

"Police departments everywhere have no greater responsibility than to ensure that our officers, who are entrusted by the public to use force in the performance of their duties, use that force prudently and appropriately. And when deadly force is used, police departments have a solemn obligation--to the public and to the officers involved--to investigate these cases thoroughly, accurately and expeditiously." - Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey

## Introduction

The Metropolitan Police Department's Force Investigation Team is the unit that investigates use-of-force incidents involving MPD officers. The Force Investigation Team, part of the Office of Professional Responsibility, was created in January 1999, following a Pulitzer Prize-winning series in the Washington Post. The articles documented serious shortcomings in the internal tracking and investigation of use-of-force incidents. The series, entitled *Deadly Force*, also revealed that during the 1990s, the MPD had the highest per-capita rate of officer-involved shootings in the United States.

The Force Investigation Team spent the first three months of its existence researching legal issues and best practices in the use-of-force area, and then customized a set of operational policies and procedures. The team itself was empowered to research, plan, and, upon approval, implement the policies and procedures that addressed the unique needs of the MPD and the District of Columbia. Using progressive leadership models and business theories, the team established a system that ensures high quality, comprehensive, and professional force investigations.

The system included a multi-tiered process for investigating use-of-force incidents, and was formalized in an operational plan that included detailed flowcharts and written plans. To ensure quality and accountability, the team created reporting templates, worksheets, and questions that are used at force scenes to ensure that all pertinent information is collected.

The Force Investigation Team has also engaged in non-traditional training designed to emphasize quality, foster balanced reviews of force incidents, and ensure empathy and fairness for all parties involved. For example, the Force Investigation Team has partnered with private industry, sought out perspectives from local and national civil rights and law enforcement organizations, and conducted innovative training exercises.

The Force Investigation Team also created an automated central repository to track and analyze police use-of-force data, and this has helped the department to track use-of-force trends and identify opportunities for additional officer training.

The Force Investigation Team became operational on April 11, 1999, and was originally charged with the responsibility to investigate incidents in which Metropolitan Police Department officers killed suspects. Over the next two years, the investigative responsibilities of the team increased through the process of managed expansion. The responsibilities of the team eventually grew to include the investigation of almost all police-related firearm discharges, deaths of persons in police custody, officer suicides involving a service weapon, and firearm discharges by agents assigned to the District of Columbia Office of the Inspector General.

In 2000, the Force Investigation Team built on the success from the previous year. The team continued to improve the quality of its investigations, and further expanded its force related statistical data collection and analysis. In 2001, the Force Investigation Team was able to quickly identify use-of-force trends and initiated intervening action that contributed to use-of-force reductions in those areas.

In 2002, the Force Investigation Team continued its commitment to professionalism and extremely high quality. Additionally, the team garnered over 2000 hours of training, and continued its tradition of experiential learning via benchmarking with outside organizations. Also, the Force Investigation Team continued its commitment to civil rights protection, both for the citizenry and for police officers.

Chief Ramsey has recognized the team's success, and directed that the Force Investigation Team be expanded to handle instances of less-lethal uses of force. A second team was established in October 2001, and became operational January 1, 2002. In addition to deadly force, the Force Investigation Team II investigates uses of force resulting in broken bones, hospitalization, head strikes, loss of consciousness, police dog bites, and criminal referrals from the Office of Citizen Complaint Review.

The Force Investigation Team today is an award winning high quality police unit that has set new standards for investigation, innovation, and training. It now serves as a model for law enforcement agencies worldwide, and has been emulated by other agencies. The Force Investigation Team has been featured at seminars both in the United States and abroad.

Statistically in 2003, Metropolitan Police Department police deadly force injuries has shown a slight increase from the previous year. In 2002, five people were killed and seven people were injured by police firearm discharges. This year there were 5 people killed and 10 people were injured as a result of police firearm discharges. The department did experience a slight increase in accidental firearm discharges, from 6 last year to 7 this year. Nonetheless, the department is encouraged that, in general, the number of incidents have stabilized well below the high numbers of the 1990s.

The Force Investigation Team's statistical systems were able to help the department identify force related trends that allowed for intervening action. Additionally, the Force Investigation Team helped develop a civil disturbance use of force continuum for major demonstrations.

This Annual Report contains a plethora of information that helps paint a picture of the police use-of-force situation in the District of Columbia. The report helps us to fulfill our responsibility to be accountable to the community.

It is clear that police use-of-force will continue to be a volatile issue for law enforcement in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Force Investigation Team is part of the formula to keep community confidence and trust in the Metropolitan Police Department.

## Vision/Value Statement

The Vision/Value Statement of the Force Investigation Team serves as the cornerstone of the team's philosophy. Every action made by a member of the Force Investigation Team must comport with at least one aspect of this Vision/Value statement. This statement is updated annually to ensure that the team's focus remains on the cutting edge of our industry.

The Metropolitan Police Department Force Investigation Team will:

- Promote the professionalism, values, and ethics associated with the finest traditions of the Metropolitan Police Department
- Conduct fair, impartial, and highly professional reviews of use-of-force incidents involving Metropolitan Police officers.
- Take our obligation seriously to the public and our officers to thoroughly, accurately, and expeditiously investigate these incidents.
- To remain the nation's model as it relates to police use-of-force investigations.
- Create, welcome, and support the leadership skills and expertise of all members of the team.
- Encourage team building, open communication, and mutual respect.
- Constantly strive to improve our ability to conduct investigations through professional development. Aspire to become a "learning organization."
- Maintain unbiased and respectful treatment of all people.
- Be committed to cultural sensitivity.
- Continually strive to enhance the confidence, trust, and support of the community.
- Accept accountability and responsibility for our duties and responsibilities.

## Organizational Chart

The Metropolitan Police Department, Office of Professional Responsibility, Force Investigation Team, is divided into two operational squads, each comprised of investigative response teams (called Force Review Teams). These teams are available for on-duty or callback response on a twenty-four hour seven day-a-week basis. The operational squads are divided by area of investigative responsibility; one squad focuses on primarily use of deadly force (firearms), while the other focuses primarily on less lethal uses of force. Additionally, a Force Review Operations Liaison provides specialized support including data collection, analysis, and reporting. The liaison provides support to the MPD Office of the

General Counsel and the D.C. Office of the Corporation Counsel as it relates to civil lawsuits, and handles information requests from federal and other organizations. Finally, the Force Investigation Team provides administration duties for the Use of Force Review Board.



## Identified Customers

One of the most important aspects of the Force Investigation Team is its business-related perspective. Accordingly, the Force Investigation Team endeavored to identify its primary stakeholders, or “customer base.” The identification of these customers help members of the Force Investigation Team focus on who they are conducting an investigation for. This concept helps keep the Force Investigation Team accountable to its customers, while fostering quality at every level of its operations.



FIGURE 1.2 This graph represents the customer base of the Force Investigation Team. The customers were identified after a series of brainstorming sessions with team members.

## Mission and Authority

The mission of the Metropolitan Police Department's Force Investigation Team is to conduct fair, impartial, and professional reviews of use of force incidents involving sworn Metropolitan Police officers. The Force Investigation Team is a component of the Office of Professional Responsibility, thus team operational procedures and related requests for assistance have the full authority of that office.

