

Force Investigation Team 2002 Annual Report



Office of Professional Responsibility
Civil Rights and Force Investigations Division



Charles H. Ramsey, Chief of Police
Washington, D.C.

"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 unit 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 past 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 2002, Metropolitan Police Department police deadly force injuries has shown a decrease from the previous year. In 2001, three people were killed and fourteen people were injured by police firearm discharges. This year five people were killed and seven people were injured by police firearm discharges. The department did experience a slight increase in accidental firearm discharges, from 5 last year to 6 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 21st century. The Force Investigation Team is part of the formula to keep community confidence and trust in the Metropolitan Police Department.

Vision/Value Statement

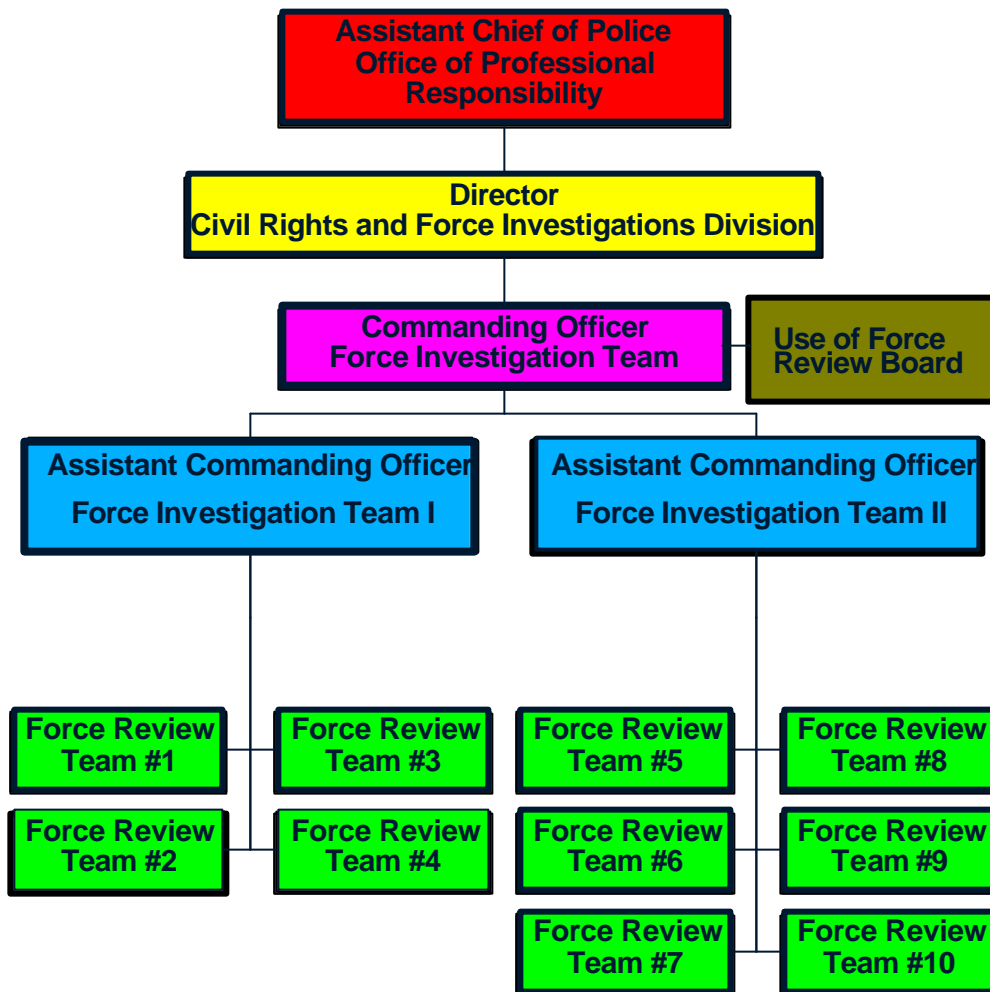
The Vision/Value Statement of the Force Investigation Team serves as the cornerstone of the team's philosophy. Every action made by a member of the Force Investigation Team must comport with at least one aspect of this Vision/Value statement. This statement is updated annually to ensure that the team's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

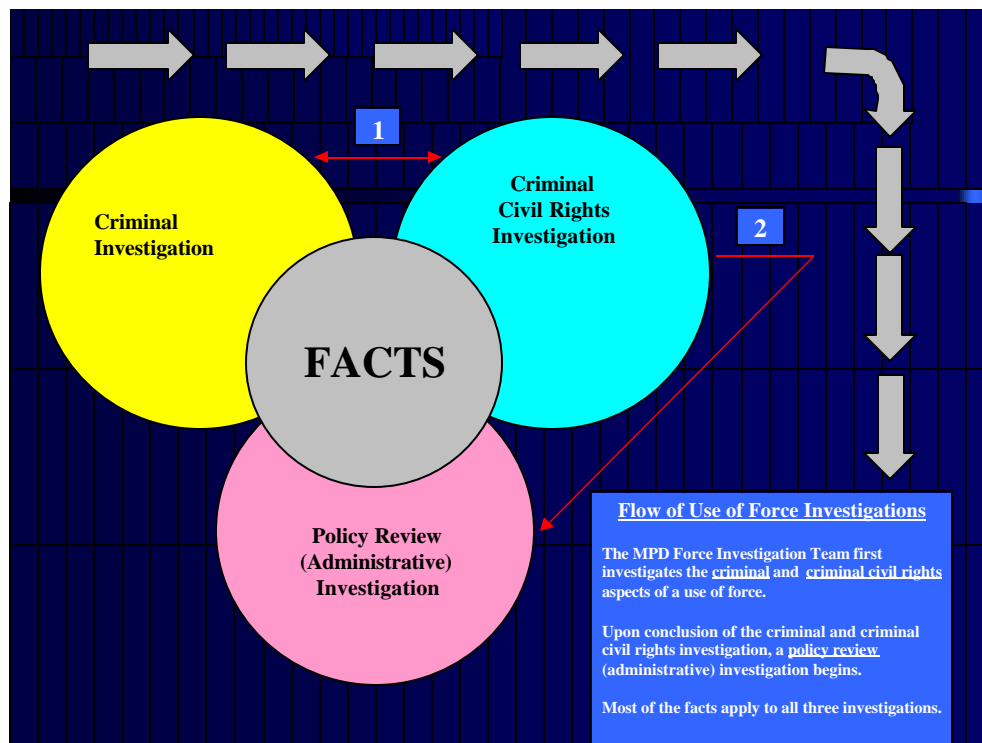
The Force Investigation Team also conducts investigations of use of force incidents occurring *outside the District of Columbia*. In these instances, the primary criminal investigation of the incident rests with the law enforcement authority of the jurisdiction of occurrence, and the Force Investigation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

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)

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 2002, the Force Investigation Team responded to the scene of 84 force related incidents. During this period, members of the Force Investigation Team completed 84 Preliminary Investigative reports, 56 Final Investigative reports, and processed 90 Use-of-Force Review Board cases. Moreover, members of the Force Investigation Team logged over 3,176 response hours, participated in 1297 interviews, and worked over 9,184 follow-up hours.

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 2002, and, via the Assistant Chief of the Office of Professional Responsibility, took intervening action.

First, in the early part of 2002, Force Investigation Team statistical analyses revealed a significant increase in instances culminating in MPD officers discharging firearms at vehicles. 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. This intervention led to immediate declines in this type of firearm discharge.

