EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

USE OF FORCE
YEAR-END REVIEW
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
2015

Chief of Police Charlie Beck

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

2015

LAPD

CHIEF OF POLICE CHARLIE BECK

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LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
“Every operation embarked upon by the Department, regardless of mission, shall never compromise the indisputable pinnacle of objectives - the reverence for human life.”
It is the mission of the Los Angeles Police Department to safeguard the lives and property of the people we serve, to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, and to enhance public safety while working with the diverse communities to improve their quality of life. Our mandate is to do so with honor and integrity, while at all times conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards to maintain public confidence.
While the Los Angeles Police Department (“Department”) has published previous use of force year-end reviews, this report takes a broader perspective at use of force itself and the many factors that must be taken into consideration when evaluating use of force patterns and trends.

It is important to recognize that each use of force incident involves a unique set of circumstances that must always be taken into account when making analytical conclusions. An officer’s involvement and decision-making process in a use of force incident, and the level of force applied, is based on a suspect’s actions or inactions. Throughout the incident, an officer must continuously reassess the circumstances and adjust his/her response and application of force, when necessary.

To address the topic of use of force, Chief of Police Charlie Beck stated,

If you view these things in a vacuum or with limited comparative data, it’s hard to draw conclusions. I want to provide enough data that people can see the total picture, not just one small piece of it. I think it’s important that LA be a leader in this and that we try to put some reason behind the conclusions that are being reached.

It is important to note that a vast majority of police interactions with the public do not involve use of force. In 2015, the Department had 1,503,758 public contacts. During those public contacts, 1,924 resulted in a use of force. These use of force incidents represented only 0.13 percent of the Department’s total public contacts.

2015 PUBLIC CONTACTS VS. USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

Use of Force Incidents per 1,000 Public Contacts: 1.3 (0.13%)
Officer Involved Shooting Incidents per 1,000 Public Contacts: 0.03 (0.003%)
**Nat.onal Police Department**

**2015**

- **2014: 5**
  - Increase of suspects with perceived mental illness in OIS incidents
  - 2015: 15

- **38**
  - Decrease of Non-Categorical incidents from 2014

- **2014: 5**
  - Increase of officer injuries during OIS incidents
  - 2015: 14

- **2014**
  - Chief of Police Charlie Beck introduced the new Preservation of Life Award to recognize Department personnel who heroically use exceptional tactics to safely resolve a dangerous encounter.

- **2015**
  - Suspect Ethnicity in 2015 OIS Incidents
  - Asian/Pacific Islander: 19%
  - Black: 57%
  - Hispanic: 35%
  - White: 19%
  - Other: 21%
  - Unknown: 4%

- **Suspect Weapons in 2015 OIS Incidents**
  - Edged Weapon: 4%
  - Firearm: 25%
  - Replica Firearm: 15%
  - Other: 48%
  - None: 15%

- **Deceased suspects in Officer Involved Shooting Incidents in 2015**
  - Black: 24%
  - Hispanic: 31%
  - White: 4%
  - Asian/Pacific Islander: 21%
  - Other: 4%
  - Unknown: 21%

- **Total**
  - Black: 5
  - Hispanic: 12
  - White: 5
  - Asian/Pacific Islander: 1
  - Other: 1
  - Unknown: 1
Every operation embarked upon by the Department, regardless of mission, shall never compromise the indisputable pinnacle of objectives - the reverence for human life. No investigative outcome or task outweighs the value of life. To emphasize the Department’s commitment to the City of Los Angeles and its residents, management developed new training centered on current issues facing the country. All sworn personnel were assigned to participate in the Public Trust and Preservation of Life class during 2015. Additionally, the Department has a long-standing partnership with the Museum of Tolerance, which facilitates the Building Community Trust course that officers attend on a semi-annual basis. However, additional avenues to train Department personnel are constantly considered and evaluated.

Quality through Continuous Improvement and Respect for People are two of the Department’s core values. As an ever evolving Department, the pursuit of continuous improvement concedes that constructive criticism and thoughtful input from all stakeholders is always encouraged and solicited. Regardless of progress made from past decades, there will never be a time for complacency or satisfaction; not now – not in the future. The collective need to respect each other may never have been greater, and if the City of Los Angeles and the United States as a whole intends to succeed in accomplishing a paradigm change in law enforcement policies and tactics, existing relationships must be fostered, while many new are created. In response to public concerns, the Department created a new entity in 2015 to make the organization increasingly approachable and to assist in cultivating relationships with the residents it is sworn to protect and serve. Suitably, the Community Relationship Division seeks to constantly identify areas that require change, while also recognizing successful practices that effectively improve the quality of life for all residents in the City of Los Angeles.

On November 10, 2015, Police Commission President Matthew Johnson stated, “ [...] we must fully commit to minimizing the number of use of force incidents. The LAPD Use of Force Policy specifically states that, “The Department’s guiding value when using force shall be reverence for human life.” With that as our guiding principle, I am confident we can significantly reduce the number of use of force incidents while continuing to ensure the safety of our officers. If successful, we will not only reduce the incidents of physical harm to both our residents and our officers, we will also increase the level of trust and respect between the police and our community members. This will also reduce financial harm to the City and reduce the amount of organizational harm that invariably follows use of force incidents.

The Board of Police Commissioners (“Commissioners”) specifically requested for the Department to prepare a comprehensive use of force report detailing what transpired in 2015, as well as a five-year comparison to obtain a thorough understanding of force used by Department personnel. In response, Use of Force Review Division was tasked with the responsibility of creating the 2015 Use of Force Year-End Review.

