

2016 Use of Force Annual Report

At least annually, NOPD agrees to analyze the year's force data, including the force-related outcome data listed in section XIX.C. below, to determine significant trends; identify and correct deficiencies revealed by this analysis; and document its findings in a public report. [Consent Decree ¶82]

The New Orleans Police Department's policy is to value and preserve human life while exercising lawful authority to use force. New Orleans police officers are required to use the minimum amount of force that an objectively reasonable officer would use in light of the circumstances to effectively bring an incident or person under control, while protecting the lives of the officer and others. Officers are required to perform their work in a manner that avoids unduly jeopardizing their own safety or the safety of others by making appropriate tactical decisions. When feasible based on the circumstances, officers use de-escalation techniques to reduce the need for force and to increase officer and civilian safety. However, officers must sometimes make split-second decisions about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation with limited information and in circumstances that are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving. While the ultimate objective of every law enforcement encounter is to protect the public, police officers are not required to retreat or to be exposed to possible physical injury before applying reasonable force. Nevertheless, officers strive, when it is practicable, to first attempt to de-escalate a situation before resorting to force.

A variety of police activities are considered uses of force, including hand-control or escort techniques, vehicle pursuits, deployment of canines. To ensure that the New Orleans Police Department's uses of force are appropriate, comply with Department policies, and reflect the best practices of policing, the New Orleans Police Department tracks, analyzes, and reports data concerning all uses of force. These data enable the Department to identify areas in which policies should be modified, or for which training and discipline may be required. The federal Consent Decree also requires use-of-force data tracking and analysis (see Consent Decree paragraphs 31, 37, 52, 68, 75, and 82).

This year represented a paradigm shift in the New Orleans Police Department's approach to the use of force. The Department's policy and procedures governing the use of force previously were contained in Policy/Procedure No. 300 ("Use of Force"), as well as in various subsidiary policies that governed specific topics such as the use of Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEWs, also known as Tasers). However, the Department revised and updated all of those policies, which were enacted collectively to ensure a seamless transition. For example, Chapter 1.3, "Use of Force," along with Chapter 1.3.6, "Use of Force Reporting," Chapter 1.3.2, "Force Investigation Team," and Chapter 1.3.7, "Use of Force Review Board," became effective on December 6, 2015. Despite their release late in 2015, training on these new policies began earlier in the year to prepare officers for the transition and to familiarize them with the impending changes. The change in policy translated to the way that use of force was trained and the way that it is now reported.

The Department's force policies were approved by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Office of the Consent Decree Monitor, in accordance with the federal Consent Decree. The following definitions and policy statements are excerpted from those policies.

Key Definitions

Active Resistance—Resistance exhibited by a suspect that is between passive resistance and aggressive resistance (e.g., attempts to leave the scene, flee, hide from detection, or pull away from the officer's grasp). Verbal statements, bracing, or tensing alone do not constitute active resistance.

Aggravated Resistance— When a subject's actions create an objectively reasonable perception on the part of the officer that the officer or another person is subject to imminent death or serious physical injury as a result of the circumstances and/or nature of an attack. Aggravated resistance represents the least encountered but most serious threat to the safety of law enforcement personnel or another person.

Aggressive Resistance—Is a subject's attempt to attack or an actual attack of an officer. Exhibiting aggressive behavior (e.g., lunging toward the officer, striking the officer with hands, fists, kicks or any instrument that may be perceived as a weapon such as a knife or stick) are examples of aggressive resistance. Neither passive nor active resistance, including fleeing, pulling away, verbal statements, bracing, or tensing, constitute aggressive resistance.

Anatomical Compliance Technique—The act of applying pressure to vulnerable areas, weak points or pressure points of the body. This technique is used to cause immediate compliance by a subject who poses a threat.

Critical Firearm Discharge—A discharge of a firearm by an NOPD officer, including discharges when no person or animal is struck. Range and training firings, humane destruction of animals, and off-duty hunting discharges when no person is struck are not critical firearms discharges.

