

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Use of Force and Arrest Report – January 1, 2016 – March 31, 2016
(First Quarter)

SUMMARY

This is the first report by the San Francisco Police Department as required under Administrative Code 96A, Law Enforcement Reporting Requirements. As per the requirements of Sec. 96A.3, the first quarterly report contains information relating to Arrests and Use of Force, which includes the following information:

Sec. 96A.3.

- (b) For Use of Force
 - (1) The total number of Uses of Force;
 - (2) The total number of Uses of Force that resulted in death to the person on whom an Officer used force; and
 - (3) The total number of Uses of Force broken down by race or ethnicity, age, and sex.

- (c) For arrests:
 - (1) The total number; and
 - (2) The total number broken down by race or ethnicity, age, and sex.

COMPARABLE DATA

At this time, a statistical comparison has not been done between the San Francisco Police Department and other jurisdictions with similar population and police staffing due to the lack of national reporting standards.

However, pointing a firearm as a reportable use of force is becoming the pattern of practice for many agencies throughout the country. It will be a recommendation for cities that are part of the Department of Justice review process to include pointing of a firearm as a reportable use of force as part of their policy. Therefore, future reports may allow for some comparisons.

USE OF FORCE

It is important to provide some background on the use of force, its definition, policies and procedures relating to its use, and the collection of data.

Policy:

Beginning in April 2015, the Department began to reassess the way members are trained to determine if improvements can/should be made with an emphasis on safeguarding the life, dignity, and liberty of all persons. The Department was invited by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) to participate in a nationwide effort to reengineer the use of force – from policy changes to training.

The use of force by members of the San Francisco Police Department is regulated through policies which are established according to local, state, and federal mandates. Since the end of 2015, the Department's policies relating to the use of force have been under review and are being

reformed with input from community members, private and public organizations, and other stakeholders. The final draft was approved by the Police Commission on June 22, 2016, and is in the final stages of implementation. In the spirit of transparency, documents relating to this reform process, including copies of drafts and discussion notes, are available on our website at www.sanfranciscopolice.org/use-force-documents.

The improvements to our use of force policy will emphasize several key principles including the safeguarding of human life and dignity, de-escalation techniques, proportionality of force, crisis intervention, and ensuring members are acting in a manner that is fair and impartial. These changes make it clear as to when, what level, and what type of force is allowed, and equally, when force is not allowed.

It is important to note that the updated Department General Order has not been finalized. However, there were key principles in this updated policy which needed to be implemented. As such, a directive was issued by the Chief of Police via a Department Bulletin to immediately adopt these principles as policy. In addition, the following policies governing the use of force have been issued to amend and/or augment the current use of force policies.

- **Department General Order**
 - DGO 5.01: Use of Force
 - DGO 5.02: Use of Firearms

- **Department Bulletins – Use of Force**
 - **16-116:** Principles to Consider Regarding the Use and Application of Force
 - **16-046:** Updating Bi-Annual Force Options Training
 - **16-082:** Reminder Regarding DGO 5.02, Use of Firearms: Discharge of Firearm at Operator or Occupant of Moving Vehicles
 - **15-255:** Pointing of Firearms
 - **15-237:** Amended Use of Force Log
 - **15-051:** Use of Force Options: Reporting and Medical Assessment Requirements
 - **15-106:** Avoiding the “Lawful but Awful” Use of Force (Time/Distance)
 - **14-015:** Reminder Regarding DGO 5.02, Use of Firearms: Permissible Circumstances to Discharge Firearm
 - **14-111:** Documenting Use of Force

- **Department Bulletins - Equipment**
 - **16-071:** Department Issued Impact Weapon
 - **15-234:** Extended Range Impact Weapon Guide Sheet
 - **15-188:** Extended Range Impact Weapon (ERIW)
 - **15-142:** Extended Range Impact Weapon (Superseded by 15-188)

Definition of Use of Force:

The use of force must be for a lawful purpose. Officers may use reasonable force options in the performance of their duties in the following circumstances:

- To effect a lawful arrest, detention, or search.
- To overcome resistance or to prevent escape.
- To prevent the commission of a public offense.
- In defense of others or in self-defense.
- To gain compliance with a lawful order.
- To prevent a person from injuring himself/herself. However, an officer is prohibited from using lethal force against a person who presents only a danger to himself/herself and does not pose an immediate threat of death or serious bodily injury to another person or officer.

