



USE OF FORCE

Annual Review & Analysis

A REVIEW OF USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

By members of the

MARYLAND STATE POLICE

Between

JANUARY 1, 2021 - DECEMBER 31, 2021

Prepared by:

MSP Use of Force Committee
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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 be objectively reasonable. As part of the Maryland State Police's (MSP's) 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). In cases where excessive force is alleged, the IAD independently investigates each case.

The MSP understands accountability and transparency are necessary elements in building confidence and trust between police agencies and the community. While the MSP is proud of our efforts to address use of force issues, the MSP remains committed to the idea of continuous self-improvement. The Agency's use of force policy (OPS 10.03) was updated in August 2020 in order to comply with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) standards and law enforcement's national best practices. Prohibiting chokeholds and requiring de-escalation techniques were a few of the changes made, reflecting the Department's commitment towards self-improvement.

PART II - INTRODUCTION

Troopers are permitted to employ force, including deadly force, when necessary and in accordance with law and MSP 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 annual in-service training focused on employing an objectively reasonable amount of force when necessary, pursuant to [OPS 10.03](#). Integral components of training programs include verbal commands, de-escalation techniques, and the use of less lethal options. Use of these techniques can help safely diffuse situations that may otherwise escalate and require 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, disciplinary action, and may result in criminal prosecution or civil litigation.

This report, required by 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 E-tix data from within Delta+. The IAPro data was compiled 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.

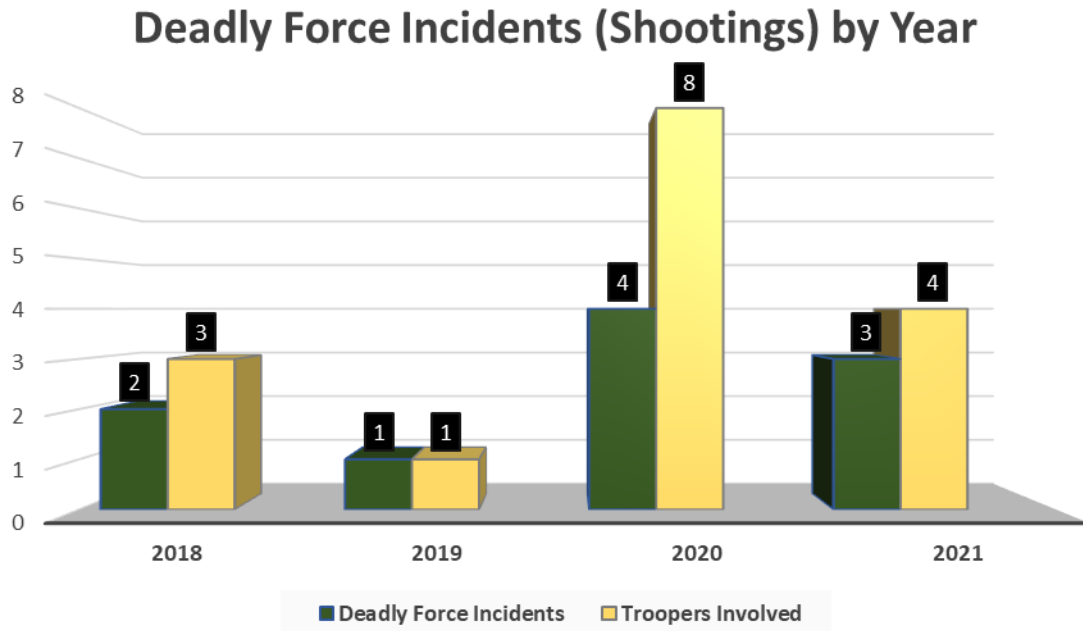
For this report, it is important to understand the difference between an "incident" and a "trooper who used force." The term "incident" refers to the number of times/situations where either a one or more troopers used force against a suspect. At times, a single incident could involve two or more troopers who used 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 2021:

- Troopers reported a total of 285 use of force incidents in 2021 compared to 247 in 2020
- Out of the 285 use of force incidents, 460 troopers used force
- According to the CAD (calls for service) and E-tix (traffic stops), force was used by troopers in .04 % of all citizen contacts
- Troopers used force in 1.9% of all arrests (15,036 arrests)
- Making an arrest (or attempting to make an arrest) accounted for the majority of all use of force incidents (67%)
- Troopers with 0-7 years tenure represented 66% of personnel who used force
- The type of force most commonly used by troopers (38%) involved using soft empty hand techniques
- The majority of use of force incidents (88%) were reported by barrack personnel
- The Leonardtown (33), Prince Frederick (22) and Salisbury (22) Barracks reported the most use of force incidents
- African American, Caucasian and Hispanic suspects accounted for the most use of force incidents at 47%, 45% and 6%, respectively
- 73% of use of force incidents involved males
- In comparison to 2020, troopers who sustained injuries during use of force incidents increased by 73%
- In comparison to 2020, suspects who sustained injuries during use of force incidents increased by 30%
- Troopers reported being injured in 25% of all use of force incidents and were treated at a hospital in 6% of the total incidents
- Suspects were injured in 40% of all use of force incidents and were treated at a hospital in 18% of the total incidents
- There were 13 complaints of excessive force involving 16 troopers in 2021, compared to 9 complaints of excessive force involving 18 troopers in 2020
- Deadly force was used in 3 incidents in 2021, compared to 4 incidents in 2020

Figure 1 - Deadly Force Incidents



Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

Figure 1a - Deadly Force Incidents (Shootings)

Year	Number of Incidents	Troopers Involved *	Outcome	Conformed to Policy
2018	2	3	All - Justified	All - Yes
2019	1	1	All - Justified	All - Yes
2020	4	8	All - Justified	All - Yes
2021	3	4	1 Justified – 2 Pending	*
*Troopers Involved” includes only those who discharged their weapon. * 1-Conformed / 2 Pending				

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

PART V - COMPLAINTS OF EXCESSIVE FORCE

Figure 2 - Excessive Force Complaints

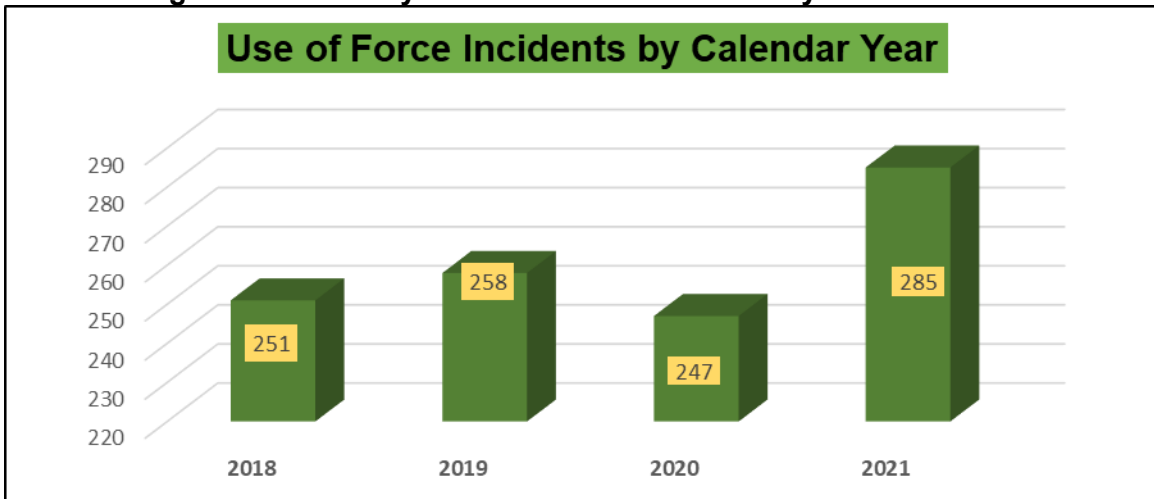
Year	Number of Complaints	Number of Involved Troopers	Outcome
2018	11	14	6 Unfounded, 4 Non-Sustained, 1 Withdrawn
2019	8	12	5 Unfounded, 1 Non-Sustained, 2 Sustained
2020	9	18	*8 Unfounded, *3 Non-Sustained
2021	13	16	9 Unfounded, 1 Non-Sustained, 3 Pending

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.
 * 2020 had one case that involved 3 troopers; 2 troopers' Excessive Force complaints were Non-Sustained and 1 trooper's complaint was Unfounded.

