



# **USE OF FORCE**

## **Annual Review & Analysis**

# **A REVIEW OF USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS**

By members of the

## **MARYLAND STATE POLICE**

Between

### **JANUARY 1, 2018 - DECEMBER 31, 2018**

Prepared by:

MSP Use of Force Committee  
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Chair

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## **PART I - AGENCY MESSAGE**

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On occasion, troopers must physically engage a person to control an unlawful situation, protect themselves or others from harm, or to effect an arrest. It is imperative that the use of such force be applied lawfully and deemed objectively reasonable. As part of our commitment to excellence, it is policy that all use of force incidents be reviewed by the trooper's commander, a representative of the Internal Affairs Division (IAD) and a representative of the Education Training Division (ETD). All allegations of excessive force are assigned to IAD for a thorough investigation.

MSP understands accountability and transparency are necessary elements in building confidence and trust between the police and the community. While we are proud of our efforts to address use of force issues, MSP remains committed to the idea of continuous self-improvement.

## **PART II - INTRODUCTION**

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Troopers are permitted by law and MSP policy to employ force, including deadly force, when deemed necessary and in accordance with policy. In the field, troopers must evaluate each situation, often in a split second, to determine the level of resistance offered and ensure their response is appropriate. To ensure their competency, troopers receive extensive entry-level and in-service training focused on employing an objectively reasonable amount of force when necessary and in accordance with [OPS 10.03](#). Integral components of training programs include verbal commands, de-escalation techniques, and the use of various less lethal options to help safely diffuse situations that may otherwise escalate to circumstances requiring officers to resort to deadly force. Troopers are made aware that the use of excessive force, regardless of the provocation or action of the offender, will result in administrative sanctions and disciplinary action and may result in criminal prosecution. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions.

This report, required by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), is used internally to help identify trends, improve training and officer safety, and provide timely information for the Department to address use of force issues within the community it serves. The information contained herein was obtained from IAPro, the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System, the Report Management System (RMS) and ETix data from within Delta <sup>+</sup>. The IAPro data was pulled from information entered into use of force entries in BlueTeam, which is an online reporting system that began on January 1, 2015, and replaced the prior paper system. Each trooper who uses force creates a use of force incident report in BlueTeam and enters their involvement, to include force used and other factors. All reports are forwarded to IAD and ETD through the chain of command for proper analysis and to identify trends and/or possible training needs. The data related to arrests and contacts was obtained from the RMS and CAD.

For the purpose of this report, it is important to understand the difference between an "incident" and a "trooper who used force." The term "incident" refers to the number of times/situations where either a single or multiple troopers used force against a suspect. At times, a single incident could involve two or more troopers who use force in an incident; this is why the number of "troopers who used force" is greater than the total number of "incidents."

### **PART III - OVERVIEW**

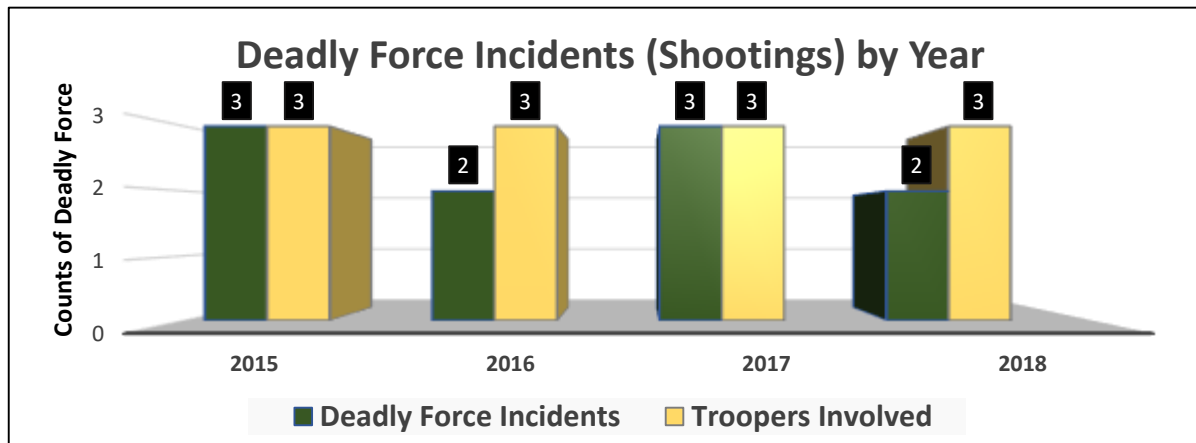
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The following is a list of significant data related to use of force incidents in calendar year 2018:

- Troopers reported a total of 251 use of force incidents in 2018 compared to 300 in 2017
- There were 389 troopers who used force in the 251 use of force incidents
- According to the MSP CAD (calls for service) and Etix (traffic stops), force was used by troopers in only .02 % of all citizen contacts
- Troopers used force in 1.5% of all arrests (15,784 arrests)
- Making an arrest (or attempting to make an arrest) accounted for the majority of all incidents (65%)
- Troopers with 0-7 years tenure represented 66% of personnel who used force
- The type of force most commonly used by troopers (46%) involved using soft empty hand techniques
- A majority of use of force incidents (90%) were reported by field personnel
- The barracks with the most use of force incidents were North East (29), Leonardtown (28), and Prince Frederick (21)
- White suspects accounted for 49% of the use of force incidents, African American suspects accounted for 46% and Hispanic suspects accounted for 4%
- The majority of suspects were male at 75%
- Incidents where troopers sustained injuries decreased by 32% from the prior year
- Incidents where suspects sustained injuries decreased by 23% from the previous year
- Troopers reported being injured in 18% of all use of force incidents and were treated at a hospital in 5% of the total incidents
- Suspects were injured in 33% of all use of force incidents and were treated at a hospital in 15% of the total incidents
- There were 9 complaints of excessive force involving 12 troopers in 2018, compared to 13 complaints of excessive force involving 21 troopers in 2017
- Deadly force was used in 2 incidents in 2018 and 3 incidents in 2017

**PART IV - DEADLY FORCE SUMMARY**

**Figure 1 - Deadly Force Incidents**



Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 1a - Deadly Force Incidents (Shootings)**

Year	Number of Incidents	Troopers Involved *	Outcome	Conformed to Policy
2015	3	3	All - Justified	All - Yes
2016	2	3	All - Justified	All - Yes
2017	3**	3**	All - Justified	All - Yes
2018	2	3	All - Justified	All - Yes

\* "Troopers Involved" includes only those who discharged their weapon.  
 \*\*2017 - Number of Deadly Force Incidents changed from 2 to 3, and the number of troopers involved changed from 2 to 3 as well. The changes were due to an error running the report in IPro.

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**PART V - COMPLAINTS OF EXCESSIVE FORCE**

**Figure 2 - Excessive Force Complaints**

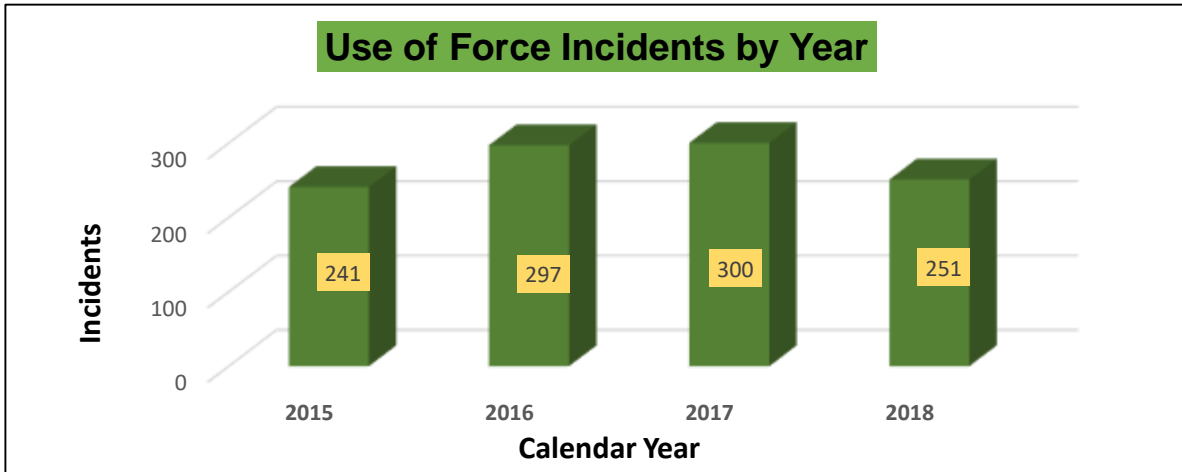
Year	Number of Complaints	Number of Involved Troopers	Outcome
2015	5	5	4 Unfounded, 1 Sustained
2016	21	33	11 Unfounded, 7 Non-sustained, 1 Withdrawn, 1 Pending, 1 Conformed to policy
2017	13**	21**	6 Unfounded, 4 Non-Sustained, 1 Sustained, 2 Withdrawn
2018	9	12	3 Unfounded, 4 Non-sustained, 1 Withdrawn, 1 Pending

\*\*2017 – Number of complaints changed from 12 to 13 and the number of troopers involved changed from 16 to 21. The changes were due to allegation entries in IPro after statistics were gathered for the 2017 Use of Force Annual Report.