Levels of Force:

It is the policy of the Department that the degree of force shall be restricted to circumstances authorized by law and to the degree minimally necessary to accomplish a lawful police task. The current force options are:

- Verbal Persuasion
- Physical Control (e.g., passive resister, bent wrist control, excluding the carotid restraint)
- Liquid Chemical Agent (Mace/Oleoresin Capsicum/Pepper Spray)
- Carotid Restraint
- Department Issued Impact Weapons
- Firearm Intentionally Pointed at a Person
- Firearm

Documenting the Use of Force:

Members are directed to immediately notify supervisors following a use of force incident, which is then documented and investigated by the supervisor on scene. In addition to improving and reengineering the use of force through training, beginning in December 2015, the pointing of a firearm was designated through Department Bulletin 15-255 as a “reportable” use of force. Prior to this time, only the discharge of a firearm was considered reportable.

Compiling the use of force data up to this point has been done manually. With the enactment of this reporting requirement, the Department had to reconfigure software programs in order to collect the mandated information at the time of an encounter, arrest, and/or use of force. This has been a major undertaking as our systems required re-tooling in order to include the data fields that are mandated to be collected. That project is expected to be complete by the end of the year, and all future reports should include the expanded information mandated by this Section.

Further, in order to better analyze uses of force, the Department centralized where this data is collected. The Risk Management Office (RMO) now tracks and maintains all data relating to use of force incidents reported by each district station and specialized units. RMO, which includes staff assigned to the Early Intervention System (EIS) Unit, will review and generate reports relating to the use of force, i.e., under what circumstance was it used, type/level of force, and subject/officer identifiers.

Use of force reports will be generated monthly and reviewed by staff in the Professional Standards and Principled Policing Bureau prior to being forwarded to the Chief of Police. The final reports will be provided to commanding officers for review with all supervisors at the district station level as a means to monitor and identify concerns immediately. The reports will be posted online and made available to the public as part of our ongoing commitment to transparency.

USE OF FORCE REPORT/ANALYSIS

It is important to note that the majority of police contacts with members of the public do not result in the use of force. In the first quarter of 2016, the Department responded to 157,740 calls for service – 99,461 calls that were dispatched and 58,279 self-initiated or “on view” encounters.

Month	Dispatch	Percent	On View	Percent	Total
January 2016	32,834	62%	20,577	38%	53,411
February 2016	32,438	65%	17,147	35%	49,585
March 2016	34,189	62%	20,555	38%	54,744
Total	99,461	63%	58,279	37%	157,740

Of the 157,740 contacts during this timeframe, force was used in 341 encounters which represents .20 percent of the Department’s total contacts. During these 341 incidents, one or more officers reported using force resulting in 947 total individual documented uses of force.

Month	Number of Uses of Force	Percent
January 2016	293	31%
February 2016	400	42%
March 2016	254	27%
Total	947	100%

The number of officers employing force options during this reporting period was 447.

Age of Officer	# Using Force	Percent
22-29	126	28%
30-39	200	45%
40-49	91	20%
50-59	28	6%
60 and Over	2	<1%
Total	447	100%

This illustrates that more than one officer employed a reportable force option on one or more subjects in a single event. For example, during a felony stop on an armed robbery vehicle with three subjects inside, three officers respond. Two officers point their firearms at the three subjects and order them to exit the vehicle. One officer handcuffs each of the subjects, and the last subject resists arrests. Force is used by that officer to overcome the resistance and the subject makes a complaint of pain. This one scenario involving three officers would result in a total of seven reportable uses of force.

