

Police Department
City of Keene, New Hampshire

Date: 25 January 2018

To: Steven Russo, Police Chief *AR-140*

Through: Steven Stewart, Captain *SMS #156*

Through: Todd Lawrence, Captain *TL #123*

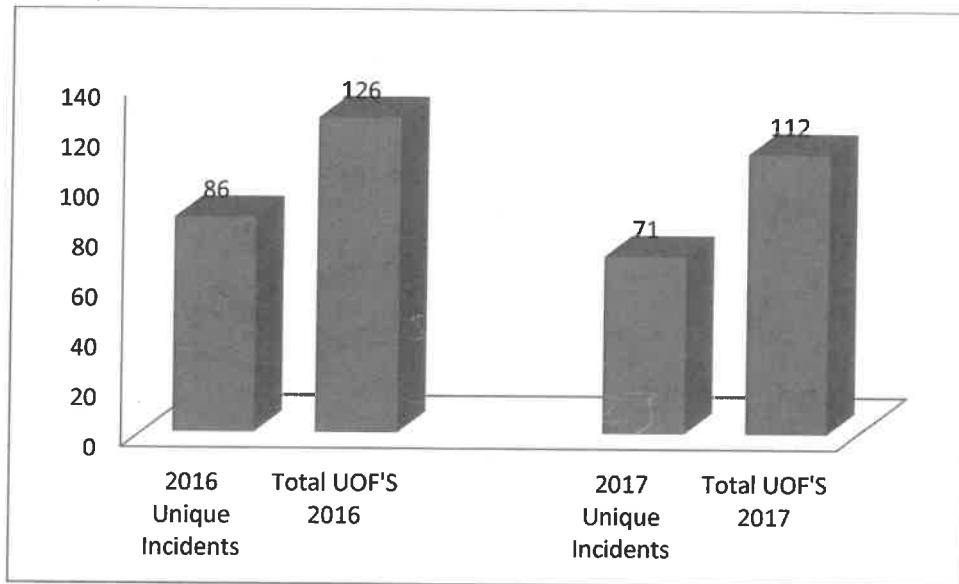
From: Shane C. Maxfield, Lieutenant

Subject: 2017 Use of Force Analysis

During January of 2018, I conducted an analysis of all 2017 Use of Force (UOF) reports filed by Keene Police Officers. An analysis and review of the UOF reports for completeness, developing trends and effectiveness of weapons, techniques and training was completed.

Over the course of 2017 there were a total of 71 unique incidents (56 Arrest Reports (AR's), 15 Offense Reports and Field Interviews (OF's and FI's), exclusive of "Dispatched Animals") resulting in 112 Use of Force reports filed. Arrest Reports produced 90 UOF filings, while OF's and FI's produced the remaining 22 UOF's.

The 71 incident total for 2017 was a 17.44% decrease from 2016, which had 86 unique incidents. The 112 total UOF's filed in 2017 was also notably lower (11.11% lower) than 2016, which had 126 UOF's filed. This relationship is illustrated, below.