The Department fully understands that the community’s trust in its intentions and faith in its operations are crucial for both short-term and long-term success. For that trust not to erode, transparency is of paramount importance. At the direction and oversight by the Board of Police Commissioners, the Department seeks to constantly identify areas that require change, while also recognizing successful practices that effectively improve the quality of life for all residents in the City of Los Angeles.
THE MOTTO, “TO PROTECT AND TO SERVE,” STATES THE ESSENTIAL PURPOSE OF THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT PROTECTS THE RIGHT OF ALL PERSONS WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION TO BE FREE FROM CRIMINAL ATTACK, TO BE SECURE IN THEIR POSSESSIONS, AND TO LIVE IN PEACE. THE DEPARTMENT SERVES THE PEOPLE OF LOS ANGELES BY PERFORMING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNCTION IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNE.
COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIP DIVISION

In August 2015, Community Relationship Division (CRD) was formed, aimed at building trust and relationships between the Department and the diverse communities in Los Angeles through outreach, community policing, and digital media. CRD personnel were selected based on their exceptional skills in developing community partnerships, supporting field personnel in community engagement efforts, and promoting positive engagement through social media and city-wide community events.

CRD is comprised of two sections. The Digital Media and Crime Prevention Section handle all social media accounts, crime prevention programs, and special events. The Community Engagement Section fosters relationships with community-based organizations, leaders, groups, and stakeholders, while simultaneously educating the public of the Department’s mission. It also collaborates with patrol divisions and geographical bureaus on community outreach and relationship-based policing issues.
Effective law enforcement training is evolutionary and adaptable to emerging issues. This is especially the case with respect to the use of force and the development of the modern police officer. The Department has consistently tailored and adapted training methods and curriculum based on academic research and emerging societal trends. The expectation is for police officers to resolve situations safely and with the least amount of force possible. In 2014, the Department evaluated its training to identify areas where improvements could be made, with a particular focus on the subject of use of force. For example, lessons learned from a series of Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) incidents resulted in an extensive assessment of internal and external use of force and OIS data, policies, and a comparative analysis of training with the largest law enforcement agencies in the country. The goal of this review was to develop training and to implement procedures that would improve performance and emphasize de-escalation of force and the continued institutionalization of Preservation of Life.

Preservation of Life and building public trust were immediately identified as essential elements of many law enforcement use of force policies. The goal is to ensure that all officers are being taught the reasoning behind the policy and not just the policy itself. In addition, a byproduct of this review revealed the need to improve transparency, as it became increasingly apparent that releasing timely information to the public in a multifaceted communication and social media-driven culture is important and demanded.

Chief of Police Charlie Beck began championing the concept of “Relationship-Based Policing” (RBP), where he established the expectation for Department personnel to build one-on-one personal relationships with members of the community by breaking down barriers, improving communication, and providing everyone a better understanding of each other’s perspectives and needs.

It was discovered that building public trust encompasses all of the principles of RBP, as the public expects police officers to set good examples, embrace policy changes, and foster personal relationships. The review also disclosed that there is a national debate on four key training topics that will become the focus of how the Department designs and implements future training:

1. Building public trust/preservation of life;
2. Teaching use of force de-escalation techniques;
3. Dealing with persons suspected of being mentally ill; and,
4. Mastering laws of arrest such as consensual encounters, reasonable suspicion, and probable cause.

The Department’s training program operates like a small college or university and has 147 California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified courses in its catalogue. In fact, for many years, the Department has used the name “LAPD University” in reference to the many classes it has developed over time. The Academy curriculum teaches basic police concepts, which would be the equivalent of 100 level classes, while the Command Development Courses are considered graduate classes, or at the 500 level. Department training managers are able to gain a better understanding on how to develop career paths for their personnel by utilizing the newly organized online library and creating new courses to address additional training needs.

The Department has also reached out to the University of Southern California and the University of California, Irvine, in efforts to form partnerships and develop a university certificate program, tentatively named Modern Policing: Building Trust, Justice, and Safety. The curriculum will be developed by university professors and intended to offer academic, interdisciplinary, and research-based perspectives on topics such as the evolution of policing, comparative policing models, how social contexts impact human interactions, how to form partnerships, modern data analytics, developing communications strategies, and how to plan, evaluate and assess strategic plans.

Finally, the Department recognized that it required an even greater commitment to improving training. Therefore, it implemented an extensive reorganizational model, which included a disbandment of the former Personnel and Training Bureau and created the new Police Sciences and Training Bureau (PSTB) in March 2015.
POLICE ACADEMY TRAINING

In 2008, the Department implemented a completely redesigned Academy curriculum, which was geared towards problem based learning (PBL). The Department recognized that the Academy’s tradition of strong, tactical skill training must continue, but it also established that improvements had to be made to maximize critical thinking and capitalize on initiative and human potential. The training goal was implemented to complement tactical strengths by developing officers who are also self-motivated, interdependent, community oriented, critical thinkers and problem solvers.

Through the examination of best practices in law enforcement training, three key constructs were identified as a lens for all Department training for recruits, active officers and civilians. These constructs, as discussed by the Director of Police Training and Education (PTE) in the article, “Changing the Training Paradigm,” are as follows:

- **Training the Whole Person** - Peak performance is achieved by utilization of all three learning domains: physiological, physical skills and strength; cognitive domain – critical thinking and problem solving; and affective domain – utilizing emotional intelligence. Preparing people for all facets of their job will develop more resilient individuals, and ultimately, a more resilient workforce.