Critical Incident— An event in which an NOPD officer uses force resulting in hospitalization or death; an NOPD officer intentionally shoots his or her gun at a person(s); an NOPD officer strikes someone in the head with an impact weapon, whether intentional or not; an NOPD police vehicle pursuit results in death or an injury of a person(s) requiring hospitalization; or an arrested or detained subject dies while in the custody of NOPD.

Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW)—A weapon designed primarily to discharge electrical impulses into a subject that will cause involuntary muscle contractions and override the subject's voluntary motor responses.

Deadly Force/Lethal Force—Any force likely to cause death or serious physical injury. The use of a firearm (discharge) is considered deadly force. Neck holds and strikes to the head, neck or throat with a hard object are considered lethal force.

Defensive Techniques—When a subject attempts to assault the officer or another person (aggressive or aggravated resistance), the officer is justified in taking appropriate physical action to immediately stop the aggressive action and to gain control of the subject. This may include the use of hands, fists and feet.

Non-Reportable Use of Force—Hand control or escort techniques applied for the purposes of handcuffing or escorts that are not used as pressure point compliance techniques, do not result in injury or complaint of injury, and are not used to overcome resistance.

Passive Resistance—Behavior that is unresponsive to police verbal communication or direction (e.g., ignoring or disregarding police attempts at verbal communication or control; going limp; or failing to physically respond or move) and verbal resistance (e.g., verbally rejecting police verbal communication or direction; telling the officer that he or she will not comply with police direction, to leave him or her alone, or not bother him or her). Bracing, tensing, linking arms, or verbally signaling an intention to avoid or prevent being taken into custody constitutes passive resistance. Passive resistance, including verbal statements, bracing, or tensing alone does not constitute active resistance.

Use of Force—Physical effort to compel compliance by an unwilling subject, above un-resisted handcuffing, including pointing a firearm at a person.

Use of Force Principles

NOPD officers, regardless of the type of force or weapon used, are required to abide by the following rules:

- Officers shall use verbal advisements, warnings, and persuasion, when possible, before resorting to force.
- Officers are expected to use sound judgment when making a subjective and independent decision regarding the need and appropriateness of the force to be used.
- Under no circumstances will an officer use force solely because another officer is using force.
- Officers will use disengagement; area containment; surveillance; waiting out a subject; summoning reinforcements; and/or calling in specialized units such as mental health professionals or a crisis response team, when feasible, in order to reduce the need for force and increase officer and civilian safety.
- When possible, officers shall allow individuals time to submit to arrest before force is used.

Authority to use Reasonable Force (Louisiana R.S. 14:20 and R.S. 14:22)

Officers may use only necessary and reasonable force:

- To protect themselves from injury;
- To protect others from injury;
- To effect a lawful detention;
- To effect a lawful arrest; or
- To conduct a lawful search.

A use of force is “necessary” when it is reasonably required, considering the totality of facts and circumstances, to carry out one of the above-listed law enforcement objectives.

When practicable, officers will identify themselves as peace officers before using force. If it is not already known by the subject to be detained, arrested, or searched, officers should, if reasonable, make clear their intent to detain, arrest or search the subject.

Pointing a firearm constitutes a use of force. Officers shall not draw or exhibit a firearm unless the circumstances surrounding the incident create an objectively reasonable belief that a situation may escalate to the point at which lethal force would be authorized. Once an officer determines that the use of deadly force is no longer likely, the officer shall re-holster the weapon.

Officers shall not use force to attempt to effect compliance with a command that is unlawful. Any use of force by an officer to subdue an individual resisting arrest or detention is unreasonable when the initial arrest or detention of the individual was unlawful. **(See La. C. Cr. P. Art. 220)**

Deadly Force

Deadly/Lethal force shall be used only when:

- There is an imminent danger of death or serious physical injury to the officer or another person; or
- To prevent the escape of a fleeing subject if there is probable cause to believe:
 - The subject has committed a felony involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious bodily injury or death; and
 - The escape of the subject would pose an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person.

