

VOLUSIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE



MJC

Sheriff Michael J. Chitwood

2022 ANNUAL ANALYSIS on 2021 Use of Force and Pursuits

In accordance with General Order 001-01 Use of Force Guidelines, General Order 001-03 Use of Less-Lethal Weapons and Devices and General Order 041-02 Motor Vehicle Apprehension, the Professional Compliance Unit shall complete an annual analysis of all pursuits and use of force, to include use of deadly force, less-lethal force, and agency policies and practices.

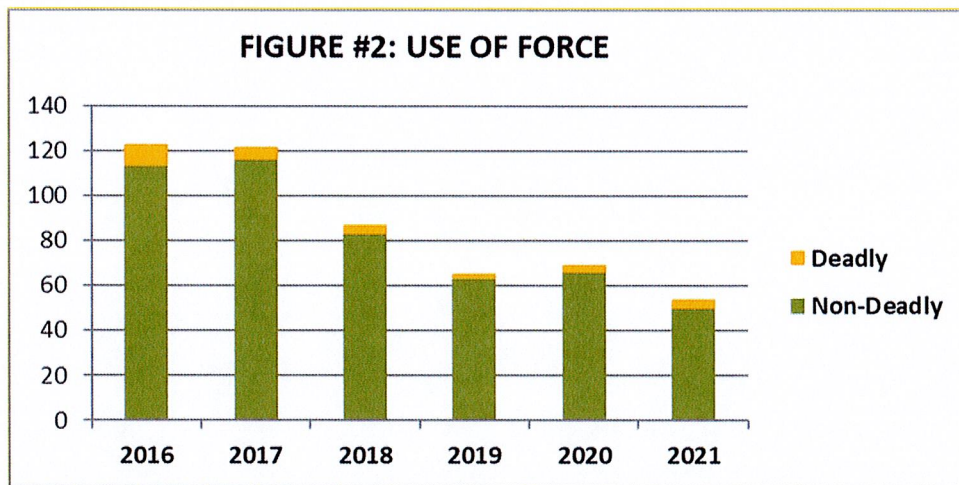
The purpose of the annual analyses is to provide an additional means outside of the administrative review process to identify and address training deficiencies/opportunities, use of force trends among Deputies, and for protection of the Deputy, the Sheriff's Office, and the community.

FIGURE #1: Five Year Statistical Review Summary

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Calls For Service	275,384	260,722	262,693	275,070	271,031
Total Arrests (Source: UCR)	13,079	10,488	9,370	6,459	6,400
Total Index Crime Rate (Source: UCR)	1,586	1,452	1,172	1,023	900
Deadly Force Incidents	6	4	2	3	4
Deadly Force Persons	6	3	2	3	3
Deadly Force Vicious Animals	0	1	0	0	1
Deadly Force Accidental Discharge	0	0	0	0	0
Less-Lethal Force Incidents	116	83	63	66	50
Total Use of Force Incidents	122	87	65	69	54
Total Vehicle Pursuits (Source: IAPRO)	5	7	6	6	5

2021 USE OF FORCE

During calendar year 2021, the Volusia Sheriff's Office made 6,400 total arrests (Ref.: 2021 UCR statistics). In effecting these arrests, the number of incidents requiring use of force in response to subject resistance was 54 incidents, or about 0.8% of total arrests and less than 0.02% of all calls for service interactions with the public. The remaining 99.0% of all interactions were made without incident.



TREND ANALYSIS:

The above 6-year trend line indicates a decrease in use of force incidents from 2016 through 2021; in calendar year 2021, there was a 21.7% decrease in use of force incidents in response to subject's resistance. Use of force incidents decreased 47.1% from 2016 – 2019, followed by a slight increase in 2020, and then declining again in 2021. This may be attributed to the change in agency philosophy to the Guardian mindset and continuing de-escalation training.

