



2018 4.2.4 a-e

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
INFORMATIONAL MEMO

TO: SGT. ROBERT DOCHLER; D.C. JILL SCHLUDE; CHIEF GEOFF JONES 

CC: SGT. SCOTT ALPERS

FROM: SGT. CLINTON SINCLAIR 

REF: 2018 USE OF FORCE ANNUAL ANALYSIS

DATE: May 6, 2019

The following report was completed for compliance with CALEA standards (4.2.4) regarding analysis of 2018 Columbia Police Department uses of force. The CALEA standard for analysis of use of force is as follows:

Annually, the agency conducts an analysis of its use of force activities, policies, and practices. The analysis should identify:

- a. date and time of incident;
- b. types of encounters resulting in use of force;
- c. trends or patterns related to race, age, and gender of subjects involved;
- d. trends or patterns resulting in injury to any person including employees; and
- e. impact of findings on policies, practices, equipment, and training.

This report collected substantial amounts of data for analysis. Nearly all information required in CALEA standards is being collected in data entry points via Blue Team, with the exception of "types of encounters resulting in use of force" which is usually described in the officer narrative portion of the entry.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to review and analyze incidents involving response to resistance or use of force, hereafter referred to as use of force, by all officers of the Columbia Police Department which occurred in 2018. The analysis will include identification of any patterns, trends, or concerns, if any, which could be indicative of training shortfalls, equipment needs, or policy revision and modification needs.

Methodology:

This analysis was conducted by reviewing all Columbia Police Department use of force reports entered via Blue Team software as well as any internal or external allegations/complaints of excessive or unreasonable force¹. Policy 300 Use of Force/Response to Resistance was also reviewed. Due to this department's self-assessment process, Policy 300.16 was revised to include the requirement of an annual analysis of use of force in compliance with CALEA standard 4.2.4. In addition to the

¹ The review analyzed completed entries. A handful of the uses of force entries are pending final chain of command approval. It does not appear they will impact the findings of this report.

inclusion of CALEA standards, Policy 300 underwent other revisions related to reporting requirements as well as updates to wording and language more consistent with United States Supreme Court case law and widely accepted reasonableness standards.

Policy 300.13 outlines the reporting requirements when a use of force or response to resistance occurs. Reporting is required in the following circumstances:

1. Joint Manipulation;
2. Kinetic Energy Impact Device;
3. Armored Personnel Carrier Deployment;
4. Strikes;
5. Canine Display;
6. Canine Bite;
7. Pepper Spray;
8. Handcuffing (in which the person is not subsequently arrested; removed in 2019 revision);
9. Taser Laser/Arc Display;
10. Taser Deployment/Drive Stun;
11. Balance Displacement;
12. Pressure Point Technique;
13. Drawing/Exhibiting Firearm;
14. Firearm Discharge (outside of training or recreational purpose; humane killing of animal removed in 2019 revision and excluded in this report);
15. Other Physical Force.

Several levels of review are in place to ensure proper oversight and evaluation of use of force by officers. Policy 300.13.1 dictates the first level of reporting with required notification to a supervisor if:

- a. The application [of force] caused a visible injury;
- b. A reasonable officer would conclude that the individual may have experienced more than a momentary discomfort;
- c. Subject complained of injury;
- d. The subject indicates intent to pursue litigation;
- e. Application of CEW device or control device;
- f. Application of restraint device other than handcuffs, shackles, or belly chains;
- g. Subject was rendered unconscious;
- h. Strikes or kicks were used;
- i. Subject alleges any of the above.

In the above mentioned instances, supervisors are typically contacted reasonably soon after the applied force and conduct a preliminary use of force investigation. The preliminary investigation can be conducted at the scene, hospital, police department, or jail. The preliminary investigation gathers basic information about the incident, injuries, and circumstances surrounding the use of force from both the officer(s) involved and the subject(s) of the force. Officers report uses of force via Blue Team software. The incident is forwarded through the officer's chain of command for determinations of propriety. If the force applied is deemed reasonable and within policy, no further action is taken. If a member of the chain of command determines the force to be unreasonable, outside of policy, or warrants further review for any reason, the incident is forwarded to the Internal Affairs Unit for investigation. Citizen allegations of unreasonable or excessive force are forwarded directly to the Internal Affairs Unit.