The Force Investigation Team is the primary use of force investigative entity within the Metropolitan Police Department. The Force Investigation Team conducts three types of force investigations as follows:

- (1) The Force Investigation Team conducts a criminal investigation of an officer's actions as it relates to the use of force.
- (2) The Force Investigation Team conducts a criminal civil rights investigation of an officer's actions as it relates to the use of force. This in no way precludes federal agencies from opening their own investigations.

Once a criminal declination or a criminal prosecution is completed by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, the Force Investigation Team will:

- (3) Conduct a policy review of an officer's actions as it relates to the use of force. The policy review will include:
  - a. A determination of whether the use of force was consistent with MPD policy and training.
  - b. A determination of whether proper tactics were employed.
  - c. A determination of whether lesser force alternatives were reasonably available.

Additionally, a criminal investigation of the incident that *led* to the use of force will be initiated, where applicable. Members from the Violent Crime Unit, Office of the Superintendent of Detectives, will handle this investigation.

Since the facts related to this investigation are the same as those in the force review, the lead Force Investigation Team investigator and the lead Violent Crime Unit investigator work the case in unison.

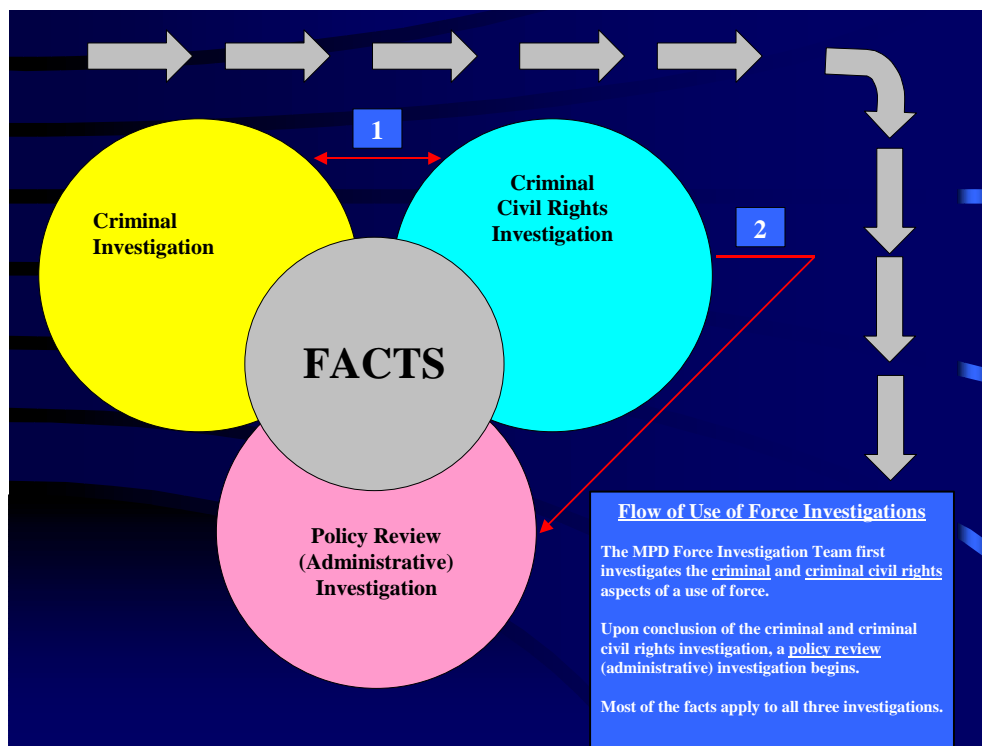
The Force Investigation Team also conducts investigations of use of force incidents occurring *outside the District of Columbia*. In these instances, the primary criminal investigation of the incident rests with the law enforcement authority of the jurisdiction of occurrence, and the Force Investigation Team conducts only the policy review.

Members of the Force Investigation Team reserve the right, and have the authority, to assume full control of any criminal investigation related to any force incident that occurred in the District of Columbia.

The Force Investigation Team coordinates, transmits, and consults with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia regarding all instances of serious use of force.

The Force Investigation Team compiles, tracks, analyzes, and reports all of the data related to use of force by Metropolitan Police Department officers.

FIGURE 2.1 This diagram demonstrates the responsibility flow of Force Investigation Team investigations. Note that the policy review investigation is not initiated until a prosecutorial decision is made. The figure shows that while the Force Investigation Team conducts several investigations, the facts, circumstances, and evidence pertain to all three of the investigations.



## Operations

The Force Investigation Team is comprised of two operational squads each composed of investigative response teams. These teams are available for on-duty or callback response on a twenty-four hour seven day-a-week basis. The operational squads are divided by area of investigative responsibility; one squad focuses on primarily use of deadly



force (firearms), while the other focuses primarily on less lethal uses of force. Squad responsibilities are divided as follows:

**Force Investigation Team One:**

- Firearm discharges (except range, training incidents, and discharges at animals)
- Uses of force resulting in death
- In-custody deaths
- Officer suicides (with service weapon)
- Police vehicle pursuits that result in serious injury or death

**Force Investigation Team Two:**

- Uses of force resulting in a broken bone
- Injuries requiring hospitalization as a result of a police use of force
- Head strikes with impact weapons
- Uses of force resulting in a loss of consciousness, risk of death, serious disfigurement, or disability or impairment of the functioning of any body part or organ
- Incidents where persons receive a bite from an MPD canine
- Serious Use of Force related referrals from the Office of Citizen Complaint Review that are forwarded to the United States Attorney’s Office for review
- Criminal allegations of police use of excessive force

In 2003, the Force Investigation Team responded to the scene of 72 force related incidents. During this period, members of the Force Investigation Team completed 72 Preliminary Investigative reports, 72 Final Investigative reports, and processed 93 Use-of-Force Review Board cases. Moreover, members of the Force Investigation Team logged over 3,000 response hours, participated in over 1200 interviews, and worked over 8,500 follow-up hours.

**TYPES OF FORCE RESULTING IN A FIT RESPONSE**

Intentional Firearm Discharges at People	Accidental/Negligent Firearm Discharges	In Custody Deaths	Vehicle Pursuits Fatality	ASP	Canine	Other Criminal	Other Administrative	Total
27	7	1	1	11	16	4	5	72

## Trend Analysis

Investigating incidents of police use-of-force is a critical function. However, it is also imperative for law enforcement agencies to track and analyze data to identify trends. Once trends are identified, then intervening action can occur to minimize similar future occurrences.

The Force Investigation Team identified two trends in 2003, and, via the Assistant Chief of the Office of Professional Responsibility, took intervening action.

First, in 2003, Force Investigation Team statistical analyses revealed an increase in instances culminating in MPD officers accidentally discharging their firearms while administratively unloading them. FIT managers forwarded the information to the Institute of Police Science, which in turn increased the amount of training in this area in the 40-hour training session, the bi-annual firearm re-certification, and daily roll-call in-service training.