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

PART VI - USE OF FORCE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION

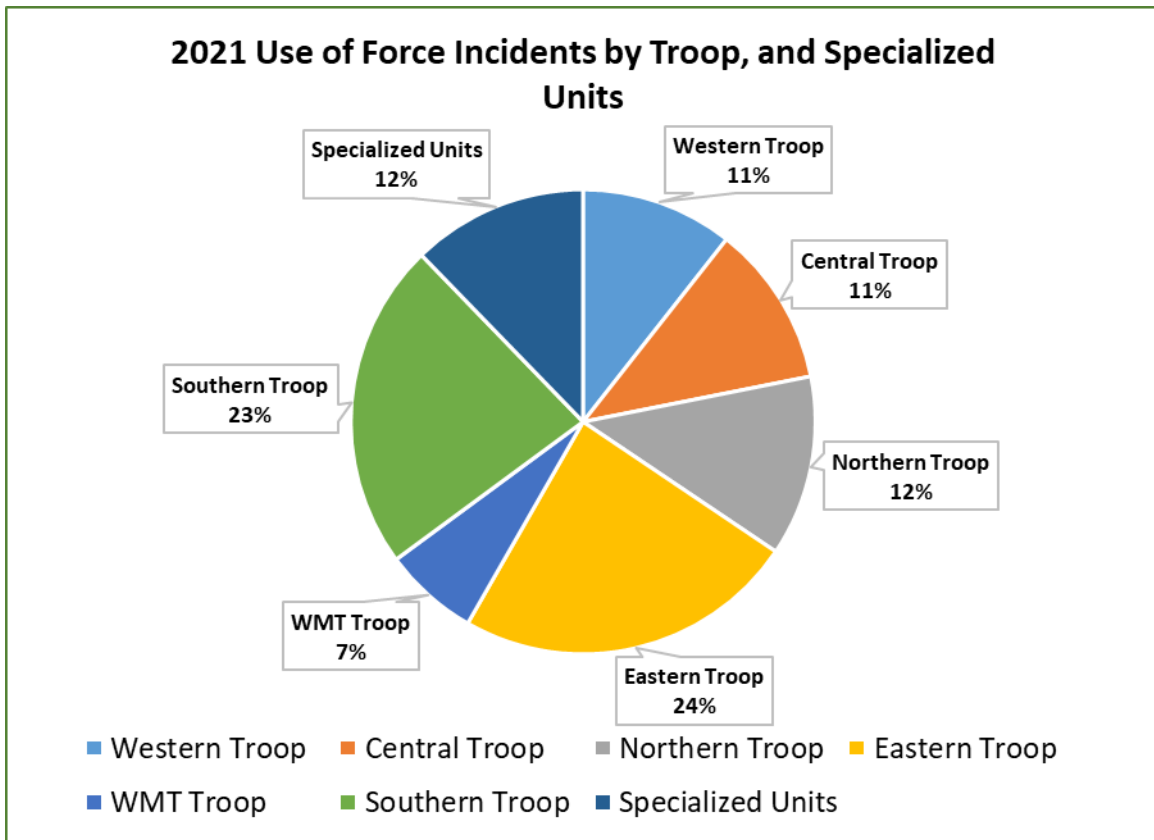
Figure 3 - Summary of Use of Force Incidents by Calendar Year



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)

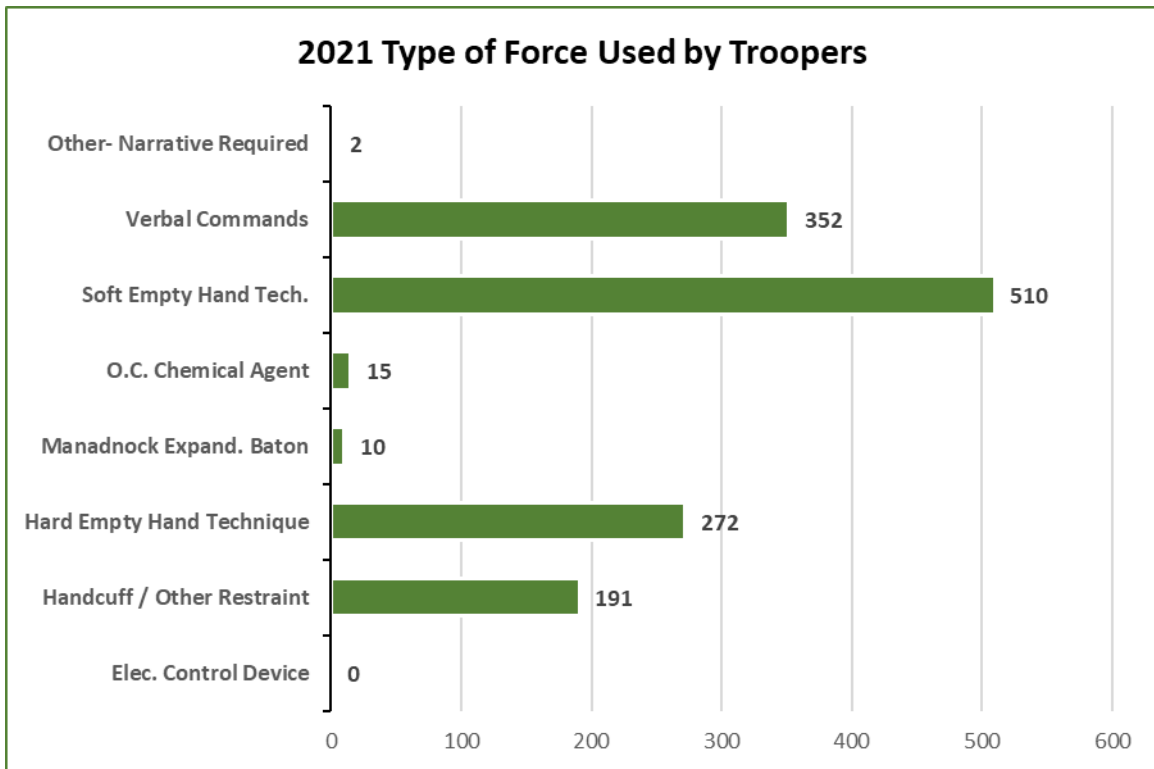
Figure 4a - Use of Force Incidents by Barrack or Unit