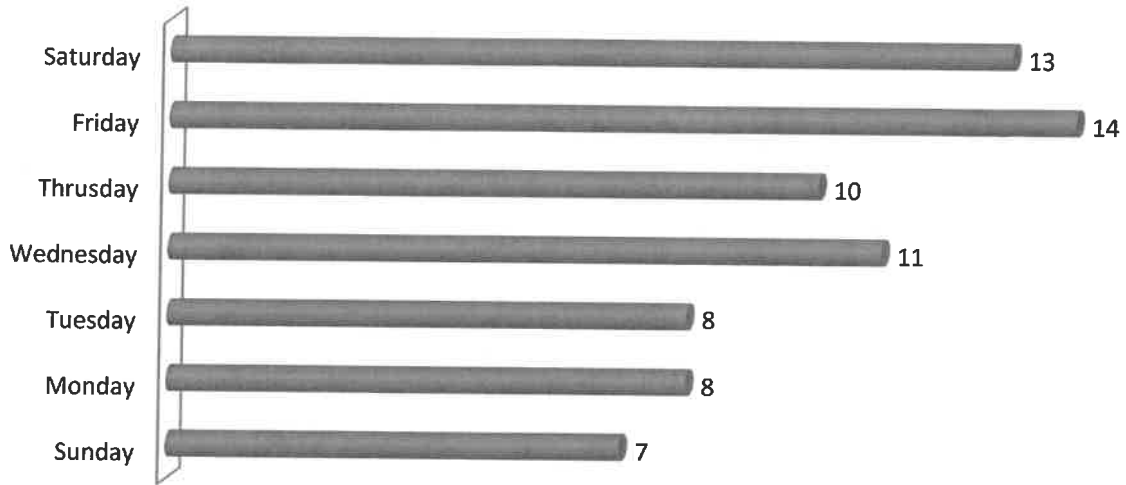


Analysis of the UOF's themselves revealed no specific reasoning for the decrease from 2016 to 2017, nor could any correlation be made regarding call volume. The "Calls For Service" total from 2017 (29168) was only 2.91% lower than 2016 (30042).

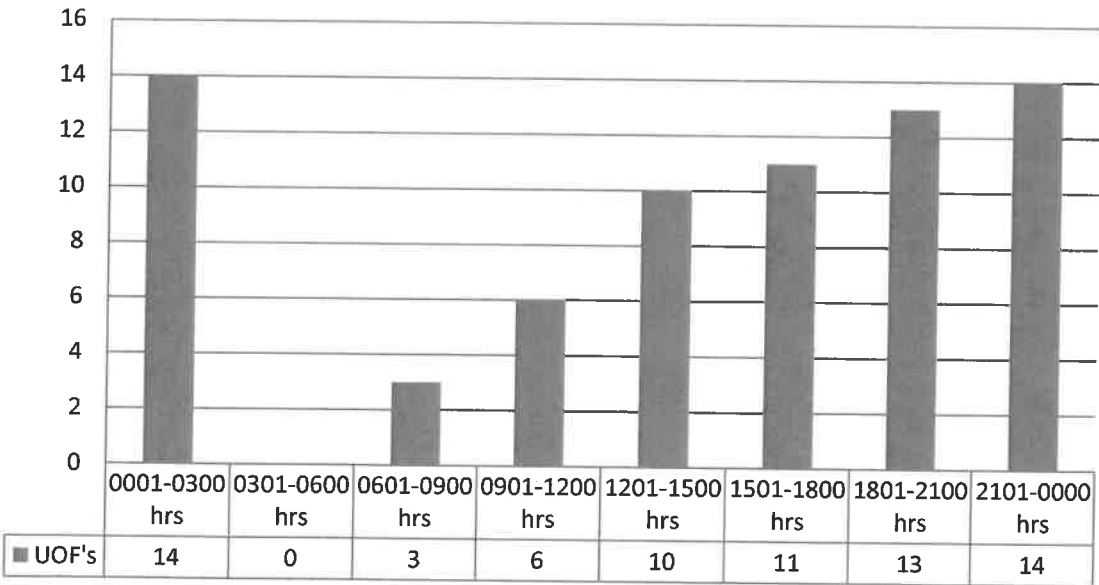
The characteristics of the AR-involved UOF's were varied, as expected and included pre-arrest UOF's to booking room UOF's. The OF-related UOF's involved mostly IEA's and "assist other agency" cases.

A day / time analysis of the 71 unique UOF incidents showed the following breakdown by day of week and then by time of day. Friday and Saturday accounted for the most UOF incidents, followed by Wednesday and Thursday, in that order. The six hours bracketing midnight were the heaviest. No specific reason for this day / time breakdown was explained by the raw data, though one could surmise that these are the days and times when the Police are more likely to engage in encounters necessitating the use of force, such as alcohol- or domestic-related incidents.