Second, a careful analysis of Canine Unit deployment revealed a small number of dog bites and apprehensions that fell slightly beyond departmental policy. Moreover, it appeared that these types of apprehensions were made while the canine was still on lead (leashed). The matter was immediately brought to the attention of the Special Operations Division Commander for proper resolution. As a result of the analysis the officers in the unit received additional instruction from the Canine Training Unit.

The Civil Rights and Force Investigations Team is committed to tracking, analyzing, and reporting statistical trends as they relate to use of force by members of the department in order to identify and quickly rectify any shortcomings as they relate to departmental policies.

## Statistical Review

The Metropolitan Police Department recognizes it has an obligation to the citizenry to document and report use-of-force data. The statistical review section reflects the

department's responsibility to the community to share with them, in a comprehensive format, the information related to use-of-force by members of the department. The following pages contain summary data that has been used to track, analyze, and improve police practices as it relates to police use of force.

### DEADLY FORCE STATISTICS

**Intentional firearm discharges at people** by members of the Metropolitan Police Department **that resulted in injury or death** slightly increased in 2003. However, this year's figures reflect a stabilization of the huge declines the department experienced since the implementation of use-of-force reforms in previous years.

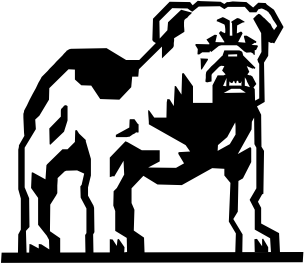
In 1998, officers shot a total of 32 people; 12 were killed and 20 were injured. In 1999, officers shot a total of 11 people; 4 were killed and 7 were injured. In 2000, 1 person was killed and 6 were injured. In 2001, 3 were killed and 14 were injured. In 2002, 5 were killed and 7 were injured. In 2003, 5 were killed and 10 were injured.

**MPD FIREARM DISCHARGE STATISTICAL  
TABLE FOR 2003**

**The total number of intentional police firearm discharges at people** (whether or not there were injuries) increased, but reflect the stabilization mentioned earlier. In 1999, there were 34 total firearm discharges at persons by MPD Officers. In 2000, there were 20 total firearm discharges at persons. In 2001, there were 29 firearm discharges at persons. In 2002, there were 24 firearm discharges at persons. In 2003, there were 27 firearm discharges at persons.

<b>Intentional Firearm Discharges at People</b>	<b>2003</b>
Fatalities	5
Injuries	10
Misses	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Accidental/ Negligent Firearm Discharges</b>	
Fatalities	0
Injuries	1
No Injuries	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Discharges at Animals</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Officer Misconduct Discharges</b>	
Fatal	0
Injuries	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Firearm Discharges</b>	<b>47</b>

**Firearm discharges at animals** (dogs) increased slightly in 2003. There were 13 discharges at dogs in 2003, compared to 10 discharges in 2002. Prior to 1999, no statistics were captured. In 1999, 21 dogs were shot. In 2000, 18 dogs were shot. In 2001, 16 dogs were shot. This is a significant statistical decrease from the previous year.

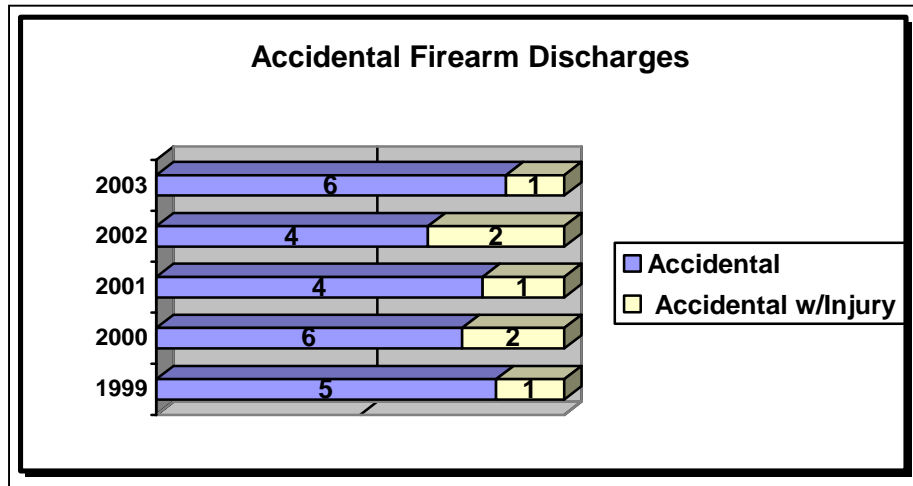


Breed of Dog	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Pit Bull	16	14	9	9	5
Akita	1	0	1	0	2
Rotweiler	1	1	4	0	1
German Shepherd	1	2	1	0	2
Retriever	0	1	1	0	0
Neapolitan Mastiff	0	0	0	1	0
Rhodesian Ridgeback	0	0	0	0	1
Unknown Breed	2	0	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	21	18	16	10	13

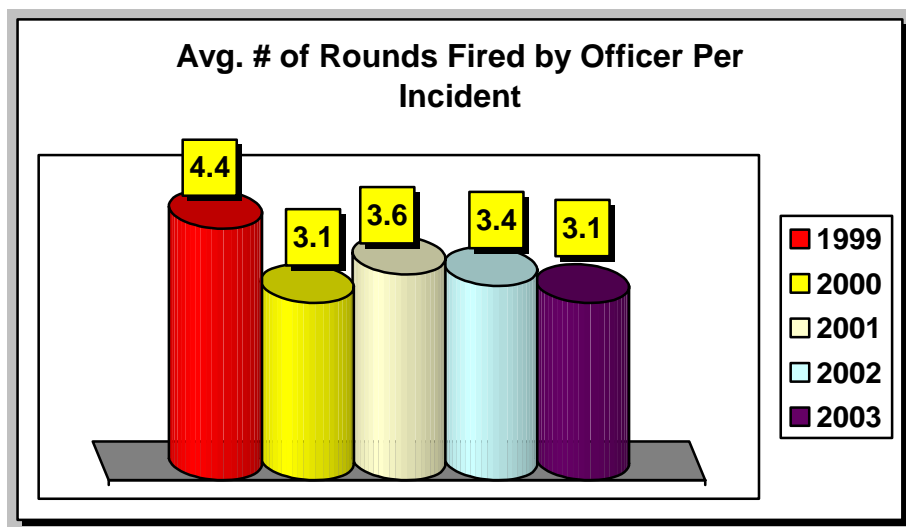
38% of the dogs shot by police this year were of the Pit Bull breed.