- In a Team, By a Team - Public safety requires team effort. All officers must develop individual skills within the framework of a team. Teamwork should facilitate self-assessment, appreciation for the skills of others, and increases the value on collaboration. Teamwork incorporates respect for other teams both inside the Department and within the community.

- Through an Event, Not to an Event - To be comprehensively effective, training must be conducted within an experiential learning environment that requires critical thinking all the way through an event. Training “through an event” includes training not only for the skills needed in a crisis, but for the ongoing response once the tactical operation concludes.

Leaders must learn to anticipate the ongoing needs of their peers and political environment, and the resources they need once the crisis is over. Understanding the context and ensuring follow-through with key stakeholders will improve the Department’s response for future incidents.

ACADEMY HOURS

The Academy is 912 hours long, exceeding the POST requirement of 664 hours of mandated training. Class sizes generally range from 30 to 50 recruits. A new recruit class is recognized every four weeks, and each class is in training for six months. At any point, there are as many as six academy classes running simultaneously. The Department’s goal is to exceed all POST minimum training requirements.

ACADEMY TESTING

The design of the Academy is to build confidence through basic scenarios at the beginning of the program and to enhance competency by addressing increasingly more complex scenarios as the Academy progresses. Students must pass 25 POST Learning Domain exams and 14 scenario tests in order to graduate.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

As a result of the Department’s comprehensive review of its training curriculum, many new courses have been developed and updated procedures have been implemented. Provided below is a brief overview of key subjects:

- **NATIONAL DISCUSSION ON BUILDING PUBLIC TRUST**
  A five-hour class delivered to all sworn and reserve officers in 2015. The class was facilitated by staff officers and designed to encourage discussions on topics such as preservation of life, embracing the humanity of policing, history of the Department’s community relations, erosion public trust, the importance of constitutional policing, use of force de-escalation techniques, and addressing the needs of persons with mental illnesses. This class is a prerequisite to the 10-hour Use of Force Update, where officers are placed in practical application scenarios.

- **USE OF FORCE UPDATE CLASS (10-HOUR)**
  On October 29, 2015, the Department implemented the mandated 30-hour Use of Force Update for all sworn personnel. The class is critical in addressing contemporary events involving use of force, dealing with persons involved in a mental health crisis, constitutional policing, preservation of human life, and strengthening de-escalation skills. Officers are given the opportunity to practice less lethal force options, including the beanbag shotgun, OC spray, and TASER. Scenarios have been designed to utilize a range of critical thinking and problem-solving strategies, and to reinforce good communication and de-escalation skills. As of December 3, 2015, nine classes have been completed and 522 officers have participated. The Department holds three classes weekly with approximately 60 officers in attendance. The projected time-frame to train the Department’s sworn personnel is currently one year.

POLICE SCIENCE LEADERSHIP (PSL)

Police Science Leadership I is a pilot course, which utilizes adult learning concepts and practical applications to teach the importance of mental, emotional, and field operation skills necessary to solve long-term problems in the community while increasing public trust and police legitimacy. This new course was designed to fill a training gap that the Department identified in its curriculum. The PSL program is a unique 80-hour course that returns a complete class of officers to the Academy after they have successfully completed 11 months of probationary experience in the field. The course has been designed to complement probation of an officer, an officer is more receptive to learn advanced concepts in leadership, communications skills, dealing with the mentally ill, how to build public trust, and use of force de-escalation techniques. The leadership skills component will include image and impression management, fair and impartial policing, purposeful communication, and conflict resolution. Additionally, there are 20 hours of training, same officers return for an additional 80-hours of training at the three-year (PSL II) and five-year (PSL III) marks of their careers. Implementation of the PSL curriculum shows a strong commitment, with 240 hours of instruction, to developing officers and regularly exposing them to new and innovative ideas in policing. Finally, officers will receive 40-hours of Mental Health Intervention Training on topics such as crisis communications, suicide by cop, substance abuse, autism, and psychopharmacology.

FIELD TRAINING OFFICER (FTO)

The Field Training Officer course is currently under curriculum review as a result of State Senate Bill 29, which has directed POST to increase mental health training. This presented the Department an opportunity to integrate updated training on preservation of life, use of force de-escalation, mental illness, and constitutional policing. The Department, in collaboration with POST, developed new curriculum which is anticipated to be implemented during the third quarter of 2016.

QUALIFICATION COURSE UPDATE

In 2015, the Department updated its qualification course for the first time in over 26 years. The old course was based on firearm concepts developed decades ago when the Department issued six-shot revolvers to its recruits. After a comprehensive review of the qualification phases, it was determined to be beneficial to update the course to reflect current training and tactics.

**POST PERISHABLE SKILLS**

POST requires a minimum of 24-hours of Continual Professional Training every two years for certified peace officers. Fourteen training hours shall address perishable skills, such as firearms, arrest and control, driving, and tactical communications. The Department obtained approval from POST to re-write the entire 24-hour curriculum, which includes building public trust, preservation of life, and procedural justice. The new curriculum was approved by POST and a pilot class will be conducted in February 2016.

MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE (MOT)

The Department has negotiated with MOT to increase the number of presentations for its 30-hour class on “Building Public Trust” to 26 sessions in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2016, and to 40 sessions in FY 2016-2017. This course was created by combining their POST approved curriculum on “Racial Profiling” and “Beyond Diversity.”