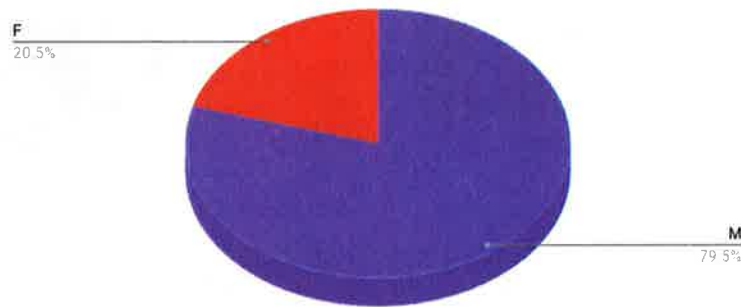
Summary:

In 2018, members of the Columbia Police Department generated 435 Use of Force Reports (Blue Team entries). The 435 reports included incidents with: multiple officers, multiple citizens, and multiple applications of force. The 435 incidents where force was used involved 130 different officers. Officers listed as “witness” to a use of force were excluded. 204 incidents involved multiple officers, while 66 incidents involved multiple citizens. The department made 5,613 arrests in 2018.

Demographic and Category Highlights:

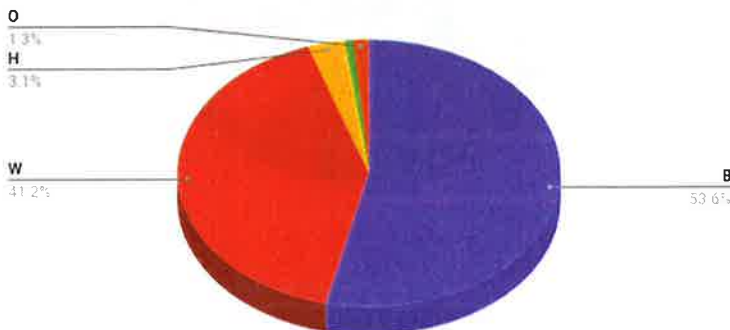
- The average age of our 169 officers is 36.9 years of age².
- The average time of experience of our 169 officers is 9.1 years of service².
- 79.5% of all force used involved male citizens, 20.5% were female.

Gender Percentage

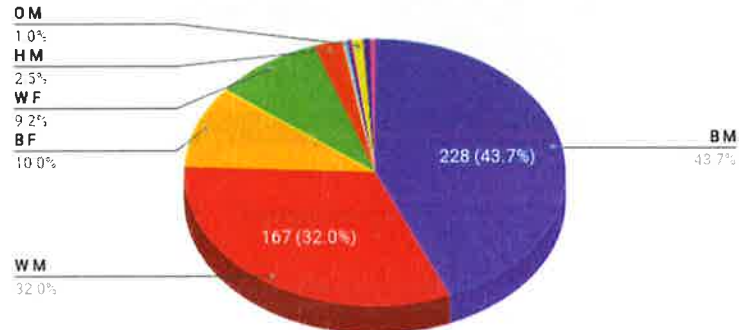


- Breaking down race into Asian, Black, Hispanic, Other, and White yielded the following results: 53.6% (280) of force was used on Black citizens, 41.2% (215) on White citizens, 3.1% (16) on Hispanic citizens, 1.3% (7) on “Other”, and .8% (4) on Asian citizens.

Race Percentage



Race and Gender Percentage

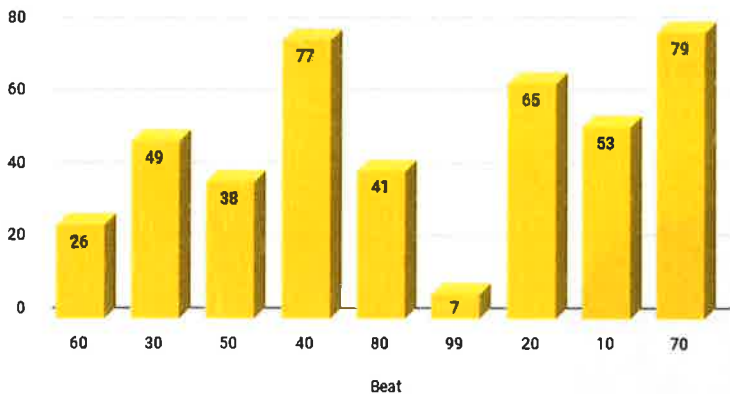


- The average age of involved citizen was 30.8 years of age. The youngest age of an involved citizen was 9 years old; the oldest was 75 years old.