Police District or Jurisdiction	1999 ANIMAL SHOOTINGS	2000 ANIMAL SHOOTINGS	2001 ANIMAL SHOOTINGS	2002 ANIMAL SHOOTINGS	2003 ANIMAL SHOOTINGS
First District (1D)	0	1	1	0	0
Second District (2D)	0	0	1	0	0
Third District (3D)	2	0	2	0	0
Fourth District (4D)	2	3	0	2	2
Fifth District (5D)	4	6	2	1	2
Sixth District (6D)	5	4	3	3	1
Seventh District (7D)	6	3	3	4	4
Maryland (MD)	2	1	4	0	3
Virginia (VA)	0	0	0	0	1

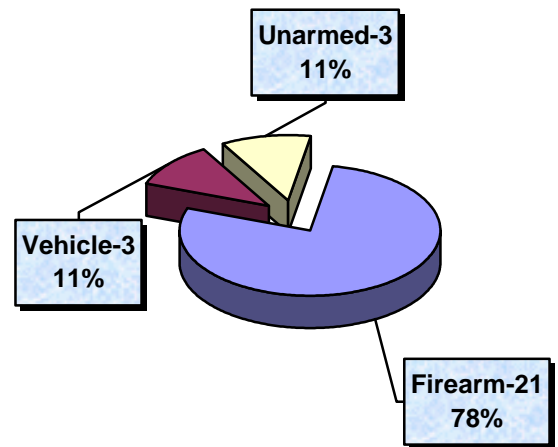
There was an increase in the number of **accidental firearm discharges** by members of the Metropolitan Police Department. In 2003, there were 7 total accidental discharges, with 1 resulting in injury. In 2002, there were a total of 6 accidental discharges, with 2 resulting in injury. In 2001, there were a total of 5 accidental discharges, with 1 resulting with an injury. In 2000, there were 8 accidental, with 2 resulting in injury. In 1999, there were 6 accidental discharges, with 1 resulting in injury.



The **average number of rounds fired by officer per incident** in 2003, decreased to 3.1. In 2002, the average number fired by officers was 3.4, in 2001, the average number fired by officers were 3.6, in 2000, the average was 3.1, and in 1999, the average was 4.4. There are no records previous to 1999.



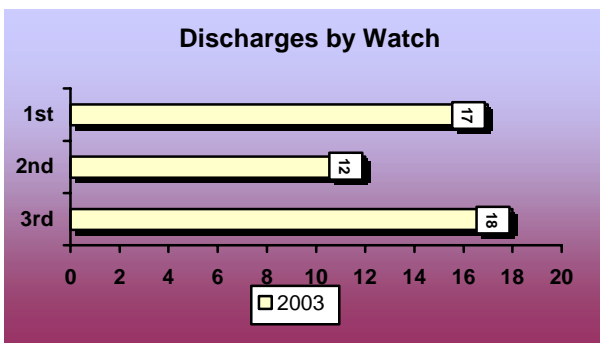
In 2003, members of the Metropolitan Police Department faced a **variety of threats** during encounters that escalated into police firearm discharges. The greatest threat faced by officers was firearms, which represented 78 percent of the threats. This is a 19 percent increase of firearm threats from 2002.



In 2003, **all firearm discharges occurred during all three watches**. 38 percent of the discharges occurred during the evening and 36 percent of the discharges occurred overnight, and 26 percent occurred during the day .

The watches are normally as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Watch 11pm – 7am
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Watch 7am - 3pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Watch 3pm -11pm



In 2003, there were 47 **total overall firearm discharges**, compared to 40 in 2002. This includes discharges at persons, accidental discharges, and discharges at animals. In 2001, there were 51 overall discharges. In 2000, there were 47 overall discharges. In 1999, there were 62. In 1998, there were 61, and in 1997, there were 91. The greatest number of firearms discharges in 2003, by month was April (6), followed by June, October, and December (5).

**Overall Firearm Discharges By Month 2003**

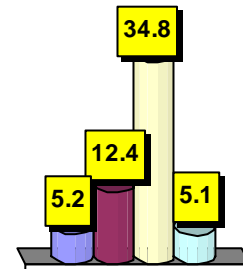
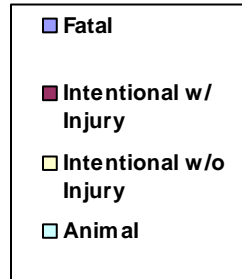
2003	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Number	4	3	3	6	2	5	3	3	3	5	5	5	47

In 2003, there were 3 **police firearm discharges at unarmed subjects**. The subjects represented a physical and perceived deadly threat.

In 2003, the overall **average distance of fire** upon initial threat was 14.4 feet.

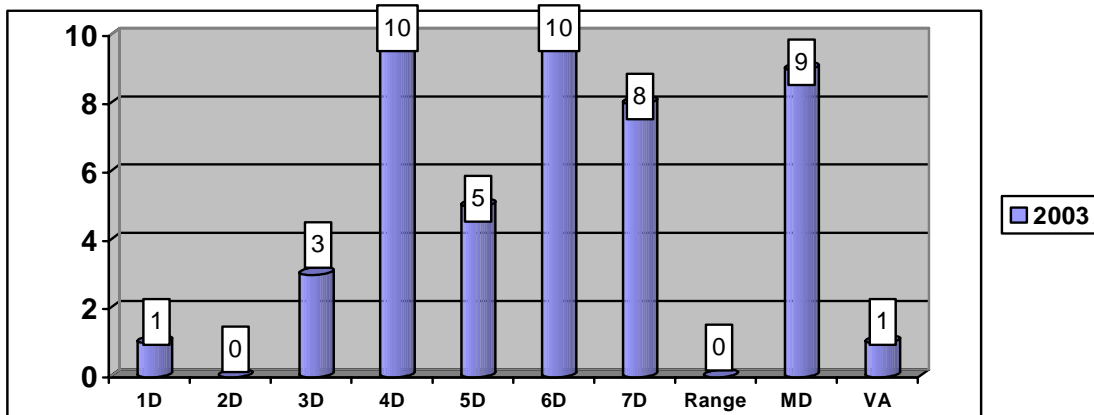
Fatal discharges occurred just over 5 feet away from the subject.

**Average Distance of Fire**



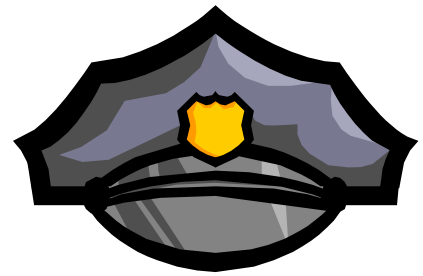
In 2003, most of the department's firearm discharges were concentrated in the East **Regional Operations Commands (ROC)**. ROC-East experienced 18 discharges, ROC-North experienced 10, and ROC-Central experienced 9 discharges. 9 discharges occurred in MD and 1 discharge occurred in VA. The Second District experienced the lowest number of discharges (0), while the Fourth and Sixth Districts experienced the most (10). The First District experienced a decrease of (4). The Fourth and Fifth Districts experienced increases of (2), while the Sixth District experienced the largest increase of (5).

