An annual review & analysis of Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office (JSO) data conducted by the Professional Oversight Unit of the Department of Personnel & Professional Standards.
2017 Response-to-Resistance Incidents

DEFINITIONS

Response-to-Resistance (RTR) Incident - Any instance involving a use of force by an officer in the course of his official duties that meets at least one of the following criteria:

- 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 that such an allegation was made); or
- A supervisor determines an RTR Report is appropriate.

Use of Force - The application of an agency-approved technique used to establish the physical control of a subject who is resisting an officer's lawful attempts to take him into custody. The five use-of-force categories are:

- CEW: force that involved the use of a conducted electrical weapon (CEW), commonly referred to as a "Taser";
- Chemical: force that involved a chemical agent such as Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray;
- Firearm: force that involved the use of an agency-issued or agency-approved small arms weapon, such as a rifle or pistol;
- Intermediate: force that involved a baton and/or specialty impact weapon; and
- Physical: force that involved the use of physical control techniques, restraint devices, transporters, pain compliance, takedowns, and counter-moves.

OVERALL 2017 FIGURES

In 2017, there were 436 RTR incidents involving members of the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office (JSO), which includes police officers, corrections officers, and judicial officers. This was an increase of 14% over the previous year (In 2016, there were 384 RTR incidents).

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9 officer-involved shootings of suspects occurred in 2017. These 9 incidents represent 1 in 102,918 per capita.
The 436 RTR incidents included 639 applications of force. (Some incidents involve multiple applications of force). The majority of uses of force involved either the use of a CEW (260, or 40% of all applications) or the use of physical force (346, or 53% of all applications).

### REASONS FOR USES OF FORCE

386 RTR incidents (89%) were the result, at least in part, of the need to overcome the resistance of a subject. 239 RTR incidents (55%) were the result, at least in part, of the need for officers to protect themselves or others.

### IN\'DIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN RTR INCIDENTS

**Total # of Officers Involved:** 347
33% of officers involved in two or more incidents. 34% of officers were 30 years of age or younger. 72% of officers had 10 years of experience or less.

**Total # of Subjects Involved:** 425
10 subjects were involved in 2 separate incidents. 49% of subjects were 30 years of age or younger. 6 subjects were fatally shot.
Subjects were injured or alleged that they were injured in 51% of the 436 use-of-force incidents. Officers are required to designate an incident a use-of-force incident if the subject alleges a non-visible injury or reports an injury that was not directly related to the use of force. This provision, which was recently enacted, resulted in the large annual increase in documented subjects on which force was used.

6 subjects died from injuries sustained from the use of deadly force.

DOCUMENTATION AND REVIEW OF RTR INCIDENTS

JSO members are required to complete an RTR report following an RTR incident. This report is reviewed by the member’s chain-of-command and by the Professional Oversight Unit. 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. The Cold Case Unit responds and investigates all incidents where a firearm was discharged at an individual.
TRAINING
The department conducts annual training on the use of all types of force, as well as additional training as needed. The JSO Training Academy and the Professional Oversight Unit monitor trends in the agency, as well as in other agencies, to ensure JSO policy and training represents national best practice standards. Training is conducted in a variety of methods, including:

- Basic law enforcement training classes
- Annual in-service training for officers and supervisors
- Monthly roll call training
- Specialized classes offered to officers for advanced training, including Defensive Tactics and Understanding and Articulating RTR Incidents
- Remedial training for officers who have demonstrated a deficiency in a specific area

COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEMBERS
Complaints on members of the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office are accepted from any source and forwarded to the Internal Affairs Unit. The Internal Affairs Unit conducts a preliminary review of each complaint and all evidence / documentation associated with the complaint. Complaints involving allegations of misconduct are either forwarded to the member’s supervisor for further investigation (when the allegation is of minor misconduct) or are investigated by an Internal Affairs Detective (when the allegation is of serious misconduct). Based on the results of the investigation, each complaint is given one of the following dispositions:

- **Unfounded** – The administrative investigation determined the allegations were false or were not supported by the facts.
- **Exonerated** – The administrative investigation determined the alleged actions occurred, but were lawful and proper.
- **Not Sustained** – The administrative investigation determined there was insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation.
- **Sustained** – The administrative investigation determined there was a preponderance of evidence to support a violation of agency rules and/or regulations.

