



USE OF FORCE

Annual Review & Analysis

A REVIEW OF USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

By members of the

MARYLAND STATE POLICE

Between

JANUARY 1, 2020 - DECEMBER 31, 2020

Prepared by:

MSP Use of Force Committee
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Chair

February 1, 2021

Table of Contents

Part I - Agency Message	3
Part II - Introduction	3
Part III - Overview	4
Part IV - Deadly Force	5
Part V - Complaints of Excessive Force	6
Part VI - Use of Force Statistics and Information	6-15
Part VII - Use of Force Litigation and Outcomes	15
Part VIII - Responding to Media and Community Groups	15
Part IX - Use of Force Review Committee	16
Part X - Deadly Force Review Committee	16
Part XI - Compliance with Policy	16
Part XII - Summary	16
Part XIII - Recommendations	16-17

PART I - AGENCY MESSAGE

On occasion, troopers must physically engage a person to control an unlawful situation, protect themselves or others from harm, or to effect an arrest. The use of such force must 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 thoroughly investigated.

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. The Agency's Use of Force Policy (OPS 10.03) was recently updated in August 2020 in order to comply with the updated Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) standards and law enforcement's national best practices. Prohibiting chokeholds and requiring de-escalation techniques were just a few of the changes made which reflect the Department's commitment towards self-improvement.

PART II - INTRODUCTION

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 per [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.

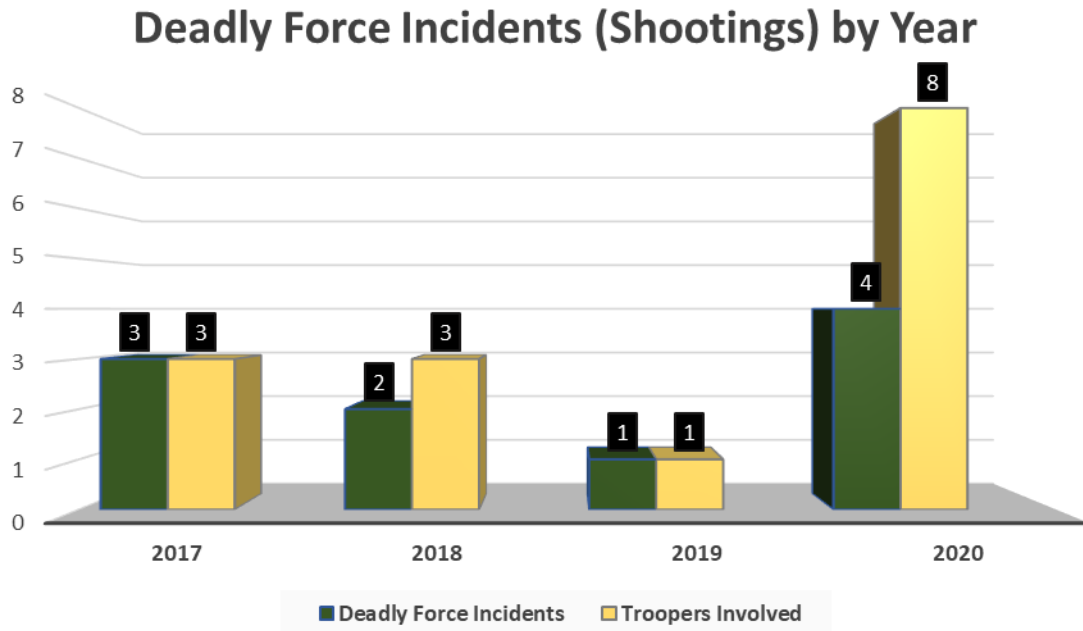
For this report, it is important to understand the difference between an "incident" and a "trooper who used force." The term "incident" refers to the number of times/situations where either a single or multiple troopers used force against a suspect. At times, a single incident could involve two or more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

The following is a list of significant data related to use of force incidents in calendar year 2020:

- Troopers reported a total of 247 use of force incidents in 2020 compared to 258 in 2019
- There were 409 troopers who used force in the 247 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 1.8% of all arrests (13,353 arrests)
- Making an arrest (or attempting to make an arrest) accounted for the majority of all incidents (67%)
- Troopers with 0-7 years tenure represented 68% of personnel who used force
- The type of force most commonly used by troopers (40%) involved using soft empty hand techniques
- A majority of use of force incidents (89%) were reported by barrack personnel
- The barracks with the most use of force incidents were Leonardtown (23), Prince Frederick (22), and North East (21)
- African American suspects accounted for 48%, White suspects accounted for 42% and Hispanic suspects accounted for 7% of the use of force incidents
- The majority of suspects were male at 79%
- Incidents where troopers sustained injuries decreased by 22% from the prior year
- Incidents where suspects sustained injuries decreased by 9% from the previous year
- Troopers reported being injured in 16% of all use of force incidents and were treated at a hospital in 4% of the total incidents
- Suspects were injured in 36% of all use of force incidents and were treated at a hospital in 21% of the total incidents
- There were 9 complaints of excessive force involving 18 troopers in 2020, compared to 8 complaints of excessive force involving 12 troopers in 2019
- Deadly force was used in 4 incidents in 2020, compared to 1 incident in 2019
- In 2020, suspects between the ages of 11 to 30 years of age accounted for 48.1% of the force used in the 247 Use of Force incidents. Suspects between the ages of 31 to 50 years of age accounted for 41.6% and just over 9% of suspects were 51 years old or older
- In 2020, 47% of troopers used force between 1501-2300 hours, 31% of troopers used force between 2301-0700 hours and 22% of troopers used force between the hours of 0701-1500 hours

Figure 1 - Deadly Force Incidents



Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

Figure 1a - Deadly Force Incidents (Shootings)

Year	Number of Incidents	Troopers Involved *	Outcome	Conformed to Policy
2017	3	3	All - Justified	All - Yes
2018	2	3	All - Justified	All - Yes
2019	1	1	All - Justified	All - Yes
2020	4	8	3 Justified – 1 Pending	3 Conformed

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

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

PART V - COMPLAINTS OF EXCESSIVE FORCE

Figure 2 - Excessive Force Complaints

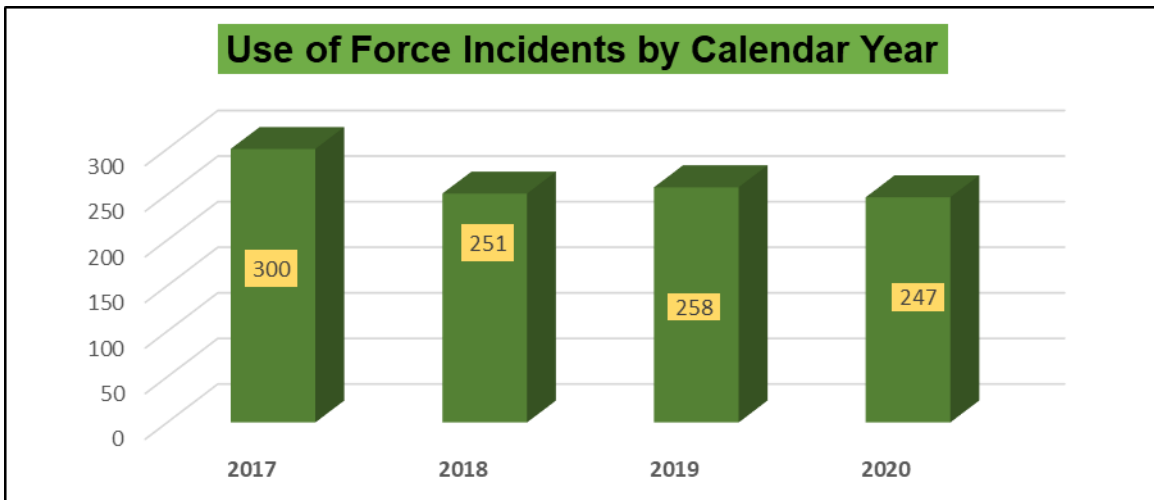
Year	Number of Complaints	Number of Involved Troopers	Outcome
2017	13	21	6 Unfounded, 4 Non-sustained, 1 Sustained, 2 Withdrawn
2018	11	14	6 Unfounded, 4 Non-sustained, 1 Withdrawn
2019	8	12	5 Unfounded, 1 Non-sustained, 2 Sustained
2020	9	18	6 Unfounded, 3 Pending

a. UNFOUNDED if the investigation revealed the allegation did not occur; b. NON-SUSTAINED if the investigation fails to disclose sufficient information to clearly prove the allegation; or c. SUSTAINED if the investigation disclosed sufficient information to substantiate the allegation.