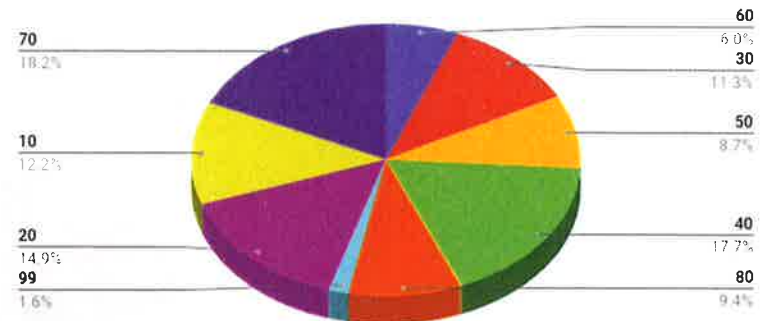
² Averages based on all sworn personnel with any active status during 2018 calendar year.

- Location of occurrence was broken down by beats into: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, and 99 for outside the city limits. Beat 70 saw the highest reports of force at seventy-nine (79). Beat 40 was second highest at seventy-seven (77). 20 beat reported sixty-five (65) force reports and 10 beat had fifty-three (53) reports. Beat 30 reported forty-nine (49) and Beat 80 forty-one (41). Beat 50 and Beat 30 reported thirty-eight (38) and twenty-six (26) respectively. Seven (7) uses of force occurred outside the city limits³.

Count of Beat

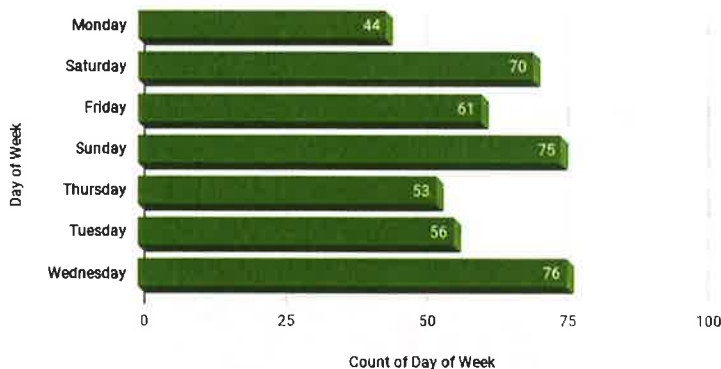


Count of Beat



- The day of the week count for use of force incidents occurred most frequently on Wednesday at seventy-six (76), followed by Sunday at seventy-five (75) and Saturday at seventy (70). The remaining day of the week count was Friday at sixty-one (61), Tuesday at fifty-six (56), Thursday at fifty-three (53), and Monday at forty-four (44).