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Barracks				
Barrack A – Waterloo	4	8	9	8
Barrack B – Frederick	11	10	8	9
Barrack C – Cumberland	7	7	5	9
Barrack D – Bel Air	10	13	6	14
Barrack E – Salisbury	12	17	13	22
Barrack F – North East	29	20	21	17
Barrack G – Westminster	6	7	12	12
Barrack H – La Plata	10	8	3	4
Barrack I – Easton	4	5	15	20
Barrack J – Annapolis	2	4	6	5
Barrack L – Forestville	10	7	18	8
Barrack M – JFK Highway	7	11	8	7
Barrack N – Rockville	10	3	5	8
Barrack O – Hagerstown	10	9	3	12
Barrack P – Glen Burnie	7	6	7	5
Barrack Q – College Park	5	6	11	4
Barrack R – Golden Ring	9	8	9	14
Barrack S – Centreville	14	10	15	10
Barrack T – Leonardtown	28	33	23	33
Barrack U – Prince Frederick	21	25	22	22
Barrack V – Berlin Barrack	5	11	8	12
Barrack W – McHenry	8	2	2	2
Barrack X – Princess Anne	7	5	5	9
BARRACK SUBTOTAL	236	235	234	266
Other Units	25	30	30	37
TOTAL	261	265	264	303
	<p>There were 15 use of force incidents where troopers from two or more separate installations used force within the same incident and there were three use of force incidents where troopers from three separate installations used force within the same incident (303-18 = 285 Use of Force Incidents).</p>			

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

USE OF FORCE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Figure 5 - Type of Force Used



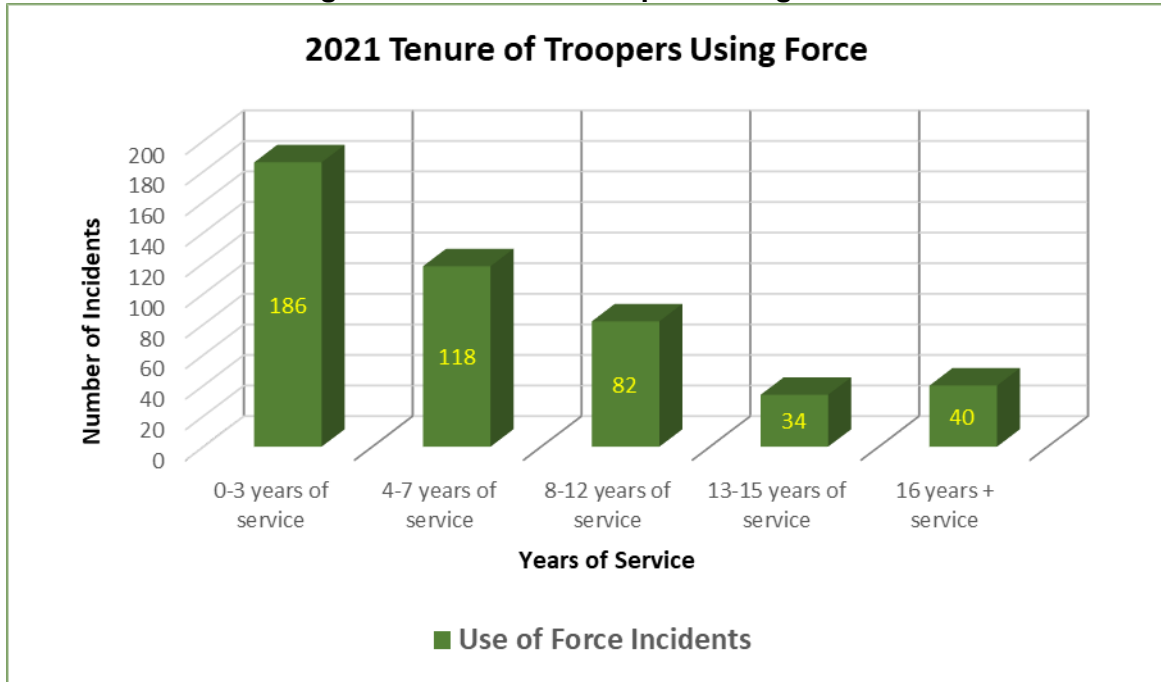
The type of force most commonly used by troopers (38%) involved using soft empty hand techniques.