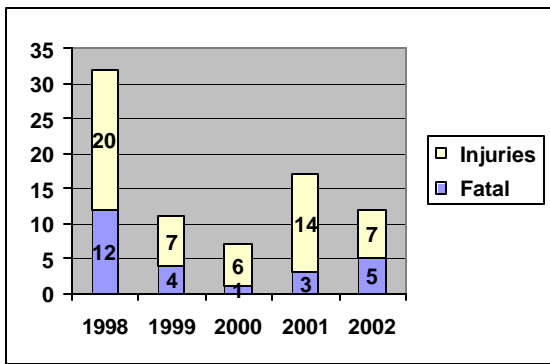
Second, a careful analyses of Canine Unit deployment revealed a small number of dog bites and apprehensions that fell slightly beyond departmental policy. Moreover, it appeared that the majority of these types of apprehensions were made by the same squad of officers assigned to the First Watch. The matter was immediately brought to the attention of the Special Operations Division Commander for proper resolution. One of the officers in the unit received additional instruction from the Canine Training Unit.

The Force Investigation 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

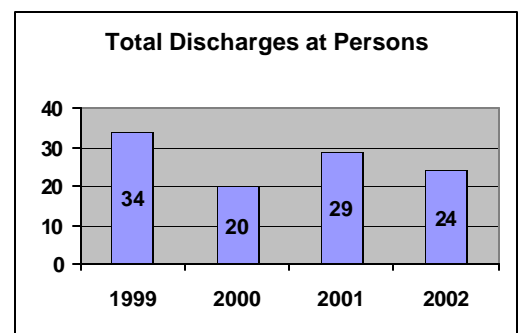


Intentional firearm discharges at people by members of the Metropolitan Police Department **that resulted in injury or death** declined slightly in 2002. However, this year's figures reflect a stabilization of the huge declines the department experienced since the implementation of use-of-force reforms 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.

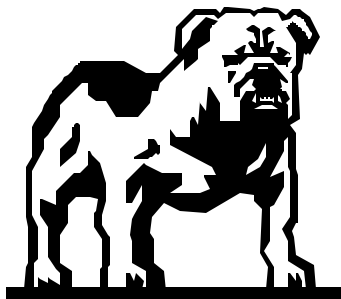
The total number of intentional police firearm discharges at people

(whether or not there were injuries) decreased, 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.



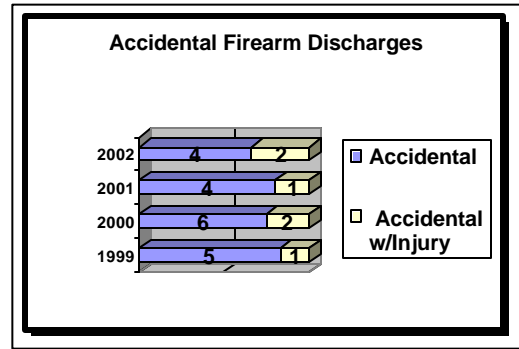
Firearm discharges at animals (dogs) once again declined in 2002. This reflects a four-year trend of reductions. Prior to 1999, no statistics were captured. In 1999, 21 dogs were shot. In 2000, 18 dogs were shot. In 2001, 16 dogs were shot. In 2002, 10 dogs were shot. Most of the dogs shot by police this year were of the Pit Bull breed.

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

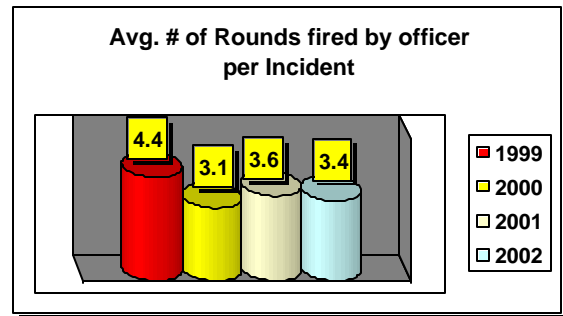


Breed of Dog	1999	2000	2001	2002
Pit Bull	16	14	9	9
Akita	1	0	1	0
Rotweiler	1	1	4	0
German Shepherd	1	2	1	0
Retriever	0	1	1	0
Neapolitan Mastiff	0	0	0	1
Unknown Breed	2	0	0	0
TOTAL	21	18	16	10

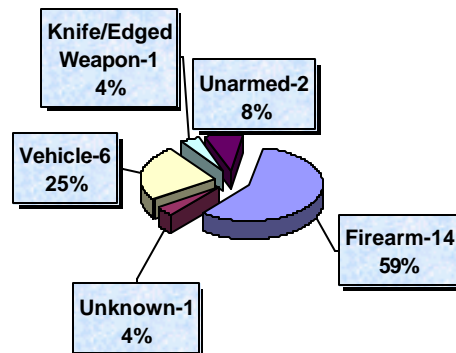
There was an increase in the number of **accidental firearm discharges** by members of the Metropolitan Police Department. In 2002, there were a total of 6 accidental discharges, with 2 resulting in injury. In 2001, there were a total of 5 accidental discharges, with 1 resulting with an injury. In 2000, 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** remained stable. In 2002, the average number fired by officers was 3.4, in 2001, the average number fired by officers was 3.6, in 2000 the average was 3.1, and in 1999 the average was 4.4. There are no records previous to 1999.

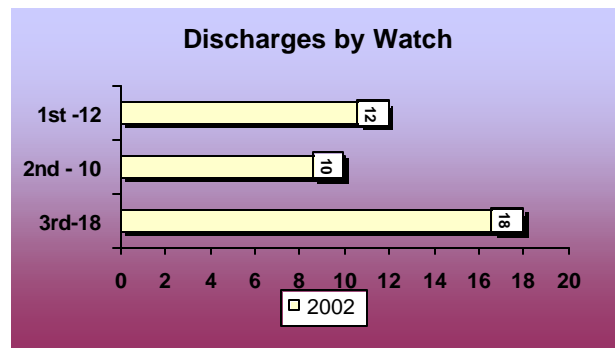


In 2002, members of the Metropolitan Police Department faced a **variety of threats** during encounters that escalated into police firearm discharges. The greatest threat faced by officers was firearms, which represented 56% of the threats in 2002.

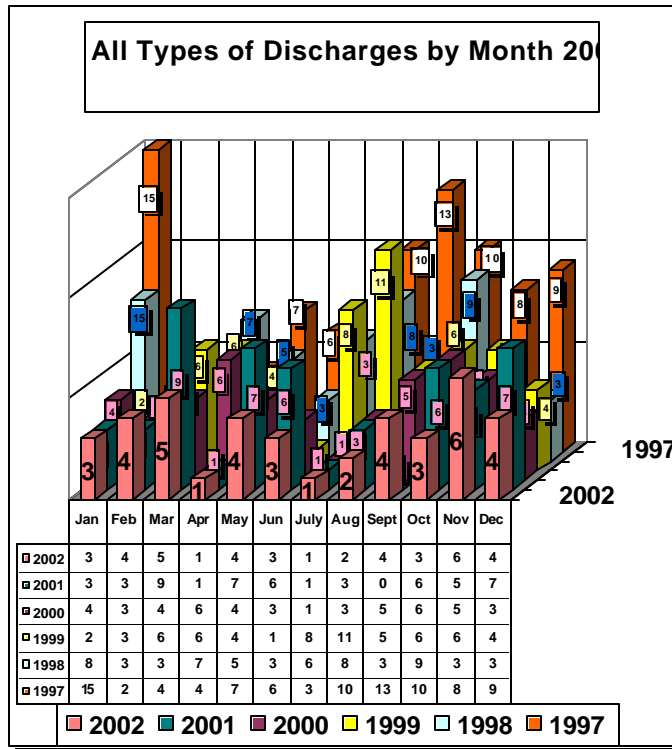


In 2002, **firearm discharges occurred during all three watches**. 45 percent of the discharges occurred during the evening and 55 percent of the discharges occurred during the day and overnight hours. The watches are normally as follows:

