



# USE OF FORCE

## Annual Review & Analysis

### A REVIEW OF USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

By members of the

MARYLAND STATE POLICE

Between

JANUARY 1, 2019 - DECEMBER 31, 2019

Prepared by:

MSP Use of Force Committee  
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Chair

February 1, 2020

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## **PART I - AGENCY MESSAGE**

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On occasion, troopers must physically engage a person in order to control an unlawful situation, protect themselves or others from harm, or to effect an arrest. It is imperative 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 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 +. 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."

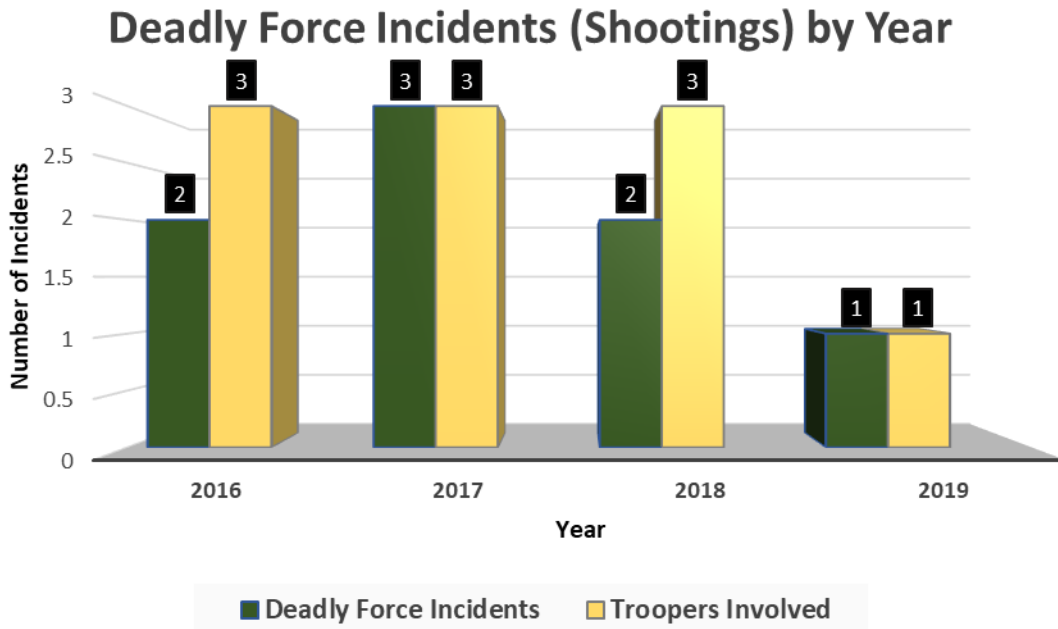
### **PART III - OVERVIEW**

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The following is a list of significant data related to use of force incidents in calendar year 2019:

- Troopers reported a total of 258 use of force incidents in 2019 compared to 251 in 2018
- There were 377 troopers who used force in the 258 use of force incidents
- According to the MSP CAD (calls for service) and Etix (traffic stops), force was used by troopers in only .03 % of all citizen contacts
- Troopers used force in 1.6% of all arrests (16,027 arrests)
- Making an arrest (or attempting to make an arrest) accounted for the majority of all incidents (69%)
- Troopers with 0-7 years tenure represented 60% of personnel who used force
- The type of force most commonly used by troopers (37%) involved using soft empty hand techniques
- A majority of use of force incidents (89%) were reported by field personnel
- The barracks with the most use of force incidents were Leonardtown (33), Prince Frederick (25), and North East (20)
- White suspects accounted for 51% of the use of force incidents, African American suspects accounted for 44% and Hispanic suspects accounted for 3%.
- The majority of suspects were male at 77%
- Incidents where troopers sustained injuries increased by 11% from the prior year
- Incidents where suspects sustained injuries increased by 17% from the previous year
- Troopers reported being injured in 20% of all use of force incidents and were treated at a hospital in 5% of the total incidents
- Suspects were injured in 38% of all use of force incidents and were treated at a hospital in 20% of the total incidents
- There were 8 complaints of excessive force involving 12 troopers in 2019, compared to 11 complaints of excessive force involving 14 troopers in 2018
- Deadly force was used in 1 incident in 2019 and 2 incidents in 2018

Figure 1 - Deadly Force Incidents



Source - IPro, BlueTeam

Figure 1a - Deadly Force Incidents (Shootings)

Year	Number of Incidents	Troopers Involved *	Outcome	Conformed to Policy
2016	2	3	All - Justified	All - Yes
2017	3	3	All - Justified	All - Yes
2018	2	3	All - Justified	All - Yes
2019	1	1	All - Justified	All - Yes

\* "Troopers Involved" includes only those who discharged their weapon.