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

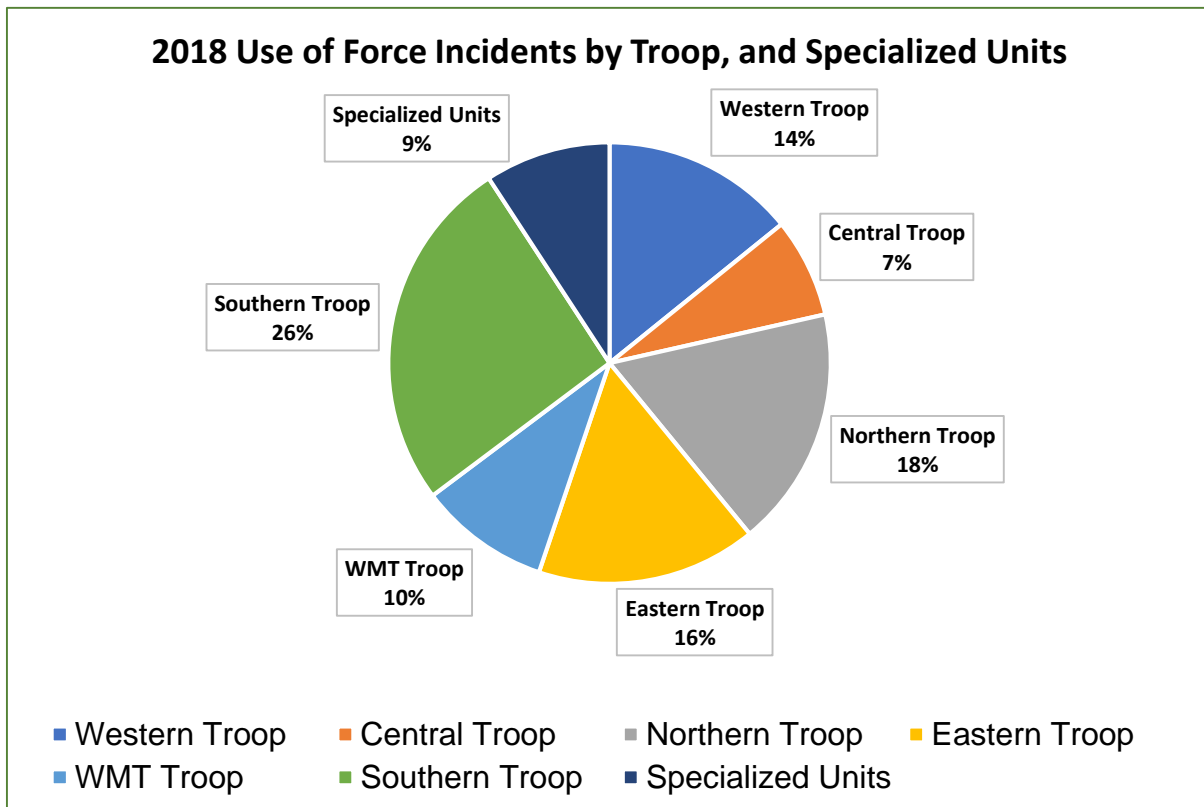
**PART VI - USE OF FORCE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION**

**Figure 3 - Summary of Use of Force Incidents by Calendar Year**



Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 4 - Use of Force Incidents by Troop and Units**



Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**USE OF FORCE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION (CONTINUED)**

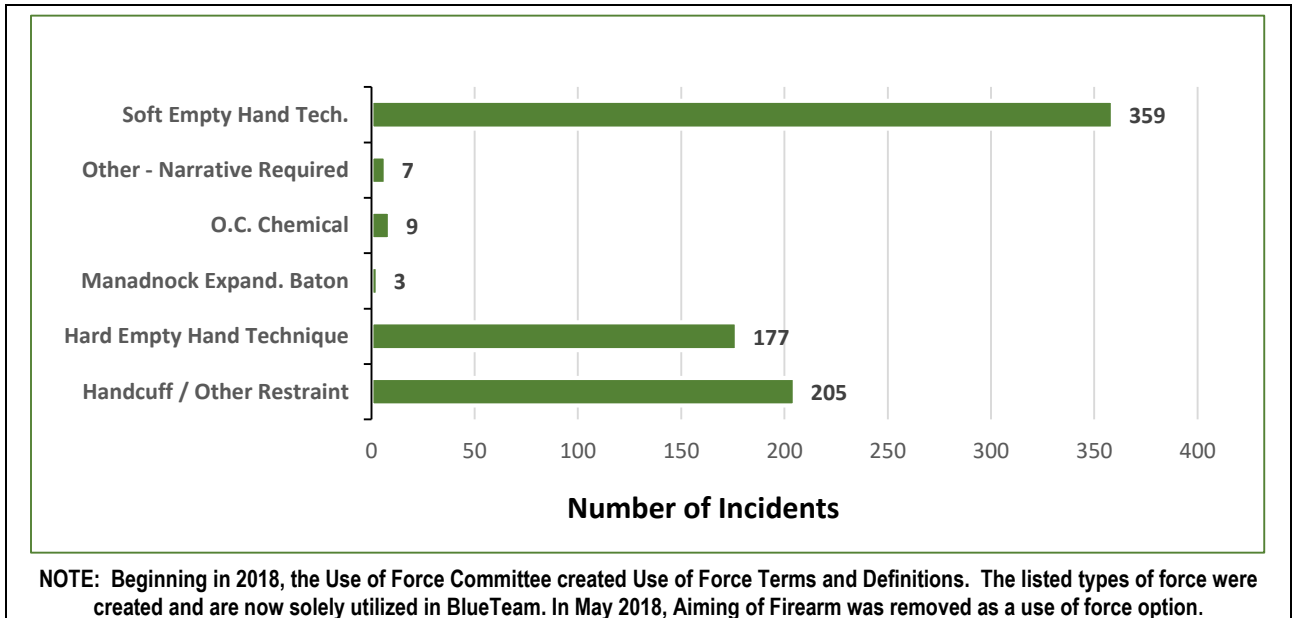
**Figure 4a - Use of Force Incidents by Barrack or Unit**