Count of Day of Week



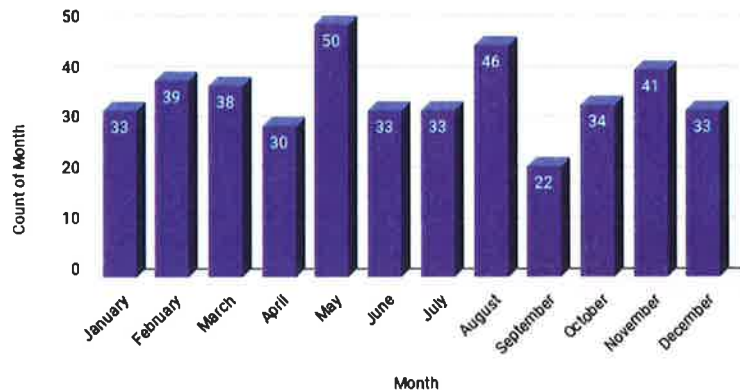
Count of Day of Week



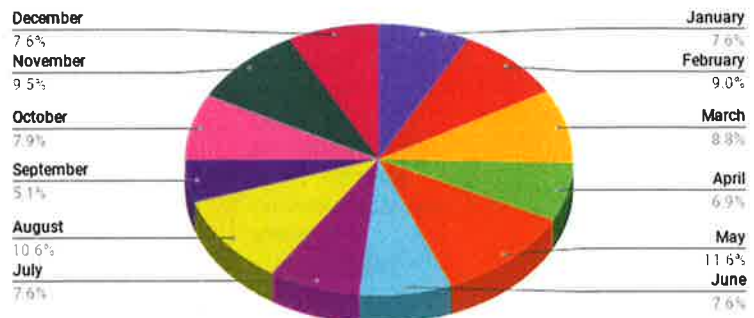
- The use of force reports indicates the highest month for incidents was May at fifty (50). This was followed by August at forty-six (46) and November at forty-one (41). February and March reported thirty-nine (39) and thirty-eight (38) respectively. Thirty-four (34) were reported in October. January, June, July, and December had thirty-three (33) incidents each. April had thirty (30) and September was the lowest at twenty-two (22).

³ Includes force used inside the Boone County Jail by a CPD officer.

Count of Month

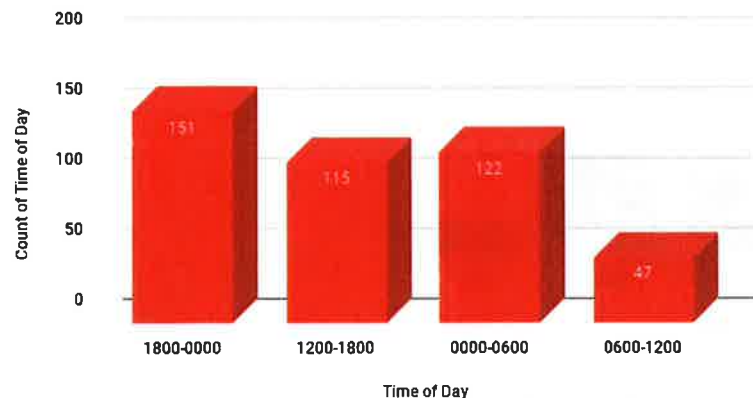


Count of Month

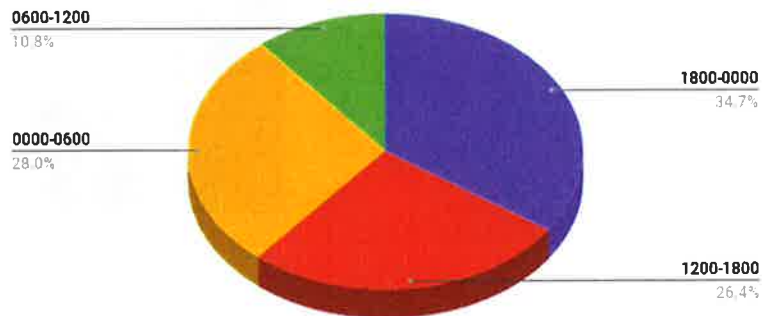


- Time of day was broken into four time frames: 0600 hours-1200 hours (6:00 am-12:00 pm), 1200 hours-1800 hours (12:00 pm- 6:00 pm), 1800 hours-0000 hours (6:00 pm- 12:00 am), 0000 hours-0600 hours (12:00 am- 6:00 am). The highest number of reported force occurred between 1800 hours and 0000 hours at one hundred fifty-one (151) reports. One hundred twenty-two (122) were reported between 0000 hours and 0600 hours. 1200 hours-1800 hours reported one hundred fifteen (115) instances of force and forty-seven (47) were reported from 0600 hours to 1200 hours.