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

PART VI - USE OF FORCE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION

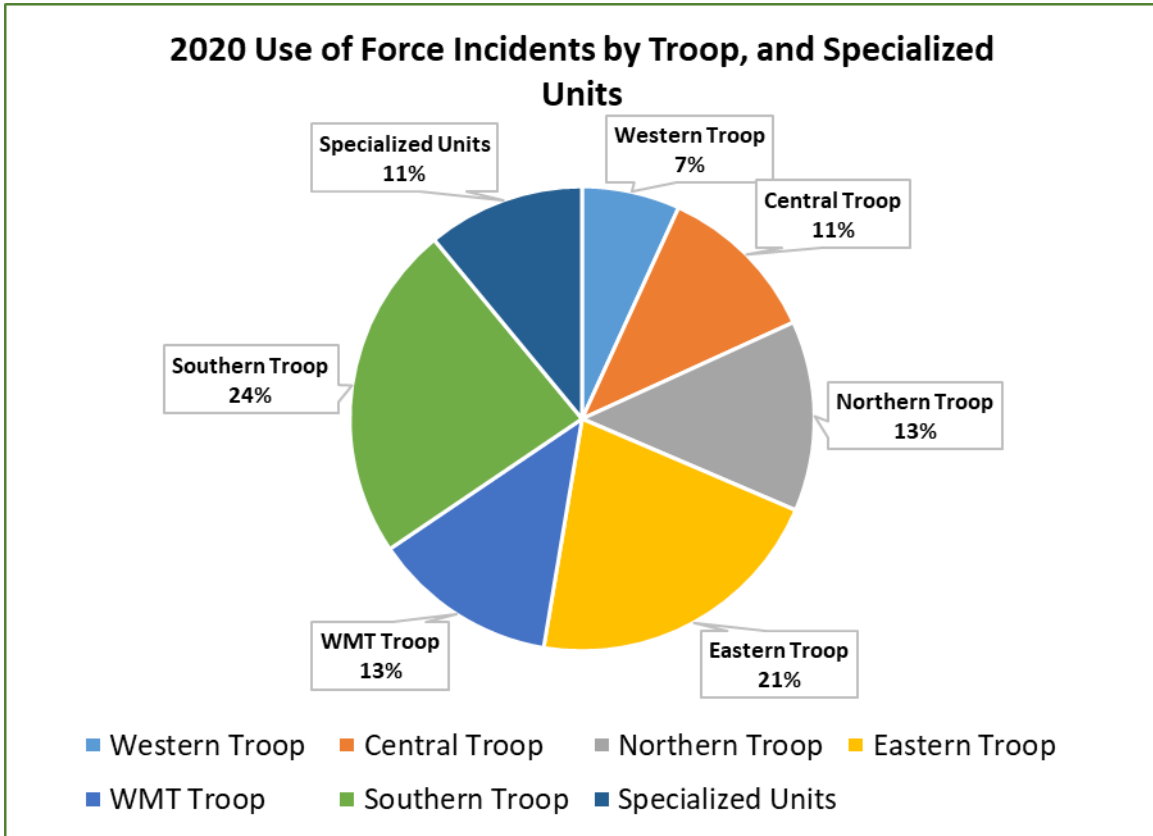
Figure 3 - Summary of Use of Force Incidents by Calendar Year



Source - IPro, BlueTeam

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)