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

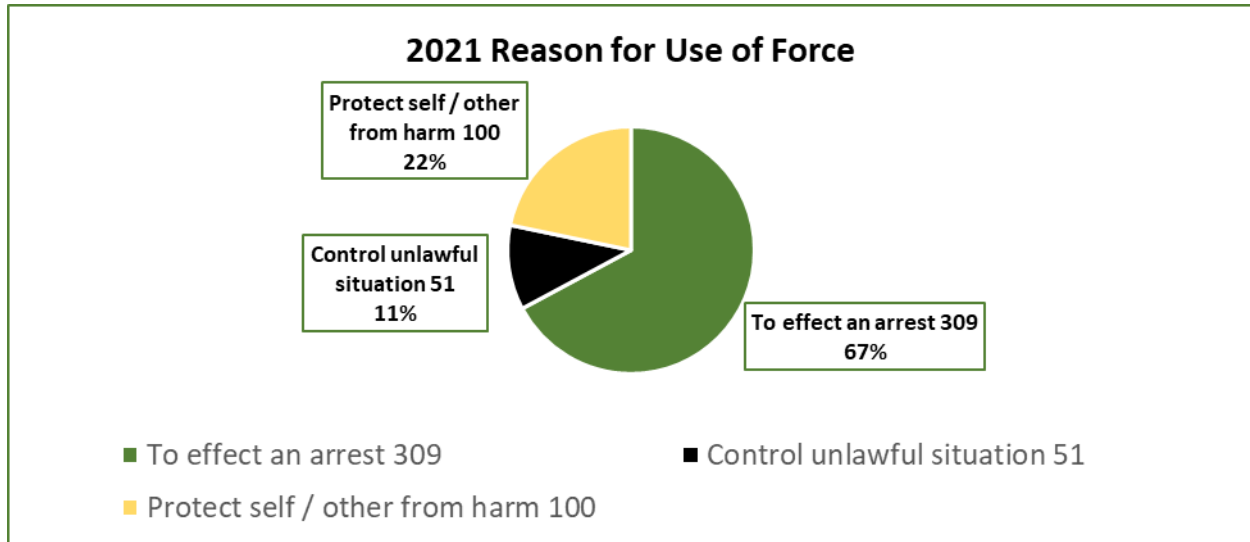
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Years as a Trooper	Number	Number	Number	Number
0 to 3 year	125	118	159	186
4 to 7 years	132	108	120	118
8 to 12 years	67	71	76	82
13 to 15 years	23	42	31	34
16 + years	42	38	23	40
Total Number of Troopers	389	377	409	460

The 2021 numbers account 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 - IAPro, BlueTeam

Figure 7a - Reason for Use of Force

2021 Reason for Use of Force	
To effect an arrest	309
Control unlawful situation	51
Protect self / other from harm	100
Total Number of Troopers	460
The 2021 numbers are based on the 460 troopers who used force in the 285 incidents.	

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

Figure 8 - Use of Force by Day of Week (285 total Incidents)