Officers are not authorized to fire their firearms in order to subdue an escaping suspect who presents no imminent threat of death or serious injury.

Deadly Force may never be used for the protection of property.

Force Levels

When use of force is needed, officers will assess each incident to determine, based on policy, training and experience, which use of force option is believed to be appropriate for the situation and bring it under control in a safe and prudent manner. In the Department's most recent Use of Force Policy, Chapter 1.3, force is broken down into four levels, explained here:

- **Level-1** uses of force include pointing a firearm or CEW at a person and hand control or escort techniques (e.g., elbow grip, wrist grip, or shoulder grip) applied as pressure point compliance techniques or that result in injury or complaint of injury.
- **Level-2** uses of force include use of a CEW (including where a CEW is fired at a person but misses); use of an impact weapon to strike a person but where no contact is made; use of a baton for non-striking purposes; and weaponless defense techniques
- **Level-3** uses of force include any strike to the head (except for a strike with an impact weapon); use of impact weapons when contact is made (except to the head), regardless of injury; or the destruction of an animal.
- **Level-4** uses of force include all 'serious uses of force' including all uses of lethal force; critical firearm discharges; uses of force by an NOPD officer resulting in serious physical injury or requiring hospitalization; neck holds; uses of force resulting in a loss of consciousness; canine bites; more than two applications of a CEW on an individual during a single interaction, regardless of the mode or duration of the application, and whether the applications are by the same or different officers, or CEW application for longer than 15 seconds, whether continuous or consecutive; any strike, blow, kick, CEW application, or similar use of force against a handcuffed subject; and any vehicle pursuit resulting in death, serious physical injury or injuries requiring hospitalization.

Levels of Control

There are a variety of controls officers can use to stop the unlawful actions of a subject(s) or to protect a subject(s) from injuring himself/herself/themselves or others. The type of control officers use may vary based upon the facts and circumstances confronting them. Officers shall assess all contacts to determine the appropriate level of control. When possible, officers shall attempt to gain control of subjects by using verbal commands/directives first.

If verbal commands/directives are ineffective or not feasible, officers may utilize other control methods. If force is necessary, officers shall determine which control technique(s), tactics or authorized defensive equipment would best de-escalate the incident and bring it under control in the safest manner. When it is objectively reasonable, officers may utilize the following skills and techniques when faced with the levels of resistance as outlined in the Use of Force Continuum:

- **Professional Presence**—This includes all symbols of police authority, such as badge, uniform, marked police vehicle, etc., and applies to all levels of control.
- **Verbal Commands**—This level includes fundamental verbal skills and strategies that are available to the trained officer. The mere presence of the officer can be included in this category.
- **Contact Controls**—When confronted with a subject demonstrating minimal resistant behavior, the officer may use low-level anatomical compliance techniques or physical tactics to gain control and cooperation. These tactics can be psychologically manipulative as well as physical, and include additional verbal persuasion skills, pressure point applications, and escort positions.
- **Compliance Techniques**—When a subject becomes resistant (active resistance), the officer may use anatomical compliance techniques or physical control tactics to overcome the level of resistance and remain vigilant for more aggressive behavior from the subject.
- **Conducted Electrical Weapon**—The CEW is used in situations in which a subject exhibits aggressive resistance and in situations in which the subject presents an imminent threat to the officer, himself/herself, or another person. This includes situations in which a suspect is actively fleeing from arrest for a serious offense, but fleeing should not be the sole justification for using a CEW against a suspect. Members should consider the severity of the offense, the suspect's threat level to others, and the risk of serious injury to the subject before deciding to use a CEW on a fleeing suspect.
- **Defensive Tactics**—When a subject attempts to assault the officer or another person (aggressive resistance or aggravated resistance), the officer is justified in taking appropriate physical action to immediately stop the aggressive action and to gain control of the subject. This may include the use of hands, fists and feet.
- **Authorized Impact Weapons**—Those less-than-lethal weapons such as the PR-24 and expandable batons, which, when authorized by the NOPD and utilized in accordance with training, may be used to overcome aggressive and aggravated resistance.
- **Deadly or Lethal Force**—Deadly/Lethal force shall be used only when:
 - There is an imminent danger of death or serious physical injury to the officer or another person; or
 - To prevent the escape of a fleeing subject if there is probable cause to believe:

- The subject has committed a felony involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious bodily injury or death; and
- The escape of the subject would pose an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person.