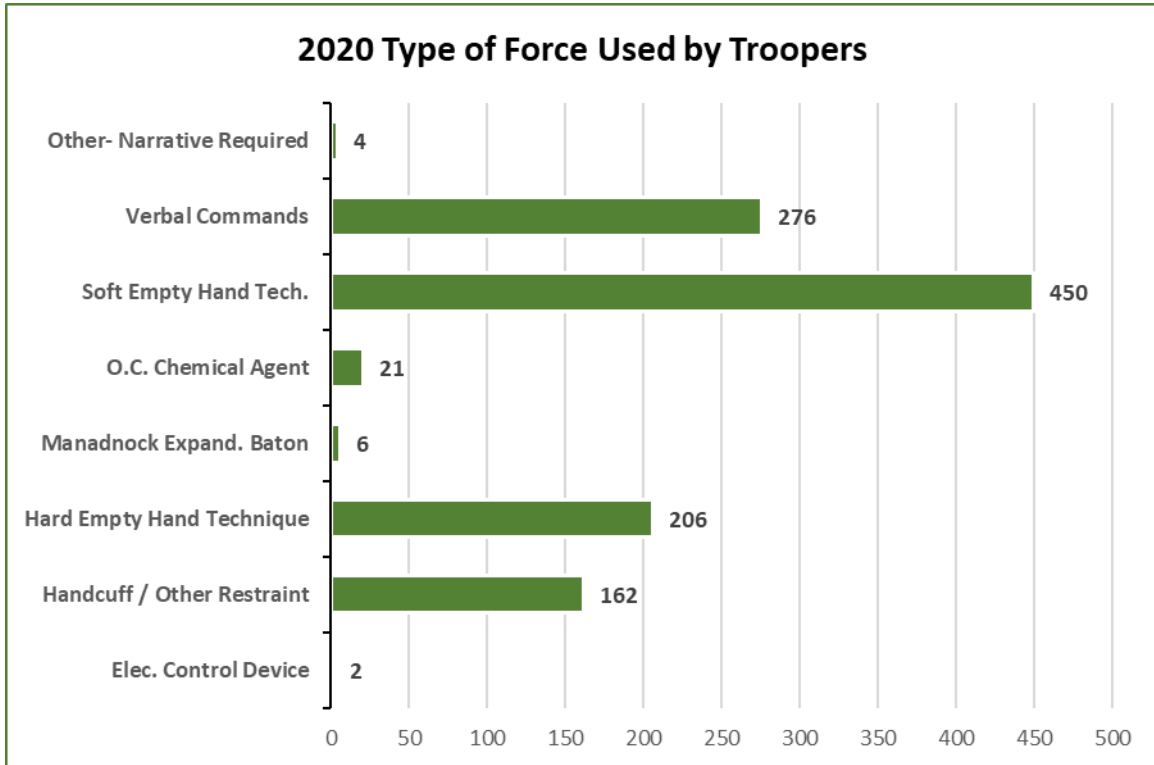
Figure 4a - Use of Force Incidents by Barrack or Unit

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Barracks				
Barrack A – Waterloo	5	4	8	9
Barrack B – Frederick	11	11	10	8
Barrack C – Cumberland	6	7	7	5
Barrack D – Bel Air	14	10	13	6
Barrack E – Salisbury	11	12	17	13
Barrack F – North East	33	29	20	21
Barrack G – Westminster	19	6	7	12
Barrack H – La Plata	5	10	8	3
Barrack I – Easton	16	4	5	15
Barrack J - Annapolis	5	2	4	6
Barrack L – Forestville	9	10	7	18
Barrack M – JFK Highway	9	7	11	8
Barrack N – Rockville	9	10	3	5
Barrack O – Hagerstown	8	10	9	3
Barrack P – Glen Burnie	6	7	6	7
Barrack Q – College Park	10	5	6	11
Barrack R – Golden Ring	8	9	8	9
Barrack S – Centreville	12	14	10	15
Barrack T – Leonardtown	28	28	33	23
Barrack U – Prince Frederick	32	21	25	22
Barrack V – Berlin Barrack	4	5	11	8
Barrack W – McHenry	4	8	2	2
Barrack X – Princess Anne	12	7	5	5
BARRACK SUBTOTAL	276	236	235	234
Other Units	36	25	30	30
TOTAL	312	261	265	*264
	<p>*There were 15 (Each accounts for -1) use of force incidents where troopers from two separate installations used force within the same incident and there was 1 (Accounts for -2) use of force incident where troopers from three separate installations used force (264-17 = 247 USE of FORCE INCIDENTS).</p>			

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

USE OF FORCE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Figure 5 - Type of Force Used