DEADLY FORCE:

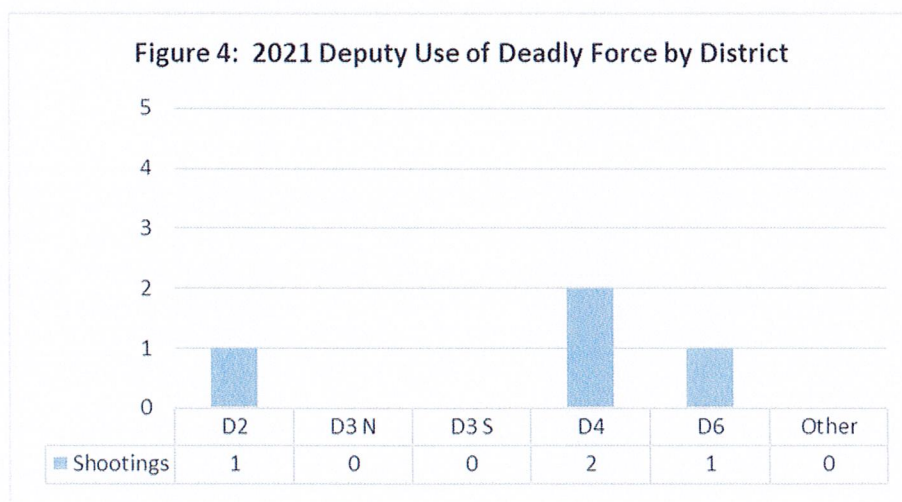
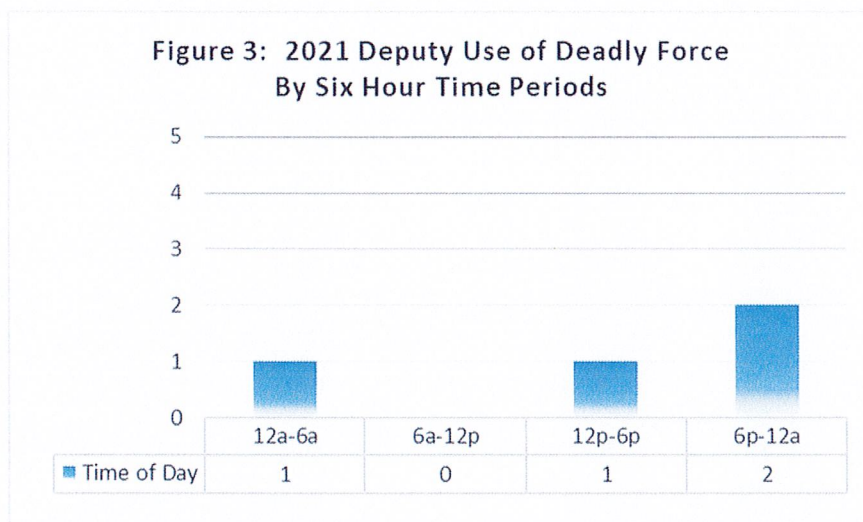
Of the 138 uses of force in 2021, three (3) incidents (0.022%) involved the use of deadly force with a firearm against a person. In accordance with VSO's MOU with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), FDLE investigated the deadly force incidents and forwarded final reports to the State Attorney's Office (SAO) for review. No further action was deemed necessary in the cases.

Additionally, one (1) incident (0.007%) involved the use of deadly force against an aggressive charging pit bull. This incident was determined to be justified and within policy.

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF DEPUTIES UTILIZING DEADLY FORCE

The first deputy involved shootings occurred on June 1, 2021 at approximately 2105 hours in District Four (Enterprise), the second on June 10, 2021 at approximately 2041 hours in District Six (City of DeBary), and the third on September 11, 2021 at approximately 0220 hours in District Four (City of Deltona).

The final deputy involved shooting occurred on June 10, 2021, at approximately 1525 hours in District Two (Town of Pierson) in response to an aggressive dog.



RACE, GENDER AND AGE OF SUBJECTS IN DEADLY FORCE INCIDENTS

The subject in the first deadly force shooting incident is a Caucasian female, who was 14 years old at the time of incident. The second subject, a 13 year-old Caucasian male, surrendered to Deputies.