Use of Force Investigations

New Orleans Police Department policy requires that all uses of force must be reported, and all use of force reports are reviewed to ensure that each instance of force was reasonable, necessary and within Department policy. Violations of policy or law are addressed through disciplinary action, which may range from counseling to dismissal and criminal prosecution, depending on the seriousness of the violation.

A special unit with the New Orleans Police Department's Public Integrity Bureau, known as the Force Investigation Team (FIT), investigates all serious uses of force by New Orleans police officers; uses of force indicating apparent criminal conduct by an officer; uses of force by New Orleans Police Department personnel of a rank higher than sergeant; deaths that occur when a person is in the custody of New Orleans police; and other cases assigned to the FIT by the Superintendent of Police. When the Force Investigation Team discovers violations of policy or law, it pursues disciplinary investigations and, in some cases, recommends criminal prosecution.

While 653 individual force incidents were reported in 2016 – a significant decrease from the previous year – FIT determined that 64 of these incidents included non-reportable uses of force, or incidents in which force was used against an officer; which is outside of the scope of this report. An example of this would be an instance in which it appears that an officer takes a subject to the ground by force, and the incident is reported, but after review of BWC and statements written by the officer and witnesses, it is determined that the subject went to the ground under their own power. Situations like the one previously mentioned, or instances in which an officer un-holsters a weapon, but don't actually use or point it, may be deemed "non-reportable" by FIT.

It is also worth noting that individual force incidents can include multiple officers, using multiple types of force. For example, the Violent Offender Warrant Squad (VOWS) may be deployed to apprehend a suspect, during which time multiple officers have their weapons exhibited, while another officer has to use a takedown technique to subdue the suspect. In the previously mentioned scenario, there would be a single force tracking number (FTN) given to document the incident, however, each type of force used would be recorded, along with the name of the officer(s) that used the force. The following tables indicate the number of force incidents per year since 2014 (Table 1), and the count of each type of force used (Table 2). Table 3 also shows that in 2016, most uses of force were incident to arrest.

Table 1: Uses of Force Incidents per Arrest

	2014	2015	2016
Arrests	36,122	27,974	21,884
Force incidents	409	711*	589*
Use of force per arrest	1.1%	2.6%	2.7

*In 2015, NOPD began counting the number of times firearms were exhibited/pointed without discharge as Level 1 uses of force.

Table 2: Types of Force Used, 2014-2016

	2014	2015	2016
Firearm Discharge ¹	10	12	5
Firearm Exhibited/Pointed ²	101	367	760
CEW Discharged ¹	138	94	52
CEW Exhibited/Pointed	73	78	114
Baton	4	1	3
Hands	246	316	316
Feet	0	8	0
Takedown	90	154	175
Strike	5	0	4
Canine ³	35	42	47
Escort Techniques ²			49
Defense Techniques ²			1
Other ⁴	4	0	37
Total	706	1,791	1,563

1-Accidental discharges not included

2- Force types not tracked in previous years

3- Only 9 incidents involving canines resulted in bites.

4-Other includes Uses of Force not otherwise categorized.

Table 3: Type of Force by Arrest, 2016

	Subject Arrested	Subject Not Arrested
Firearm Discharge ¹	0	5
Firearm Exhibited/Pointed	526	234
CEW Discharged ¹	34	18
CEW Exhibited/Pointed	76	38
Baton	2	1
Hands	225	91
Takedown	129	46
Strike	4	0
Canine ²	45	2
Escort Techniques	42	7
Defense Techniques	1	0
Other	21	3
Total³	1,105	445

1-Accidental discharges not included. Also, of the firearm discharges, two involved dogs, and another subject committed suicide after being wounded by officers.