Number of Officers	# of Incidents	Percent
1 Officer	168	49%
2 Officers	108	32%
3 Officers	30	9%
4 Officers	18	5%
5 Officers	8	2%
6 or More Officers	9	3%
Total	341	100%

Force Options Employed:

Pointing of firearms became a reportable use of force beginning in December 2015, which accounted for 648 or 68 percent of the type of force used. The Department currently is analyzing the incidents involving the pointing of a firearm to ensure members are meeting the reporting criteria. Members may be over cautious in reporting this type of force including documenting each time a firearm is unholstered in the “low-ready” position, such as prior to search a building on an alarm call, which is not a reportable use of force.

Type of Force Used	Number	Percent
Pointing of Firearms	648	68%
Physical Control	191	20%
Strike by Object/Fist	60	6%
Chemical Agent (OC)	21	2%
Impact Weapon	18	2%
ERIW	1	<1%
Carotid	6	<1%
Other** Strike with door	2	<1%
Quarterly Total	947	100%

Use of Force Resulting in Death:

During this reporting period, there were no firearm discharges resulting in death to a member of the public or a sworn officer.

Type of Call:

Part I property-related calls were the most common type of call resulting in a reportable use of force. Part I property-related calls made up 22 percent of the incidents. Other common types of calls resulting in force included suspicious person, violent crime, person with a gun, and traffic-related incidents.

The remaining calls for service varied and included classifications such as person with a knife, search warrant, mental health related, check on well-being, vandalism, homeless related, terrorist threat, restraining order violation, alarm, fraud, and prostitution.

Call Type	Percent January Incidents	Number January Incidents	Percent February Incidents	Number February Incidents	Percent of March Incidents	Number of March Incidents	Percent of Total Incidents	Number of Total Incidents
Part I Property	22.9%	25	21.8%	27	21.3%	23	22.0%	75
Suspicious Person	13.8%	15	16.1%	20	33.3%	36	20.8%	71
Part I Violent	22.9%	25	24.2%	30	13.9%	15	20.5%	70
Person with a Gun	5.5%	6	12.1%	15	7.4%	8	8.5%	29
Traffic-Related	7.3%	8	6.5%	8	6.5%	7	6.7%	23
Alarm/Well-being Check	4.6%	5	1.6%	2	5.6%	6	3.8%	13
Person with a Knife	3.7%	4	6.5%	8	0.9%	1	3.8%	13
Mental Health Related	3.7%	4	3.2%	4	3.7%	4	3.5%	12
Search Warrant	2.8%	3	3.2%	4	4.6%	5	3.5%	12
Vandalism	3.7%	4	0.8%	1	1.9%	2	2.1%	7
Homeless Related Call	3.7%	4	1.6%	2	0.0%		1.8%	6
Terrorist Threats	0.9%	1	0.8%	1	0.0%		0.6%	2
Prostitution	0.9%	1	0.8%	1	0.0%		0.6%	2
Restraining Order Violation	0.0%		0.8%	1	0.9%	1	0.6%	2
Citizen Holding a Prisoner	1.8%	2	0.0%		0.0%		0.6%	2
Fraud	1.8%	2	0.0%		0.0%		0.6%	2
Total	100.0%	109	100.0%	124	100.0%	108	100.0%	341

Data Source: AIMS

Incident Report/Offender Data:

During this time period, the Department listed 15,192 individuals in the offender section of incident reports. When a report is filed, whether an arrest is made, citation issued, or the subject is gone on arrival, offender data is captured and recorded. Below are the demographics of the offender data captured in these incident reports in the Crime Data Warehouse.

Race	Total	Percent
Asian / Pacific Islander	1020	7%
Black	6783	45%
Hispanic	2864	19%
White	4464	29%
Native American	61	0%
Total	15,192	100%

Data Source: Crime Data Warehouse

Reason Force Options Were Employed:

Force is used most often to effect a lawful arrest, 71.4 percent of the 947 reportable uses of force.

