

Officer Anthony Oerelmans' responses:

The answer to all questions, as well as the presentation at the community meeting, were my opinion based on my experience with two other law enforcement agencies not the San Francisco Police Department.

1. Do people of color, particularly African Americans and Latinos, have disproportionate contact with police officers?

This question is beyond my expertise as a Use of Force expert. Specifically, I am not sure if a study is being quoted or what information is being used to ask this question.

2. Are people of color who have contact with police officers disproportionately impacted by Taser use?

This question is beyond my expertise as a Use of Force instructor. Specifically, I am not sure if a study is being quoted or what information is being used to ask this question. Regardless, officers are trained to react to threats by individuals not react to overall groups of people. If the baseline for the statement is population, the foundation is skewed toward yes. If calls for service with victim and witness description of a subject are compared to the use of force or stops, I would need to see the data.

3. Are people who are described to have mental health or substance abuse issues disproportionately impacted by Taser use?

This question is too broad and lacks a definition of both "mental health" and "substance abuse" issues. Do the definitions count only persons that are diagnosed? Does it count knowledge before an actual encounter or only after the encounter? Does a person only have to be drunk or high to be considered an abuser or is it chronic? This is outside the scope of my knowledge as a Use of Force instructor.

4. Are people with mental health or substance abuse issues at increased risk for serious injury or death from Taser use?

I do not have information that they are at a higher risk. In general, use of a CED is less likely to cause death or serious bodily injury to both officers and subjects.

5. Is Taser use recommended for people who have mental health substance use issues?

CED's are to be used as an intermediate use of force regardless of a person's issues.

6. What policy measures might mitigate a potential disproportionate impact on people of color?

The San Francisco Police Department has already moved forward with numerous anti-bias programs in an attempt to have members be aware of tendencies. All training is and should be based on what is objectively reasonable during a given encounter regardless of the person's race or ethnicity.

7. What types of training might mitigate a potential disproportionate impact on people of color?

Same answer as 6 above.

8. What specific reporting requirements, before and after Taser use, might help to better evaluate whether Tasers have a disproportionate impact on people of color?

The SFPD is already tracking the Use of Force. The SFPD is looking for an academic partner to help analyze its data.