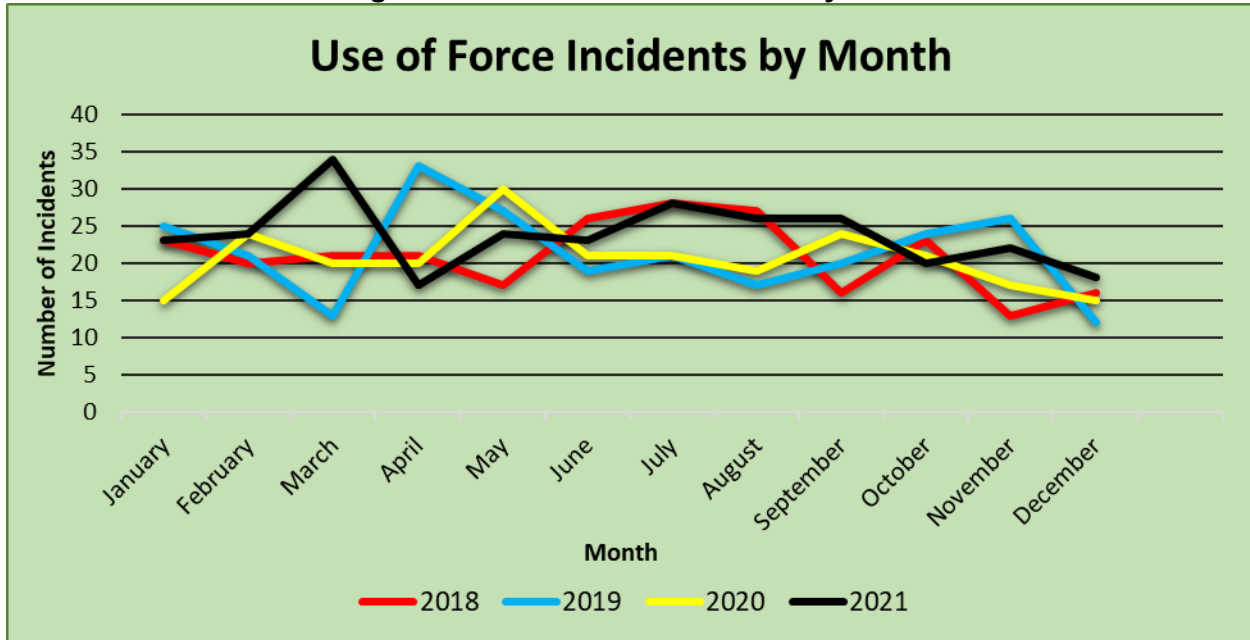
Day of Week	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*
Sunday	42	-13%	48	14%	52	8%	45	-13%
Monday	48	26%	43	-10%	32	-26%	37	16%
Tuesday	33	-21%	33	0%	20	-39%	34	70%
Wednesday	20	-33%	29	45%	27	-7%	45	67%
Thursday	40	5%	41	3%	31	-24%	31	0%
Friday	33	-20%	27	-18%	44	63%	43	-2%
Saturday	35	-44%	37	5%	41	11%	50	22%

*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

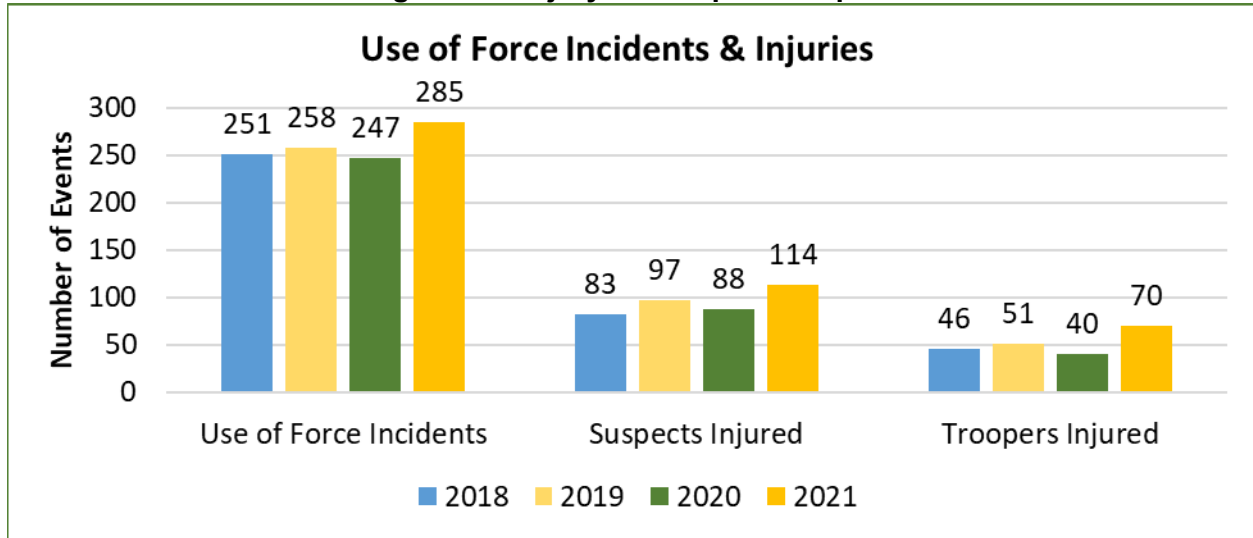
Month	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change*	Number	% Change**	Number	% Change*
January	23	-4%	25	8%	15	-40%	23	53%
February	20	-20%	21	5%	24	14%	23	-4%
March	21	-22%	13	-38%	20	54%	34	70%
April	21	-30%	33	57%	20	-39%	17	-15%
May	17	-41%	27	58%	30	11%	24	-20%
June	26	37%	19	-26%	21	11%	23	10%
July	28	56%	21	-25%	21	0%	28	33%
August	27	4%	17	-37%	19	12%	26	37%
September	16	-30%	20	25%	24	20%	26	8%
October	23	-21%	24	4%	21	-13%	20	-5%
November	13	-44%	26	100%	17	-35%	22	29%
December	16	-41%	12	-25%	15	25%	19	27%