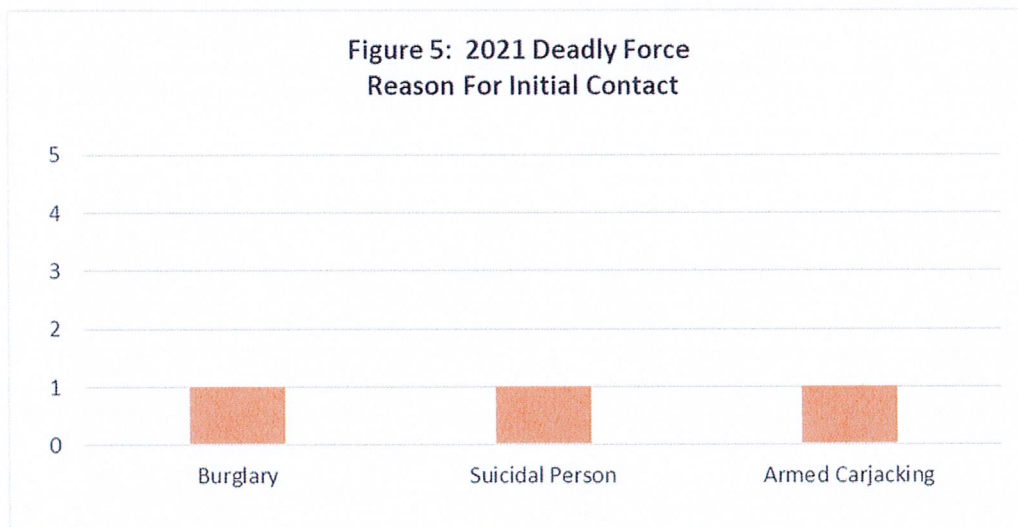
In the second deadly force incident, a Deputy shot and killed an aggressive pit bull dog that repeatedly attempted to bite him.

The subject in the third deadly force shooting is a Caucasian male, who was 54 years old at the time of the incident.

The subject in the fourth deadly force shooting is an African American male, who was 21 years old at the time of the incident.

REASON FOR INITIAL DEPUTY CONTACT

The reasons for the initial deputy contact in the three deadly force incidents are: (3) three calls for service (residential burglary, an armed suicidal person and an armed carjacking).



Case Report #21-10202 June 1, 2021

On June 1, 2021, Deputies responded to a report of two juvenile runaways from the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home in Enterprise and learned the pair broke into a nearby home. Deputies spent hours trying to get the juveniles to exit the home. The juveniles found the homeowner’s weapons and began firing at the Deputies. The female subject exited the home pointing a shotgun at Deputies and was shot multiple times. The male subject exited the home and surrendered to the Deputies.

FDLE completed their investigation and forwarded it to the State Attorney’s Office for review. The State Attorney’s Office determined no further action was required. VSO Internal Affairs found the actions taken by deputies were in compliance with VSO General Orders. [JUSTIFIED]

Case Report #21-10793 June 10, 2021

On June 10, 2021, Deputies responded to a reported suspicious incident in Pierson. Neighbors reported hearing a commotion behind their residence and a woman yelling “help me, help me, it’s got me.” Deputies responded to a home in the general area and contacted a woman at the home. Her pit bull followed her out of the home and aggressively approached one Deputy actively trying to bite him. The dog continued lunging at and attempting to bite the Deputy. The Deputy fired one round at the dog, killing it.

Case Report #21-10815 June 10, 2021

On June 10, 2021, Deputies responded to a reported intoxicated armed suicidal male at a residence in DeBary. The reporting party advised the male stated that he would get in a shootout with Deputies if law enforcement came to the residence. The caller said the suicidal person was removing weapons from his gun safe and taking to a shed on their property.

When Deputies arrived at the residence, the suicidal male was in the driveway armed with a rifle. Deputies commanded the male to put the gun down; instead, he pointed it at a Deputy. The Deputy fired multiple times to protect his life and those of the other Deputies.

FDLE completed their investigation and forwarded it to the State Attorney's Office for review. The State Attorney's Office determined no further action was required. VSO Internal Affairs found the action taken by the Deputy was in compliance with VSO General Orders. [JUSTIFIED]

Case Report #21-17008 September 11, 2021

On September 10, 2021, Deputies responded around 23:35 hours to an armed carjacking reported by a Lyft driver, who picked up a passenger in Sanford. The passenger had the driver take him to a desolate area of Osteen. The subject held a gun to the Lyft driver's head and stole his vehicle and his phone.