**Discharges by District**

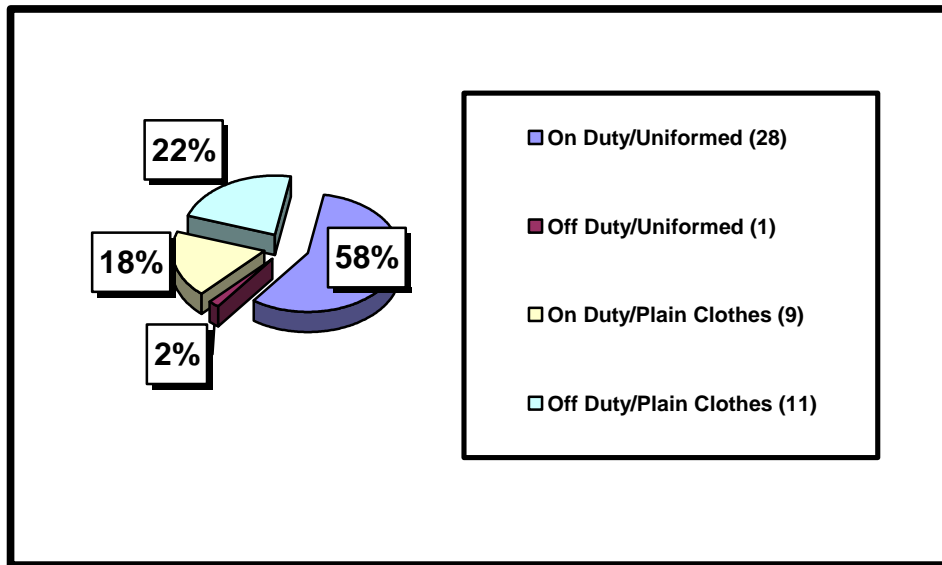


*ROC Central – 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>d</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Districts; ROC EAST – 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Districts; ROC North – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Districts*

For 2003, the median **age of all MPD officers discharging** their firearms is 32 years old, with the majority between 31 and 35 years of age. The median age of officers on the department is 38 years old.



The **average years of service of all MPD officers discharging** their firearms is 6 years. The average years of service of officers on the department is 12 years.



\*Note this chart reflects the # of officers discharging a firearm which includes incidents **where more than one officer fired**.

In 2003, the great majority of MPD officers involved in firearm discharges were **on-duty** and wearing a uniform (58%). On-duty officers accounted for 37 of the discharges, while on-duty plainclothes officers accounted for 9 of the discharges. Off-duty officers accounted for 24% of the discharges.

As it relates to **in-custody deaths**, 1 person died in 2003. 3 people died in 2002 and 1 person died in 2001, 2000, and 1999. This is a decrease over the last four years.

In 2003, there were no police suicides. In 2002, there were no police suicides. In 2001, one Metropolitan Police Department member committed suicide. There were no police officer suicides in 2000 or in 1999.



The Metropolitan Police Department tracks the **race and gender of officers discharging firearms**. In 2003, the majority of discharging officers were African American (59%). Caucasian officers represent 41% of the discharging officers. African Americans represent 65% of the department, while Caucasian officers represent 29% of the department.

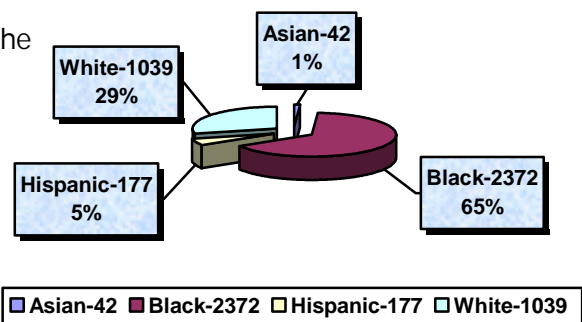
Additionally, 96% of the discharging officers were male, while 4% of the officers were female. Males represent 76% of the department, while females represent 24% of the department.

MPD also tracks the **race and gender of subjects who were shot by police**. In 2003, 4 black males were killed, and 8 were wounded, and 1 black female was killed.

<u>Race &amp; Gender of Discharging Officers and the Race &amp; Gender of the Suspect's that they Fired at*:</u>	
BLACK MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	14
BLACK MALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	1
BLACK MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	1
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	0
WHITE MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	10
WHITE MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	1
ASIAN MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	0
HISPANIC MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	0
ASIAN MALE OFFICER/ASIAN MALE SUSPECT	0
WHITE MALE OFFICER/UNKNOWN SUSPECT	0

\*This chart reflects the # of officers discharging a firearm at a suspect, whether or not the suspect was struck. This includes incidents where more than one officer fired at the same suspect, or where one officer fired at more than one suspect. It also includes an incident where a suspect was injured as a result of an unintentional discharge.

For reference purposes, this chart reflects the racial composition of the 3,630 sworn members of the Metropolitan Police Department. (These statistics were provided by the Human Services Division and were current as of September 18, 2003).



## NON-LETHAL FORCE STATISTICS

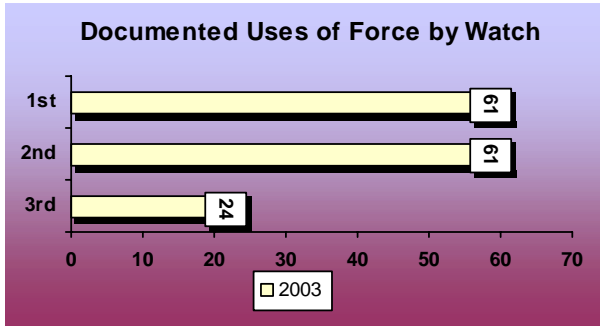
In 2003, there were 146 reported documented uses of non-lethal force. The FIT investigated 36 of those cases.

2003 Non-Lethal Cases FIT Investigated

Types of Cases	Canine	ASP	OC Spray	Other	Allegations of Excessive Force	OCCR/USAO Referral	Civil Action	Total
Number	16	11	0	4	5	0	0	36

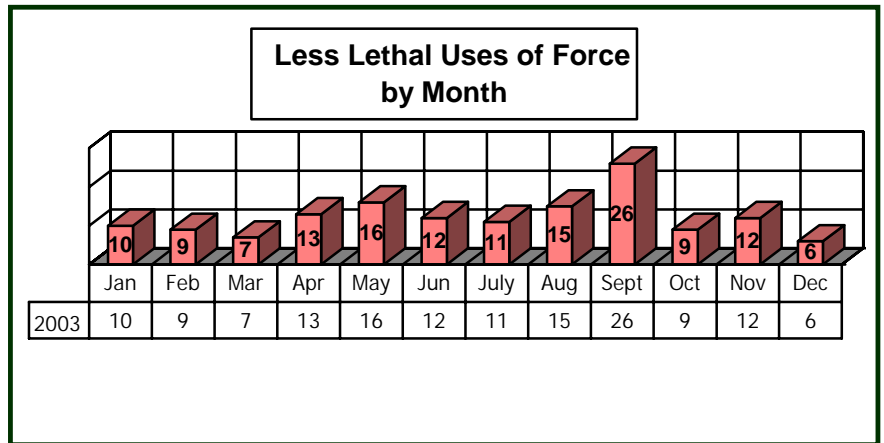
\*Note: other is hand, portable radio, and handgun.