LAW ENFORCEMENT TACTICAL APPLICATION COURSE (LETAC)

The Law Enforcement Tactical Application Course is a 32-hour course designed to reinforce and to enhance an officer’s tactical awareness and skills. It includes in-depth discussion on the Department’s use of force policy, force options, command and control, tactical planning and communication, and firearms safety. Students are evaluated using practical combat range and FOS application scenarios.

FAIR AND IMPARTIAL POLICING (FIP)

This course was given to all command staff members in December 2014. The focus of FIP was on the impact of bias policing, implicit bias, contact theory, and counter-stereotype training. Components of a successful FIP program include recruitment and hiring of a diverse workforce, policies prohibiting biased policing, successful Academy and in-service training programs, outreach to diverse communities, leadership, and accountability.

**Note:** The Department requires the majority of its officers to qualify four times a year with their firearms, once with a shotgun, and once on a Force Option Simulator (FOS) machine. As a general rule, approximately 95% of officers pass the qualification course on their first attempt. Any officer that fails three or more attempts is required to attend firearms re-integration training, where they receive one-on-one instruction from a Training Division firearms instructor.
OTHER TRAINING TOPICS

The Department relies on additional training platforms to maintain proficiency standards for sworn personnel. Force Option Simulators (FOS) present scenarios in a virtual reality based environment that requires officers to rely on their skills, knowledge, and experience in addressing challenging situations that may require use of force. Tactical Debriefs are designed to address training needs in a collaborative setting with instructors as a result of an actual use of force incident.

FORCE OPTION SIMULATORS

All 21 patrol divisions have been furnished with a FOS, providing officers with the ability to train on a continuous basis. The FOS training enhances articulation skills, presents opportunities to re-evaluate various force options available, and to utilize the optimal option to resolve the situation. FOS also facilitates practice on de-escalation scenarios on various techniques to control emotional response to critical incidents, and helps develop a deeper understanding of “what you can do” versus “what you should do.” For example, the Department increased the number of deadly force incident scenarios to teach and demonstrate that the use of sound tactics can conceivably resolve such situations without lethal force. Use of the FOS has been incorporated into the Mental Health Intervention Training course that also enables officers to practice de-escalation skills.

TACTICAL DEBRIEFS

The use of Tactical Debriefs affords the involved parties the opportunity to enhance performance, reinforce best practices, and cultivate lessons learned for future training. Officers involved in Categorical Use of Force (CUOF) incidents participate in Tactical Debriefs, which are conducted by the Training Division supervisors who were present during the concerned Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB). Tactical Debriefs have yielded training recommendations such as the utilization of smaller sized targets to simulate changes in shooting distance, quick target switches to induce fast-paced, high stress decision making, and slow fire settings. These recommendations were implemented for both recruit and in-service training on April 1, 2015.

TASER

The Office of Operations published Notice No. 4 on September 21, 2015, titled, “TASER X26P Deployment,” which directs all patrol officers to carry a TASER on their person. The Department is currently equipped with 3,205 TASERs and holsters. Funding requests for an additional 4,400 units have been made. All Department recruits are trained and certified in the use of the TASER while in the Academy. Additional training for in-service personnel is currently being provided in the 10-hour Use of Force Update class.

LESS LETHAL OPTIONS

The Department is in the process of evaluating and testing new less lethal force options, including, but not limited to, a gel-based OC spray that directs a stream of gel as opposed to an aerosol spray and a 40-millimeter impact launcher. Additionally, beanbag shotgun mounts are expected to be integrated into each patrol vehicle’s main cabin area for faster access, as opposed to the trunk.
In 2015, the Department had 48 OIS incidents, which was one fewer than the Chicago Police Department (CPD), but more than the New York Police Department (NYPD), the Houston Police Department (HPD), the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD), and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD). The LASD and the NYPD had the third highest count, with 34 OIS incidents each.

An analysis of the five year average of OIS incidents from 2011 through 2015 revealed that the CPD were involved in a greater number of shootings than the Department. From 2011 through 2015, the Department had 223 OIS incidents, or an annual average of 44.6. The CPD had 242 OIS incidents in the five year period, or an annual average of 48.4. The LASD had the third highest five year total with 197 incidents, or an annual average of 39.4 incidents. The NYPD had the fourth highest count with 190 incidents, or an annual average of 38 OIS incidents. PPD had the fifth highest count with 175 OIS incidents, or an annual average of 34.8 incidents. Lastly, HPD had a five year total of 172 OIS incidents, or a five year annual average of 34.4 incidents.

PPD’s five year annual average for the period of 2011 through 2015 is calculated with data through September 2015, as that was the most recent information available.

PPD’s 2015 OIS data was through September 2015. CPD’s 2011 through 2014 OIS data was retrieved from the City of Chicago Independent Police Review Authority. CPD’s 2015 OIS data was provided by CPD’s Research and Development Division.
On a per capita basis, the Department has approximately 25 officers per 10,000 residents.
Los Angeles Police Department

Use of Force

The Department's Use of Force Policy

It is the policy of the Department that personnel may use only the force which is “objectively reasonable” to:

- Defend themselves;
- Defend others;
- Effect an arrest or detention;
- Prevent escape; or,
- Overcome resistance.