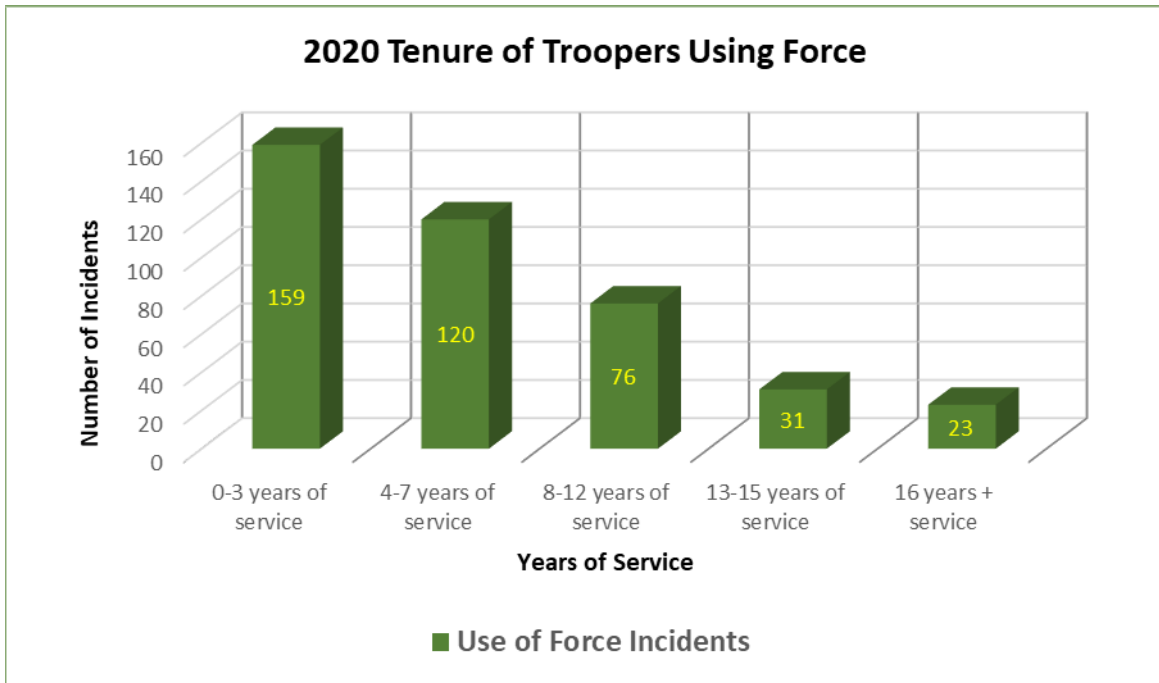
The type of force most commonly used by troopers (40%) involved using soft empty hand techniques.

Soft Empty Hand Technique: Any grab, hold, restraint technique, and/or joint lock used to manipulate another person's body part. Examples of soft empty hand control include escorts, body wraps, come-a-longs, muscling techniques, pressure points (where the application does not include striking; only using your hand or fingers to apply pressure).

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

USE OF FORCE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Figure 6 - Tenure of Troopers Using Force



Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

Figure 6a - Tenure of Troopers Using Force

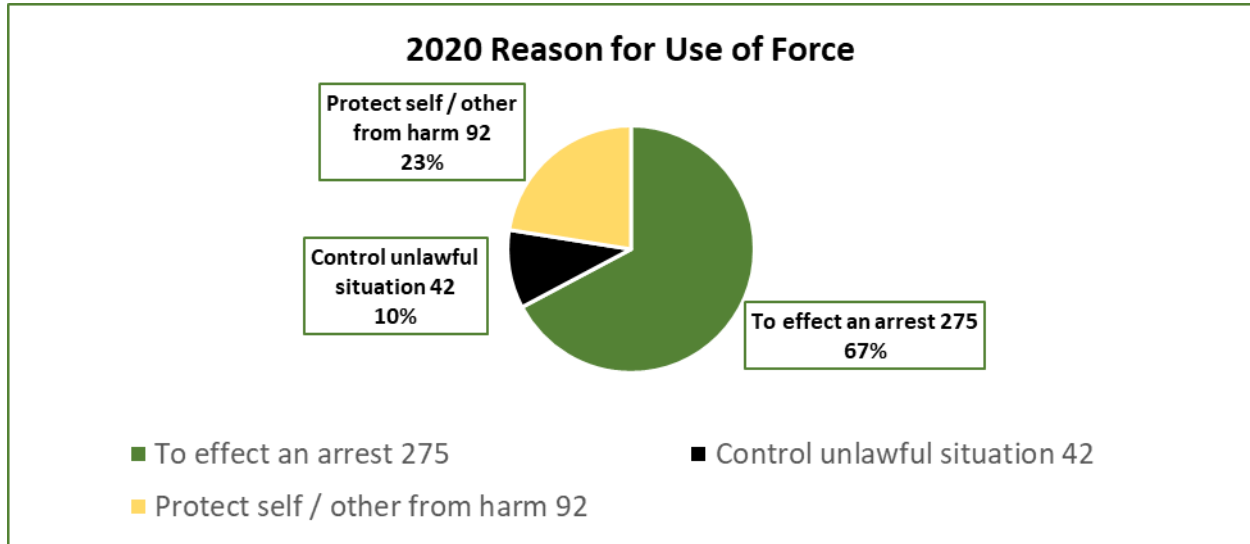
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Years as a Trooper	Number	Number	Number	Number
0 to 3 year	172	125	118	159
4 to 7 years	138	132	108	120
8 to 12 years	80	67	71	76
13 to 15 years	24	23	42	31
16 + years	27	42	38	23
Total Number of Troopers	441	389	377	409

2020 This number accounts for every trooper that reported using force.

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

USE OF FORCE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Figure 7 - Reason for Use of Force



Source - IPro, BlueTeam

Figure 7a - Reason for Use of Force

2020 Reason for Use of Force	
To effect an arrest	275
Control unlawful situation	42
Protect self / other from harm	92
Total Number of Troopers	409
The 2020 numbers are based on the 409 troopers who used force in the 247 incidents.	