Deputies spotted the stolen vehicle on Lake Helen Osteen Road, Deltona. The suspect fled from Deputies, bailed out of the stolen vehicle at the Deltona Garden Apartments, and went into a wooded area. About ten minutes later, Deputy Davis and K9 Ax started searching the wooded area. While searching the woods, shots rang out at 00:07 on September 11, and K9 Ax came out of the brush with a gunshot wound to his face. K9 Ax was treated at the Animal Emergency Hospital Volusia in Ormond Beach.

The VSO Aerial Response Team, the SWAT Team, Alert One and other agencies responded to assist the Sheriff's Office with apprehending the suspect. At approximately 02:20, the suspect came out of the woods and exchanged gunfire with Deputies. The suspect was shot multiple times and was transported to Central Florida Regional Hospital for treatment. K9 Endo was shot during the exchange and suffered injuries to his chin and paw. K9 Endo was treated at Veterinary Emergency Center of East Volusia in South Daytona.

FDLE completed their investigation and forwarded it to the State Attorney's Office for review. The State Attorney's Office determined no further action was required. VSO Internal Affairs found the actions taken by the Deputies were in compliance with VSO General Orders. [JUSTIFIED]

LESS-LETHAL FORCE:

Based on the number of subjects and the level of subject-resistance, some incidents required multiple-deputy response and/or transition between more than one type of less-lethal force/weapon. Subsequently, more than one "use" of force per incident may be reported, resulting in a higher number of "uses" when compared to the number of "incidents" responded to.

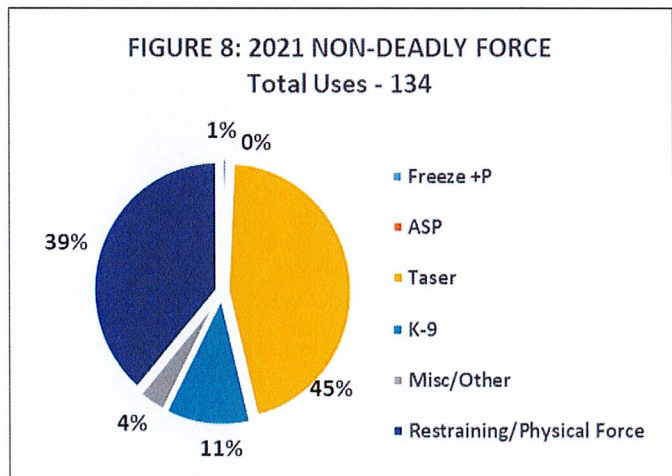
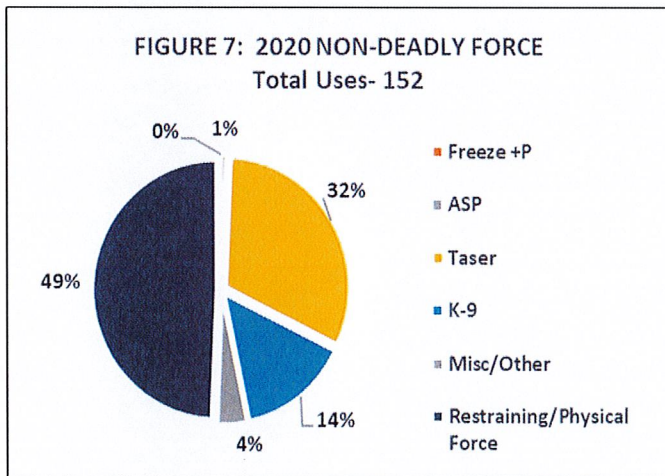
In 2021, deputies responded to 50 different incidents requiring use of less-lethal force in response to subject(s) resistance. These 50 incidents required a combined total of 134 uses of various types of less-lethal force. The table below (figure 6) breaks down the less-lethal force by type and corresponding number of uses:

FIGURE #6: BREAKDOWN OF NON-DEADLY FORCE BY TYPE

TYPE OF USE:	2017 No. of Uses	2018 No. of Uses	2019 No. of Uses	2020 No. of Uses	2021 No. of Uses
Stop Sticks [Pursuit related]	28	13	11	*	*
Freeze +P	2	0	0	0	1
ASP	3	0	2	1	0
Taser	39	53	22	48	61
K-9	29	23	23	22	15
Drag-Stabilized Impact	0	0	0	1	2
Misc./Other (hobble, misc.)	2	3	9	5	3
Restraining / Escort / Physical Force	35	67	59	75	52
Restraint Chair (ERC)	0	1	3	0	0
TOTAL COMBINED USES:	138	160	129	152	134

* Pursuit related Stop Sticks no longer counted with Non-Deadly Force.