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**PART V - COMPLAINTS OF EXCESSIVE FORCE**

**Figure 2 - Excessive Force Complaints**

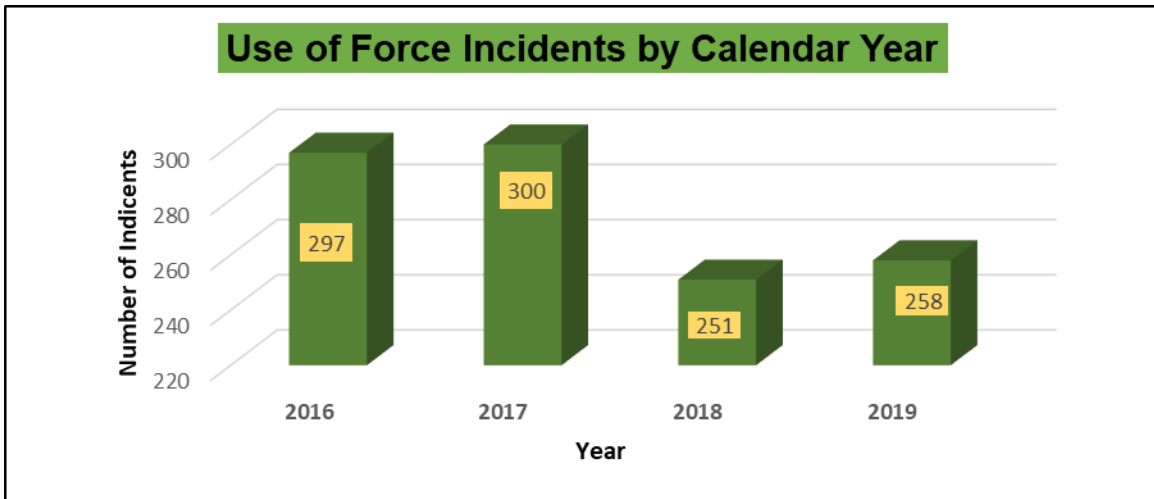
Year	Number of Complaints	Number of Involved Troopers	Outcome
2016	21	33	12 Unfounded, 7 Non-sustained, 1 Withdrawn, 1 Conformed to policy
2017	13	21	6 Unfounded, 4 Non-sustained, 1 Sustained, 2 Withdrawn
2018	11*	14*	6 Unfounded, 4 Non-sustained, 1 Withdrawn
2019	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3 Unfounded, 1 Non-sustained, 1 Sustained, 3 Pending</b>

\*The number of excessive force complaints in 2018 changed from 9 to 11 and the number of involved troopers changed from 12 to 14. The change was due to allegation entry after statistics were gathered and the UOF report was completed