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

Figure 8 - Use of Force by Day of Week (247 total Incidents)

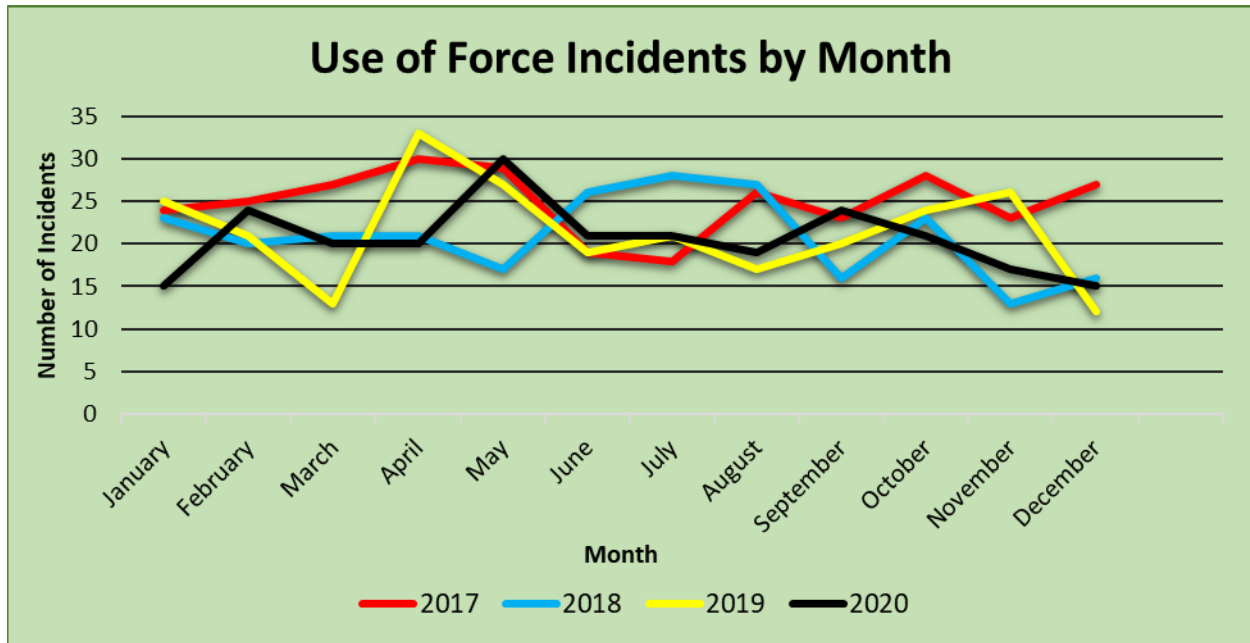
Day of Week	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*
Sunday	48	14%	42	-13%	48	14%	52	8%
Monday	38	3%	48	26%	43	-10%	32	-26%
Tuesday	42	8%	33	-21%	33	0%	20	-39%
Wednesday	30	-32%	20	-33%	29	45%	27	-7%
Thursday	38	6%	40	5%	41	3%	31	-24%
Friday	41	-16%	33	-20%	27	-18%	44	63%
Saturday	63	26%	35	-44%	37	5%	41	11%