2-Neither of the incidents involving canines, where the subject was not arrested resulted in bites.

3-13 cases listed neither the type of force, nor whether the subject involved was arrested.

Several of the statistics cited in the tables above appear to demonstrate large increases; e.g. CEW's and Firearms exhibited. During the same period of time, the NOPD also experienced fewer actual discharges of the aforementioned weapons. The Department believes the increased numbers can be attributed to better reporting and accountability, brought about by changes in policy, training and the use of Body Worn Cameras (BWC). BWC's were issued to all patrol officers around the middle of 2014, while in the summer of 2015 NOPD also incorporated the use of TASER Smart Weapons that also include recordings of their use.

Year-to-year comparison also shows an increase in the number of "takedowns," a term that is not defined in the use of force policy. The lack of definition for this action likely contributed to the apparent increase as officers over-reported takedowns or misclassified other actions (such as anatomical compliance techniques) as takedowns. The Department is drafting a definition that, when included in a revised policy, will result in more accurate reporting in this category.

During 2015, the Department restructured its force-tracking database, changing the data-field categories in IAPro used to record force statistics. The Department also implemented a new force-reporting mechanism, "Blue Team," which enabled officers to report force digitally, using electronic forms. Previously, all use of force reporting was accomplished through paper forms that were approved, through chain of command, to the Force Investigation Team at the Public Integrity Bureau. The switch to digital reporting cut the time for processing and data collection, and it has improved supervision. At the same time, it has increased the accuracy of force reporting and yielded more force reports.

With the accuracy of force reporting improving, the NOPD has seen the number of reported uses of force increase dramatically from 2014 to 2015 (from 706 to 1791), and then experience less fluctuation between 2015 and 2016 (1791 to 1563). Again, NOPD believes that these fluctuations are largely attributable to the changes in policy, protocol, and data collection outlined above. With new force and reporting policies coming into place, the number of citizen complaints of excessive/unauthorized force has drastically decreased from 45 in 2014, to 16 in 2016 (see Table 7). Further, while incidents where a CEW or Firearm is exhibited have gone up, discharges have decreased.

Use of Force Demographics

While the NOPD continues to improve the quality and availability of its data, the department has made a commitment to transparency with the public that it serves. Below are three tables listing the number of uses of force by the age, gender and race/ethnicity of those that the force was used against in 2016.

Table 4: Uses of Force by Subject Age

	Under 10	11-17	18-27	28-37	38-47	48-57	58+	Not-specified
Firearm Discharge				1	2			2
Firearm Exhibited	8	111	305	173	74	34	18	37
CEW Discharged		3	20	11	3	6		9
CEW Exhibited		8	33	40	11	13	1	8
Baton				2				1
Hands	1	22	122	102	33	17	7	12
Takedown	1	16	65	53	14	15	3	8
Strike			1	1				2
Canine		23	20	2	2			
Escort Techniques		3	28	7	1	4	1	5
Defense Techniques			1					
Other		3	7	9	3	1		14
Total	10	189	602	401	143	90	30	98

The data available indicates that force is most often used against individuals between the ages of 18 and 27 (38 percent of 1593 total uses of force). The second most likely age range to have forced used against them were those between 28 and 37 (25 percent), with those aged 11 to 17 a distant third place (12 percent).

Table 5: Type of Force by Gender

	Male	Female	Not specified
Firearm Discharge ²	5		
Firearm Exhibited	654	97	9
CEW Discharged ¹	46	2	4
CEW Exhibited	98	15	1
Baton		2	1
Hands	249	65	2
Takedown	153	20	2
Strike	4		
Canine ²	41	6	
Escort Techniques	41	8	
Defense Techniques	1		
Other	17	6	14
Total	1,309	221	33

In 2016, men were far more likely to have force used against them by the NOPD. More than more than 1300 of 1563 uses of force were against male subjects (about 84 percent), while only 221 uses of force were against women (14 percent); the other two percent of cases were not specified.