Count of Time of Day

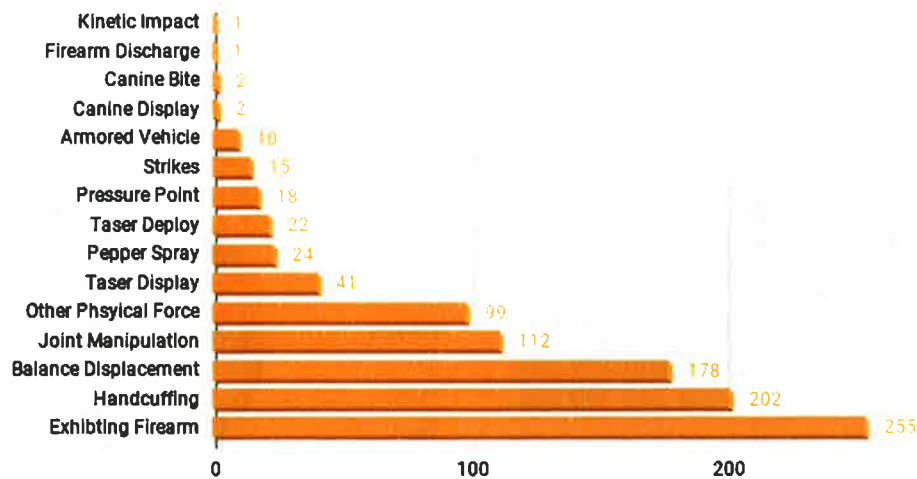


Count of Time of Day



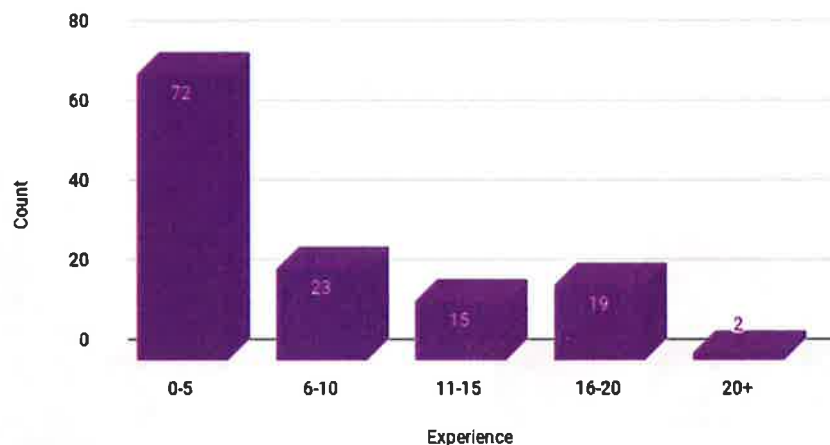
- Type of force breakdown: joint manipulation: one hundred twelve (112); kinetic energy impact device: one (1); armored personnel carrier deployment: ten (10); strikes: fifteen (15); canine display: two (2); handcuffing: two hundred two (202); pepper spray: twenty-four (24); canine bite: two (2); Taser laser/arc display: forty-one (41); balance displacement: one hundred seventy-eight (178); Taser deploy/drive stun: twenty-two (22); drawing/exhibiting firearm: two hundred fifty-five (255); firearm discharge (other than humane killing of animal): one (1); pressure point technique: eighteen (18); other physical force: ninety-nine (99).

Types of Force Used



- Of all sworn department members who used force at least once in 2018⁴: seventy-two (72) had 0-5 years of experience, twenty-three (23) had 6-10 years of experience, fifteen (15) had 11-15 years of experience, nineteen (19) had 16-20 years of experience, and two (2) had 20+ years of experience.

Experience vs. Incidents

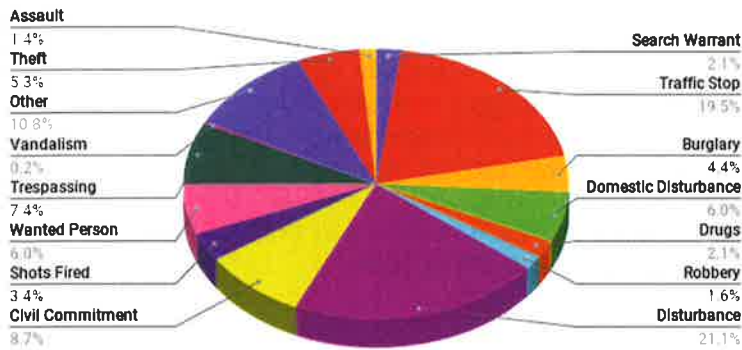


- Of the officers who used force in 2018, sixty-one (61) were involved in 1-5 incidents, forty-three (43) were involved in 6-10, twelve (12) were involved 11-15 incidents, nine (9) in 16-20 incidents, and six (6) officers used force more than 20 times.
- The age breakdown of officers who used force in 2018 is as follows: Age 21-29: 40 officers, used force 367 times. Age 30-35: 40 officers, used force 308 times. Age 36-40: 15 officers, used force 116 times. Age 41-45: 18 officers, used force 96 times. Age 46 and older: 17 officers, used force 79 times.