LESS-LETHAL FORCE BY TYPE: 2020 - 2021 COMPARISON



ANALYSIS BY TYPE OF FORCE:

Top Three Less-Lethal Options Utilized:

- 61 uses of Taser (45.5%)
- 52 uses of Restraining/Physical Force (38.8%)
- 15 uses of K-9 (11.2%)

RESTRAINING / PHYSICAL FORCE: Restraining/physical force represents 38.8% of all less-lethal force used during 2021 (52 uses). All uses of restraining/physical force were administratively reviewed through the chain of command and all but one use were found to be in compliance with policy. One deputy received a suspension for violating general orders.

K-9: K-9 use remained one of the top three uses for 2021 at 11.2% of the total uses (15); all uses were administratively reviewed and all were found to be in compliance with policy.

TASER: Taser use remains in the top three (3) less-lethal use of force options, with 45.5% of the total (61 uses). Taser usage as a less-lethal use of force increased 21.3% in 2021 when compared with 2020; in 10 (of 29) incidents (14 uses – 23%), subjects were armed (5 – firearm/handgun, 4 - knife, and 1 – machete). In 2021, the number of incidents with armed subjects increased 25% when compared with 2020. An additional four subjects made furtive movements indicative of possibly reaching for a weapon: reaching under a sofa, reaching for bulge in pocket, reaching behind vehicle seat, and reaching into waistband. Subjects resisted Deputies with active, aggressive or deadly force resistance in all but three less-lethal force Taser incidents. All Taser uses were administratively reviewed through the chain of command and all were found to be in compliance with general orders. Taser continues to be a valuable less-lethal option for Deputies to use with little or no lasting effects or injury to the subject.

MISC./OTHER: The other uses of less-lethal force in 2021 were: one (1) use of the Freeze+P (0.8%), two (2) uses of drag stabilized impact munition on a subject armed with knives (1.5%), one (1) use of a spit mask (0.8%), and two (2) uses of a hobble to prevent injuries to Deputies (1.5%). One hobble use violated a VSO general order; the Deputy received Roll Call training on hobble use.

Roll call training, remedial training and/or discipline was administered in circumstances where deputies violated general orders.

INCIDENTS vs. USES:

The following chart (Figure #9) is a 5-year comparison in the numbers of less-lethal incidents to the subsequent uses of force in response to subject resistance. NOTE: A “use-to-incident ratio” is also provided for a proportionate comparison between years:

FIGURE #9: LESS-LETHAL INCIDENTS VS. USES IN RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE

5-YEAR COMPARISON:	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Arrests	13,079	10,488	9,370	6,459	6,400
Total Less-Lethal Incidents	116	83	63	66	50
Total Uses of Force (Responses to Resistance)	138	160	129	152	134
Average Uses of Force per Incident (Ratio)	1.2	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.7
Average Uses of Force per Arrest (Ratio)	.011	.015	.014	.023	.021

Analysis of the above chart shows that while the number of less-lethal force incidents show a trending decline of 45.7% from 2017 – 2019, in 2020 less-lethal incidents increased 4.8% when compared to the previous year. In 2021, the number of less-lethal incidents decreased 24.2% from 2020. The average uses of force per incident ratio from 2017 through 2021 show an upward trend in subject’s resistance and failure to comply with lawful commands given by deputies. The average uses of force per arrest ratio show a trending increase of 109.1% from 2017- 2020, then an 8.7% decline in 2021.

This consistent application of force regardless of the spikes and fluctuations in incidents over each of the 5 years may be attributed in part to the agency’s commitment to scenario-based training with emphasis on professional and effective command presence, swift control of the situation and subsequent de-escalation on the part of the Deputies.