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

Source - IPro, 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

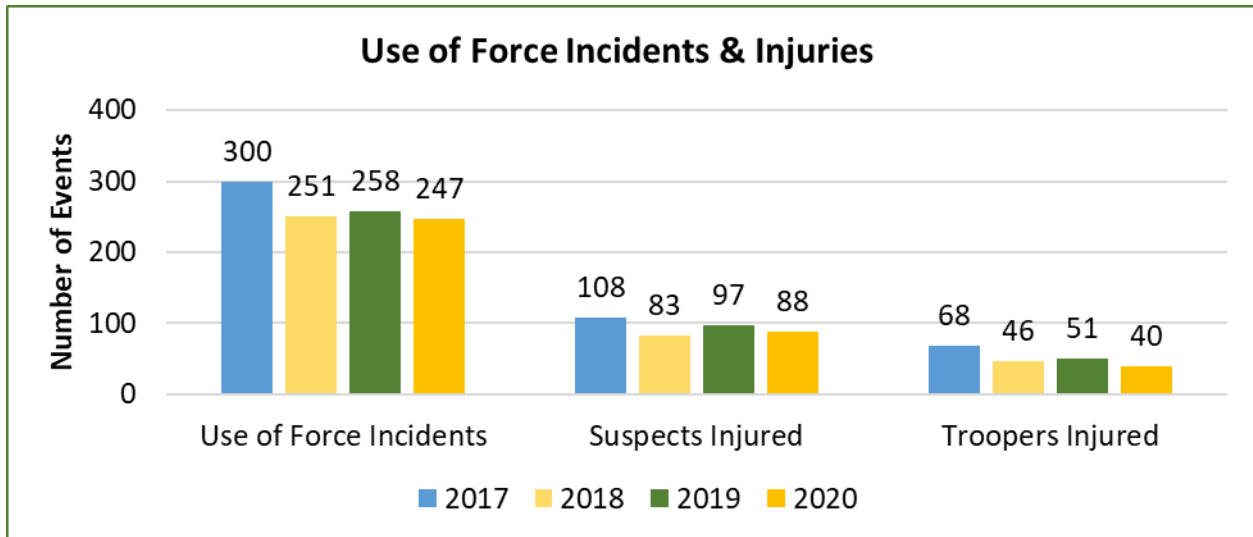
Month	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*
January	24	41%	23	-4%	25	8%	15	-40%
February	25	-14%	20	-20%	21	5%	24	14%
March	27	-13%	21	-22%	13	-38%	20	54%
April	30	43%	21	-30%	33	57%	20	-39%
May	29	-9%	17	-41%	27	58%	30	11%
June	19	-35%	26	37%	19	-26%	21	11%
July	18	-31%	28	56%	21	-25%	21	0%
August	26	-13%	27	4%	17	-37%	19	12%
September	23	5%	16	-30%	20	25%	24	20%
October	29	81%	23	-21%	24	4%	21	-13%
November	23	21%	13	-44%	26	100%	17	-35%
December	27	8%	16	-41%	12	-25%	15	25%

2020 numbers are based on the 247 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 - IAPro, 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.
2017	300	68	24	44
2018	251	46	15	31
2019	258	51	13	38
2020	247	40	9	31

Source - IAPro, 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.
2017	300	108	56	52
2018	251	83	38	45
2019	258	97	51	46
2020	247	88	52	36

In 2020 there were 40 incidents where a suspect had no injury but was taken to the hospital.

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

Use of Force Statistics and Information (Continued)

Figure 11 – Suspect’s Gender

	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
Male	235	-2%	191	-19%	200	5%	197	-2%
Female	67	5%	63	-6%	60	-5%	53	-12 %
Unknown / Other	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
TOTAL	302		254		260		250	

In 2020, there were three separate incidents where force was used on 2 separate citizens (250-3 = 247 total incidents).