	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Barracks</b>				
Barrack A – Waterloo	2	3	5	4
Barrack B – Frederick	4	18	11	11
Barrack C – Cumberland	1	9	6	7
Barrack D – Bel Air	12	15	14	10
Barrack E – Salisbury	23	21	11	12
Barrack F – North East	19	20	33	29
Barrack G – Westminster	17	9	19	6
Barrack H – La Plata	17	8	5	10
Barrack I – Easton	2	8	16	4
Barrack J - Annapolis	1	6	5	2
Barrack L – Forestville	7	6	9	10
Barrack M – JFK Highway	10	8	9	7
Barrack N – Rockville	11	4	9	10
Barrack O – Hagerstown	7	8	8	10
Barrack P – Glen Burnie	12	15	6	7
Barrack Q – College Park	7	11	10	5
Barrack R – Golden Ring	10	7	8	9
Barrack S – Centreville	14	18	12	14
Barrack T – Leonardtown	14	29	28	28
Barrack U – Prince Frederick	10	18	32	21
Barrack V – Berlin Barrack	6	8	4	5
Barrack W – McHenry	6	9	4	8
Barrack X – Princess Anne	2	5	12	7
<b>BARRACK SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>236</b>
Specialized Units *	27	43	36	25
Other	0	0	0	0
<b>SPECIALIZED/OTHER SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>261**</b>
	<p>*Specialized Units include SPIDRE, S.T.A.T.E., CED, AVIATION, CIS, CVED, and PACE.  **There were 10 use of force incidents where troopers from separate installations used force (261-10 = 251 USE of FORCE INCIDENTS).</p>			

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

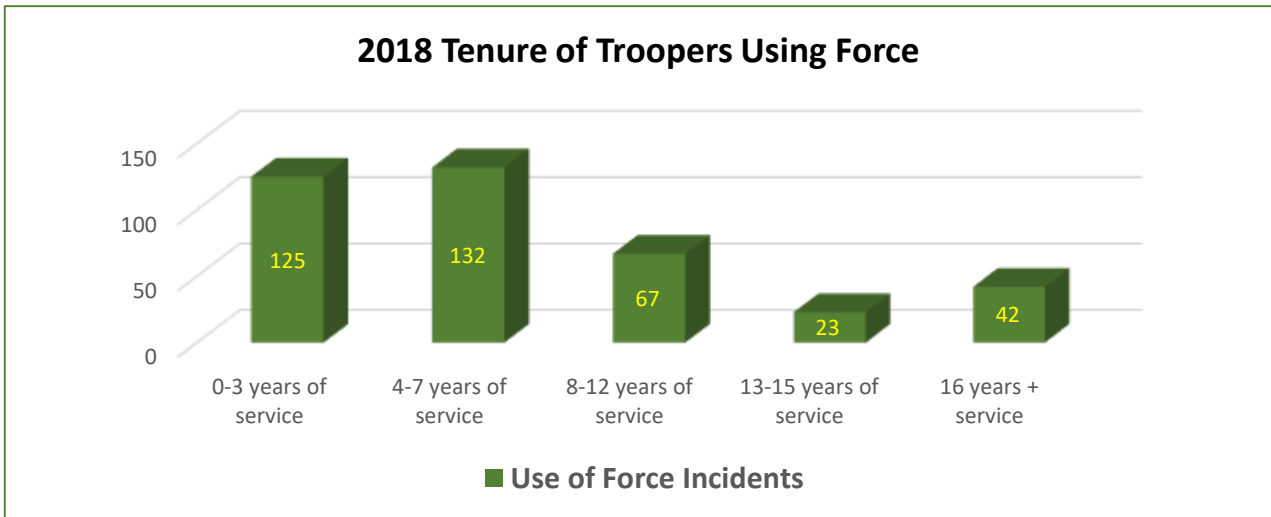
**USE OF FORCE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION (CONTINUED)**

**Figure 5 - Type of Force Used**



Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 6 - Tenure of Troopers Using Force**



Source - IAPro, BlueTeam



**USE OF FORCE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION (CONTINUED)**

**Figure 6a - Tenure of Troopers Using Force**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Years as a Trooper</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
0 to 3 year	110	179	172	<b>125</b>
4 to 7 years	65	130	138	<b>132</b>
8 to 12 years	41	92	80	<b>67</b>
13 to 15 years	13	28	24	<b>23</b>
16 + years	12	33	27	<b>42</b>
<b>Total Number of Troopers</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>389*</b>
*2018 This number accounts for every trooper that reported using force.				