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

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

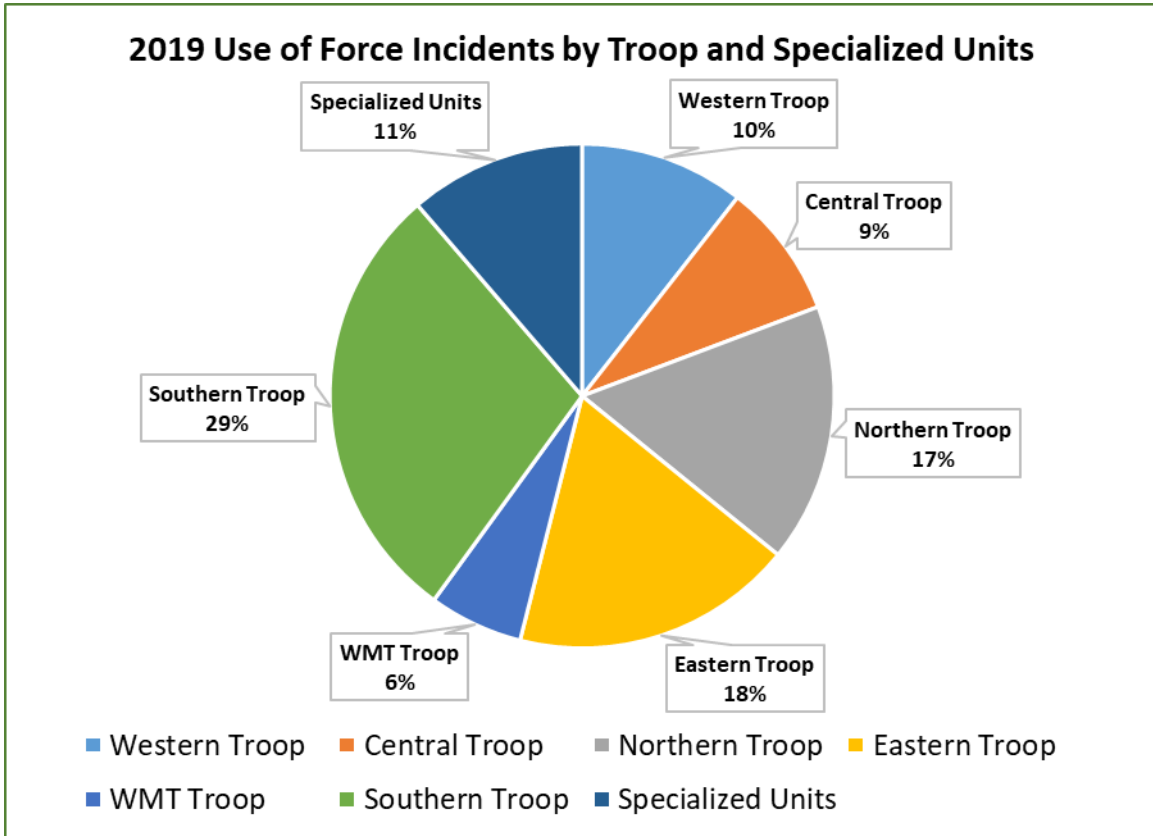
**Figure 3 - Summary of Use of Force Incidents by Calendar Year**



Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

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

**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**

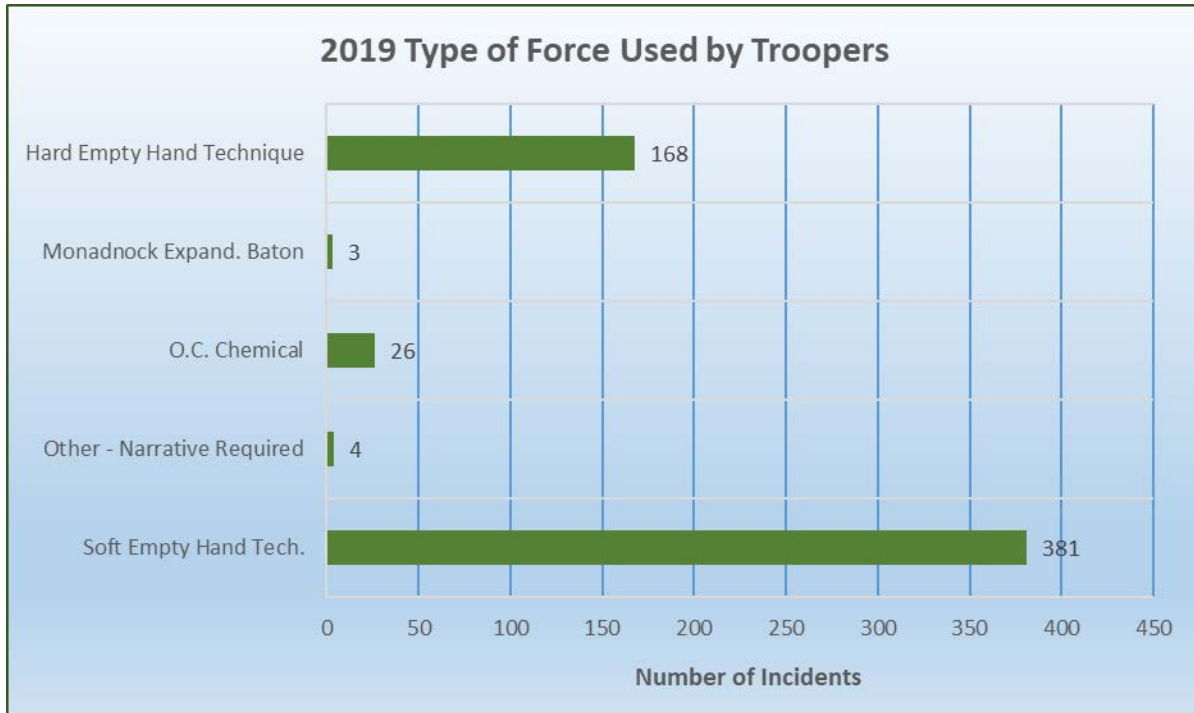
	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Barracks</b>				
Barrack A – Waterloo	3	5	4	8
Barrack B – Frederick	18	11	11	10
Barrack C – Cumberland	9	6	7	7
Barrack D – Bel Air	15	14	10	13
Barrack E – Salisbury	21	11	12	17
Barrack F – North East	20	33	29	20
Barrack G – Westminster	9	19	6	7
Barrack H – La Plata	8	5	10	8
Barrack I – Easton	8	16	4	5
Barrack J - Annapolis	6	5	2	4
Barrack L – Forestville	6	9	10	7
Barrack M – JFK Highway	8	9	7	11
Barrack N – Rockville	4	9	10	3
Barrack O – Hagerstown	8	8	10	9
Barrack P – Glen Burnie	15	6	7	6
Barrack Q – College Park	11	10	5	6
Barrack R – Golden Ring	7	8	9	8
Barrack S – Centreville	18	12	14	10
Barrack T – Leonardtown	29	28	28	33
Barrack U – Prince Frederick	18	32	21	25
Barrack V – Berlin Barrack	8	4	5	11
Barrack W – McHenry	9	4	8	2
Barrack X – Princess Anne	5	12	7	5
<b>BARRACK SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>235</b>
Other Units	43	36	25	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>265 *</b>
<p>*There were 7 use of force incidents where troopers from separate installations used force (265-7 = 258 USE of FORCE INCIDENTS).</p>				