Table 6: Types of Force Used by Race/Ethnicity

	African American	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White	Not-specified
Firearm Discharge	2			1	2
Firearm Exhibited	689	2	21	38	10
CEW Discharged	35		1	10	6
CEW Exhibited	93		4	15	2
Baton	2				
Hands	243		3	65	5
Takedown	133		3	36	3
Strike	1		1	2	
Canine	47				
Escort Techniques	44			5	
Defense Techniques	1				
Other	19		1	3	1
Total	1,309	2	34	175	43

The majority of force used by the NOPD in 2016 was against African American/Black individuals (1309 of 1563 total uses of force). Force against African Americans made up 84 percent of all force incidents, while force against White/Caucasians was a distance second place, at 11 percent (175 total uses of force). It is also worth noting that African American individuals made up 67 percent of all

stops, and 77 percent of searches conducted by NOPD in 2016. This data is further explored in the 2016 Stop and Search and Bias-Free Policing annual reports found at <https://nola.gov/nopd/nopd-consent-decree/>.

Force Complaints and Unauthorized Use of Force

Over the last three years, complaints against NOPD personnel for excessive/unauthorized force have decreased dramatically. Between 2015 and 2016 alone, there was a decrease of 39% (Table 7). Of the 2016 complaints, only two have been sustained. All of these data compare favorably to 2014, when 45 complaints of excessive or unauthorized force were filed. The NOPD attributes this decline in unauthorized force complaints to improved policy and training, received by both recruits and veteran officers. This newly improved training includes classes in the de-escalation of force, as well as how officers should respond to individuals experiencing mental health crises. The Department has also begun certifying officers as crisis intervention specialists, through the 40 hour CIT training program. There are now CIT trained officers assigned to each NOPD District.

Table 7: Unauthorized Force Complaints and Dispositions*

	2015	2016
Sustained (violated policy)	6	2
Exonerated	7	2
Unfounded	3	4
Not Sustained	4	0
No Formal Investigation	1	2
Merited		
Pending	1	6
Total	26	16

*Dispositions up to date as of 4/27/17

After every use of force by an NOPD officer, an investigation of the incident is conducted by a supervisor or FIT, even when a complaint is not filed. During 2016, only one force investigation found an unauthorized use of force by an NOPD officer. In January 2016, during the course of a drug related arrest in the 5th District, an NOPD officer discharged his CEW, after which the subject of the force began to experience a seizure. Subsequent to the use of force, the subject (listed as a Black, male, 29 years-of-age) was hospitalized and treated for his injuries. After an investigation into this force incident, it was determined by the Use of Force Review Board that this Level 4 use of force violated NOPD policy.

Vehicle Pursuits

A vehicle pursuit is defined as an event involving one or more police officers attempting to apprehend a suspect who is trying to avoid arrest while operating a motor vehicle. This may include using high speed or other evasive tactics, such as disregarding traffic warning signs, stop signs, and red lights, driving off a roadway, turning suddenly or driving in a legal manner but willfully failing to yield to an officer's signal to stop.

New Orleans police officers engaged in 26 vehicle pursuits in 2016, a 53 percent decrease from the last two year; both of which had 49 vehicle pursuits. None resulted in any criminal or civil legal actions or charges against the officers, the Police Department, or the City.

Table 8: Property Damage

	2014	2015	2016
Light	11	5	1
Moderate	2	5	4
Heavy	1	2	1
Total	14	12	6

Of the 2016 pursuits, only six resulted in property damage, including one instance of “Heavy” damage, in which the fleeing suspect’s vehicle hit another pedestrian vehicle (Table 8). This is another 50 percent decrease compared to the previous year, in which there were 12 incidents of property damage; 2 of which were considered “Heavy.” Of the 2016 pursuits, none resulted in injuries to an officer, the single accident mentioned above involved an injury of a bystander, and two pursuits resulted in an injury to a suspect (Table 5).