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

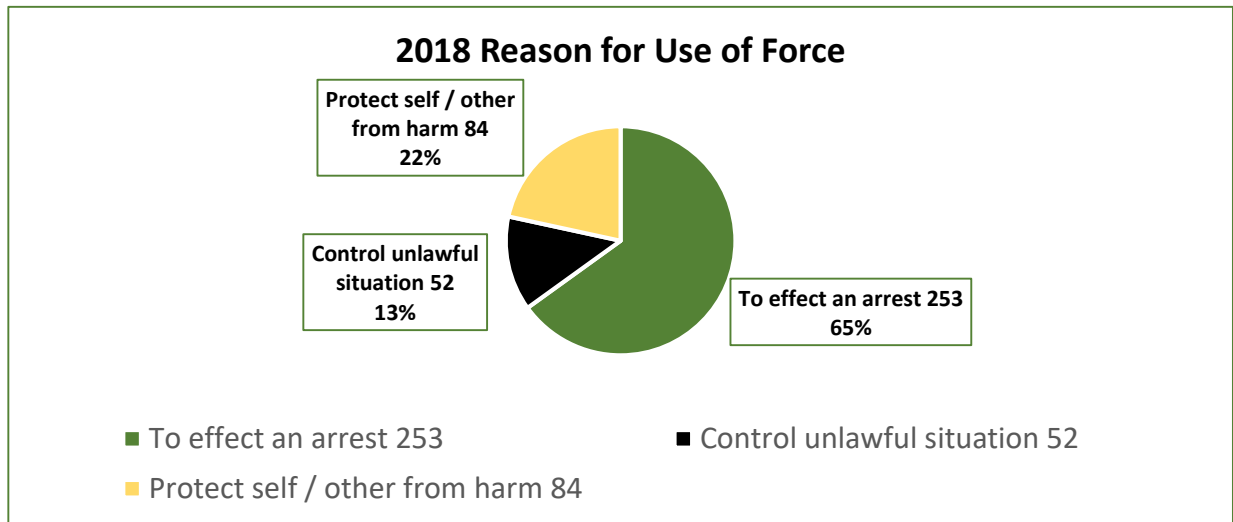
**Figure 7 - Age Demographics of Trooper Using Force**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Age of Trooper</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
21 to 31 years	163	292	282	<b>230</b>
32 to 41 years	55	131	116	<b>125</b>
42 to 51 years	19	36	35	<b>26</b>
52 to 60 years	4	3	8	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Number of Troopers</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>389</b>

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

**USE OF FORCE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION (CONTINUED)**

**Figure 8 - Reason for Use of Force**



Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 8a - Reason for Use of Force**

2018 Reason for Use of Force	
To effect an arrest	253
Control unlawful situation	52
Protect self / other from harm	84
<b>Total Number of Troopers</b>	<b>389</b>
NOTE: Beginning in 2018, the Reason for Use of Force was updated to the above listed categories, based on the National Consensus Policy and Discussion Paper on Use of Force. The 2018 numbers are based on the 389 troopers who used force in the 251 incidents.	

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 9 - Use of Force by Day of Week (251 total Incidents)**

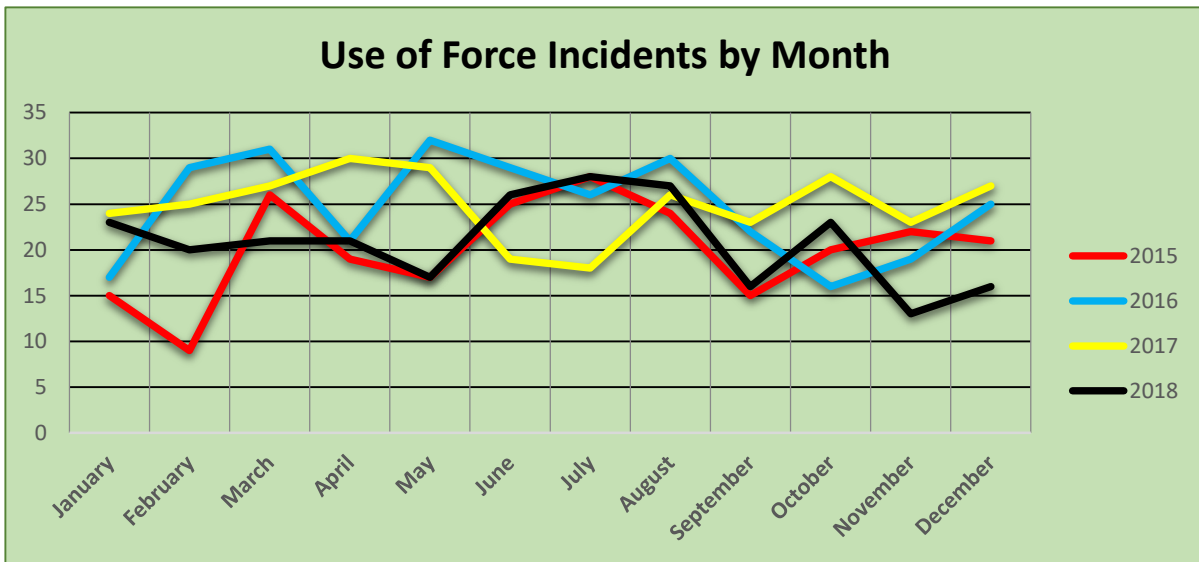
Day of Week	2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*
Sunday	34	N/A	42	24%	48	14%	<b>42</b>	<b>-12.5%</b>
Monday	30	N/A	37	23%	38	3%	<b>48</b>	<b>26%</b>
Tuesday	38	N/A	39	3%	42	8%	<b>33</b>	<b>-21%</b>
Wednesday	27	N/A	44	63%	30	-32%	<b>20</b>	<b>-33%</b>
Thursday	33	N/A	36	9%	38	6%	<b>40</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
Friday	36	N/A	49	36%	41	-16%	<b>33</b>	<b>-20%</b>
Saturday	43	N/A	50	16%	63	26%	<b>35</b>	<b>-44%</b>