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam



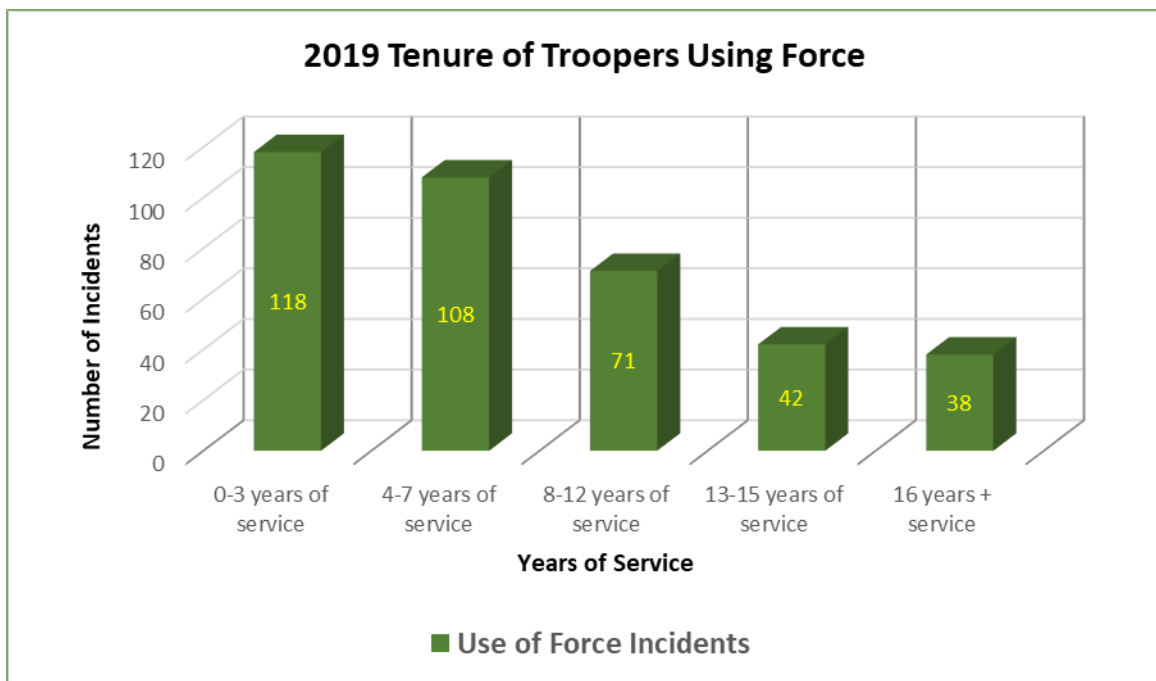
**USE OF FORCE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION (CONTINUED)**