The 2021 numbers are based on the 285 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.
2018	251	46	15	31
2019	258	51	13	38
2020	247	40	9	31
2021	285	70	18	52

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.
2018	251	83	38	45
2019	258	97	51	46
2020	247	88	52	36
2021	285	114	51	63

In 2021 there were 56 incidents where a suspect had no injury but was taken to the hospital.

Source - IAPro, BlueTeam

Use of Force Statistics and Information (Continued)

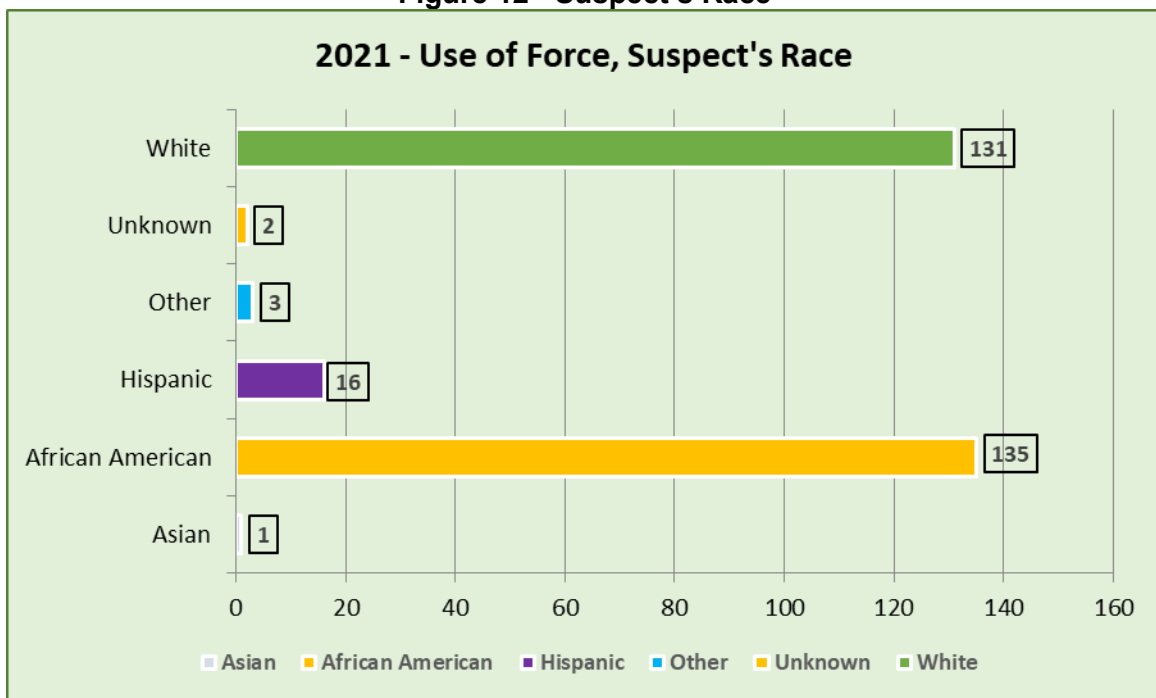
Figure 11 – Suspect’s Gender

	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
Male	191	-19%	200	5%	197	-2%	210	7%
Female	63	-6%	60	-5%	53	-12 %	78	47%
Unknown / Other	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	0%
TOTAL	254		260		250		288	

In 2021, there were three separate incidents where force was used on 2 separate citizens (288-3 = 285 total incidents).