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

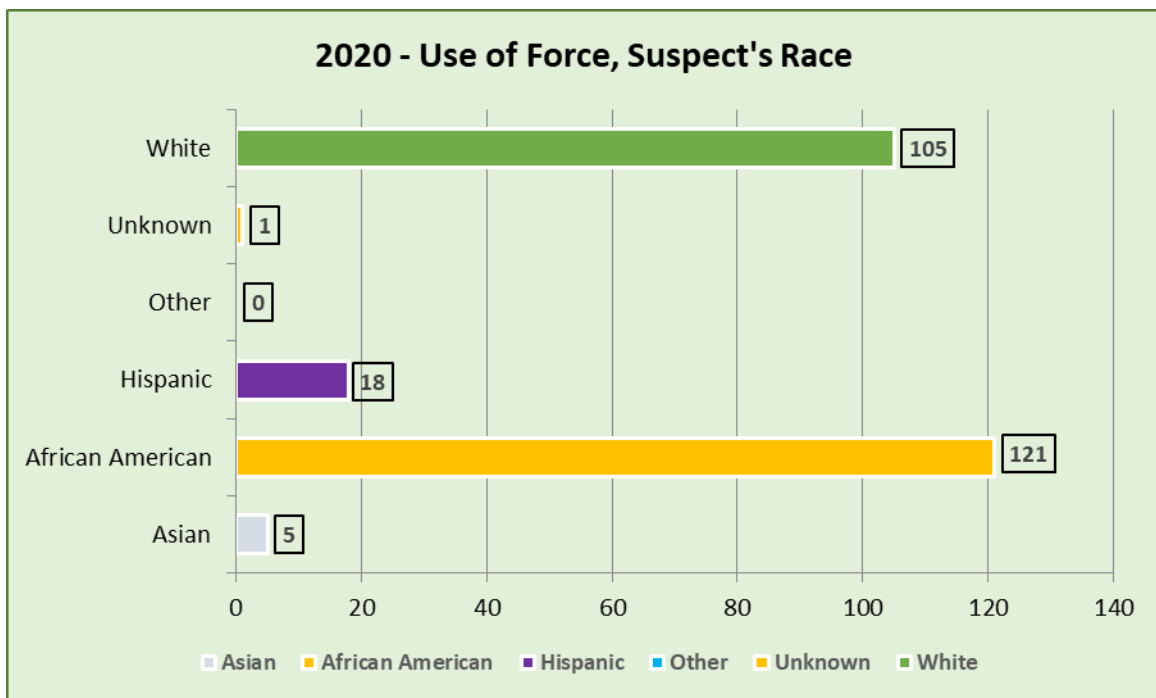


Figure 12 - Suspect's Race

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

Figure 12a - Suspect's Race

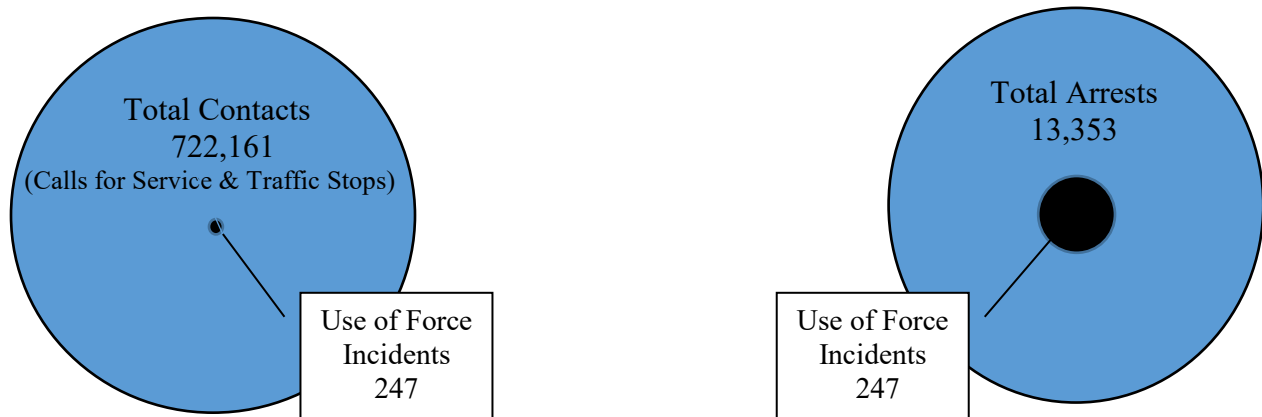
	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
Asian	3	200%	0	-100%	3	300%	5	67%
African American	128	-5%	117	-9%	114	-3%	121	6%
Hispanic	12	33%	10	-17%	9	-10%	18	100%
Other	0	-100%	2	200%	0	-100%	0	0%
Unknown	2	-75%	1	-50%	1	0%	1	0%
White	157	5%	124	-21%	133	7%	105	-21%
TOTAL	302		254		260		250	

In 2020, there were three separate incidents where force was used on 2 separate citizens (250-3= 247 total incidents).

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

Use of Force Statistics and Information (Continued)

Figure 13 - Use of Force 2020 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

The Office of Legal Counsel advised there were no current lawsuits resulting from use of force incidents that occurred during 2020. However, this number is subject to change as litigants have three years to file a lawsuit.

PART VIII - RESPONDING TO MEDIA AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

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

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.

PART X - DEADLY FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

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 Division Commander.

PART XI - COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY

A review of the use of force incidents in 2020 (247 incidents) revealed that out of the 409 troopers who used force, 408 were found justified and in conformance with the MSP use of force policy. One incident is still pending an administrative investigation.

PART XII - SUMMARY

The use of force rate has remained relatively consistent over the last three years. In 2020, use of force was applied in .03% of all contacts (calls for service and traffic stops) and in 1.8% 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

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 acknowledges in order to be an effective 21st century law enforcement agency, an investment in technology is a necessity. In 2017, the Department evaluated two separate in-car camera systems in an effort to identify the most suitable technology. In 2018, the Department selected, procured and began installing 200 in-car camera systems. As of January 2021, 406 in-car camera systems have been installed in vehicles across 22 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.) Additional in-car camera installations will occur throughout CY 21. The completion of this next phase will bring the total number of in-car camera units to approximately 540.