In 2003, Non-Firearm uses of force occurred during all three watches. Nearly 42 percent of the uses of force occurred during the evening, 42 percent of the discharges occurred overnight, and 16 percent occurred during the day. The watches are normally as follows:



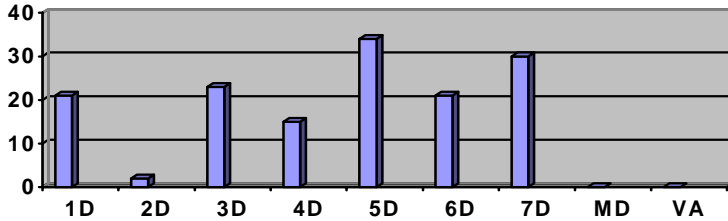
- 1<sup>st</sup> Watch    11pm – 7am
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Watch    7am - 3pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Watch    3pm -11pm

In 2003, the greatest number of less than lethal uses of force by month was September with (26), May with (16), followed by August with (15).



There were 48 uses of ASP, 64 uses of OC Spray, and 16 Canine bites. Additionally, 18 other cases were investigated as potential criminal conduct uses of force.

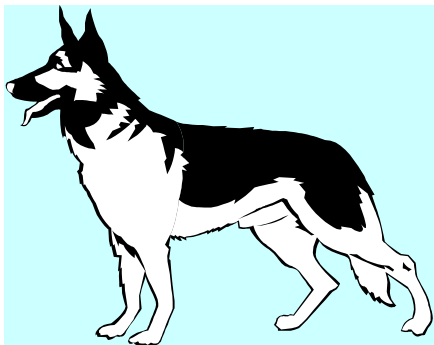
**2003 Documented Less Lethal  
Uses of Force by Location**



In 2003, most of the department's uses of force were concentrated in the Central and East **Regional Operations Command (ROC)**. ROC-Central experienced 78 uses of force and ROC-East experienced 51, while ROC-North

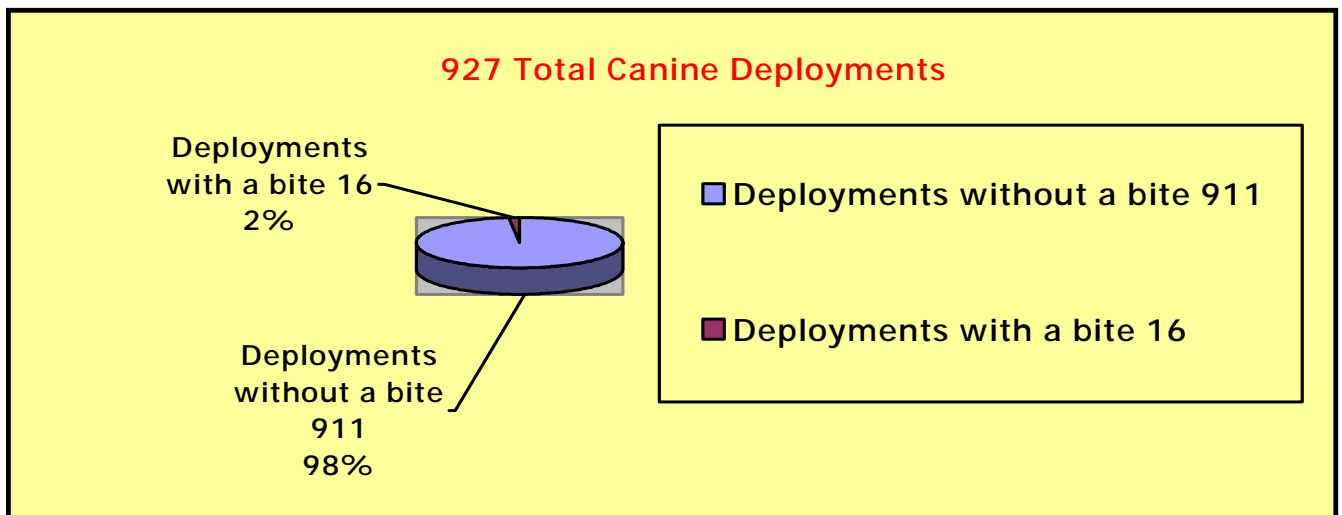
experienced 17 uses of force. The Second District experienced the lowest number of uses of force (2), while the Fifth District experienced the most (34).

*ROC Central – 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Districts; ROC EAST – 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Districts; ROC North – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Districts*



In 2003, there were a total of 927 Canine deployments. Out of the 927 deployments there were 73 apprehensions without a Canine bite and 16 apprehensions that resulted in a Canine bite.

(\*Note this information provided by SOD Canine Unit)



MPD also tracks the race and gender of subjects who were bitten by a Police Canine. In 2003, 14 African American males and 2 Hispanic males were bitten.

**Race & Gender of Deploying Officers and the Race & Gender of the Suspects Apprehended by Canine:**

BLACK MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	5
BLACK MALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	0
WHITE MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	9
WHITE MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	0
ASIAN MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	0
HISPANIC MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	0
ASIAN MALE OFFICER/ASIAN MALE SUSPECT	0
WHITE MALE OFFICER/UNKNOWN SUSPECT	0
WHITE MALE OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	2

\*This may include incidents where there is more than one deploying officer on the same suspect.



MPD also tracks the race and gender of subjects who were struck and wounded with an ASP Baton by police. In 2003, there were 48 documented uses of ASP. The FIT investigated 11 of those cases. 39 suspects were black males, 2 were white males, 3 were Hispanic males, and 4 were black females.

**Race & Gender of Discharging Officers and the Race & Gender of the Suspects that they Struck at\*:**

BLACK MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	16
BLACK MALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	1
BLACK OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	2
BLACK MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	2
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	6
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	1
WHITE MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	15
WHITE MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	1
ASIAN MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	0
HISPANIC MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	2
ASIAN MALE OFFICER/ASIAN MALE SUSPECT	0
WHITE MALE OFFICER/UNKNOWN SUSPECT	0
WHITE MALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	1
WHITE MALE OFFICER/ HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	0
HISPANIC MALE OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	1

\*This includes incidents where more than one officer struck the same suspect, or one officer struck more than one suspect.

In 2003, OC Spray was reportedly discharged 64 times. FIT did not investigate any uses of OC Spray.

**Race & Gender of Spraying Officers and the Race & Gender of the Suspects that they Sprayed at\*:**

BLACK MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	21
BLACK MALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK MALE OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	4
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	1
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	2
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	3
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/ ASIAN MALE SUSPECT	1
HISPANIC FEMALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	1
WHITE MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	21
WHITE MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	3
WHITE FEMALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	0
WHITE MALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	0
WHITE MALE OFFICER/ HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	0
ASIAN MALE OFFICER/ASIAN MALE SUSPECT	0
ASIAN MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	0
HISPANIC MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	2
HISPANIC MALE OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	1
HISPANIC MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	1

**\*This includes incidents where more than one officer sprayed the same suspect, or one officer sprayed more than one suspect.**



As it relates to **incident policy determinations**, the Force Investigation Team creates a final investigative report for every incident that reflects both the criminal and policy-related findings of a police use-of-force. The Force Investigation Team notifies the U.S. Attorney's Office within 24 hours of the occurrence of a police firearm discharge at a person, an in-custody death, or serious use-of-force. A formal in-person consultation occurs with the U.S. Attorney's Office within 3 days. All investigative findings, after review by the U.S. Attorney's Office, are subject to final policy review and determination by the *MPD Use of Force Review Board* and the Chief of Police. Therefore, many of the team's findings have not completed its route through the investigative and review processes. Force Investigation Team findings are classified into four areas:

**Justified, Within Departmental Policy** – this classification reflects a finding in which a police use of force is determined to be justified, and during the course of the incident the subject officer did not violate department policy.