- 1st Watch 11pm – 7am
- 2nd Watch 7am - 3pm
- 3rd Watch 3pm -11pm

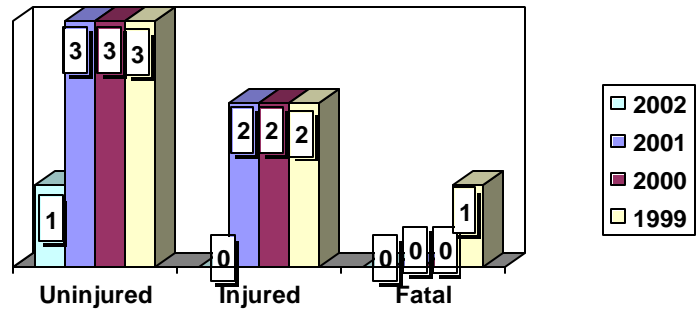


In 2002, there were 40 **total overall firearm discharges**. This includes discharges at persons, accidental discharges, and discharges at animals. In 2001, there were 51 overall discharges. In 2000, there were 47 overall discharges. In 1999, there were 62. In 1998, there were 61, and in 1997, there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



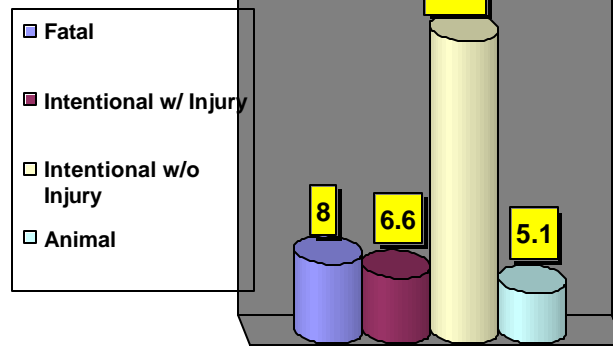
In 2002, there was 1 **police firearm discharge at an unarmed person**. The subject was not injured. The person represented a physical threat, and/or a perceived deadly threat.

Discharges at Unarmed Persons

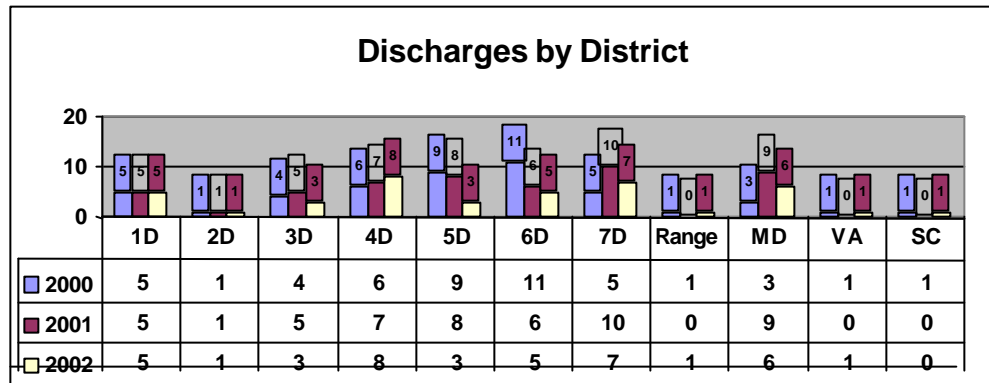


In 2002, the overall **average distance of fire** upon initial threat was 12.5 feet. Fatal discharges occurred just over 8 feet away from the subject.

Avg Distance of Fire



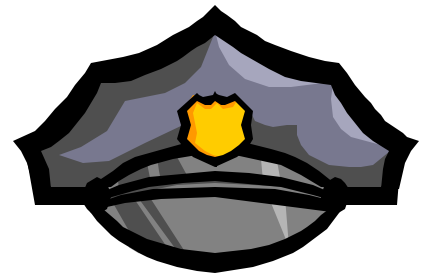
In 2002, most of the department's firearm discharges were concentrated in the East and Central **Regional Operations Commands** (ROC). ROC-East experienced 12 discharges and ROC-Central experienced 11. ROC-North experienced 9 discharges. 6 discharges occurred in MD, 1 discharge occurred in VA, and the 1 remaining discharge occurred at the MPD range. The Second District experienced the lowest number of discharges (1), while the Fourth District experienced the most (8). The Fifth District experienced the largest decline (38%), while the Fourth District experienced an increase of (1).



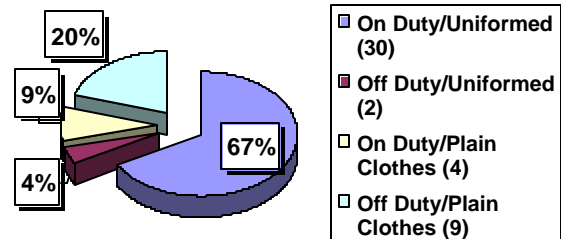
ROC Central – 1st, 3rd, & 5th Districts; ROC EAST – 6th & 7th Districts; ROC North – 2nd & 4th Districts

For 2002, the median **age of MPD officers discharging** their firearms is 33 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 MPD officers discharging** their firearms is 9 years. The average years of service of officers on the department is 12 years.



In 2002, the great majority of MPD officers involved in firearm discharges were **on-duty** and wearing a uniform (67%). On-duty uniformed officers accounted for 30 of the discharges, while on-duty plainclothes officers accounted for 4 of the discharges. Off-duty officers accounted for 20% of the discharges.



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

As it relates to **in-custody deaths**, 3 people died in 2002 and 1 person died in 2001, 2000, and 1999. This is an increase over the last three years.

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 2002, the majority of discharging officers were African American (58%). Caucasian officers represent 38% of the discharging officers. African Americans represent 65% of the department, while Caucasian officers represent 29% of the department.

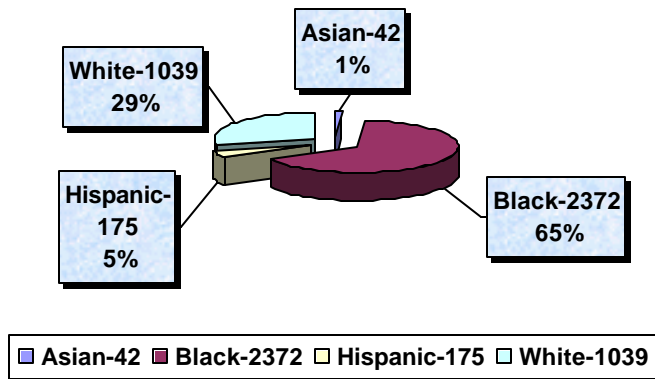
Additionally, 96% of the discharging officers were male, while 4% of the officers were female. Males represent 76% of the department, while females represent 24% of the department.

MPD also tracks the **race and gender of subjects who were shot by police**. In 2002, 3 African American males were killed, and 7 were wounded, 1 Hispanic male was killed, and 1 black female was killed.

<u>Race & Gender of Discharging Officers and the Race & Gender of the Suspect's that they Fired at*:</u>	
BLACK MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	13
BLACK MALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	1
BLACK MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	1
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	10
WHITE MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	1
ASIAN MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	0
HISPANIC MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	1
ASIAN MALE OFFICER/ASIAN MALE SUSPECT	0
WHITE MALE OFFICER/UNKNOWN SUSPECT	1

*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.

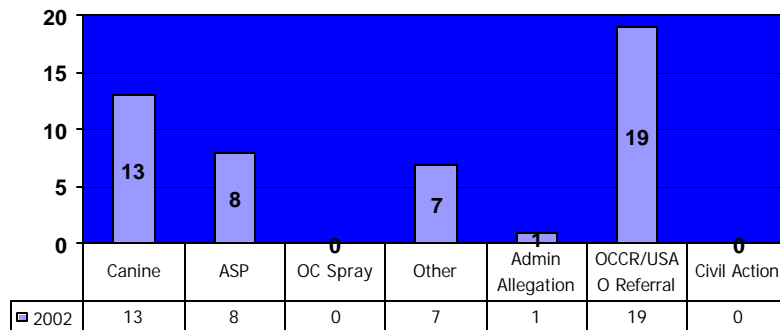
For reference purposes, this chart reflects the racial composition of the 3,628 sworn members of the Metropolitan Police Department. (These statistics were provided by the Human Services Division and were current as of December 30, 2002).