\*The percent change is based on the previous year's total number.

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**USE OF FORCE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION (CONTINUED)**

**Figure 10 - Use of Force Incidents by Month**



Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 10a - Use of Force Incidents by Month**

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Number	% Change**	Number	% Change**	Number	% Change**	Number	% Change**
January	15	N/A	17	13%	24	41%	23*	-4%
February	9	N/A	29	222%	25	-14%	20*	-20%
March	26	N/A	31	19%	27	-13%	21*	-22%
April	19	N/A	21	11%	30	43%	21*	-30%
May	17	N/A	32	88%	29	-9%	17*	-41%
June	25	N/A	29	16%	19	-35%	26*	37%
July	28	N/A	26	-7%	18	-31%	28*	56%
August	24	N/A	30	25%	26	-13%	27*	4%
September	15	N/A	22	47%	23	5%	16*	-30%
October	20	N/A	16	-20%	29	81%	23*	-21%
November	22	N/A	19	-14%	23	21%	13*	-44%
December	21	N/A	25	19%	27	8%	16*	-41%

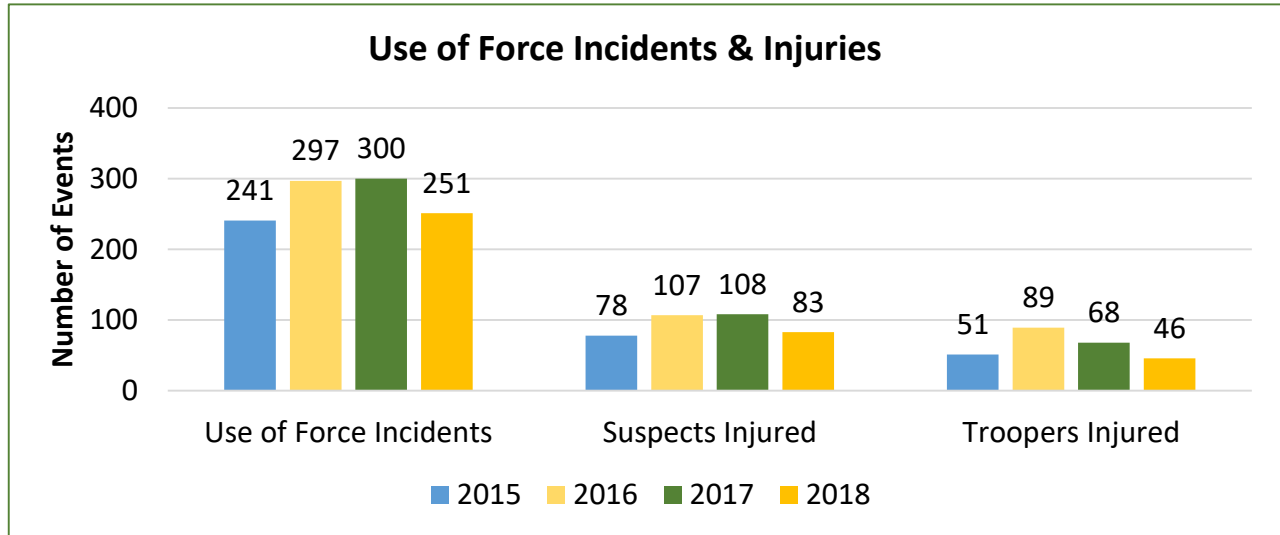
\*2018 numbers are based on the 251 total incidents.

\*\*The percent change is based on the previous year's total number.

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

**USE OF FORCE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION (CONTINUED)**

**Figure 11 - Injury to Trooper / Suspect**



Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 11a - Injury to Trooper**

Year	Total Incidents	# of Incidents Where a Trooper was Injured	Medical Treatment	
			Taken to Hosp.	Not Taken to Hosp.
2015	241	51	16	35
2016	297	89	30	59
2017	300	68	24	44
<b>2018</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>31</b>

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 11b - Injury to Suspect**

Year	Total Incidents	# of Incidents Where a Suspect was Injured	Medical Treatment	
			Taken to Hosp.	Not Taken to Hosp.
2015	241	78	43	35
2016	297	107	68	39
2017	300	108	56	52
<b>2018</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>45</b>

There were 50 incidents where a suspect had no injury but was taken to the hospital.