Table 9: Injuries

	2014	2015	2016
Officers	2	1	
Suspects	1	2	2
Bystanders	1	5	1
Total	4	8	3

The following table lists: the violation that prompted the pursuit; the officer(s) involved in the pursuit; the supervisor who approved the pursuit; the outcome of the pursuit; and resultant property damage.

Table 10: Vehicle Pursuits

Violation	Drivers	Passengers	Supervisor Approval	Pursuit Outcome	Damage to Vehicle
Traffic Violation	D. Millon	M. McNeil	M. Mulla	Driver charged with moving violation and parole violation	None
Vehicle without license plate	E. Route	R. Lott	N/A	Suspect fled on foot	None
Armed robbery	C. Barre	T. Davis	K. Williams	Suspect apprehended	None
Drug transaction	W. Pearson	T. Burrell	N/A	One suspect arrested, the other escaped on foot	Medium
Armed carjacking	Multiple units		C. Love	Subjects apprehended after fleeing on foot	Medium
Robbery	C. Hoffman	S. Leboeuf	G. Powell	Suspect apprehended	None
Armed robbery	Multiple units		C. Love	Suspects apprehended	Medium
Armed carjacking	W. Pearson		E. Gillard	Suspects apprehended	None
Armed robbery	M. Bencik	C. Haw	K. Joseph	One suspect apprehended, two fled on foot	None
Stolen vehicle	C. Hoffman	E. Vilhelmsen	S. Gilliam	Suspect apprehended	None
Armed Robbery	D. Warter		M. Mulla	Suspect escaped	None
Traffic violations, Stolen Vehicle	K. Jones	C. Hoffman	G. Powell	Suspect apprehended	Medium
Traffic	G. James, K. Harper		Sgt. Young	Pursued vehicle stops; driver flees on foot	None
Hit & run	B. Bevley		Sgt. Williams	Pursued vehicle voluntarily stops	None
Traffic	B. Ashe		N/A	Pursued vehicle voluntarily stops	None
Felony	E. Thompson	J. Weir	Sgt. O'Brien	NOPD vehicle in collision	None
Traffic	M. Sam		Sgt. Davillier	Pursued vehicle in collision	None

Stolen vehicle	S. Stephano		K. Williams	One suspect apprehended, two fled on foot	None
Carjacking	Multiple units		B. Francois	Suspects apprehended	Light
Armed Robbery	C. Love		K. Williams	Suspect apprehended	None
Armed carjacking	P. Burras		R. Franklin	Two suspects apprehended, One escaped on foot	None
Possible drug violation	E. Patrick	A. Laiche	J. O'Brien	Suspects escaped	None
Shooting	J. Weir	A. Laiche	W. Jacque	Suspects apprehended	Heavy
Felony	E. Route		R. Young	Pursued vehicle in collision	N/A
Felony	M. Scott	F. Vitrano	K. Williams	Pursued vehicle in collision	N/A
Armed carjacking	D. Millon		G. Torregano	Suspect fled on foot	None

Use of Firearms

Only authorized personnel who have met all Louisiana State Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requirements and have been commissioned by the Superintendent of Police have the privilege to carry a firearm, as a police officer, both on-duty and off-duty (La. R.S. 40:2405). All critical firearms discharges are required to be reported to, and investigated by, the Public Integrity Bureau's Force Investigation Team. This is defined as a discharge of a firearm by an NOPD officer, including discharges when no person or animal is struck. Range and training firings, humane destruction of animals, and off-duty hunting discharges when no person is struck are not critical firearms discharges.

As outlined above, New Orleans police officers reported exhibited their firearms, without discharging them, 760 times during 2016. They reported intentionally discharging their firearms 5 times. Additionally, two accidental discharges occurred, bringing the total number of firearms discharges in 2016 to seven. Firearm discharges decreased by nearly half between 2015 and 2016.