**Justified, Policy Violation** - this classification reflects a finding in which a police use of force is determined to be justified, but during the course of the incident the subject officer violated a department policy.

**Justified, Tactical Improvement Opportunity** - this classification reflects a finding in which a police use of force is determined to be justified, and during the course of the incident no departmental violations occurred. However, the investigation revealed tactical errors that could be addressed through non-disciplinary and tactical improvement endeavors.

**Not Justified, Not Within Departmental Policy** - this classification reflects a finding in which a police use of force is determined to be not justified, and during the course of the incident the subject officer violated a department policy.

## Use of Force Review Board

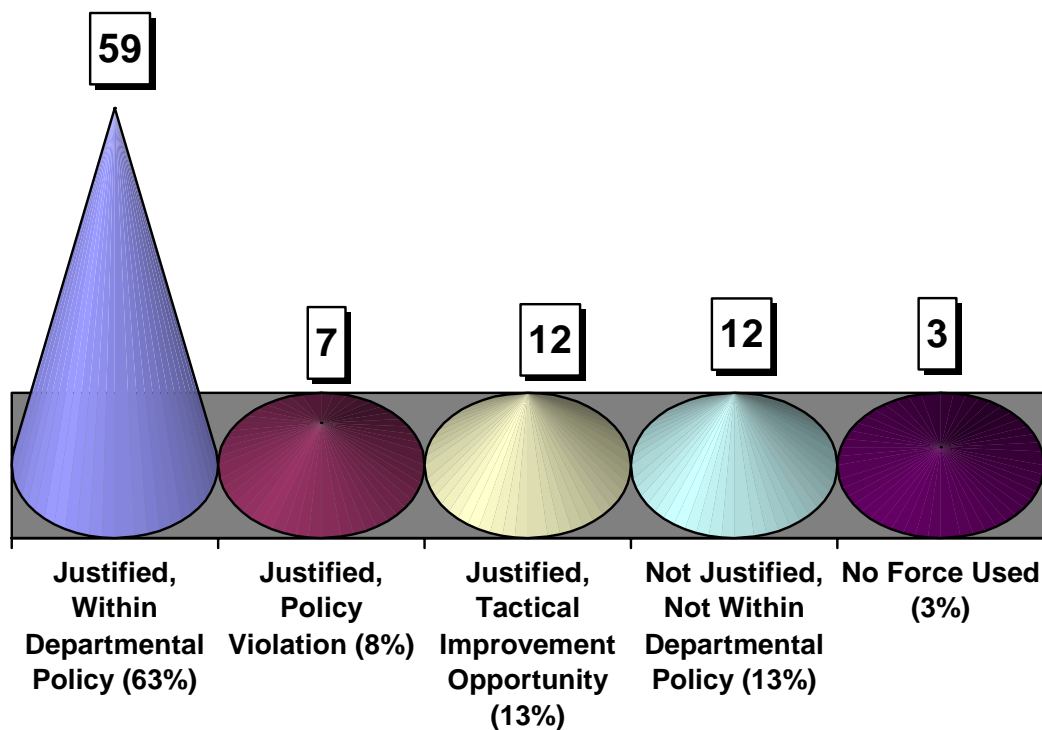
The Use of Force Review Board (UFRB) is responsible for reviewing the department's police use of force investigations and subsequently making determinations regarding adherence to department policy. The UFRB Operations Liaison within the UFRB also provides organizational support, logistical requirements, and statistical tracking for UFRB operations.

**FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM**  
**Incident Policy Determinations – Cases Closed in 2003**  
 (Includes cases initiated prior to 2003)

Type of Force	ASP	Canine	Excessive Force	In-custody Death	Glock	OC Spray	*Other	Total
Total	13	21	2	4	46	1	6	93

\*Note: other is represented by use of force hands, strikes with a gun, and radios

## UFRB FINDINGS and RECOMMENDATIONS – 2003



\*Includes all discharges and accidental discharges, as well as, cases initiated prior to 2003.

## Case Summary Highlights

Note: The following case summary highlights only represent the cases that have been adjudicated administratively and criminally.

### Fatal Firearm Discharges

#### OPR/FIT Case #S03-011-F

An off duty officer was driving westbound on Marlboro Pike, Capitol Heights, Md. When the officer observed a male assaulting another male. The officer stopped his vehicle and directed the individual to stop assaulting the male who was lying in the street. The male ignored the officer's order and he continued with his assault. The officer pushed the subject off of the injured male and the suspect got up and took a fighting stance. The officer observed the severity of the injuries to the victim's skull and leg, and drew his service pistol weapon. The officer identified himself as a police officer and advised the subject to get on the ground.

The suspect refused the officer's order and resumed a fighting stance. The officer fearing that he would be assaulted fired two (2) rounds from his service weapon, striking the suspect in his chest. The suspect was transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The assault victim also died on the scene from his injuries.

## **Police Officer Suicide**

None in 2003.

## **Vehicular Pursuit with Fatality**

OPR/FIT Case #AF1-03-05-F

An off duty uniformed officer was driving his personally owned police type vehicle, southbound on South Capitol Street, Southwest, en route for his re-deployment detail. The officer observed a green van, driving at such a slow speed that it impeded traffic. The officer then pulled his vehicle along the passenger side of the van where he observed four young males inside. The officer conducted a check of the vehicle's registration through the dispatcher and found that it was stolen. When the officer pulled near the suspect's vehicle they sped away.

The officer lost sight of the vehicle, however, pedestrians in the area alerted him to the suspect's direction of travel. Eventually, the suspect's vehicle, which had deficient brakes, crashed through the gates of the Washington Naval District Bellevue Housing Complex and crashed into a drainage pond. One of the occupants was ejected from the vehicle and succumbed to his injuries. The remaining three occupants were subsequently apprehended.

## **In-Custody Death**

OPR/FIT Case #AF1-02-03-F

A subject was arrested for narcotics distribution. At the time of the arrest the subject indicated that he was a dialysis patient, and that he had hepatitis. The subject stated that he had missed his last two-dialysis treatments and he stated that he wanted to go to the hospital. He was subsequently transported to DC General Hospital where he was examined by medical staff. The medical staff diagnosed the subject to have renal failure; however, the subject refused medical treatment. At some point while the subject was in custody he fell down, but he never reported the incident. The subject was transported to the United States Marshal's Service (USMS) Cell Block, and was placed into their custody. While in the custody of the Marshals Service, the subject reported that he felt sick.

A doctor of the Medical Services Unit examined the subject and he appeared weak and his vital signs were normal except for a slightly elevated pulse. The subject refused to sign a release form to disclose any medical information. The subject was sent to the Emergency Room for dialysis, but he again refused medical treatment. The subject was admitted to one



of the Infirmary Cells so that the staff could monitor him. While conducting a routine evaluation, a nurse found that the subject's blood pressure had dropped, his pulse rate was elevated, and that there was a drop in his blood oxygenation. The subject was transported by ambulance to George Washington University Hospital Center where subsequently he expired on Wednesday, January 8, 2003.