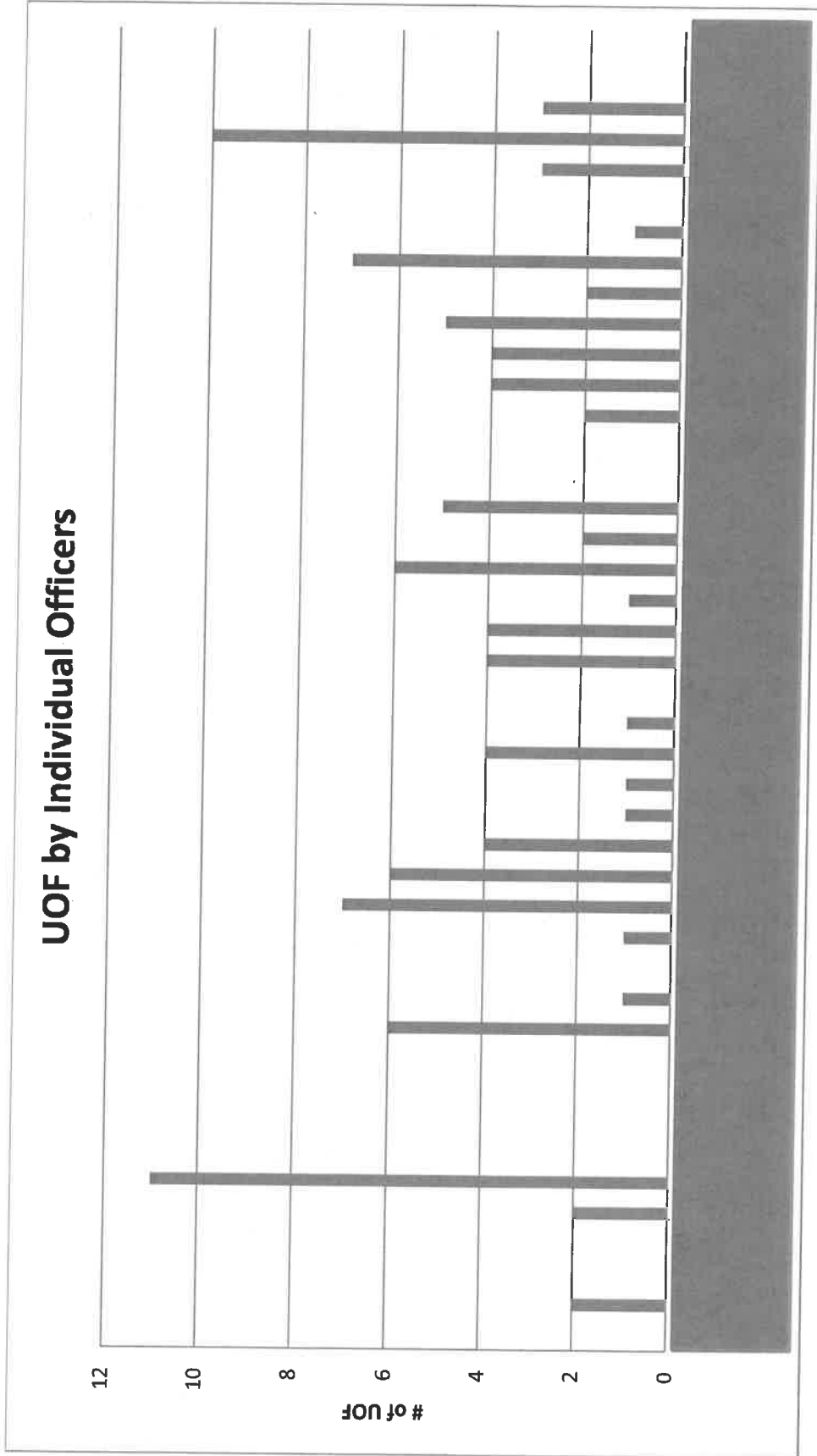
Days of the Week



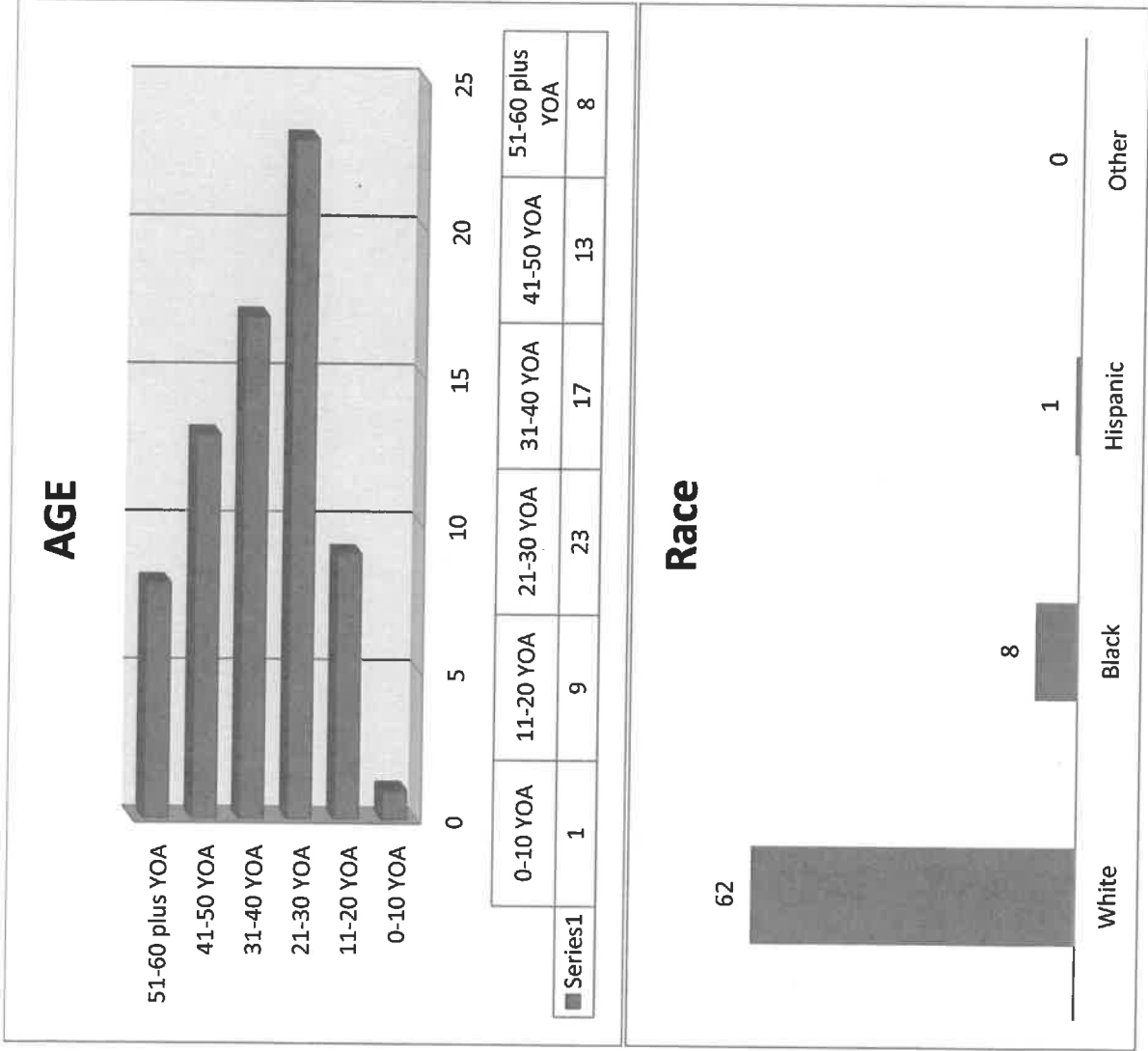
Times of Day

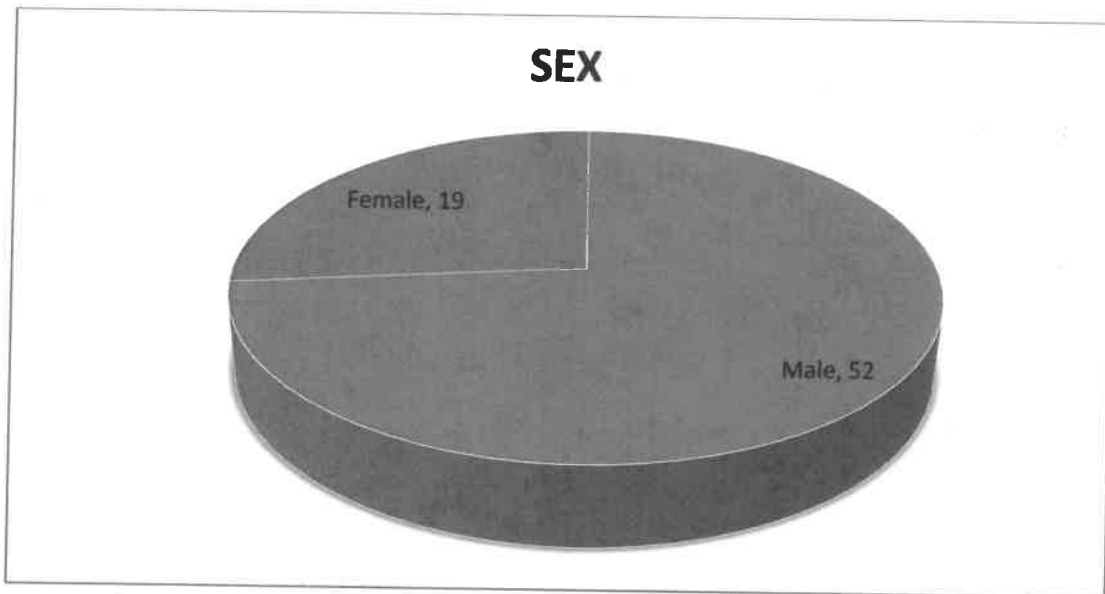


Analysis of the numbers of UOF reports filed by individual officers showed the