will continue to steadfastly train Department officers in the proper use of force. Additionally, scenario-based training will continue to occur in future In-Service Training sessions.

It is noteworthy that in 36% (303) of the use of force reports reviewed, the officers reported using less force than authorized by Department policy. This, along with the continual drop in the injury rate to both suspects and officers, shows officers continue to use restraint in their use of force encounters.

Twenty-three (23) officers were injured in 2009 during use of force applications, as were 79 suspects. All injuries were reported as minor. This injury rate, 4% of total use of force applications, is significantly low when considering the violence manifested in some of the use of force encounters. TASER probe impact accounted for a majority of the reported injuries.

Overall use of force applications dropped 17% compared to 2008. That fact, coupled with the low injury rate, and 100% policy compliance, reflect an ongoing trend of Department officers in use of force incidents – proper training, weapon proficiency, honed verbal skills, and abundant restraint.

The available weapons systems, both less-than-lethal and less lethal, are proving themselves well chosen. Our annual in-service training continues to provide officers with the operational knowledge and technical proficiency of these weapons systems to successfully operate in use of force encounters with resistive suspects.



#### **Introduction**

The Tallahassee Police Department implemented its Professional Traffic Stop policy to provide officers with guidelines for conducting traffic stops and to ensure appropriate operational controls were in place. As a result of the required procedures the department is able to compile relevant data that can be used to determine if bias – race and gender - exists in the way officers conduct traffic stops. This report is based on data collected during 2009 and provides summary analyses that will help the department more fully understand how traffic stops impact the Tallahassee community.

#### **Data Methodology**

Previous professional traffic stop program annual reports used the department's patrol districts to geographically divide the data. Patrol districts have now been reduced to two operational sectors. Because of this change, this report uses eight patrol zones for the geographic division of data. Race/gender delineation uses the following categories as used by the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department:

- Asian Female
  - Asian Male
- Black Female
- Black Male
- Hispanic Female
- Hispanic Male
- Other Female
- Other Male
- White Female
- White Male

The data captured as part of the Professional Traffic Stop program includes three types of search results:

- Consent Search With or without other authority the officer asked and received consent to search the area within the control of the driver.
- No Search The officer either did not request permission to conduct a consent search or did make the request, but the driver refused.
- Other Search The officer conducted a search based on legal authority to do so, e.g., search incident to arrest, possession of search warrant, etc.

#### **Statistical Review**

The following maps show boundaries for census tracts and the Police Department's patrol zones within the city limits of Tallahassee:



By race and ethnicity, Leon County's total estimated population of 274,803 includes 60.7% non-Hispanic white, 31.4% non-Hispanic black, 5.0% of Hispanic origin and 2.9% of "other" races and ethnicities. By gender, the

population of those residents in the primary driving age of 18-79 includes 36.7% males and 40.6% females. (Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, "Florida Population Studies, Bulletin 157", June 2010)

Total citywide traffic stops with validated race/gender recorded:

- 2007 30,438
- 2008 31,975
- 2009 33,102



The summary data provided below is broken out by total traffic stops for each patrol zone. Zones 7 and 8 are historically higher than other zones because of the disproportionate number of college students living in those zones.



The following charts display a three-year comparison of the total number of traffic stops by gender type and race where the result of the stop was a "no search":



Search Code	0005	2008	0000
Search Code	2007	2006	2009
Asian Female			······
Consent	0	1	0
No Search	131	118	137
Other	0	3	1
Asian Male			
Consent	1	0	0
No Search	176	167	164
Other	6	2	. 4
Black Female			
Consent	14	17	38
No Search	5621	6076	6605
Other	62	85	90
Black Male			
Consent	80	75	183
No Search	7542	7946	9780
Other	339	404	476
Hispanic Female			
Consent	1	1	2
No Search	222	224	305
Other	2	1	5
Hispanic Male			
Consent	1	7	13
No Search	472	456	517
Other	18	22	19
Other Female			
Consent	1	1	1
No Search	86	85	88
Other	0	0	1
Other Male			
Consent	1	2	0
No Search	207	218	231
Other	4	5	3
White Female			
Consent	15	14	33
No Search	6707	7023	5932
Other	35	34	31
White Male			
Consent	30	56	76
No Search	8572	8819	8263
Other	97	113	122
Total			

# Total Citywide Traffic Stops 2007-2009

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#### **Conclusion**

Based on the three years of data included in this report it appears the Tallahassee Police Department is conducting traffic stops in an equitable manner. This conclusion is drawn from the lack of any significant increase in the overall number of traffic stops by race and/or sex. The one area with a notable increase in traffic stops involves black male drivers. Between 2007 and 2009 the number of traffic stops involving black males increased from 7,961 to 10,439. This increase results from a recently instituted operational emphasis in increasing the use of traffic enforcement in known high-crime areas. Within many of these areas the demographics reflect a high percentage of black residents.

Evidence that the department's Professional Traffic Stop program is successful is reflected in the consistently low number of complaints received by the department's Internal Affairs Unit regarding racial profiling. Over the last three years there have been 21 traffic related bias-based profiling complaints handled by the Internal Affairs Unit:

- 2007 5
- 2008 8
- 2009 8

All of the complaints were investigated; however, none of the allegations were sustained.