Law enforcement officers are authorized to use deadly force to:

1. Protect themselves or others from what is reasonably believed to be an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury; or,
2. Prevent a crime where the suspect’s actions place person(s) in imminent jeopardy of death or serious bodily injury; or,
3. Prevent the escape of a violent fleeing felon when there is probable cause to believe the escape will pose a significant threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or others if apprehension is delayed. In this circumstance, officers shall, to the extent practical, avoid using deadly force that might subject innocent bystanders or hostages to possible death or injury.

The Department’s use of force policies are more restrictive than state and federal law. For example, State law allows officers to shoot at moving vehicles where the suspect is using the vehicle itself as a weapon, while Department policy prohibits officers from using deadly force in such circumstances. The Department examines reasonableness using Graham v. Connor, the State of California legal standards set forth in California Penal Code Section 835(a), and from the articulable facts from the perspective of a Los Angeles Police Officer with similar training and experience placed in generally the same set of circumstances as those of the evaluated incident. In determining the appropriate level of force, officers shall evaluate each situation in light of the facts and circumstances of each particular case. Those factors may include, but are not limited to:

- The seriousness of the crime or suspected offense;
- The level of threat or resistance presented by the subject;
- Whether the subject was posing an immediate threat to officers or a danger to the community;
- The potential for injury to citizens, officers or subjects;
- The risk or apparent attempt by the subject to escape;
- The conduct of the subject being confronted (as reasonably perceived by the officer at the time);
- The time available to an officer to make a decision;
- The availability of other resources;
- The training and experience of the officer;
- The proximity or access of weapons to the subject;
- Officer versus subject factors such as age, size, relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion and number officers versus subjects; and,
- The environmental factors and/or other exigent circumstances.
The graph below illustrates the force options available to officers as it relates to the Department’s use of force policy. It should be noted that the force options in the graph do not have to be attempted in a progressive order, but that the officer must constantly assess each situation when evaluating which level of force is justified under the current circumstances (for example, an incident where an officer utilizes a baton strike on a suspect who is actively shooting at a victim would not be required to attempt verbalization strategies as an initial action to stop the suspect due to the exigency of the incident):

**THE USE OF FORCE**

**NON-CATEGORICAL USE OF FORCE (NCUOF) DEFINED**

A reportable NCUOF is defined as an incident in which any on-duty Department employee, or off-duty employee whose occupation as a Department employee is a factor, uses a less-lethal control device or physical force to compel a person to comply with the employee’s direction, overcome resistance of a person during an arrest or a detention, or defend any individual from an aggressive action by another person.

**CATEGORICAL USE OF FORCE (CUOF) DEFINED**

A CUOF is defined as:

- An incident involving the use of deadly force (e.g., discharge of a firearm) by a Department employee;
- All uses of an upper body control hold by a Department employee, including the use of a modified carotid, full carotid or locked carotid hold;
- All deaths while the arrestee or detainee is in the custodial care of the Department (also known as an In-Custody Death or ICD);
- A use of force incident resulting in death;
- A use of force incident resulting in an injury requiring hospitalization, commonly referred to as a Law Enforcement Related Injury Investigation, or LERII;
- All intentional head strikes with an impact weapon or device (e.g., baton, flashlight, etc.) and all unintentional (inadvertent or accidental) head strikes that result in serious bodily injury, hospitalization or death.

Note: Serious bodily injury, as defined in California Penal Code Section 243(f)(4), includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Loss of consciousness;
- Concussion;
- Bone fracture;
- Protracted loss or impairment of function of any bodily member or organ;
- A wound requiring extensive suturing; and,
- Serious disfigurement.

**THE USE OF FORCE**

Officer-involved animal shootings and non-tactical unintentional discharges;

An incident in which a member of the public has contact with a Department canine and hospitalization is required. Under Department policy, a canine contact is not a use of force but has been included in this category to satisfy the provisions of the Consent Decree; and,

Incidents where the Department has agreed to conduct similar critical incident investigations for a non-Department entity, such as a Los Angeles Fire Department Arson Unit.

All other reportable uses of force, including the discharge of a Taser, the use of a chemical irritant control device, or all unintentional (inadvertent or accidental) head strikes with an impact weapon or device which do not result in serious bodily injury, hospitalization or death which have been approved to be handled as a Level I NCUOF by the Commanding Officer, Force Investigation Division (FID), are classified as NCUOF incidents.
The Investigation, Review, and Adjudication Process

Force Investigation Division’s Responsibilities

Following a CUOF incident, FID responds within one hour upon notification of the incident and assumes responsibility of the overall investigation. As part of the investigation, FID personnel conduct interviews with all involved parties, locate and collect evidence, manage crime scenes, coordinate the acquisition of photographs, and liaise with other relevant Department and non-Department entities.

Office of the Inspector General and the Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office

Personnel from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and representatives from the Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office (LADA) are notified of CUOF incidents. The OIG responds to the scene to monitor the conduct of FID’s on-scene investigation, assessing compliance with applicable policy standards.

Personnel from LADA respond to OIS and ICD incidents to lend advice to FID regarding criminal law issues as they pertain to the investigation and also to assess whether an independent criminal investigation is required.

Office of the Inspector General

All FID investigations are closely overseen by the OIG. The OIG’s oversight begins immediately following the occurrence of a CUOF. The OIG has a 24-hour response capability, and is promptly notified following the occurrence of a CUOF. The OIG responds to the scene of CUOF incidents and monitors the conduct of FID’s on-scene investigation, assessing compliance with applicable policy standards, as well as more generally working to ensure the overall quality of the investigative work being performed. As the investigation progresses over the months that follow the incident, the OIG maintains its oversight role. The OIG’s oversight of each investigation culminates in a detailed review of every completed investigation case file, and a written assessment to the Commission of the quality of that investigation. In practice, the OIG works closely with FID in order to ensure that, whenever possible, investigative issues identified during the course of the investigation are addressed and resolved.