predictable (and historic) trend that dayshift officers report fewer uses of force than evening or night shift officers. Two personnel showed noticeably more UOF's filed than the other officers. I pulled and reviewed each UOF case for those two, and found them to be reasonable and within policy.

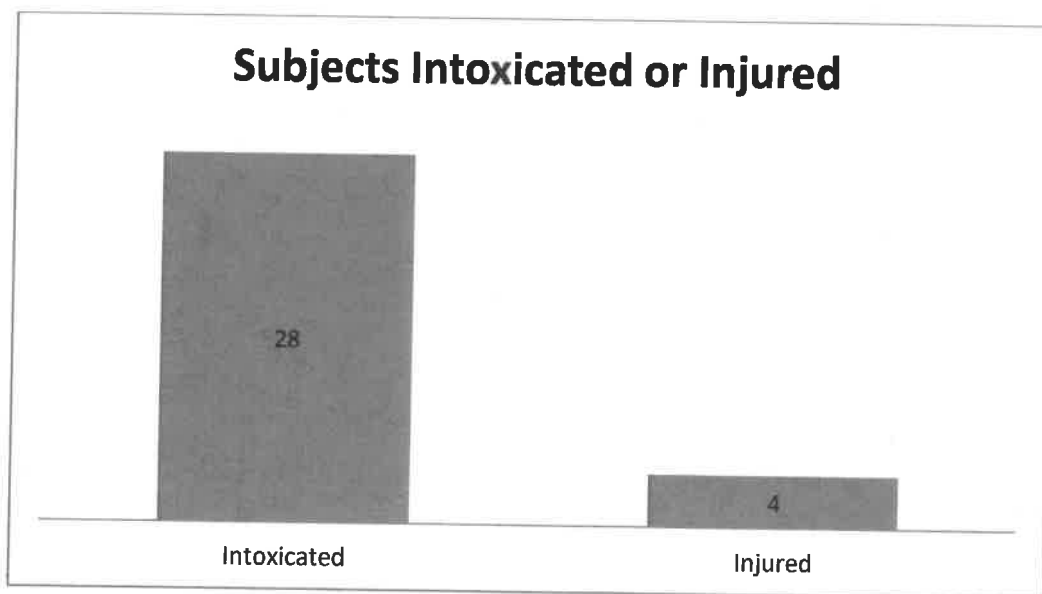


Analysis of the suspects involved showed the bulk of UOF's applied on white males in their early twenties to early thirties.