NON-LETHAL FORCE STATISTICS

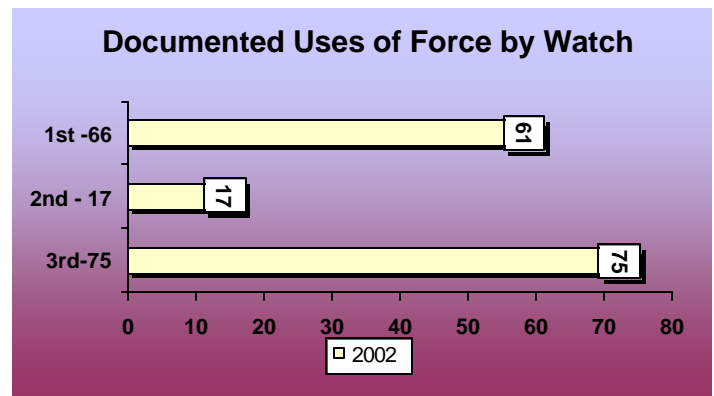
In 2002, there were reported 153 documented uses of non-lethal force. The FIT investigated 48 of those cases.

Cases FIT Investigated



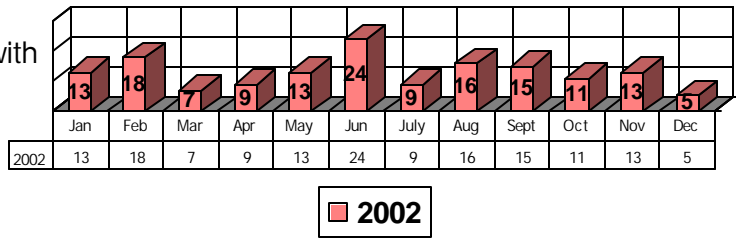
In 2002, Non-Firearm uses of force occurred during all three watches. Nearly 50 percent of the uses of force occurred during the evening, forty percent of the discharges occurred during the overnight, and 10 percent occurred during the day. The watches are normally as follows:

- 1st Watch 11pm – 7am
- 2nd Watch 7am - 3pm
- 3rd Watch 3pm -11pm



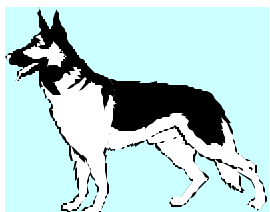
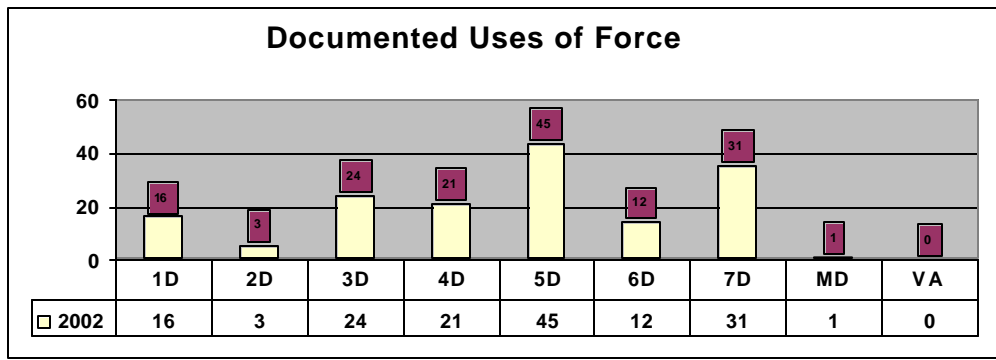
Less Lethal Uses of Force by Month 2002

In 2002, the greatest number of uses of force by month was June with (24), February with (18), followed by November with (13).



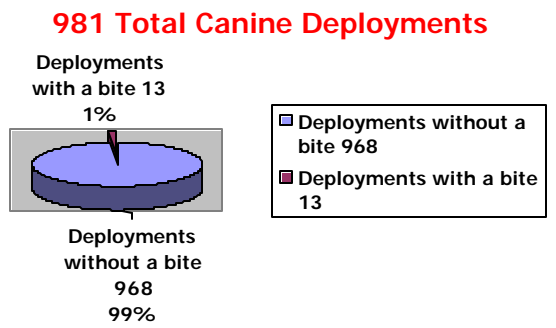
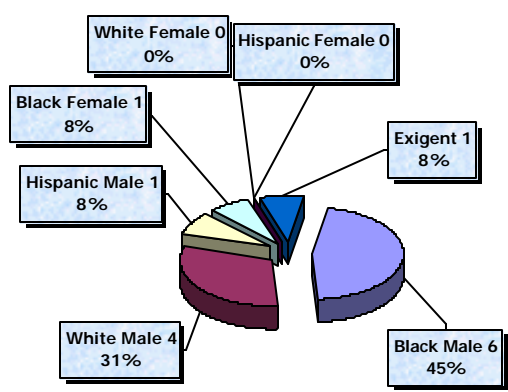
There were 62 uses of ASP, 71 uses of OC Spray, and 13 Canine bites. Additionally, 7 other cases were investigated as potential criminal conduct uses of force, which included 2 impact strikes from service pistols, 3 fists/punch, 1 ballistic protective shield, and 1 pushing incident.

In 2002, most of the department's uses of force were concentrated in the Central and East **Regional Operations Command** (ROC). ROC-Central experienced 85 uses of force and ROC-East experienced 43, while ROC-North experienced 24 uses of force. 1 use of force occurred in Maryland. The Second District experienced the lowest number of uses of force (3), while the Fifth District experienced the most (45).



In 2002, there were a total of 981 Canine deployments. Out of the 981 deployments there were 63 apprehensions without a Canine bite and 13 apprehensions that resulted in a Canine bite. (*Note this information provided by SOD Canine Unit)

Authorizing Officer
Reserve Sergeant



MPD also tracks the **race and gender of subjects who were bitten by a Police Canine**. In 2002, thirteen African American males were bitten.

<u>Race & Gender of Deploying Officers and the Race & Gender of the Suspects Apprehended by Canine:</u>	
BLACK MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	2
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	11
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



MPD also tracks the **race and gender of subjects who were struck and wounded with an ASP Baton by police**. In 2002, there were 62 documented uses of ASP. The FIT investigated 8 of those cases. 58 uses of ASP resulted in injury. 54 were African American males, 2 were white males, 5 were Hispanic males, and 1 was a black female.

<u>Race & Gender of Discharging Officers and the Race & Gender of the Suspects that they Struck at*:</u>	
BLACK MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	27
BLACK MALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	2
BLACK MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	2
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	0
WHITE MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	24
WHITE MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	1
ASIAN MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	0
HISPANIC MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	6
ASIAN MALE OFFICER/ASIAN MALE SUSPECT	0
WHITE MALE OFFICER/UNKNOWN SUSPECT	0
WHITE MALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	2
WHITE MALE OFFICER/ HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	3
BLACK MALE OFFICER/UNKNOWN (CROWD)	1

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



In 2002, OC Spray was reportedly discharged 71 times.
The FIT did not investigate any uses of OC Spray.