**Figure 5 - Type of Force Used**



Source - IPro, BlueTeam

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



Source - IPro, BlueTeam

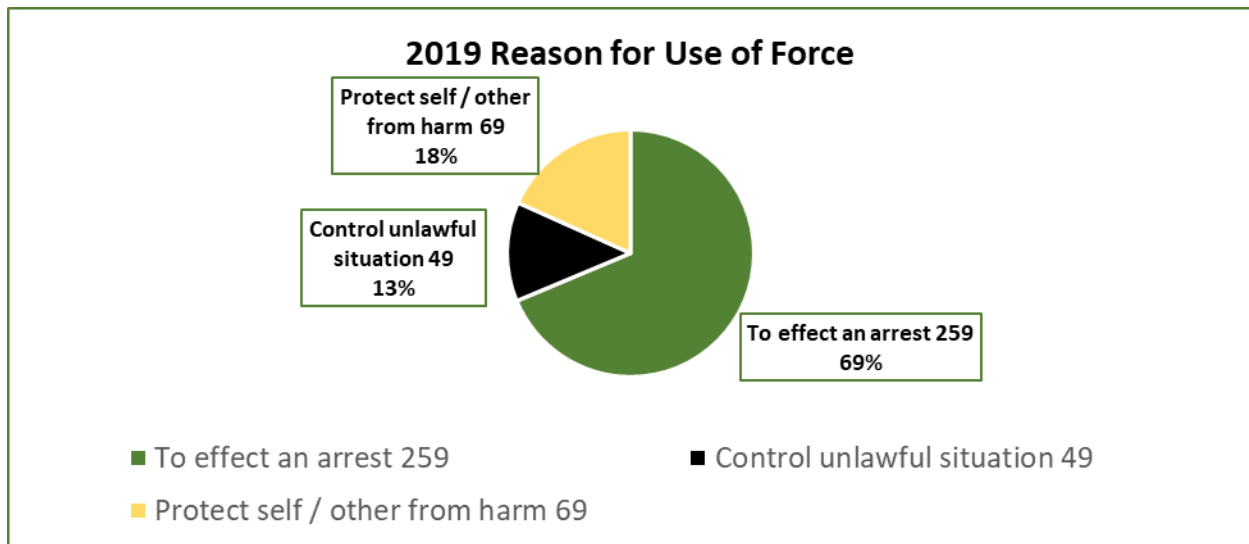
**USE OF FORCE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION (CONTINUED)**

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

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Years as a Trooper	Number	Number	Number	Number
0 to 3 year	179	172	125	<b>118</b>
4 to 7 years	130	138	132	<b>108</b>
8 to 12 years	92	80	67	<b>71</b>
13 to 15 years	28	24	23	<b>42</b>
16 + years	33	27	42	<b>38</b>
Total Number of Troopers	<b>462</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>377</b>
*2019 This number accounts for every trooper that reported using force.				

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 7 - Reason for Use of Force**



Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

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

**Figure 7a - Reason for Use of Force**

<b>2019 Reason for Use of Force</b>	
To effect an arrest	259
Control unlawful situation	49
Protect self / other from harm	69
<b>Total Number of Troopers</b>	<b>377</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 2019 numbers are based on the 377 troopers who used force in the 258 incidents.	