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**Use of Force Statistics and Information (Continued)**

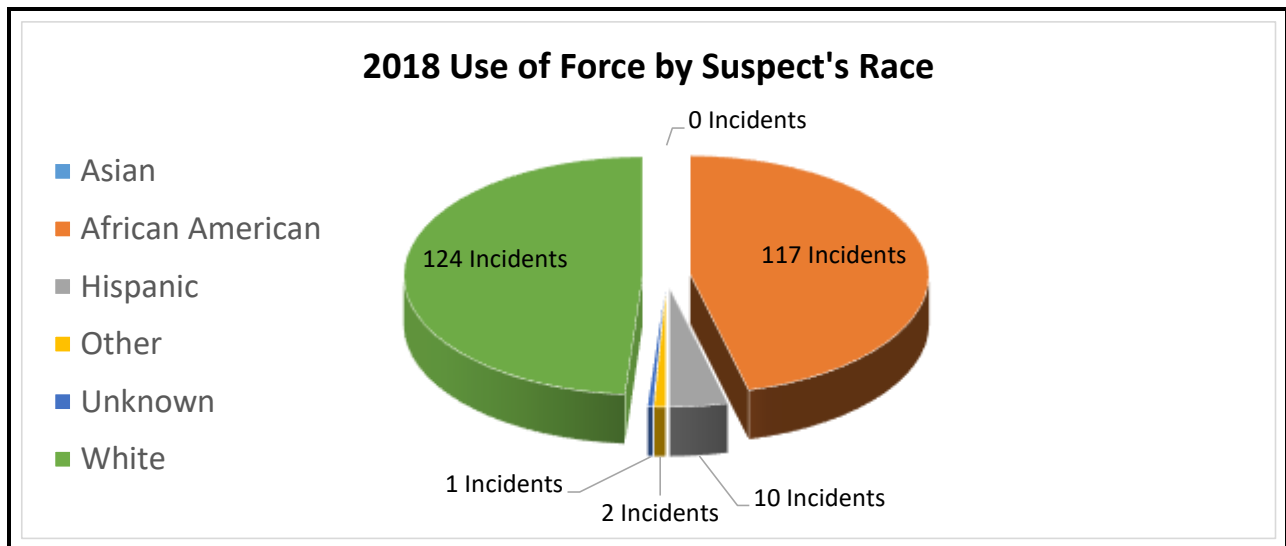
**Figure 12 - Suspect Gender**

	2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Number	% Change**	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
Male	193	N/A	240	24%	235	-2%	191	-19%
Female	48	N/A	64	33%	67	5%	63	-6%
Unknown / Other	0	N/A	1	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>241</b>		<b>305</b>		<b>302</b>		<b>254*</b>	

\* In 2018, there were two separate occasions where two citizens were entered in one Use of Force Incident and one occasion where one trooper used force on 2 citizens (254-3 =251 total incidents).

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 13 - Suspect Race**



Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 13a - Suspect Race**

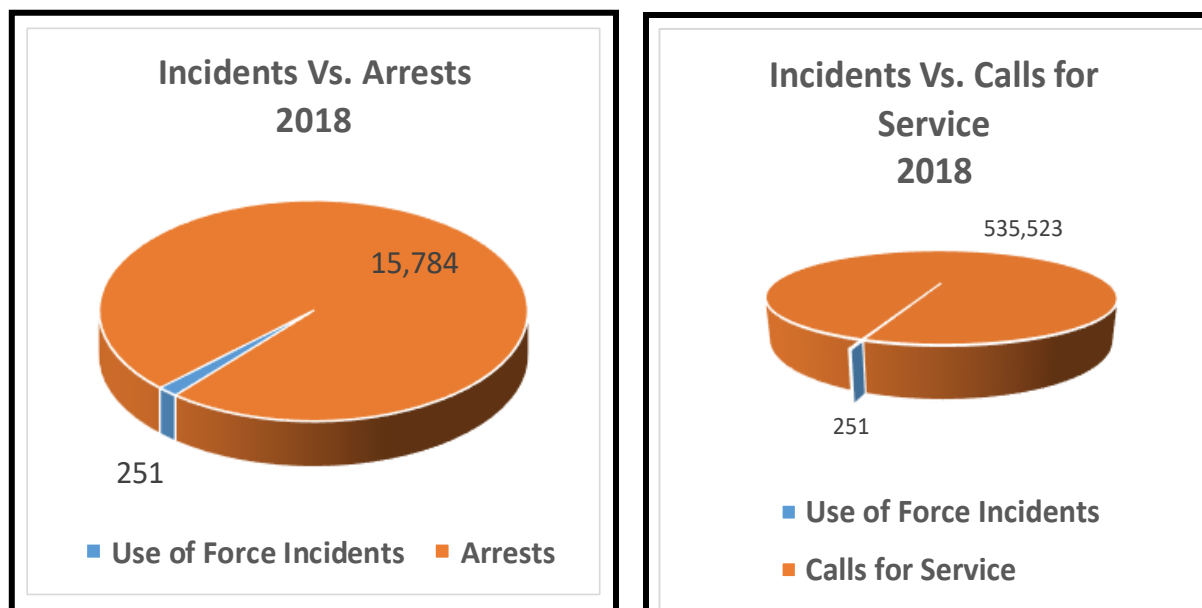
	2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
Asian	1	N/A	1	0	3	200%	0	-100%
African American	94	N/A	134	43%	128	-5%	117	-9%
Hispanic	15	N/A	9	-40%	12	33%	10	-17%
Other **	2	N/A	3	50%	0	-100%	2	200%
Unknown	7	N/A	8	14%	2	-75%	1	-50%
White	122	N/A	150	23%	157	5%	124	-21%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>241</b>		<b>305</b>		<b>302</b>		<b>254**</b>	