Concurrent with the Department’s internal review of each CUOF by the UOFRB and Chief of Police, the OIG independently reviews each CUOF case. As it conducts its own review, the OIG’s staff also monitors the progression of the Department’s internal review. This monitoring role includes attendance at every UOFRB, where the OIG may ask questions and provide input to the board members.

Once the Chief’s report to the Commission on a case is completed, it is reviewed by the OIG. The OIG evaluates the Chief’s findings and reports its own, independent set of recommendations to the Commission for use in its adjudication of the case. In those cases where the OIG concurs with the findings of the Chief of Police, it will recommend to the Commission that it adopt those findings. If the OIG believes additional or different analysis is warranted, the OIG will provide that analysis to the Commission in its report. If the OIG determines that the available evidence supports findings other than those set forth by the Chief, it will recommend, with supporting analysis, that the Commission modify the Chief’s findings.

72-Hour Briefing

Within 72-hours of an OIS (or other significant CUOF incident wherein a briefing is deemed necessary by the Chief of Police), an initial briefing is scheduled for the Chief of Police and other concerned command staff members. During the briefing, FID provides a preliminary presentation of the incident and answers questions by the Chief and attending staff members.

Although the briefing is an initial assessment of the incident, based on preliminary information, many basic facts are available at this stage. The objective of the briefing is to address issues that require immediate Department attention. The involved employees of the incident do not attend the briefing.

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1 The OIG’s Use of Force Section is a unit dedicated on a full-time basis to reviewing all work performed by FID. Currently staffed by seven Police Special Investigators and headed by an Assistant Inspector General, the Use of Force Section closely reviews all work performed by FID and, on behalf of the Inspector General, prepares a detailed report on each case for the Commission.
In 2015, Department personnel were involved in 38 OIS Hit incidents, an increase of 12 incidents, or 46 percent, compared to 2014. In the four year period from 2011 through 2014, there were a total of 136 OIS Hit incidents, resulting in an annual average of 34 incidents. The 2015 count exceeded the 2011 through 2014 annual average by four incidents, or approximately 12 percent.

In 2015, 33 of the 38 OIS Hit incidents, or 87 percent, involved a suspect armed with a weapon. Additionally, in those 33 incidents where the suspect was armed with a weapon, 19 suspects, or 58 percent, were armed with a firearm.
In 2015, Hispanic officers were involved in the most OIS Hit incidents, with 265 out of 399 total involved officers, or 66 percent. Officers assigned to specialized units were involved in the second most OIS Hit incidents, with 65 officers, or 16 percent, and officers assigned to Off-Duty units were involved in the second most OIS Hit incidents, with 20 officers, or 5 percent.

In 2015, Metropolitan Division were the third largest group with 59 officers, or 15 percent. In 2015, Metropolitan Division had two officers involved in OIS Hit incidents, which was a significant reduction when compared to the 2014 total of 17 officers, or 88 percent.

From 2011 through 2015, an average of six rounds was fired during OIS Hit incidents. This continued a five year downward trend in the number of rounds fired per incident. In 2015, an average of six rounds was fired during OIS Hit incidents. This continued a five year downward trend in the number of rounds fired per incident.
OFFICER HIT RATIO

The hit ratio for officers involved in OIS Hit incidents improved in 2015. This continued a three year trend of increasing hit ratios. When combined with the downward trend in the average number of rounds fired per incident, this data indicates that officers are increasingly accurate when firing their weapons.

SUSPECT ETHNICITY

In 2015, Hispanic suspects were involved in the most OIS Hit incidents, representing 22 suspects, or 58 percent, of the 38 total suspects involved in OIS Hit incidents. Black suspects were involved in the second most incidents representing eight suspects, or 21 percent. White suspects were involved in the third most incidents with five suspects, or 13 percent. The Asian/Pacific Islander and Other categories had a combined total of eight suspects, or five percent, involved in OIS Hit incidents from 2011 through 2015. During the five-year period, no significant issues or trends were noted.

SUSPECT AGE

From 2011 through 2015, the 30 to 39 age group represented the largest age group with 45 out of 174 total suspects, or 26 percent, involved in OIS Hit incidents. The 30 to 39 age group is the most represented age group during the five year average, which can be attributed to the dramatic increase in OIS Hit incidents for that particular age group in 2015. The 18 to 23 age group was the second largest, with 38 suspects, or 22 percent, followed by the 24 to 29 age group with 37 suspects, or 21 percent.

OFFICER INJURIES

No Department personnel were killed during OIS Hit incidents from 2011 through 2015. However, 39 officers sustained injuries during the same five year period.
In 2015, 14 of the 38 suspects involved in OIS Hit incidents, or 37 percent, had an indication of mental illness. The 2015 percentage of suspects who had an indication of mental illness experienced a year-over-year increase of 18 percentage points when compared to 19 percent in 2014. Additionally, the 2015 percentage exceeded the 2011 through 2014 annual average of 18 percent by 19 percentage points.

SUSPECT UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Of the 21 suspects who died as a result of OIS Hit incidents in 2015, eight decedents, or 38 percent, were identified as being under the influence of a controlled substance.

