



City of La Porte

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Police Department

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the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



January 29, 2018

TO: Chief Ken Adcox

FROM: Assistant Chief R. K. Parker

SUBJECT: 2017 Annual Report on Use of Force in the La Porte Police Department

Following is the 2017 Annual Report regarding documented uses of force within the City of La Porte Police Department. It is a basic analysis of use of force as deployed by LPPD personnel occurring from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. The report is required by the Texas Police Chiefs Association Recognition Foundation as an element of their Best Practices Recognition Program. The report analyzes data involving use of force.

Statistics were collected from the LPPD's IA Pro internal affairs database and various reports as documented by officers and reviewed by supervisors and Internal Affairs. There were a total of eleven (11) documented deployments of use of force in 2017, consisting of various types for the established time frame. This is an 8% reduction in use of force from 2016. Other uses of force in previous reporting years were as follows:

2016- 12  
2015- 18  
2014- 9  
2013- 11  
2012- 11

The charts below provide additional information related to the data:

Justification for the deployment of force: in nine of the situations, the reason for a use of force deployment was due to a suspect resisting arrest once officers attempted to take a subject in to custody. In two other situations, suspects threatened officers with a firearm and pointed it at officers, resulting in deadly force. In both of those situations, the suspects were killed as a result of their actions toward officers.

Type of force deployed:

a. Electronic control device: 8  
b. Firearms: 2  
c. Empty hands: 1

Electronic control device deployments (ECD) by officers were effective in seven of the eight deployments, (90% success). In 2016, ECD deployments were 60% effective, due to officers



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being involved in situations where suspect(s) were actively attempting to assault officers and heavily resisting. In 2015, ECD deployments were 100% effective.

During 2017, when officers had to utilize firearms or empty hands techniques, their deployment was 100% effective in ending threats from assailants.

During 2017, there three officers that utilized use of force on two occasions. The remainder of the officers that utilized documented use of force did so only once each.

We were fortunate as a department in that no serious documented injuries were reported to officers in these situations. However, in all eleven incidents, suspect(s) were actively resisting arrest, attempting to assault officers and in the two incidents where police used deadly force, evidence showed suspects were attempting to murder or assault officers or bystanders. This is a disturbing trend that has only increased since our last annual report in 2016, where in 70% of the deployments of uses of force, suspects showed to engage in substantially violent encounters with our police officers, even when multiple officers were on scene. In those instances, suspects actively resisted with attempts to strike officers with closed fists, knee strikes, etc. The data below show the most dangerous times for officers to be aware are on evening and night shifts.

Shift on which use of force was used:

- a. Day 0
- b. Evening 6
- c. Night 5

Suspect gender on which use of force occurred:

- a. Male: 10
- b. Female: 1



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### Suspect race on which use of force occurred:

- a. White: 6
- b. Hispanic: 2
- c. Black: 3

Suspect Race

### Officer's gender deploying use of force:

- a. Male: 10
- b. Female: 1

### Race of officer on suspect (cross-analysis) on which use of force was used:

- a. White officer on white suspect: 5
- b. White officer on Hispanic suspect: 2
- c. White officer on Black suspect: 2
- d. Hispanic officer on white suspect: 1
- e. Hispanic officer on Black suspect: 1

### Were additional officers on the scene as backup, when force was deployed?

- a. Yes: 10
- b. No: 1

### Officers deploying force by name and number of incidents during the time period:

- a. Officer A, effective deployment of ECD on 020617 at approximately 815 PM with a suspect actively resisting the officer inside a house. No party was injured and the use of force was found to be within policy.
- b. Officer B used an ECD on 042017 at approximately 554 PM on a black male suspect who was actively resisting arrest in an open space. The suspect was under the influence of and was in possession of illegal narcotics. The ECD barbs made contact with the suspect but one was in loose clothing and thus, failed to be effective on controlling the suspect.



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However, this was not the fault of the officer and his aim and deployment were correct. Ultimately, the officer was able to control the suspect and take him in to custody with the assistance of other officers once they arrived. There were no documented injuries to either party.