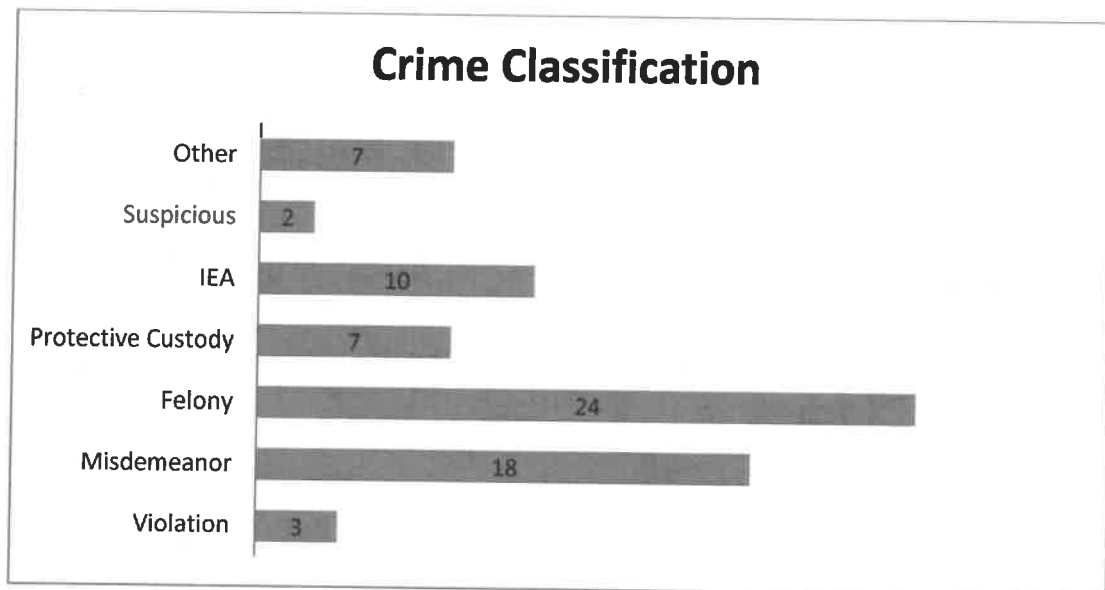
Of the 71 unique incidents, suspects were intoxicated in 28 of them and injured in 4 instances.



This translates to a 39.4% intoxication rate and a 5.6% injury rate for 2017. Comparable data for 2016 showed a 48% intoxication rate and a 16% injury rate.

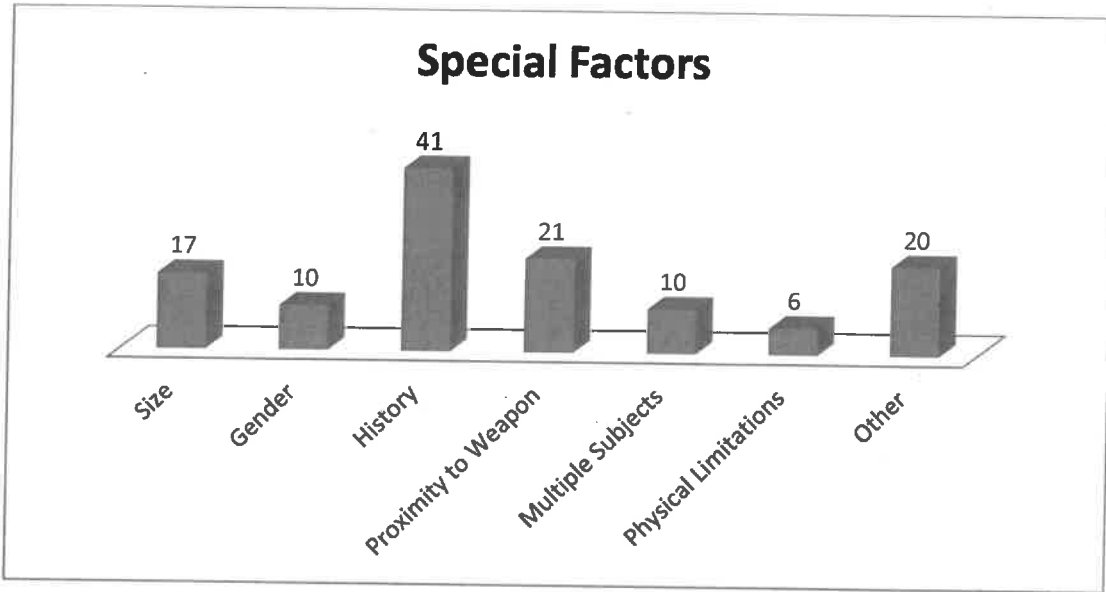
Of the four subjects listed as "Injured" in the 2017 UOF's, one received a simple ER checkup after attempting to jump off of an overpass, one was treated for injuries sustained while trying to take an officers pistol, one was treated for injuries received prior to Police arrival and the fourth sustained a non-fatal gunshot wound from the Police.

Analysis of the encounters themselves showed that the majority of them resulted in (or stemmed from) felony charges for the suspects, followed by misdemeanor incidents. Other level charges and dispositions were far fewer.