Nine decedents, or 43 percent, currently have an unknown under the influence designation, pending completion of the investigation by FID.

In 2015, 21 suspects died as a result of OIS Hit incidents. When compared to the 2014 total of 18, the number of deceased suspects increased by three suspects, or 17 percent, in 2015. Additionally, when compared to the 2011 through 2014 annual average of 19 deceased suspects, 2015 had two deceased suspects, or 11 percent, above the four year annual average.

From 2011 through 2015, an average of 19.4 suspects involved in OIS Hit incidents died as a result of police gunfire each year. The year with the most number of deceased suspects was in 2011, when 26 died.
OFFICERS INVOLVED IN MULTIPLE OIS HIT INCIDENTS

NUMBER OF SHOOTINGS PER OFFICER

From 2011 through 2015, a total of 36 Department personnel were involved in more than one OIS Hit incident. The percentage breakdown of these officers is detailed below:

- Thirty-three personnel, or 92 percent, were involved in two OIS incidents in the five year period; three personnel, or eight percent, were involved in three OIS incidents in the five year period.

OFFICER BY ETHNICITY

- Sixteen personnel, or 44 percent, were White; 14 personnel, or 39 percent, were Hispanic; three personnel, or eight percent, were Black; and three personnel, or eight percent, were Asian/Pacific Islander.

OFFICER BY BUREAU

- Sixteen personnel, or 44 percent, were assigned to Counter Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau; seven personnel, or 19 percent, were assigned to Central Bureau; five personnel, or 14 percent, were assigned to South Bureau; three personnel, or eight percent, were assigned Valley Bureau; two personnel, or six percent, were assigned to West Bureau; two personnel, or six percent, were assigned to an Administrative function; one employee, or three percent, was assigned to a Traffic division.

ADJUDICATION (OUT OF POLICY)

In 2013, a disproportionate number of officers were found Out of Policy when using lethal force. However, eight out of the 12 officers found Out of Policy were involved in one incident, thus inflating the annual total.

A majority of the 2015 CUOF incidents, including OIS Hit investigations, had yet to be adjudicated at the time the data was collected for the year-end report, as the investigative process was still ongoing.
SUSPECT WEAPONS RECOVERED AT THE CRIME SCENES OF 2015 OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING INCIDENTS.
In 2015, Department personnel were involved in 10 OIS No Hit incidents. In the four year period from 2011 through 2014, there were a total of 39 OIS No Hit incidents, resulting in an annual average of 9.75 incidents. There were no patterns or trends noted during the five-year period.

#### Classification

Nine out of 10 suspects were verified to be armed with a firearm during 2015 OIS No Hit incidents. In 2015, five of the 10 OIS No Hit incidents, or 50 percent, were categorized as Classification I shootings. Four of the incidents, or 40 percent, were Classification II shootings.

#### Officer Ethnicity

In 2015, six White officers were involved in OIS No Hit incidents, which represented 43 percent of the 14 total officers. When compared to the 2011 through 2014 annual average of four White officers, 2015 was two White officers, or 50 percent, above the four year annual average for the respective ethnic group.

#### Officer Injuries

No Department personnel were killed during OIS No Hit incidents for the period of 2011 through 2015, however, 10 sustained injuries during the same five year period.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer Injuries</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Injured</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decesed</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Officer injuries include any injury sustained by an officer during the incident, but were not necessarily caused by the suspect.
In 2015, there were seven single officer OIS No Hit incidents and two OIS No Hit incidents involving two officers. This was consistent with the 2011 through 2014 period.

In 2015, four Black suspects were involved in OIS No Hit incidents, which represented 40 percent of the 10 total suspects. When compared to the 2011 through 2014 annual average of 5.25 Black suspects, 2015 was 1.25 Black suspects, or 24 percent, below the four year annual average.

In 2015, two White suspects were involved in OIS No Hit incidents, which represented 20 percent of the 10 total suspects. When compared to the 2011 through 2014 annual average of 0.75 White suspects, 2015 was 1.25 White suspects, or 167 percent, above the four year annual average.
CATEGORICAL USE OF FORCE, OIS NO-HIT

**SUSPECT AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-23</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-29</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 &amp; Above</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From 2011 through 2015, the 18 to 23 age group represented 16 out of the 49 total suspects, or 33 percent, involved in OIS No Hit incidents. The 30 to 39 age group was the second largest, with 10 suspects, or 20 percent, followed by the 24 to 29 age group with eight suspects, or 16 percent.

**SUSPECT INDICATION OF MENTAL ILLNESS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2015, one of the 10 suspects involved in OIS No Hit incidents, or 10 percent, had an indication of mental illness. The 2015 percentage of suspects who had an indication of mental illness experienced a year-over-year increase of 100 percentage points when compared to zero percent in 2014. Additionally, the 2015 percentage exceeded the 2011 through 2014 annual average of five percent by five percentage points.

**SUSPECT GANG MEMBERSHIP**

In 2015, of the 10 suspects involved in OIS No Hit incidents, five suspects, or 50 percent, were verified as documented gang members. The remaining five suspects were either not documented gang members or had an unknown gang affiliation. From 2011 through 2015, 29 of the 49 total suspects, or 59 percent, involved in OIS No Hit incidents were verified as documented gang members.

**ADJUDICATION (OUT OF POLICY)**

**TACTICS**

Two findings, or 40 percent, were “Administrative Disapproval” in 2014.