Reason	Percent January Uses	Number January Uses	Percent February Uses	Number February Uses	Percent March Uses	Number March Uses	Percent of Total Uses	Number of Total Uses
In defense of others or in self- defense	0.7%	2	1.3%	5	0.0%	0	0.7%	7
To effect a lawful arrest, detention, or search, or to prevent escape	73.7%	216	75.5%	302	62.2%	158	71.4%	676
To gain compliance with a lawful order	22.9%	67	22.0%	88	34.3%	87	25.6%	242
To prevent a person from injuring himself/herself, when the person also poses an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury to another life	2.4%	7	0.5%	2	3.1%	8	1.8%	17
Not Specified	0.3%	1	0.8%	3	0.4%	1	0.5%	5
Total	100.0%	293	100.0%	400	100.0%	254	100.0%	947

Data Source: AIMS

Force Options Employed - Race/Ethnicity:

The use of force breakdown by race is outlined below. Unknown subjects includes race/ethnicity which was not documented in the report for various reasons, i.e., subject fled.

Type of Force Used	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Unknown	Quarterly Total	Percent
Pointing of Firearms	37	307	170	121	13	648	68%
Physical Control	13	73	40	61	4	191	20%
Strike by Object/Fist	6	33	15	6		60	6%
OC		12	5	4		21	2%
Impact Weapon	2	10	4	2		18	2%
ERIW				1		1	<1%
Carotid	1	3	1	1		6	<1%
Other		1		1		2	<1%
Quarterly Total	59	439	235	197	17	947	100%
Percent	6%	46%	25%	21%	2%		

In comparing the race/ethnicity and gender of officers who used force during this period against the demographics of the Police Department, there is little variance.

Race/Gender	Officers Using Force		Department Demographics	
	Number	Percent	Total Number	Percent
Asian Female***	6	1%	43	2%
Asian Male***	88	20%	429	20%
Black Female	5	1%	41	2%
Black Male	23	5%	149	7%
Hispanic Female	9	2%	54	3%
Hispanic Male	70	16%	277	13%
Other Female**	2	<1%	6	<1%
Other Male**	8	2%	22	1%
White Female	25	6%	177	8%
White Male	211	47%	916	43%
Total	447	100%	2114	100%

Use of Force - Age of Subject:

The data indicates that force is used more often on persons between the age of 18 and 29. Force was used 86 times on persons under the age of 18, a statistic the Department will analyze more closely to ensure the appropriate level of force was used in relation to the age of the subject and they type of incident.

Type of Force Used	Under 18	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 and Over	Unknown	Quarterly Total	Percent
Pointing of Firearms	67	289	161	80	37	7	7	648	68%
Physical Control	19	70	53	29	16	4		191	20%
Strike by Object/Fist		25	21	8	6			60	6%
OC		7	6	2	6			21	2%
Impact Weapon		6	6	6				18	2%
ERIW					1			1	<1%
Carotid		3	2		1			6	<1%
Other		1	1					2	<1%
Quarterly Total	86	401	250	125	67	11	7	947	100%
Percent	9%	42%	26%	13%	7%	1%	<1%	100%	

Use of force - Gender of Subject:

Males are more likely to be involved in an incident in which force is used, accounting for 83 percent of the uses of force.

Type of Force Used	Female	Male	Unknown	Quarterly Total	Percent
Pointing of Firearms	127	518	3	648	68%
Physical Control	24	167		191	20%
Strike by Object/Fist	2	58		60	6%
OC	1	20		21	2%
Impact Weapon		18		18	2%
ERIW		1		1	<1%
Carotid		6		6	<1%
Other		2		2	<1%
Quarterly Total	154	790	3	947	100%
Percent	16%	83%	<1%	1	

ARRESTS

The San Francisco Police Department made a total of 5,416 arrests between January 1 and March 31, 2016.

Month	Arrests	Percent
January	1887	35%
February	1716	32%
March	1813	33%
Total	5416	100%

Arrest by Race, Sex, and Age:

The arrest breakdown by race is as follow.

Race	Number	Percent	Sex	Number	Percent	Age	Number	Percent
Asian/ Pacific Islander	364	7%	Female	981	18%	Under 18	58	3%
Black	2149	40%	Male	4422	82%	18-29	1915	35%
Hispanic	1058	20%	Unknown*	13	<1%	30-39	1504	28%
White	1678	31%				40-49	1000	18%
Unknown*	167	3%				50-59	610	11%
						60 and Over	223	4%
						Unknown*	13	<1%

*Subject refused or information was unavailable