<u>Race & Gender of Spraying Officers and the Race & Gender of the Suspects that they Sprayed at*:</u>	
BLACK MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	24
BLACK MALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	1
BLACK OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	2
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/HISPANIC MALE SUSPECT	1
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	4
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	0
BLACK FEMALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	0
WHITE MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	22
WHITE MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	5
ASIAN MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	0
HISPANIC MALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	4
HISPANIC MALE OFFICER/BLACK FEMALE SUSPECT	1
ASIAN MALE OFFICER/ASIAN MALE SUSPECT	0
WHITE FEMALE OFFICER/BLACK MALE SUSPECT	5
WHITE MALE OFFICER/WHITE MALE SUSPECT	1
WHITE MALE OFFICER/ HISPANIC MALE 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:

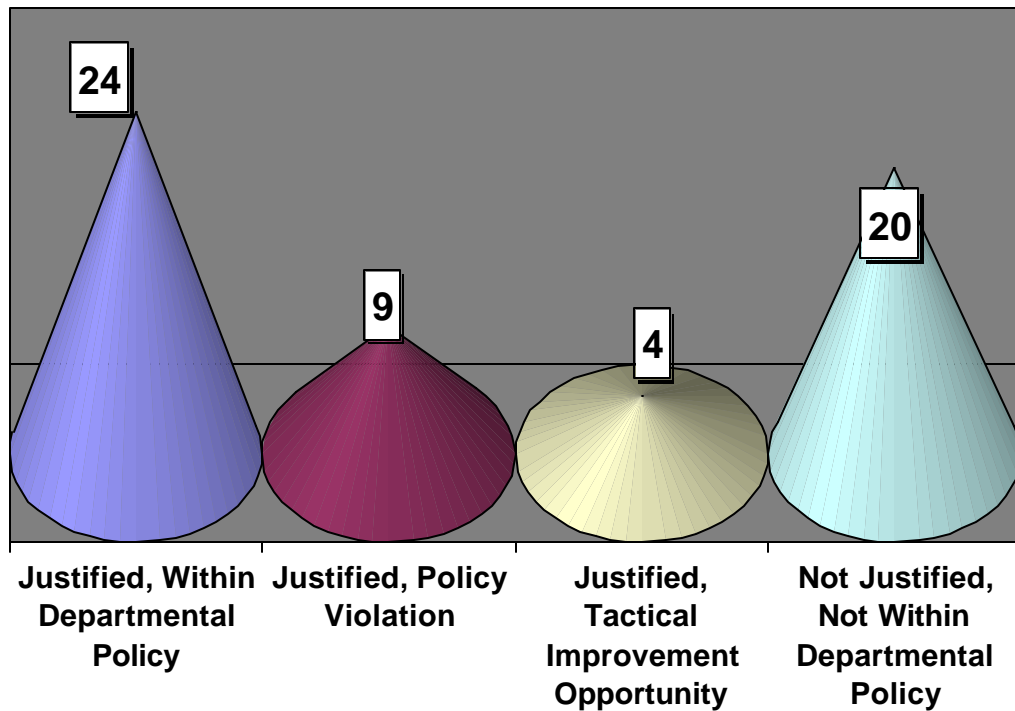
Justified, Within Departmental Policy – this classification reflects a finding in which a police use of force is determined to be justified, and during the course of the incident the subject officer did not violate department policy.

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.

FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM
Incident Policy Determinations – Cases Closed in 2002
 (Includes cases initiated prior to 2002)



*Includes all discharges, including accidental discharges

Use of Force Review Board

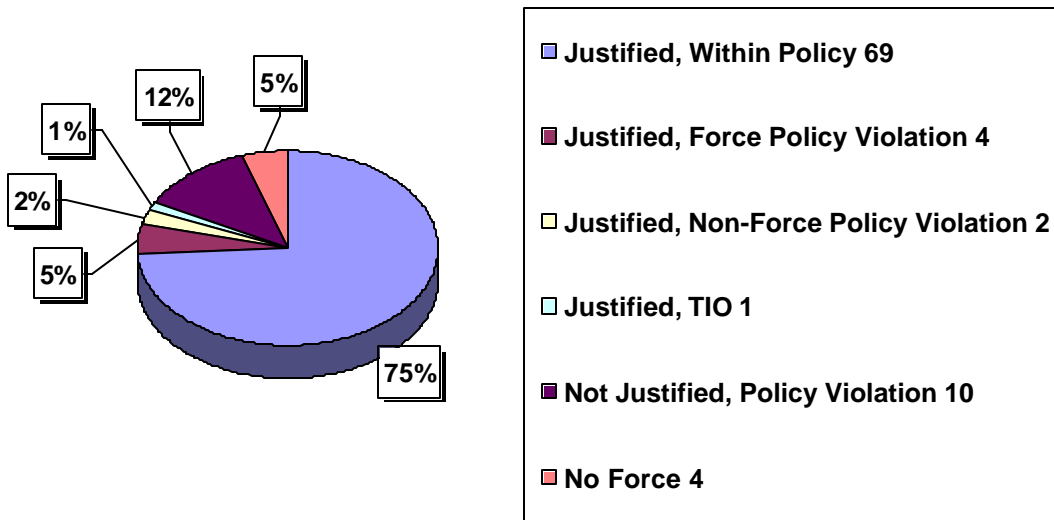
FINDINGS and RECOMMENDATIONS - 2002

FINDINGS

2002 Annual Report

	JUSTIFIED, WITHIN POLICY	JUSTIFIED, FORCE POLICY VIOLATION	JUSTIFIED, NON-FORCE POLICY VIOLATION	JUSTIFIED, TIO	NOT JUSTIFIED, POLICY VIOLATION	NO FORCE	TOTAL
Glock	24	4	2	1	10	0	41
Canine	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
ASP	21	0	0	0	0	0	21
OC Spray	14	0	0	0	0	0	14
ASP/OC Spray	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
In-Custody Death	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
TOTAL	69	4	2	1	10	4	90

*Note these findings and recommendations include uses of force initiated in previous years.



Case Summary Highlights

Fatal Firearm Discharges

OPR/FIT Case #S02-003-F

This incident involved an officer and his partner, who received a lookout for an individual in possession of narcotics. On arrival, one of the officers observed a suspect enter a vehicle and leave the location. The officer initiated a chase of the vehicle that ended in the state of Maryland. The officer confronted the suspect, who was armed with a handgun, and fatally wounded the suspect. Findings concluded that the discharge was ruled justified, with policy violations.

OPR/FIT Case #S0-006-F

This incident involved an officer and his partner, engaged in a traffic stop. During the traffic stop, the driver exited his vehicle and stood at the rear of the vehicle. When asked for his driver's license and registration, the driver stated he did not have any identification and began to walk back to the open driver's door of his vehicle. A struggle ensued between the officers and the driver. The driver was able to break away from the officers and get into the driver's seat of the vehicle. He then placed the vehicle in reverse, trapping one of the officers in the vehicle's door. The officer's partner discharged his service weapon at the driver and fatally wounded him. This matter is pending review by the United States Attorney's Office.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-009-F

This incident involved an officer who responded to investigate a hit and run suspect. The officer approached the suspect with his departmentally issued ASP drawn. The suspect produced a handgun and pointed it at the officer. The officer discharged his service pistol, fatally wounding the suspect. This matter is pending review by the United States Attorney's Office.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-012-F

This incident involved an officer that was returning to his home when he observed a vehicle occupied by a male and female exiting the parking lot in a reckless manner. The officer, who had nearly been run over by the driver, identified himself as a police officer and ordered the driver out of the vehicle. The officer ordered the driver to place his hands on the vehicle; however, the driver ignored the orders and reached into his jacket as if he were armed with a weapon. The officer fired one round from his service pistol, fatally wounding the unarmed driver. This matter is pending Grand Jury review.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-030-F

This incident involved two officers, who responded to an officer requesting assistance, in stopping a vehicle driven by a homicide warrant suspect. One of the responding officers reported that he observed the homicide suspect holding a weapon and both officers discharged their service weapons at the suspect and passenger in the vehicle. The discharges resulted in the death of the passenger, injuries to the suspect, and an injured officer. This matter is pending Grand Jury review.

Police Officer Suicide

None in 2002.

Vehicular Pursuit with Fatality**OPR/FIT Case #AF1-02-01-T**

This incident involved officers who received information from a citizen that a vehicle, involved in a hit and run accident in which three children were injured, was observed parked in the 4400 block of Edson Place, Northeast. As the officers attempted to stop the vehicle and its occupants, the driver of the vehicle sped away and struck a police cruiser and other vehicles. The suspect sped away in his vehicle at a high rate of speed, without the vehicle's headlights illuminated. The officers pursued the vehicle. The vehicle eventually passed through a red traffic light at an intersection and struck an oncoming vehicle, fatally wounding its two occupants. The three suspects from the vehicle were apprehended and the driver was arrested for Negligent Homicide. The FIT investigation found that the officer's pursuit was Not within Departmental Policy.