A majority of the 2015 CUOF incidents, including OIS Hit investigations, had yet to be adjudicated at the time the data was collected for the year-end report as the investigative process was still ongoing.

**LETHAL FORCE**

One finding, or 20 percent, was “Out of Policy (Administrative Disapproval)” in 2014.

A majority of the 2015 CUOF incidents, including OIS Hit investigations, had yet to be adjudicated at the time the data was collected for the year-end report as the investigative process was still ongoing.

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16 Indication of mental illness was determined based on records with the Department’s Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU) and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH).
In addition to OIS Hit and No Hit incidents, there are nine other categories classified as CUOF incidents. Those categories are:

- Animal Shooting
- Carotid Restraint Control Hold
- Head Strike
- In-Custody Death (ICD)
- K-9 Contact Requiring Hospitalization
- Law Enforcement Related Injury Investigation (LERII)
- Unintentional Discharge
- Other Use of Lethal Force
- Warning Shot

A review of these categories was unremarkable in terms of the number of incidents and was void of any discernible trends. There was one exception, however, in ICD incidents. In 2015, the Department experienced 12 ICD incidents, which was an increase of eight, or 200 percent, compared to four in 2014. In the four year period from 2011 through 2014, there were a total of 21 ICD incidents, resulting in an annual average of 5.25 incidents.

A closer examination of the 12 ICD incidents in 2015 revealed that six of these decedents were confirmed to be under the influence of narcotics. Two of these cases involved use of force by Department personnel.

Four ICD incidents are pending autopsy reports. There were indications that three of the decedents in the pending cases were under the influence of narcotics and/or alcohol. The remaining case was a suicide inside a Department jail facility.

Two decedents were not under the influence of narcotics and/or alcohol and no force was used by Department personnel.

The following table details the 2015 ICD incidents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case No.</th>
<th>Cause of Death</th>
<th>Force Used?</th>
<th>Under the Influence?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Overdose</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No Toxicology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Overdose</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Overdose</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Overdose</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pending from Coroner</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pending from Coroner</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pending from Coroner</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Pending from Coroner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pending from Coroner</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Pending from Coroner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pending from Coroner</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Pending from Coroner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pending from Coroner</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Pending from Coroner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pending from Coroner</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Pending from Coroner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The County of Los Angeles Department of Medical Examiner – Coroner, defines accidental deaths as any death due to injury where there is no evidence of intent to harm.
In 2015, Department personnel were involved in 1,825 NCUOF incidents. This figure remained relatively consistent when compared to the four year average from 2011 through 2014 of 1,788 incidents.

In 2015, of the 1,825 NCUOF incidents, radio calls generated by Communications Division and field detentions, based on officers’ observations, continued to be the most significant sources for NCUOF incidents. Radio calls and officer’s observations represented 55 percent and 30 percent of the total incidents, respectively.
There were 1,825 NCUOF incidents in 2015. A TASER was deployed in 28 percent of those incidents, and beanbag shotguns were utilized in four percent of the NCUOF incidents. The TASER utilization percentage (per incident) increased by six percentage points in 2015, when compared to 22 percent in 2014, and the beanbag shotgun rate increased by one percentage point when compared to three percent in 2014. All other force options remained unchanged or decreased when compared to 2014.

The percentage breakdown for NCUOF incidents, based on officer’s ethnicity for 2015 compared to the 2011 through 2014 annual average, was as follows:
- Hispanic: 2,910 NCUOF incidents, Average 2,432; 20 percent increase.
- White: 1,718 NCUOF incidents, Average 1,646; 4 percent increase.
- Asian: 469 NCUOF incidents, Average 450; 4 percent increase.

The percentage breakdown for NCUOF incidents, based on suspects’ ethnicity for 2015 compared to the 2011 through 2014 annual average, was as follows:
- Black: 383 NCUOF incidents; Average 360; 6 percent increase.
- Other: 29 NCUOF incidents, Average 11; 81 percent increase.
- American Indian: 18 NCUOF incidents, Average 17; 6 percent increase.

The percentage breakdown for NCUOF incidents, based on suspects’ ethnicity for 2015 compared to the 2011 through 2014 annual average, was as follows:
- American Indian: One suspect; Average One.
- Asian: 27 suspects; Average 21; 29 percent increase.
- Black: 652 suspects; Average 657; One percent decrease.
- Hispanic: 870 suspects, Average 839; Four percent increase.
The second highest with 371 individuals, or 20 percent. Beyond the 23 to 27 age group, the number of suspects in the age categories becomes less frequently involved in NCUOF incidents.

In 2015, 455 suspects of the 1,894 total, or 24 percent, were perceived to have a mental illness. Suspects with perceived mental illness have increased over the past five years.

In 2015, 441 suspects of the 1,894 total, or 44 percent, were perceived to be impaired by narcotics and/or alcohol. Additionally, 901 suspects, or 48 percent, did not display signs or symptoms of alcohol or narcotics impairment. It is unknown if 152 suspects, or eight percent, were impaired by narcotics and/or alcohol.

In 2015, 2,086 of the 1,894 suspects involved in the NCUOF incidents, or 70 percent, were perceived to be homeless. For the same year, 1,467 suspects, or 77 percent, were not perceived to be, or unknown if, homeless.

In 2015, 1,633 suspects sustained injuries during, or as a result of, NCUOF incidents. The 2015 total exceeded the 2011 through 2014 annual average of 1,615 injured suspects by 18, or one percent.
Prepared by:
Use of Force Review Division