Table 11: Firearm Discharges

	2014	2015	2016
Intentional	10	12	5
Accidental	1	1	2
Total	11	13	7

Canines

The use of canines requires adherence to procedures that control their use of force potential and that direct their specialized capabilities into legally acceptable crime detection, prevention, and control activities. A police dog used to apprehend is an instrumentality of force and can only be used consistent with the Police Department's policies. Officers are required to use the minimum amount of force that the objectively reasonable officer would use in light of the circumstances to effectively bring an incident or person under control, while protecting the lives of the member or others.

The New Orleans Police Department requires every canine deployment to be reported to the Public Integrity Bureau's Force Investigation Team, and NOPD tracks every canine deployment as well as bites resulting from a deployment. Canines are deployed for a variety of reasons, including patrols and to search for narcotics, and may be used without attempting to apprehend a suspect.

As Table 12 illustrates, the total number of canine deployments has increased for the second consecutive year; up 34 percent, from 35 deployments in 2014, to 47 in 2016. However, the number of bites has decreased for the second consecutive year; from 12 in 2014, to 9 in 2016. As a result, the canine bite ratio has decreased from 34 percent to 19 percent in the span of two years.

Table 12: Canine Deployments and Bites

	2014	2015	2016
With Bites	12	10	9
Without Bites	23	32	38
Total canine deployments	35	42	47
Canine Bite Ratio	34%	24%	19%

Conducted Electrical Weapons

The appropriate use of a CEW should result in fewer serious injuries to officers and suspects. Officers are required to use CEWs only when such force is necessary to protect the officer, the subject, or another party from physical harm, and other less intrusive means would be ineffective. CEWs are authorized to control a violent suspect when attempts to subdue the suspect by other tactics have been, or are likely to be, ineffective, and there is a reasonable expectation that it will be unsafe for officers to approach the suspect within physical contact range. CEWs are intended to control a violent or potentially violent individual while minimizing the risk of serious injury.

As Table 13 shows, the total number of CEW (Taser) discharges fell by 54 percent from 2014, when 172 were reported, to 2016, when 80 were reported. The use of CEWs decreased for purposeful discharges (from 138 in 2014 to 52 in 2016) as well as accidental discharges (from 34 in 2014 to 28 in 2016).

Table 13: CEW Discharges

	2014	2015	2016
CEW Discharges	138	94	52
Accidental Discharges	34	30	28
Total CEW Use	172	124	80

SWAT Deployments

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams are part of the Crisis Response Unit, which was established to provide specialized support in handling critical field operations in which intense negotiations and/or special tactical deployment methods appear to be necessary. The Special Operations Division's tactical platoons (SWAT teams) are limited to providing specialized response to critical situations in which a tactical response is required, such as hostage rescue, barricaded subjects, high-risk warrant service, high-risk apprehension, and terrorism response. The SWAT teams have the primary responsibility for execution of high-risk warrants utilizing tactical team officers equipped with special equipment, training, and weapons.

The following table lists the location of each SWAT deployment; the number of arrests made; the type of evidence or property seized; whether a forcible entry was required; whether a weapon was discharged by a SWAT team member; and whether a person or domestic animal was killed or injured. There was a significant decrease in SWAT activity between 2015, when there was 39 deployments, and 2016, which only had six.

Table 14: SWAT Rolls

Location	Arrests made	Evidence seized	Forcible entry required	Weapon discharged	Death/ Injury
4800 Block of Charmes Court	1	Cell Phone	No	No	No
4500 Block of Schindler Drive	1	Gun, spent casings, paperwork	No	No	No
6900 Block of Bundy Road	1	Guns, ammunition, magazines	Yes	No	No
6000 Block of Bullard Road	0	Shotgun, shells	No	No	No
700 Block of Lyons Street	1	Gun	No	No	Deceased male inside
7900 Block of Sandpiper Drive	1	None	No	No	No