In-Custody Death**OPR/FIT Case #F1-02-01-F**

This incident involved officers responding to assist the Prince George's County Police Department with a disorderly subject. Upon their arrival on the scene, the officers noticed that the subject had been handcuffed by the Prince George's County Police Department. While an MPD began assisting an officer from Prince George's County Police Department with removing handcuffs from the subject, the subject went into cardiac arrest. An autopsy performed by the Office of the D.C. Medical Examiner's Office ruled that the decedent died of Acute Cocaine Intoxication and that his death was accidental. The officers' actions were ruled as Justified, Within Departmental Policy.

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

This incident involved three officers who responded to assist District of Columbia Fire Department personnel with a female individual who was lying in the street. When the officers approached the female, she became agitated and attempted to assault the officers. The officers restrained her with handcuffs and placed her inside of a police vehicle. Based on reports of her irrational behavior prior to the officers' arrival, the officers took the woman to the District of Columbia Hospital for emergency psychiatric evaluation. Upon arrival at the hospital's parking lot, the woman was found to be unconscious in the rear of the transporting MPD vehicle. She was pronounced dead after life-saving efforts were administered in the emergency room. This matter is pending final review and report.

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

This incident involved officers who were summoned to a hotel room to investigate an altercation. Upon arrival at the room, the occupant assaulted the officers. The responding officers used OC Spray to subdue the subject. The subject became non-responsive during handcuffing and the officers began performing CPR. The subject later died. A quantity of cocaine was recovered from the room and it was discovered that the subject had just been released from a drug rehabilitation facility. A post mortem examination was performed and its results are pending. This matter is pending review by the United States Attorney's Office.

Intentional Firearm Discharges with Injuries (non-fatal)**OPR/FIT Case #S02-002-H**

This incident involved two officers who responded to sounds of a loud altercation. The officers observed two subjects standing in the block and also observed a black truck speed away from where the two subjects were standing. The subjects exited the truck and entered another truck in the same block. The officers observed one of the subjects with a handgun. As the officers exited their cruiser, they heard two gunshots. One of the officers observed a subject pointing a handgun at another subject who had been shot in the leg. The armed subject turned toward the officer with a gun in hand. The officer discharged his service weapon, striking the suspect. The suspect fled and was later apprehended. This matter is pending final review and report.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-011-H

This incident involved two officers who responded to a female screaming for the police. The officers observed a woman being held against her will inside of a car that was being driven by the victim's boyfriend. The officers saw that the victim was trying to get out of the car, which was stopped. The driver was pulling the victim into the car and bit her leg. The officers approached the stopped car and its driver accelerated the engine, putting the car in reverse. The vehicle struck one of the officers who discharged his service weapon at the driver, striking him. This investigation concluded that the officer was justified, with policy violations.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-026-H

This incident involved an officer at his private Virginia residence. The officer stated that he heard noises coming from the lower level of his home and retrieved his service weapon before he descended to the basement level. The officer confronted an unknown suspect, who had forcibly gained entry into the suspect's home. The officer and the suspect struggled and the officer sustained a gunshot wound to his leg. No arrest has been made in this case. Virginia authorities are currently investigating this case.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-032-I

This incident involved an off-duty officer who entered a restaurant in Maryland. The officer placed his food order and went to an adjacent store to purchase an item. A man armed with a pocketknife confronted the officer in a nearby parking lot. The officer drew his service pistol and discharged the weapon, striking the suspect in the leg. The suspect was arrested and charged in Prince George's County, Maryland. This case has been presented to the States Attorneys Office for their review. The case is pending final review and investigative report.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-035-I

This incident involved an off-duty officer at his Maryland residence. The officer was alerted by his wife, who told him that his car was being stolen. The officer and a friend drove throughout the neighborhood to search for his vehicle. The officer found his vehicle a few blocks away and approached several suspects standing alongside the vehicle. The officer observed a subject walking toward his vehicle and identified himself as a police officer. The subject reached in his waistband area, pulled out what the officer believed to be a gun, then entered the stolen vehicle and began to drive away. The officer drew his departmental service weapon and discharged it into the driver's door of his vehicle. The subject made good his escape. The suspect was located at Greater Southeast Community Hospital with a gunshot wound. The officer's vehicle was also located. This case is being handled by the Prince Georges County Police Department and is pending an administrative review.

Accidental and Negligent Firearm Discharges**OPR/FIT Case #S02-001-N**

Officials assigned to the Institute of Police Science are investigating this incident. It involves a discharge at the Institute of Police Science indoor firing range.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-005-U

This incident involved an officer who was canvassing his patrol area in reference to a lookout for a man with a gun. The officer observed a subject matching the description who began fleeing. The officer pursued the subject and at one point, the subject hid from the officer. As the officer was climbing over a metal railing, the subject jumped up and apparently

startled the officer. The officer discharged his service weapon with no resulting injuries. The subject was later apprehended after another brief chase and a handgun was recovered from the rooftop of a nearby house. The United States Attorney's office declined to criminally prosecute the officer.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-007-U

This incident involved an officer and his partner who observed a stolen vehicle while working in plain clothes. The officers notified the dispatcher and requested assistance before stopping the vehicle. One of the officers alighted from the police vehicle with his service weapon removed from the holster. The officer was standing in front of the suspect's vehicle when the vehicle suddenly moved toward the officer. The officer moved away from the oncoming vehicle and adjusted his service weapon before falling to the ground. The weapon discharged with no resulting injuries or property damage. The suspects were apprehended after a brief foot chase.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-008-U

This incident involved officers in pursuit of a vehicle for traffic violations. Officers followed the vehicle with the emergency lights activated. The vehicle was stopped after it struck two vehicles. An officer accidentally discharged his service pistol while opening the vehicle's door. Another officer struck the vehicle several times with an ASP and OC Spray was used on the suspects. The officers did not report their uses of service weapons in a timely fashion. The United States Attorney's Office has not yet declined to criminally prosecute this matter.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-014-U/H

This incident involved an off-duty officer at his District of Columbia residence. The officer was re-assembling his service weapon while watching television. The officer accidentally discharged his service and injured himself. This investigation concluded that the officer was not justified, and not within departmental policy.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-034-N

This incident involved an off-duty officer at his Maryland residence. Following a domestic dispute, the officer contemplated suicide. Immediately thereafter, he changed his mind and discharged his weapon into the air. The officer was taken into custody for psychiatric evaluation. A final report is pending.

Intentional Firearm Discharges without Injuries

OPR/FIT Case #S02-010-M

This incident involved officers who heard the sound of gunshots, while patrolling on duty, in a marked police cruiser. The officers responded to the site and observed an individual with a shotgun. The officers ordered the individual to drop the shotgun. The latter pointed the

shotgun at the officers. The officers then discharged their departmentally- issued service pistols at the subject; however, no rounds took effect. The subject fled and was apprehended. The FIT investigation found that the officers' actions were found to be Justified, Within Departmental Policy. This case is pending review before the Use of Force Review Board.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-013-M

This incident involved an investigator who observed a stolen vehicle in the vicinity of 14th & Monroe Streets, Northwest. The officer coordinated a stop of the vehicle at the intersection. At that time, the operator of the vehicle struck one of the uniformed officers on the scene and intentionally rammed an officer's cruiser. The suspect then crashed into a parked vehicle. As the investigator approached the vehicle, the suspect intentionally drove directly at the investigator, who was forced to run onto the sidewalk. When the vehicle drove up onto the sidewalk the investigator had nowhere else to go and was forced to climb up onto a chain link fence. Because the investigator was about to be crushed between the fence and the vehicle, he discharged his service pistol twice. The suspect then swerved back onto the street and again rammed into the investigator's cruiser, pushing it into three other parked vehicles. The suspect's vehicle then came to a stop and the suspect was taken into custody. No injuries were reported as a result of the investigator's service pistol. A letter of declination was issued by the United States Attorney's Office. This matter was closed as justified, within departmental policy.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-015-M