- c. Officer C attempted to arrest a white female suspect on 051817 at approximately 803 PM who had led the officer on a pursuit. The suspect brought her vehicle to rest in an apartment complex parking lot in an open space and refused to exit the vehicle on officers' commands. When she eventually did exit, she refused commands to get down on the ground and place her hands on her back, and verbally dared officers to "kill her." Officer deployed his ECD effectively and the suspect was then arrested. No injuries were reported.
- d. Officer D was attempting to place a white male in to custody on 051817 at approximately 922 PM. The suspect resisted the officer's attempt inside a home and Officer D deployed his ECD effectively, then placing the subject in to custody. No injuries were reported.
- e. Officer E was attempting to place a black male suspect in to custody on 052717 at approximately 1210 AM when the subject began resisting arrest in an open space. The officer deployed his ECD effectively ending the resistance and he was able to place the subject in to custody without any injuries.
- f. On 073017 at approximately 929 PM, Sergeant F and Officer G responded to a residence for a disturbance that resulted in other family members being assaulted by the white male suspect. He was under the influence of an illegal narcotic and violently resisted the officers. The officers' both deployed ECD's and made contact with the suspect, but he pulled the barbs out and continued to resist and assault both officers. The officers then attempted empty hand and knee strikes and holds to no effect as each time, the suspect flung the officers off and continued to react violently. Both officers then swarmed the suspect, and placed him on the floor and attempted to hold him down as they made an "assist the officer" call over the radio. Again, he was able to throw the officers off, assault both, and then ran out the doorway to the street. Sergeant F then had to use his flashlight as an impact weapon but the suspect took the flashlight away after being struck and threw it to the ground. Other officers began arriving and finally after a substantial resistance in the street they were able to place the suspect in to custody. Several officers suffered minor injuries and the suspect was transported to the hospital due to minor injuries and his influence under narcotics.
- g. On 082817 at approximately 1115 PM, Officer E responded with other officers to a disturbance involving a firearm. This incident occurred in the middle of substantially poor weather during Hurricane Harvey. As officers arrived they could observe there was a significant threat from the white male suspect who was armed with a shotgun and the officer fired his service weapon to protect other individuals inside the house, and officers. The use of force ended the threat with the suspect deceased.
- h. Officer D attempted to arrest a Hispanic male on 091717 at approximately 159 AM in an open space when the subject resisted. Officer D was able to effectively deploy empty



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hands techniques to subdue the subject and place him in to custody. The suspect received minor injuries as a result.

- i. A number of officers responded to a call on 091917 at approximately 737 PM involving a white male suspect walking down a street and aiming a rifle at neighbors. Officers determined the subject had entered a home where he resided nearby and as they attempted to make contact, the subject kept coming out his doorway threatening officers who had taken up safe positions nearby. After a short standoff and an attempt to negotiate with the subject, he exited the house with a rifle and aimed it at officers, who fired their weapons in order to defend themselves. The threat was ended with the suspect deceased. This incident directly involved Detective H, Sergeant F and Officer I, who all fired their weapons, (patrol rifles).
- j. Officer J attempted to place a Hispanic male under arrest for an offense when the subject resisted the officer, on 102817 at approximately 1156 PM. The officer effectively deployed his ECD, ending the threat and placing him in to custody without further incident or injury.
- k. On 121017 at approximately 105 AM, Officer K attempted to arrest a white male in an open space, who resisted the officer. As a result of the physical resistance the officer deployed his ECD effectively ending the threats, placing the subject in to custody. There were no injuries.

Summary: All deployments involving use of force were found to be within policy and appropriately utilized. In 2018, the department will continue to require mandatory training and re-certifications on firearms and electronic control devices. It is recommended that we offer close quarter combat tactics to include empty hands techniques, verbal de-escalation techniques and other use of force subject matter in order to better train our officers for situations where use of force is appropriate. It should be noted that ECD deployments in 2017 were all properly utilized and with adequate aim and barb placement. However, in several instances, suspects were able to either remove the barbs due to insensitivity to electric current via narcotics use, or the barbs deployed in to loose clothing the suspect wore. Our personnel should also be reminded that there continues to be substantial violence toward police and they should always be vigilant in encounters with persons. They should try to always have a backup officer or jailer present in potentially violent situations.

This report is submitted to the Chief of Police for review, as required by the Texas Police Chief's Association Recognition Foundation and the general orders manual of the La Porte Police Department.

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R. K. Parker,  
Assistant Chief, Support Services

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Ken Adcox,



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Chief of Police