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

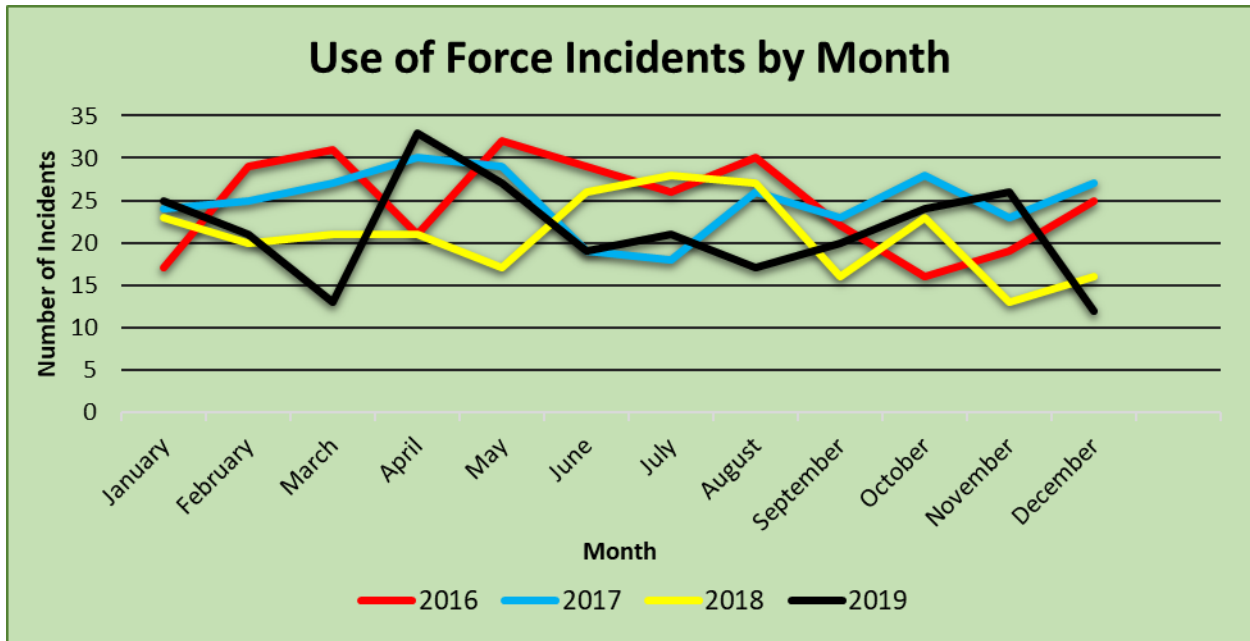
**Figure 8 - Use of Force by Day of Week (258 total Incidents)**

Day of Week	2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*
Sunday	42	24%	48	14%	42	-12.5%	<b>48</b>	<b>14%</b>
Monday	37	23%	38	3%	48	26%	<b>43</b>	<b>-10%</b>
Tuesday	39	3%	42	8%	33	-21%	<b>33</b>	<b>0%</b>
Wednesday	44	63%	30	-32%	20	-33%	<b>29</b>	<b>45%</b>
Thursday	36	9%	38	6%	40	5.2%	<b>41</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
Friday	49	36%	41	-16%	33	-20%	<b>27</b>	<b>-18%</b>
Saturday	50	16%	63	26%	35	-44%	<b>37</b>	<b>6%</b>
*The percent change is based on the previous year's total number.								

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

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

**Figure 9 - Use of Force Incidents by Month**



Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 9a - Use of Force Incidents by Month**

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Number	% Change**	Number	% Change**	Number	% Change**	Number	% Change**
January	17	13%	24	41%	23	-4%	25	9%
February	29	222%	25	-14%	20	-20%	21	5%
March	31	19%	27	-13%	21	-22%	13	-38%
April	21	11%	30	43%	21	-30%	33	57%
May	32	88%	29	-9%	17	-41%	27	59%
June	29	16%	19	-35%	26	37%	19	-27%
July	26	-7%	18	-31%	28	56%	21	-25%
August	30	25%	26	-13%	27	4%	17	-37%
September	22	47%	23	5%	16	-30%	20	25%
October	16	-20%	29	81%	23	-21%	24	4%
November	19	-14%	23	21%	13	-44%	26	100%
December	25	19%	27	8%	16	-41%	12	-25%

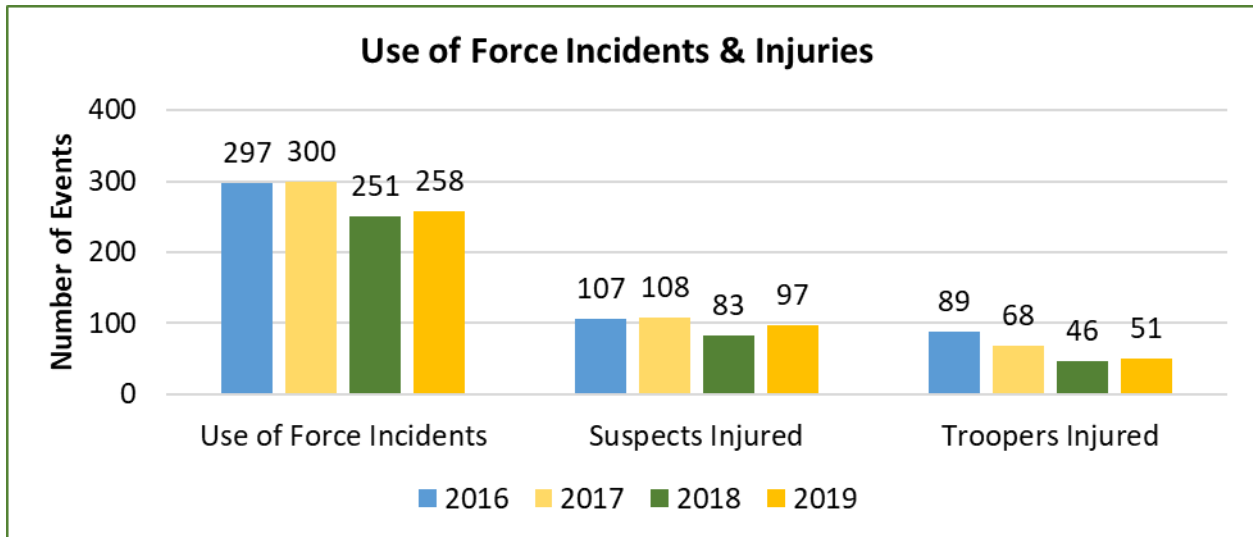
\*2019 numbers are based on the 258 total incidents.