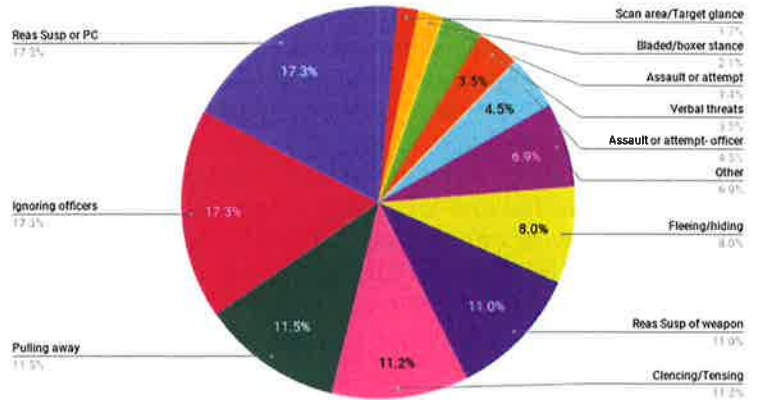
⁴ Only considers time at the Columbia Police Department. Prior law enforcement experience not considered.

- Disturbance calls and traffic stops resulted in the most applications of force. Disturbance calls accounted for 21.1% of all forced used in 2018. Traffic stops accounted for 19.5%. Reasonable Suspicious/Probable Cause and Ignoring Officers accounted for the highest reason for use of force, both at 17.3%

Nature

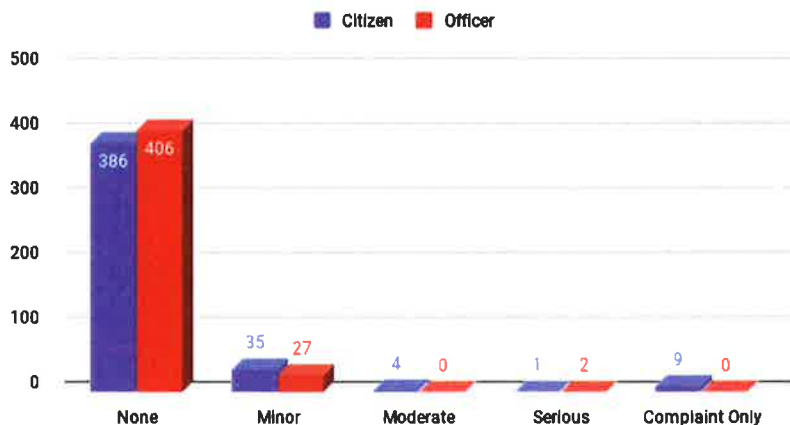


Reason for Force



- Injuries to citizens ranging from complaint only to serious in the 435 force reports totaled forty-nine (49). Injury to officer ranging from complaint only to serious totaled twenty-nine (29). The serious injury to a citizen consisted of a gunshot wound during an officer-involved shooting. The serious injuries to officers consisted of a badly-broken ankle and a severe laceration requiring surgery.

Citizen and Officer Injury



Complaints:

In 2018, the Columbia Police Department received eleven (11) external complaints in which the allegations against the officer(s) included a violation of the Use of Force policy. Three (3) internal investigations were also generated regarding force applied by an officer. Of the external complaints, none were sustained or found to be improper. Of the internal complaints, two (2) officers involved in a single, large incident, used forced that was deemed improper.

Findings:

After completing a review and analysis of the 2018 Use of Force reports I found no patterns or trends that would indicate any deficiencies in policy or training. Overall, members of the Columbia Police Department practice great restraint and reasonableness in application of force. The reporting procedures for use of force are adequate to ensure immediate, or soon after, documentation as well as complete and thorough administrative review of incidents. In addition to use of force reviews, the Early Alert System as part of the Blue Team software provides information about individual officers. The Early Alert System allows for supervisors to be aware of repeated behaviors or actions in specified time frames to determine if a pattern or cause for concern is emerging and address it accordingly. The Early Alert System has proven to be a useful tool in addressing patterns before improper use of force occurs. Policy 300 requires annual training in regards to lethal and less lethal weapons. Training for other less lethal weapons as well as weaponless control techniques is required biennially. With the 2019 revisions to Policy 300, I see no further need to revise or amend the policy related to use of force.