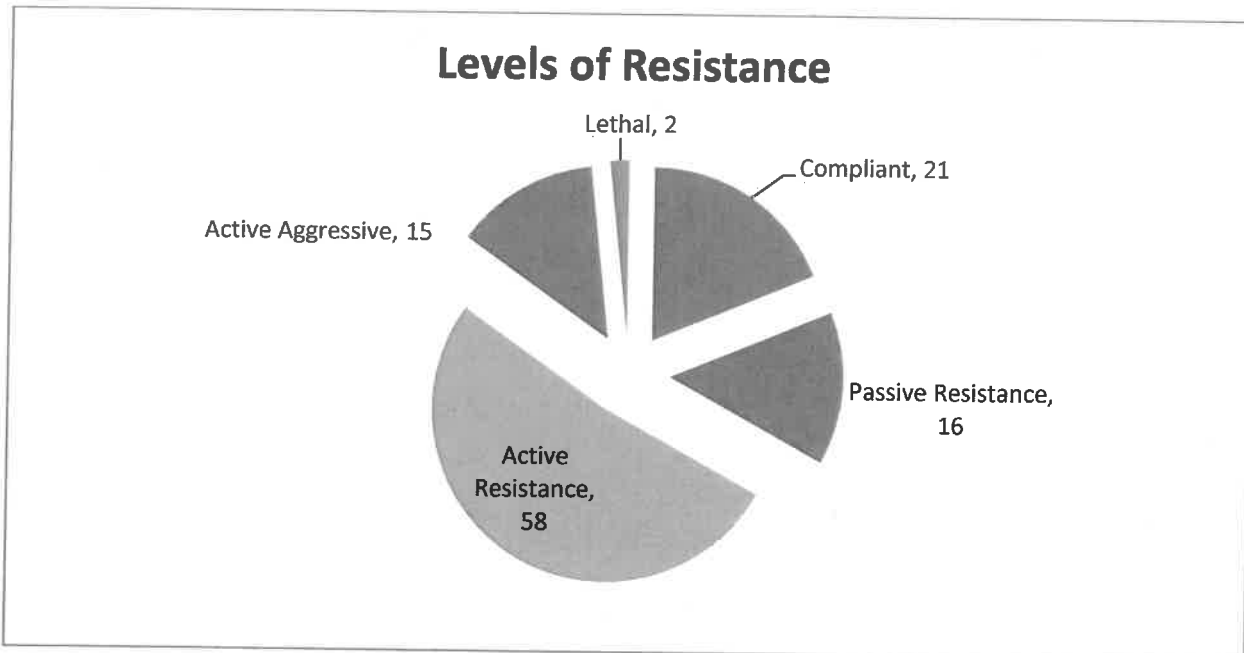
A comparison of 2017 UOF by Crime Classification to the same categories from 2016 showed violations for 2017 at three, 2016 at six. Misdemeanors for 2017 were at eighteen of the total, 2016 were at fifty-seven. Felonies for 2017 were at twenty-four of the total, 2016 were at twenty-five. Protective Custodies for 2017 were at seven of the total, while 2016 PC's were at ten.

Understanding that an officers perception of their opponent plays a big part in their choice of tactics to deal with them, I noted that the majority of total UOF's filed listed "Special Factors" relating to either the choice to employ force or the choice of tactic:



Note the high numbers for "Prior History / Knowledge," which belies multiple encounters with the same suspects, or in some cases effective dispatchers conveying information more than the minimum. It is important to note that a single officer might cite multiple "Special Factors," or none, and that this perception can vary between different officers at the same incident.