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

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

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

**Figure 10 - Injury to Trooper / Suspect**



Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 10a - Injury to Trooper**

Year	Total Incidents	# of Incidents Where a Trooper was Injured	Medical Treatment	
			Taken to Hosp.	Not Taken to Hosp.
2016	297	89	30	59
2017	300	68	24	44
2018	251	46	15	31
2019	<b>258</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>38</b>

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 10b - Injury to Suspect**

Year	Total Incidents	# of Incidents Where a Suspect was Injured	Medical Treatment	
			Taken to Hosp.	Not Taken to Hosp.
2016	297	107	68	39
2017	300	108	56	52
2018	251	83	38	45
2019	<b>258</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>46</b>

There were 31 incidents where a suspect had no injury but was taken to the hospital.

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

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

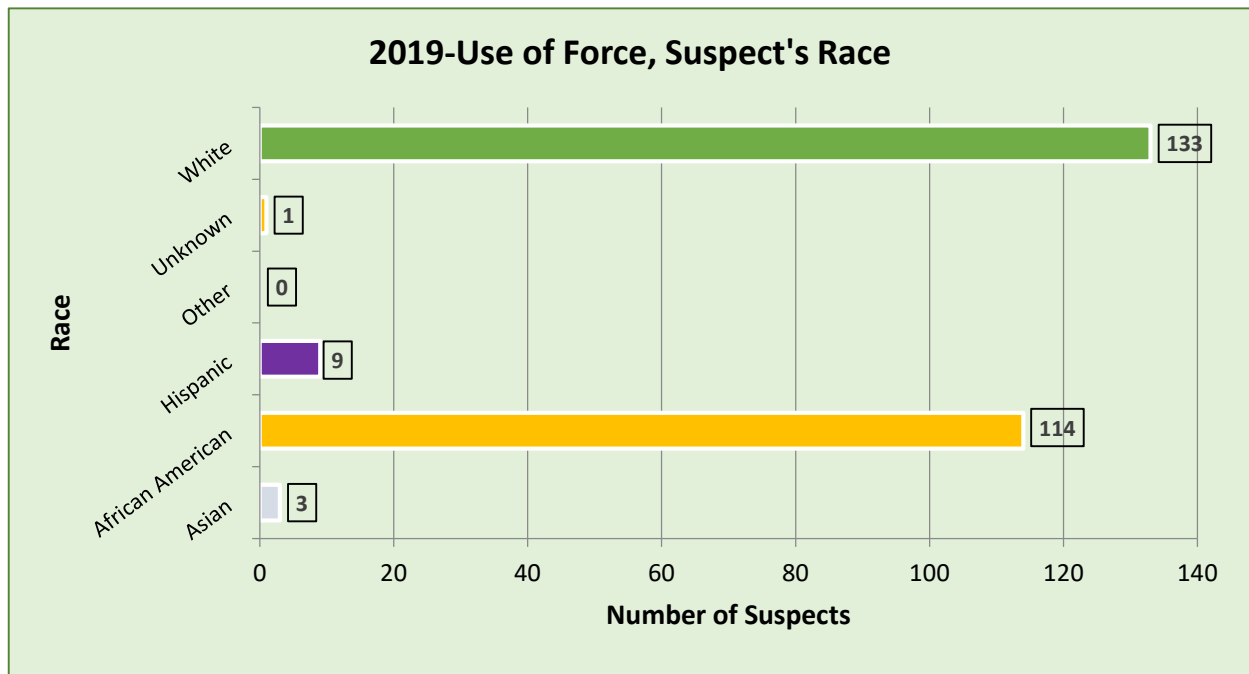
**Figure 11 – Suspect’s Gender**

	2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Number	% Change**	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
Male	240	24%	235	-2%	191	-19%	200	5%
Female	64	33%	67	5%	63	-6%	60	-5%
Unknown / Other	1	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>305</b>		<b>302</b>		<b>254</b>		<b>260</b>	