In 2018, there were two separate incidents in which two citizens were entered in one Use of Force Incident and one Incident where a single trooper used force on two citizens (254 - 3 = 251 total incidents).  
 \*\* Other: 1 American Indian + 1 Middle Eastern = total 2 Other

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

## Use of Force Statistics and Information (Continued)

Figure 14 - Use of Force Statistics Conclusion



Source - Incidents vs. Arrests: Report Management System (RMS) & Field Arrest Report System (FARS)  
Source - Incidents vs. Calls for Service: Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)

### **Part VII - USE OF FORCE LITIGATION AND OUTCOMES**

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The Office of Legal Counsel advised there were no current lawsuits resulting from use of force incidents that occurred during 2018. However, this number is subject to change as litigants have three years to file a lawsuit.

### **PART VIII - RESPONDING TO MEDIA AND COMMUNITY GROUPS**

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The Office of Media Communications remains engaged with media and community groups. The Office issues news releases regarding each use of deadly force incident by troopers. The releases are provided to the media and distributed to those citizens who have signed up to receive news; additionally they are posted on the MSP website. Occasionally, the Office of Media Communications and the Public Information Act Coordinator receive requests regarding policies, training, and accountability.

Throughout the State, barrack commanders and staff meet with various community organizations to share information and build relationships. During these meetings, personnel are occasionally asked about local incidents and/or national events where police officers employed force. The community involvement affords law enforcement an opportunity to help citizens increase their knowledge and understanding about the complex nature of police work, including police use of force.

## **PART IX - USE OF FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

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The Use of Force Review Committee is comprised of the Use of Force Committee Chairman, Commander of the Internal Affairs Division, a representative from the Support Services Bureau, a representative from the Criminal Investigative Bureau, the Commander of the Education & Training Division, a member of the Education & Training Division Physical Skills Unit, and an Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Office of Legal Counsel. The Use of Force Review Committee reviews current policies and trends related to use of force. In 2018, the Use of Force Review Committee created Use of Force terms and definitions that are now utilized each time a trooper submits a Use of Force Report. The reason for the use of force was also amended based on recommendations from the National Consensus Policy and Discussion Paper on Use of Force.

## **PART X - DEADLY FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

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The Deadly Force Review Committee is designed to provide the Superintendent with a recommended duty status for trooper(s) who use force resulting in a life-threatening injury or death. The Deadly Force Review Committee is comprised of the Chief of Staff, all Bureau Chiefs, the Education & Training Division Commander, and the Human Resources Commander.

## **PART XI - COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY**

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A review of the use of force incidents in 2018 (251 incidents) revealed that out of the 389 troopers who used force, all were found justified and in conformance with the MSP use of force policy.

## **PART XII - SUMMARY**

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The rate of the use of force compared to the calls for service and arrests has remained relatively consistent in comparison to 2017. In 2018, use of force was applied in 0.04 percent of all calls for service and in 1.5 percent of all arrests. This data reflects that, for the overwhelming majority of calls for service and arrest situations, troopers are rarely required to use force to safely resolve a situation. When it was deemed necessary to use force, the data reflects troopers most commonly used soft open hand techniques.

The Maryland State Police is committed to ensuring the safety of the public and its troopers and to making Maryland a safer place to live, work and visit. The information gleaned in this report suggests positive trends in the Use of Force and Use of Deadly Force arena.

## **PART XIII - SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS**

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1. The Department will continue to review its current use of force policy and compare it to best practices/policy recommendations of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and other law enforcement agencies.
2. The Department will remain committed to community involvement thereby building upon the foundation of public trust, confidence, and mutual respect among troopers and the communities they serve and protect.

### **SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)**

3. The Department continues to update the mobile video technology within the vehicle fleet. In 2017, the Department evaluated two separate in-car camera systems in an effort to identify the most suitable technology. In 2018, a system was selected and 200 in-car camera systems were procured with the intent of further outfitting additional vehicles.