This incident involved officers who observed an unknown individual fire at them. The officers responded to the area from which the shots emanated. An officer encountered a male suspect emerging from the alley of the area where the shot was fired. The suspect was running with his hand inside of his jacket. A uniformed officer identified himself and commanded the suspect to stop and show his hands. The suspect ignored the officer's commands and continued to run. The officer then fired one round from his service weapon but the suspect continued to flee. The suspect was subsequently found hiding underneath a van. There were no injuries or property damage. A handgun, which was later identified as being used in this incident, was recovered from a sewer hole. This matter was closed as justified, within departmental policy.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-016-M

This incident involved officers who observed several subjects outside a nightclub in Northwest, D.C. One of the suspects was armed with a handgun. An officer followed the armed subject into a parking lot, where the suspect crouched behind a parked vehicle. The officer was in front of the vehicle when it accelerated forward and struck the officer. The officer fired his weapon at the vehicle. The subject with the gun was apprehended and the gun was recovered. This matter is pending review by the United States Attorney's Office.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-021-M

This incident involved an officer who was sleeping at his private residence in Maryland. The officer was awakened by his friend, who advised him that his vehicle's alarm was sounding. The officer instructed his friend to call the Prince George's County Police Department, went outside, and confronted the suspect. At that time, the suspect reached into his waistband and began to produce a handgun. The officer discharged one round from his service pistol and the suspect got into the rear right passenger seat of a vehicle, which was occupied by two other suspects. The vehicle then fled from the scene. No injuries were reported as a result service pistol's discharge. This case is still being investigated by the Prince George's County Police Department and no arrests have been made to date. The Prince George's County Police Department determined that the officer did not violate any county laws. This matter was closed as justified, within departmental policy.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-022-M

This incident involved uniformed officers who were operating a marked police car, when they were assigned to investigate a traffic complaint in N.E. As one of the officers awaited a computer inquiry of a suspicious van, another officer began to search an alley for discarded narcotics. The area being searched is a notorious drug market, and persons were known to often discard illicit narcotics when they see the police come into the block.

The officer was walking in the alley, when a vehicle abruptly turned into the alley, nearly striking the officer. The vehicle slowed and the officer placed his hands on the hood of the car, ordering the driver to stop; however, the driver then accelerated and struck the officer, knocking him to the ground.

The officer's partner, upon seeing the officer struck, discharged his service weapon at the suspect vehicle. The suspect vehicle was recovered several blocks away, but it had not been struck by gunfire. The subsequent investigation into the vehicle led to a positive identification of an individual. Investigation revealed that the individual is wanted on a murder warrant. The officer suffered minor injuries. This case is awaiting completion of the firearms analysis and final report.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-025-M

This incident involved an officer and his relative, who were sitting in the officer's vehicle in N.W. The officer and his brother were involved in a verbal altercation while sitting in the vehicle. The two exited the truck and began to physically fight. During the fight, the officer drew his service weapon and fired twice at his brother. Neither round took effect. Responding members smelled a strong odor of alcohol on the officer, who identified himself as a police officer. When directed by an official on the scene to cooperate with investigators, the officer responded with profanity. When the official attempted to grab the officer by his arm and persuade him to cooperate, the officer assaulted the official. The officer was arrested and charged with APO, ADW Gun, and DUI. This matter is pending review by the United States Attorney's Office.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-027-M

This incident involved an officer and his partner who responded to a "suspicious subject" call in N.W. Upon arriving on the scene, the officers observed three male subjects sitting in a vehicle in the block. While attempting to identify the subjects and ascertain their purpose for being at this location, the driver reversed the vehicle up, almost striking one of the officers. The officer followed the suspect's vehicle in his cruiser and attempted to terminate any further movement by the suspect's vehicle by placing his cruiser at an angle in front of the suspect vehicle. The officer alighted from his cruiser with his service weapon drawn and ordered the driver to turn the vehicle off. The driver then advanced his vehicle toward the officer, who could find no safe place to retreat from being struck by the vehicle. The officer, fearing for his life and that of his partner, discharged his service weapon at the vehicle several times. There were no reported injuries. The case is still pending administrative review.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-028-M

This incident involved an officer, who was off-duty and watching television at his private residence in N.W., Washington, D.C. The officer heard a noise emanating from his living room window and attempted to investigate the source. As the officer opened his back door, he observed a black male subject clothed in a dark jump suit and a red hat, with an iron green and white lawn chair in his hand. The officer drew his department-issued service pistol and the subject threw a chair at him. The Officer pushed the chair with his left forearm and discharged one round at the subject, missing him. The subject fled and was apprehended. An investigation by FIT determined that the officer's actions were Justified, Within Departmental Policy. This case is pending review before the Use of Force Review Board.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-029-M

This incident involved an officer and his partners, who were working plainclothes when they responded for the report of a man with a gun in S.E. The officer observed a subject matching the broadcast description, driving in a vehicle with passengers. A vehicular pursuit of the subjects culminated when one of the suspects fired at the officers. The officer returned fire with no injuries or property damage reported. The subjects escaped. The United States Attorney's Office declined to prosecute the officer. This matter is pending final FIT review.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-031-M

This incident involved a sergeant who was supervising a large group of uniformed officers during a drug operation in N.E. The sergeant attempted to stop one of the suspects who was later identified as a seller of illicit narcotics. Upon confronting the suspect, the sergeant observed the suspect reach into his coat and to withdraw a pistol. The sergeant discharged his service weapon, without taking effect. The suspect was arrested. The sergeant suffered a broken nose while arresting the suspect. A 9mm pistol was recovered from the suspect, who was charged Distribution of PCP while armed. Two other firearms and small amounts of narcotics were recovered from three (3) other associates of the suspect. Based on the

preliminary information it appears that the sergeant was justified and within policy. Final report pending.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-039-M

This incident involved a sergeant and an officer who were in plainclothes and conducting a controlled drug purchase in S.E. The sergeant observed two male subjects pulling an iron gate back and forth, when one of the subjects stepped back a couple of feet and began firing a handgun at another subject on the inside of the fence. The sergeant exited the vehicle and observed the latter fall to the ground. The aggressor returned to the victim and fired again. The sergeant drew his department-issued service pistol and discharged it, without taking effect.

Another officer attempted to simultaneously apprehend the subject when the latter pointed a gun at the officer. The officer discharged his service pistol at the subject, without taking effect. The United States Attorney's Office declined to prosecute the officers. This matter is pending final report.

OPR/FIT Case #S02-040-M

This incident involved officers who were on duty when they monitored a radio assignment for a man with a gun described as wearing a ski mask. The armed subject was reported to have exited a vehicle and was attempting to enter the SunTrust Bank. While responding to the area, the officers observed the vehicle and attempted to conduct a traffic stop. After exiting their patrol car, the vehicle sped away at a high rate of speed. The officers pursued the vehicle and observed the front seat passenger throw from the vehicle window a bag of what appeared to be coins. During the pursuit, the Communications Division dispatcher advised the officers that the suspects had just committed an armed robbery of a U.S. Postal employee.

The officers continued to pursue the suspect's vehicle across the District of Columbia/Maryland line in to Hyattsville, Maryland. After a brief pursuit into the city of Hyattsville, the suspect vehicle came to rest against a tree. Both suspects exited their vehicle and proceeded to flee on foot. The driver of the suspect vehicle jumped over a fence and down into a storm drain. One of the officers proceeded to jump the fence behind the suspect when he saw the suspect reach into his waistband and remove what appeared to be a dark colored gun. The officer drew his service weapon and discharged it at the suspect. It is unknown if the suspect was struck. The suspect fled through the storm drain and escaped. There were no known injuries or property damage. This matter is pending final report.