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

Figure 12 - Suspect’s Race



Source - IPro, BlueTeam

Figure 12a - Suspect’s Race

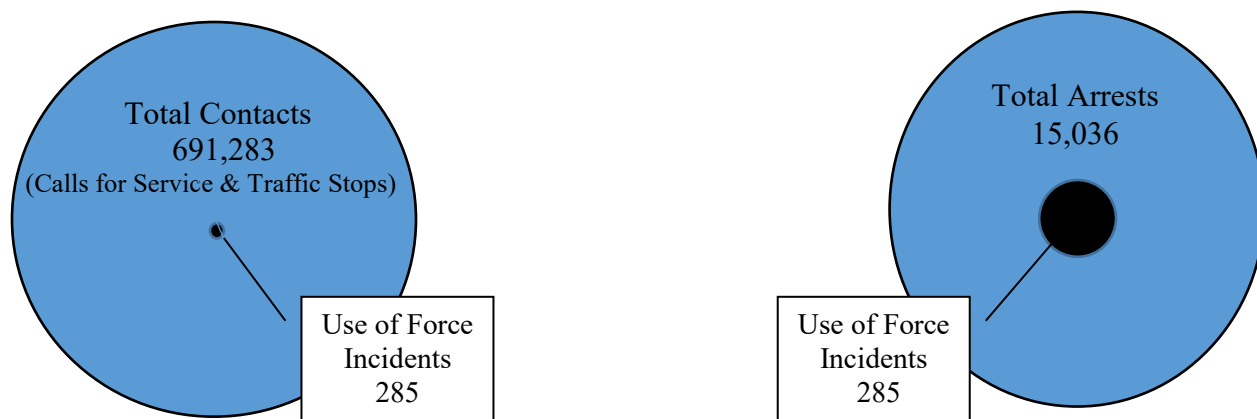
	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
Asian	0	-100%	3	300%	5	67%	1	-80%
African American	117	-9%	114	-3%	121	6%	135	12%
Hispanic	10	-17%	9	-10%	18	100%	16	-11%
Other **	2	200%	0	-100%	0	0%	3	300%
Unknown	1	-50%	1	0%	1	0%	2	100%
White	124	-21%	133	7%	105	-21%	131	25%
TOTAL	254		260		250		288	

In 2021, there were three separate incidents where force was used on 2 separate citizens (288-3= 285 total incidents).

Source - IPro, BlueTeam

Use of Force Statistics and Information (Continued)

Figure 13 - Use of Force 2020 Statistical Comparisons



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

Part VII - USE OF FORCE LITIGATION AND OUTCOMES

The Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) advised there were two pending lawsuits resulting from use of force incidents in 2021. However, that number is subject to change as litigants have three years to file a tort claim.

PART VIII - RESPONDING TO MEDIA AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Office of Media Communications (OMC) remains engaged with media and community groups. The OMC issues news releases regarding each deadly force incident. 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 OMC 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, MSP 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 use of force incidents.

PART IX - USE OF FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Use of Force Review Committee is comprised of the Use of Force Committee chairman, the commander of the IAD, a representative from the Support Services Bureau, a representative from the Criminal Investigative Bureau, the Commander of the ETD, a member of the ETD's Physical Skills Unit, and an Assistant Attorney General assigned to the OLC. The 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 Committee is comprised of the chief of staff, all bureau chiefs, the ETD commander, and the Human Resources Division commander.

PART XI - COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY

A review of the 285 use of force incidents in 2021 revealed that out of the 460 troopers who used force, 459 were found justified and in conformance with the MSP use of force policy. One incident was found to be justified but in non-conformance.

PART XII - SUMMARY

The use of force rate has remained relatively consistent over the last three years. In 2021, use of force was applied in .04% of all contacts (calls for service and traffic stops) and in 1.9% 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 use of force was necessary, the data reflects troopers most often used soft open hand techniques.

The MSP is committed to ensuring the safety of the public, its troopers, and to making Maryland a safer place to live, work and visit. The information gleaned in this report suggests troopers are using reasonable amounts of force necessary to effect arrests and overcome 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.

3. The Department acknowledges that in order to be an effective law enforcement agency in the 21st century, 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. During CY21, in-car camera systems were deployed to the Pro-active Criminal Enforcement (PACE) Team and the State Police Impaired Driving Reduction Effort (SPIDRE) team as well as the JFK Highway Barrack. As of January 2022, 550 in-car camera systems have been installed in vehicles across 23 barracks to troopers holding the rank of lieutenant and below (note: the MSP originally developed a tiered in-car camera deployment schedule based upon the barracks with the most frequent uses of force; this has now expanded across the state). Additional in-car camera installations will occur throughout CY22. The completion of this next phase will bring the total number of in-car camera units to approximately 665.

RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

4. Pursuant to Senate bill 71 requirements regarding the deployment of body worn cameras (BWC) by July 2023, the Department developed the following plan.

- * Policy and Training updates to meet MPCTC guidelines
- * Procurement process of 965 BWC
- * Deployment schedule to include a Pilot Program
- * BWC deployment is anticipated to begin April 2022
- * BWC deployment completion estimated by October 2022.
- * Deployment rollout will include the following:
 - *Automotive Safety Enforcement Division (ASED)
 - *Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (CVED)
 - * Field Operations Bureau (FOB)
 - * PACE
 - * Special Operations Division (SOD)
 - * SPIDRE