2015 Response-to-Resistance Incidents

DEFINITIONS

Response-to-Resistance (RTR) Incidents - Any incident which involves an application of force while engaging in the course of his duties. This can include responding to passive resistance, active physical resistance, non-deadly force situations, and/or deadly force situations. This can include but is not limited to:

- A firearm was discharged;
- An intermediate weapon was used on or against an individual;
- A person or animal was exposed to a chemical agent;
- A Special Weapons & Tactics (SWAT) team member used a specialty weapon in a non-SWAT incident;
- A conducted electrical weapon (CEW) was deployed in ‘Probe’ or ‘Touch-Stun’ mode;
- Physical force was used on a subject and the force resulted, or was alleged to have resulted, in any injury, regardless of the severity;
- An injury was observed on a subject following any use of force;
- A ramming maneuver was used on a vehicle;
- An arrestee was rejected admission to the Pre-Trial Detention Facility (PDF) and directed to the hospital due to alleged injuries sustained from a member’s response to resistance;
- After an arrestee was granted admission to the PDF, the arrestee alleged an injury was sustained from a member’s response to resistance (in these cases, the PDF will notify the approving supervisor listed on the Arrest & Booking Report such an allegation was made); or
- A supervisor determines a RTR Report is appropriate.

Use of Force - The actual application of force whereby an officer(s) utilizes a within-policy maneuver(s) and/or technique(s) to establish control of the subject(s).

Application of Force includes:

1. **Taser**: applied force which involves the use of a conducted electrical weapon (CEW);
2. **Physical**: physical control techniques, restraint devices, transporters, pain compliance, takedowns, and counter-moves;
3. **Chemical**: applied force utilizing a chemical agent such as Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray;
4. **Intermediate Weapons**: weapons used to control subject such as a baton and/or specialty impact weapon;
5. **Firearm**: force via use of a small arms weapon, as a rifle or pistol.

OVERALL RESPONSE-TO RESISTANCE FIGURES

Of the 39,980 arrests made in 2015, 343 response-to-resistance incidents occurred representing an increase of 5% from 328 incidents in 2014;

46% of applications of force involved use of Taser, an increase of 14% from 2014;

10 officer involved shootings of suspects occurred in 2015 representing 1 in 92,626 per capita.
TYPES OF FORCE USED

The 343 response-to-resistance incidents included 496 applications of force.

The majority of applications of force in 2015 involved either the use of a Taser at 228 (46% of all applications) or the use of physical force at 217 (44% of all applications).

There were 10 officer involved shooting of suspects incidents. Officer involved shootings comprise 2.9% of the total response-to-resistance incidents.

REASONS FOR USES OF FORCE

303 response-to-resistance incidents (88%) were, in part, a result of overcoming resistance of a subject; 170 response-to-resistance incidents (50%) were, in part, a result of officers protecting themselves and/or others.

INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN RESPONSE-TO-RESISTANCE INCIDENTS

Police Officers - Total of 409 police officers involved; 28% of police officers involved in two or more incidents; 28% of police officers were 30 years of age or younger; 65% of police officers had 10 years of experience or less.

Subjects - Total of 329 human subjects involved; 7 subjects were involved in two separate incidents; 53% of subjects were 30 years of age or younger; 5 subjects were shot fatally.
Of the 409 officers involved, 28% officers were 30 years of age or younger. Of the 409 officers involved, 266 or 65% of officers had 10 years of experience or less.

In 2015, the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office was comprised of a younger force of officers.

**SUBJECTS INVOLVED IN USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS**

Subjects were injured in 56% of the 378 incidents. Injuries include visible, reported, and alleged (which requires documentation). Five subjects died as a result of injuries sustained during the response to resistance.

*Officers are required to render aid and/or obtain a medical evaluation when a subject shows signs of any injury or complains about any injury as a result of force being applied. This accounts for a higher reported injury incidents.*
AGENCY INVESTIGATIONS OF USES OF FORCE

In the 343 RTR cases for 2015, 44 or 11.08% resulted in allegations of improper/unnecessary use of force. Internal Affairs conducted investigations into each of the complaints and determined that 42 or 97.37% were within policy. One or 2.63% was sustained and resulted in the officer receiving retraining and discipline.

A response-to-resistance report is required by any member that engages in a response-to-resistance while in the course of his or her duties. Any member that observes a member engage in a response-to-resistance must complete a witness response-to-resistance report. The member’s chain of command then reviews the all reports and signs in acknowledgement of that review. Reports are subject to further review by the Director of Personnel & Professional Standards, the RTR Review Board, and/or the Internal Affairs Unit, to ensure compliance with JSO policy and training. All discharges of firearms are reviewed by the Director of Personnel & Professional Standards and are subject to the RTR Review Board. Cold Case Homicide team responds and investigates all firearm discharges that were directed at an individual.

TRAINING

The department conducts annual training on response-to-resistance. The JSO Academy has subject matter experts in the area of training in use of force and RTR reporting. These experts remain knowledgeable of the changes in use of force techniques, firearms training, RTR reporting, etc. When anything changes, they quickly assess whether or not it needs to be implemented into officers’ training. They train both new and current officers on a consistent basis. Training is conducted by:

- Updating basic law enforcement training classes;
- In-service training for officers;
- Academy classes offered to officers to gain additional training. The Academy recently started offering additional training on Understanding and Articulating RTR Incidents.
- Officers that are not within RTR policy are subject specialized retraining.

CONCLUSION

Less than one percent of citizen contacts result in a RTR incident. This review finds the agency and officers are within the established standards and policies, the prescribed training and national standards.
2015 Year in Review

1,513,268
Calls From Citizens

845,526
Police/Citizen Interactions
Contacts are created any time JSO officers interact with a citizen, whether called to a scene OR an individual officer comes upon a scene requiring further investigation (on-view).

498,727
Dispatched Calls

346,799
Officer On-View

39,890
Arrests
Arrests were made in 4.71% of all Police/Citizen Interactions completed.
(1 in 24 per capita)

343
Response to Resistance Incidents (RTR)
Force was used in 0.41% of Police/Citizen Interactions and in .86% of all Arrests made.
(1 in 2,700 per capita)

10
Officer Involved Shootings of Suspects (OIS)
0.001% of all Police/Citizen Interactions involved OIS incidents.
0.03% of all Arrests made included OIS incidents.
2.9% of all RTR Incidents involved OIS incidents.
(1 in 92,626 per capita)

Response to Resistance Incident (RTR): The incident which involves an application of force.
Use of Force: The actual application of force whereby an officer utilizes a within-policy maneuver and/or technique to establish control of the subject(s).
Methods of Use of Force include: Taser / Physical / Chemical / Impact / Firearm