Use of Canine

OPR/FIT Case #K-02-001

This incident involved a canine deployment for suspects that fled from a stolen auto that was involved in a hit and run accident. The suspect was located and received a dog bite to his

lower legs, while he attempted to kick the canine. The suspect was treated for his injuries and released back to police custody.

OPR/FIT Case #K-02-002

This incident involved a canine deployment after the suspect had attempted to commit an armed carjacking. The suspect fled on foot and after a track was conducted the canine apprehended the suspect. The suspect received a bite to his right ankle. The suspect was treated for his injuries and released back to police custody.

OPR/FIT Case #K-02-037

This incident involved the deployment of canine at the scene of a burglary one. The suspect attempted to hide in one of the apartments located on the scene. The canine searched the apartment and found the suspect, who refused to come out from underneath a mattress. The canine was released and bit the suspect on the ankle. The suspect was treated for his injuries and released to police custody.

OPR/FIT Case #K-02-066

This incident involved a canine deployment after suspects had fled from a stolen auto. The canine unit tracked the suspects to an alley. Canine was released and the suspect received a bite to his right lower leg. The suspect was treated for his injuries and released back to police custody.

OPR/FIT Case #K-02-078

This incident involved the deployment of canine at the scene of a burglary. The canine was released to search a house. The canine located the suspect and grabbed the suspect's left pants leg. The suspect did not receive any injuries as a result of the canine deployment.

OPR/FIT Case #K-02-090-I

This incident involved a canine deployment after a suspect shot a police officer and fled on foot. Canine tracked for the suspect and found him hiding in a brush area. The canine grabbed the suspect's jacket and the suspect was not injured.

OPR/FIT Case #K-02-096

This incident involved a canine deployment after suspects fled from a vehicle, which contained marijuana. As the officer attempted to place the suspect under arrest, the suspect fled on foot. The officer chased the suspect on foot until he lost sight of him in an alley. Canine was called and began a track for the suspects. The suspect was located inside of a garage and after refusing commands to come out the canine was released. The canine bit the suspect several time in the lower legs. The suspect was treated for his injuries and returned to police custody.

OPR/FIT Case #K-02-121

This incident involved the deployment of canine at the scene of an armed gunman. The suspect fled on foot and the canine was released and tracked the suspect between two row houses. The canine bit the suspect on his right pinky finger. The suspect was treated and released to police custody.

OPR/FIT Case #K-02-122

This incident involved the deployment of canine at the scene of a burglary. After the suspect fled the scene the canine was released and tracked the suspect to a ditch. The canine grabbed the suspect's right pant leg and held the suspect until the canine handler handcuffed the suspect. The suspect did not receive any injuries as a result of the canine deployment.

OPR/FIT Case #K-02-125

This incident occurred after a suspect fled from a stolen auto. Canine was called and tracked the suspect to a wooded area. The canine was released and apprehended the suspect who was hiding in a brush area. The suspect received a bite to his left arm. The suspect was treated and released to police custody.

OPR/FIT Case #K-02-162

This canine deployment occurred after an armed robbery. The suspect fled on foot and attempted to hide in a vacant lot. After a search was conducted the canine apprehended the suspect and bit his arm. The suspect was treated for his injuries and returned to police custody.

OPR/FIT Case #K-02-179

This incident involved the canine deployment at the scene of a burglary. Officers observed the suspect as he climbed down from the roof of the business establishment and fled on foot. Officers immediately established a perimeter and requested that a canine unit respond to their location. The suspect was hiding in the bottom of a trailer and fled on foot when the canine officer gave his announcement. The canine apprehended the suspect after a short foot pursuit without further incident.

OPR/FIT Case #K-02-180

This incident involved the canine deployment at the scene of a burglary. Once officers arrived on the scene they observed a hole in the sidewall of the business establishment. The suspect was observed inside of the store and was given numerous commands to exit the establishment. After refusing to exit the store canine was deployed and the suspect was apprehended without further incident.

Use of ASP (head strike)

OPR/FIT Case #02-038-B

This incident involved two officers who were called to the scene of a domestic violence incident. The officers arrived and discovered the suspect still on the scene. The suspect became violent and attacked the officers. The officers utilized their O.C. spray, but it had no effect on the suspect. The officers utilized their A.S.P.s to combat the suspect. During the use of force the suspect was inadvertently struck in the head with an A.S.P. The suspect was treated and released for his injuries.

OPR/FIT Case #02-054-B

This incident involved two officers who conducted a traffic stop. The officers observed the suspect attempting to hide something under the seat. The suspect was removed from the vehicle and the officers attempted to handcuff him. The suspect resisted and a struggle ensued. One of the officers drew their A.S.P. and struck the suspect several times on the arm and shoulder. The suspect was also inadvertently struck once in the head. The suspect was arrested for Assault on a Police Officer and transported to the hospital for medical treatment.

OPR/FIT Case #02-139-B

This incident involved two officers who attempted to stop a vehicle after one of the occupants threw an object from the vehicle. As one of the officers approached the vehicle, the other officer walked back down the street to retrieve the thrown object. The other officer approached the suspect's vehicle and observed the passenger attempt to conceal something. The officer requested that the driver exit his vehicle. Once the suspect exited the vehicle he began to wrestle with the officer. The other passengers exited the vehicle and assaulted the officer. The officer drew his A.S.P. and struck the three suspects. During the incident, one of the suspects was struck inadvertently in the head by the A.S.P. The suspect was taken to the hospital where he was treated for his injuries.

OPR/FIT Case #02-168-B

This incident involved one officer who attempted to stop three suspects. As the officer attempted to check one of the suspect's bags for weapons the suspect became angry and attacked the officer. The officer drew his A.S.P. and struck the suspect several times. During the struggle the suspect was inadvertently struck once in the head. The suspect was treated for his injuries and released to police custody.

Training and Professional Development

The Force Investigation Team sustained its commitment to education and training in 2002. 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 2002, members of the Force Investigation Team participated in over 2,000 hours of training. These hours comprised of both traditional and contemporary training endeavors.

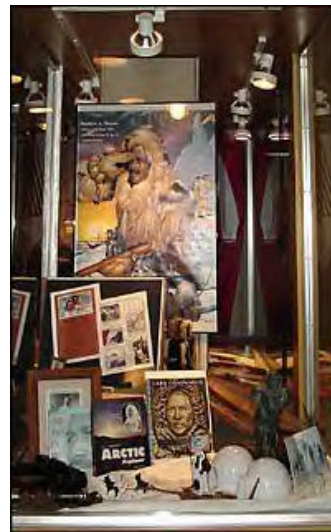


Benchmarking with the Cincinnati Police Department

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 2002, here are just some of the training and benchmarking activities that the Force Investigation Team participated in:

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 and the United State’s Attorney’s Office. The training included the Use of Canine for rescues, searches, and seizures.



Black History Month and Cultural Diversity:

The members of the Civil Rights and Force Investigation Division attended a presentation given by Reverend Jim Henson about his grandfather Matthew Hensen, the first black explorer to reach the North Pole.

The Herr’s Potato Chip Factory:

Members of the Force Investigation Team visited this assembly plant to observe the importance of following a high-quality system. Herr’s is renown in the food snack industry for its quality improvement processes.



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.

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. Additionally, MPD Officer Michael Miller for the first time in an open forum discussed his on-duty shooting. The FIT was able to learn first hand how and what he felt at the time of his incident, as well as some of the emotional experiences he endured during and after the shooting.

To date, thirty-seven 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 2003, 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
Responsibility Civil Rights and Force Investigation Team
prepared this Annual Report

Peter J. Newsham
Assistant Chief of Police
Office of Professional Responsibility

Joshua A. Ederheimer
Director
Office of Professional Responsibility
Civil Rights and Force Investigations Division

Matthew Klein
Captain/Commanding Officer
Force Investigation Team

This Annual Report is available online at:

www.mpd.cdc.gov

Click on *Newsroom*

Click on *Publications*

Click on *Force Investigation Team 2002 Annual Report*