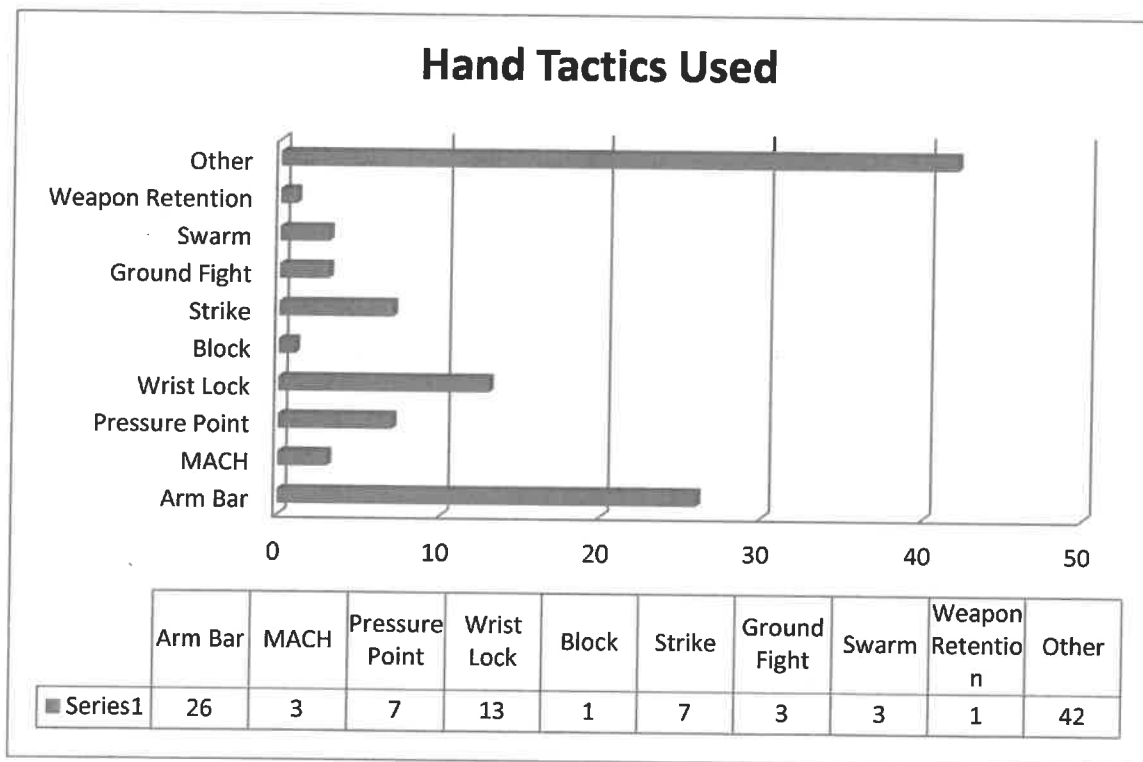
Also pertaining to officers' perception of opponents is the level of resistance encountered. Similar to historic data, "Active Resistance" by far outnumbers other levels of resistance perceived by Officers, as illustrated here:



The above chart, "Levels of Resistance," reflects the total number of UOF's filed, not the total number of individual incidents, so there are several incidences of multiple officers reporting on the same incident. Additionally, note the number of "Compliant" suspects. These suspects were involved in felony-level incidents wherein they had weapons aimed at them, triggering a UOF reporting requirement, but were otherwise cooperative.

Officers used "Hand Techniques" most often (106 during the year), which makes sense historically and practically as it is the most readily available force option. Next common was "Firearms or Special Weapons" (33 uses, "displayed only" for all except for one Officer-involved shooting). The remaining force categories (OC, baton, K9 and Tac Team) were each utilized twice, over the year. Many of the UOF reports filed indicated the officers utilized more than one force option to resolve the incident.

Given the commonplace use of "Hand Techniques" I charted that category to aid in training planning with the UOF / Defensive Tactics team.



Arm bars were used 2nd most often for the provided techniques, proving the ease and usefulness of this technique. Things that filled up the "Other" category included many hand techniques that didn't fit into any of the classic categories, such as holding / grabbing, handcuffing, carrying, kicking etc.

"Firearms and Special Weapons" utilized in 2017 included the Glock, the M4-style rifle, and the 40mm launcher, in that order. They were "displayed only" except for two uses of the Glock pistol in an Officer-involved shooting.

OC spray was used twice, and was mostly "very effective" both times.

Baton was used twice, for arm locks.

The KPD Tactical Team filed 2 UOF reports. During the 2 incidents, their firearms or special weapons were displayed only. One use was for a high risk arrest warrant, the other for a high risk search warrant.

Two UOF reports listed officers as being injured (both for 17-782-AR), and refer to a minor wrist injury an officer sustained from being kicked during an arrest.

The results of this Use of Force analysis are used, in a continual fashion, to ensure that KPD Use of Force training is effective and contemporary via coordination with the Use of Force team. Practices, policies and techniques, as well as fielded equipment are also reviewed with this report as an aid to ensure their effectiveness and relevance in keeping with the KPD mission. Current equipment, policy and training appears to be meeting the Keene Police Department's needs.