\* In 2019, there were two separate incidents where force was used on 2 separate citizens (260-2 =258 total incidents).

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 12 - Suspect’s Race**



Source - IPro, BlueTeam

**Figure 12a - Suspect’s Race**

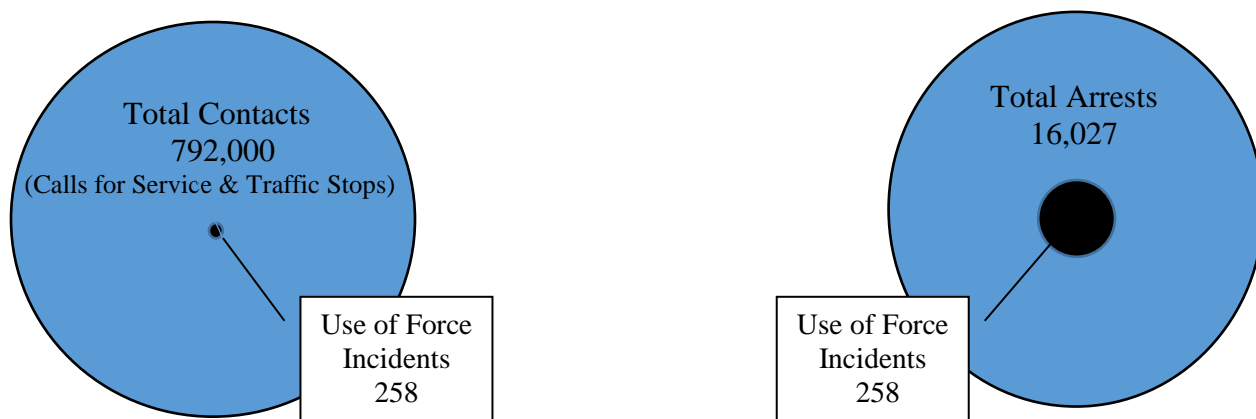
	2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
Asian	1	0	3	200%	0	-100%	3	300%
African American	134	43%	128	-5%	117	-9%	114	-3%
Hispanic	9	-40%	12	33%	10	-17%	9	-10%
Other **	3	50%	0	-100%	2	200%	0	-100%
Unknown	8	14%	2	-75%	1	-50%	1	0%
White	150	23%	157	5%	124	-21%	133	7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>305</b>		<b>302</b>		<b>254</b>		<b>260*</b>	

\* In 2019, there were two separate incidents where force was used on 2 separate citizens (260-2 =258 total incidents).

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

## Use of Force Statistics and Information (Continued)

**Figure 13 - Use of Force 2019 Statistical Comparisons**



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 2019. 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 2019, the Use of Force Review Committee recommended Use of Force documentation training for the 2020 in-service training and First Line Supervisor training.

## **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 2019 (258 incidents) revealed that out of the 377 troopers who used force, 376 were found justified and in conformance with the MSP use of force policy.

## **PART XII - SUMMARY**

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The use of force rate has remained relatively consistent over the last three years. In 2019, use of force was applied in .03% of all contacts (calls for service and traffic stops) and in 1.6% of all arrests. This data reflects that, for the overwhelming majority of contacts 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 troopers are using a reasonable amount of force necessary to effect an arrest and overcome any resistance offered.

## **PART XIII - 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.



### **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. As of January 2020, 286 in-car camera systems have been installed in vehicles across 17 barracks to troopers holding the rank of corporal and below. (Note – MSP developed a tiered in-car camera deployment schedule based on the barracks with the most frequent uses of force.) Phase # 3 of the in-car camera installations will begin in March 2020 and be completed by the end of May 2020. The completion of Phase # 3 will bring the total number of in car camera units to 406 in Field Operations Bureau. After the completion of Phase #3, all 23 FOB barracks will have vehicles equipped with in-car cameras.