A subsequent autopsy revealed that the cause of death was due to a laceration of the liver with internal bleeding, caused by blunt impact. The subject's death was ruled an accident.

## **Intentional Firearm Discharges with Injuries (non-fatal)**

### **OPR/FIT Case #S03-003-H**

Two plain-clothes officers observed a suspect walk into the Lil' Peckers chicken restaurant at Columbia Road and Ontario Road, Northwest, in the Third District. The suspect pulled out a gun and robbed the establishment. The officers waited for the suspect to exit the restaurant, and they ordered him to stop. The suspect fired two rounds striking one officer in his right arm and the second officer was struck in his right leg. Both officers returned gunfire and one of their rounds struck the suspect's thumb. The suspect was discovered hiding behind a trash dumpster three blocks away from the restaurant with a .38 caliber revolver next to him and the stolen money.

### **OPR/FIT Case #S03-006-H**

On Thursday, February 20, 2003, a Sixth District officer monitored a radio broadcast for two subjects who were shot at Minnesota and Ames Street, Northeast. The officer responded to 35th and Clay Street, Northeast, where he exited his scout car to canvass the alley. The officer observed two black males standing on a loading dock in the alley.

The officer announced that he was a police officer and ordered the subjects to show their hands. One of the subjects pointed a handgun at the officer and fired it four times. The officer fired his weapon ten times, striking both subjects. The subjects were arrested without further incident.

### **OPR/FIT Case #S-03-012-H**

On Monday, April 13, 2003, at 3:00 AM, a Fifth District uniformed officer was directing traffic in the 2300 block of Bladensburg Road, Northeast, when a female pedestrian was struck by a suspect driving a Chevrolet Corsica, which knocked her to the pavement. The unidentified suspect stopped the car, and was approached by the officer. The officer opened the driver's side door of the Corsica and asked the driver what happened.

The driver accelerated the car forward and the officer believed that victim was going to suffer further injury. The officer fired one round from his departmentally issued service pistol at the suspect as he drove over the victim. The officer's round shattered the rear window of the Corsica. The Corsica accelerated north and struck an oncoming vehicle before speeding away from the scene.

### **OPR/FIT Case #S03-024-I**

On July 8, 2003, at about 6:00 AM, a Sixth District Officer observed a vehicle with expired DC registration tags and stopped the vehicle in the 1300 block of 27th Street, S.E. During the stop the operator of the vehicle sped off. The officer followed the vehicle to the 2700 block of Minnesota Avenue, Southeast, where it collided with another vehicle.

As the officer checked on the driver of the fleeing vehicle he observed the driver lying across the front seat with a silver colored gun in his hand. The officer retreated across the street and took cover behind a parked vehicle. The driver took cover behind the opened passenger door. The officer gave the driver numerous commands to drop his weapon and show his hands. However, the driver fired two shots from his handgun and yelled, "Kill me, shoot me." The driver then pointed his handgun at the officer.

The officer fearing for his life fired two (2) rounds at the driver. The driver was struck in the small finger of his left hand, his left kneecap and his abdomen. Subsequently, the driver dropped his weapon and was taken into custody.

### **OPR/FIT Case #S03-025-H**

A Third District uniformed officer was working outside employment at the CVS Store in Northwest, Washington, D.C. The officer looked out of the store window and observed a group of ten to fifteen male subjects armed with bats and sticks fighting at that location. As the officer approached the group he saw that several of the subjects were beating a Hispanic male with bats and sticks. As the officer approached the individual on the ground, the armed subjects fled the scene.

While the officer attempted to render aid to the individual on the ground, the individual pointed a dark colored handgun towards one of the suspects. The suspect then raised the handgun and pointed it in the direction of the officer. The officer discharged one (1) round from his service pistol towards the suspect. The round did not take effect.

### **OPR/FIT Case #S03-030-H**

On Thursday, September 5, 2003, at 1:11 AM, an off duty Fourth District officer was stopped at a traffic light in his personally owned vehicle at the intersection of Hill Road and Central Avenue in Prince George's County, Maryland. Two suspects approached his stopped vehicle from the rear and opened his two front doors in an attempt to carjack him.

One of the suspects ran away from officer's vehicle when he realized that he was armed. The suspect brandished his own firearm as he ran away. The officer discharged twelve rounds from his departmentally issued service pistol, striking the suspect three times. The suspect was subsequently arrested.

The second suspect entered an awaiting vehicle driven by a third suspect, which fled the scene. That vehicle was later recovered in the 5300 block of E Street, Southeast, but the two suspects escaped.

## Training and Professional Development

The Force Investigation Team sustained its commitment to education and training in 2003. This commitment has helped the team to adhere to a primary aspect of its vision statement, which challenges members to *"Constantly strive to improve our ability to conduct investigations through professional development. Aspire to become a learning organization."* Accordingly, in 2003, members of the Force Investigation Team participated in over 2,500 hours of training. These hours were comprised of both traditional and contemporary training endeavors.

### Benchmarking

Another strategy that the Force Investigation Team uses to expand its perspectives is the practice of *benchmarking*. Benchmarking involves interaction with other agencies and organizations to observe various best-practice methods to improve operations. For 2003, here are just some of the training and benchmarking activities that the Force Investigation Team participated in:

**Use of Force Model:** The FIT conducted a benchmarking session with a representative from the Hertfordshire Police Department in



Great Britain. The session discussed the MPD's use of force continuum model as well as the type of service weapons that the department utilizes.

**Use of Force Training:** Members of the FIT conducted a use of force seminar at the Baltimore City Police Academy for upper level management.

**Shooting Reconstruction:** This seminar was originally designed for crime scene processing technicians. Team members learned complex theories and techniques to reconstruct shooting scenes.

**Police Canine Demonstration:** The MPD Canine Unit conducted a training session for members of the FIT. The training included the Use of Canine for rescues, searches, and seizures.

**Psychological Approach to Detecting Danger:** This seminar provided members of the Force Investigation Team various approaches that police officers use to detect dangerous individuals. The course helped team members better understand challenges faced by contemporary patrol officers.



**National Transportation Security Board Academy:** Members of the FIT attended a training session in Ashburn, VA, conducted by the Chief of the Major investigations Division, NTSB. The NTSB is responsible for accident investigations in all modes of transportation-aviation, highway, marine, railroad, and pipeline. The training discussed large scale on scene investigations.

**New Use-of-Force General orders:** The Force Investigation Team conducted an in-service training session to review the new use of force General Orders. FIT members also conducted Reverse Garrity in-service training to mid and upper level managers of the MPD.

To date, thirty-nine local and federal law enforcement agencies have sought assistance from the team in developing or improving their own deadly-force investigations. The Force Investigation Team will continue its efforts into 2004, and will strive to improve on the successes it has garnered. The Force Investigation Team is glad to be part of the solution, and is proud that the Metropolitan Police Department is the trendsetter in the area of police use-of-force investigations.

The Metropolitan Police Department Office of Professional  
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