When a complaint is **sustained**, the Sheriff’s Office administers corrective and/or disciplinary action to the member, for the purpose of preventing future violations of policy. The scale of corrective and disciplinary actions that follow a sustained complaint, in order from least severe to most severe, are:

- **Remedial Training** – The member is given additional training in an area where he/she has demonstrated one or more deficiencies. Remedial Training can be given in addition to any other form of corrective/disciplinary actions; it is not considered discipline.
- **Informal Counseling** – The member is given a verbal warning regarding the violation(s) of policy. Informal Counseling is not considered discipline.
- **Formal Counseling** – The member is given a written warning regarding the violation(s) of policy. This step is also not considered discipline, but is a more significant course of action than an Informal Counseling.

- **Written Reprimand I** – This is the first official disciplinary step in the scale. The member is given a document that outlines his violation(s) of policy, discusses consequences for future violations, and stays active for three years. Written Reprimands are given when a member has not responded to previous training and/or counseling, but they are also given without any previous corrective actions if the violation is significant enough.

- **Written Reprimand II** – A Written Reprimand II is similar to a Written Reprimand I, but is given for more significant violations of policy.

- **Suspension or Demotion** – When a member has failed to respond to written reprimands or when a member commits an act of serious misconduct, he/she may be suspended without pay or, if the member has achieved supervisory rank, he/she may be demoted to a previously-held rank.

- **Termination** – In situations where a member has committed particularly serious violations of policy, or has committed numerous violations of policy without any improvement in performance, he/she may be separated from the Sheriff’s Office.

In 2017, there were 933 total complaints received by the Internal Affairs Unit regarding employees (Police, Corrections, and Civilian). Of those 933, 724 were submitted by citizens and 209 were initiated by a JSO supervisor or other member. Following the preliminary review conducted by the Internal Affairs Unit, 550 of those complaints necessitated further investigation by either the member’s supervisor or by the Internal Affairs Unit.

**COMPLAINTS ADMINISTRATIVELY INVESTIGATED IN 2017**

187 (34%) were *Sustained*  
(138 in-house / 49 citizen)

133 (24%) were *Exonerated*  
(4 in-house / 129 citizen)

125 (23%) were *Unfounded*  
(9 in-house / 116 citizen)

105 (19%) were *Not Sustained*  
(7 in-house / 98 citizen)
CORRECTIVE / DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINED CASES IN 2017

COMPLAINTS OF BIAS-BASED PROFILING

Complaints that allege any form of bias-based profiling are distinctly monitored so that any trends can be easily identified. Bias-based profiling occurs when, whether intentionally or unintentionally, employees apply their own personal, societal, or organizational biases or stereotypes when making decisions or taking law enforcement action, and the ONLY reason for that decision or action is because of a person’s race, ethnicity, background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, culture or other personal characteristic, rather than due to the observed behavior of the individual or the identification of the individual being engaged in criminal activity.

The Internal Affairs Unit received ten (10) bias-based complaints in 2017. Based on the investigations conducted, all ten of those complaints were given a disposition of Unfounded, Not Sustained, or Exonerated.

COMPLAINTS OF UNNECESSARY FORCE

In 2017, the JSO conducted 90 investigations into allegations of unnecessary use of force. Those investigations resulted in the following dispositions:

- 52 (65.0%) cases were classified as Exonerated.
- 17 (21.3%) cases were classified as Sustained.
- 11 (13.8%) cases were classified as Not Sustained.
- 10 (12.5) cases were still open as of January 31, 2018.
CONCLUSION

At the beginning of 2017, the Professional Oversight Unit was formed to establish a centralized point of review for all RTR incidents, JSO-vehicle crashes/incidents, and vehicle pursuits. The Professional Oversight Unit was also given the task of overseeing and facilitating the operation of the RTR Review Board, Safety Review Board, Personnel Early Intervention Program, and process improvement projects for the agency. By having this additional layer of administrative review, JSO can continue to ensure members comply with policy, training, and national standards. During this analysis, no negative patterns or trends in any of these high liability areas were identified. In subsequent years, the Professional Oversight Unit will continue to review incidents and determine if any modifications to training, policy, practices, or equipment are needed.
2017 Year in Review

1,495,966
Calls From Citizens

805,754
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).

484,162
Dispatched Calls

321,592
Officer On-View

36,994
Arrests
Arrests were made in 4.59% of all Police/Citizen Interactions completed.
(1 in 23 per capita)

436
Response to Resistance Incidents (RTR)
Force was used in 0.54% of Police/Citizen Interactions and in 1.18% of all Arrests made.
(1 in 2,124 per capita)

9
Officer Involved Shootings of Suspects (OIS)
0.001% of all Police/Citizen Interactions involved OIS incidents.
0.02% of all Arrests made included OIS incidents.
2.1% of all RTR Incidents involved OIS incidents.
(1 in 102,918 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