MULTIPLE-DEPUTY RESPONSE:

Of the 50 incidents responded to by the agency, 16 incidents (32%) required a combination of *multiple-deputy* response and accounted for 78 of the 134 uses (58%) of less-lethal force:

2-Deputy response = 12 incidents (24%); 53 uses (40%)

3-Deputy response = 2 incidents (4%); 10 uses (7%)

5-Deputy response = 2 incidents (4%); 15 uses (11%)

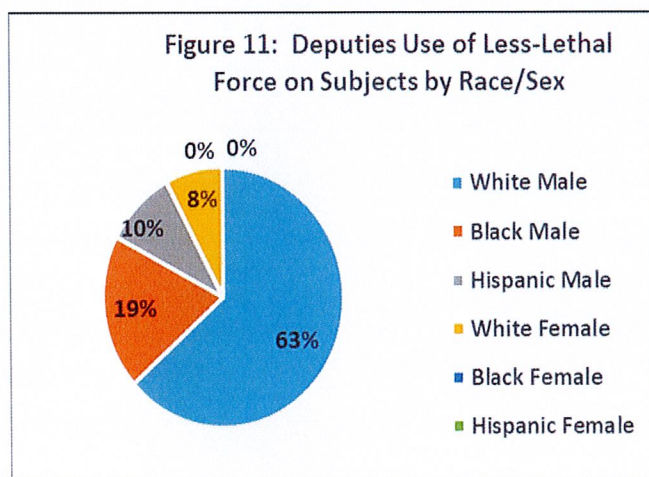
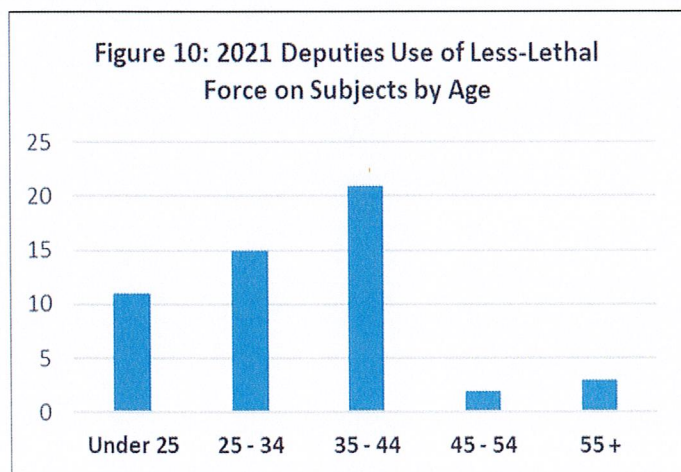
SINGLE-DEPUTY RESPONSE:

The remaining 34 incidents (68%) required single deputy response to resistance and accounted for 56 uses (42%) of less-lethal force.

RACE, GENDER AND AGE OF SUBJECTS IN LESS-LETHAL USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

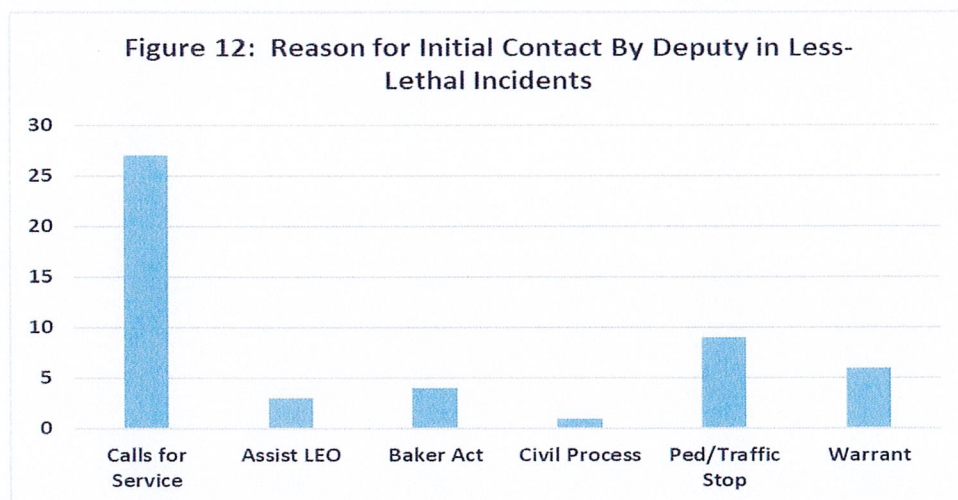
Deputies utilized less-lethal force in response to resistance on 52 subjects. Of the 52 subjects, 48 are male - (92%) and four (4) are female – (8%); 33 Caucasian males – (63%), 10 African American males – (19%), five (5) Hispanic males – (10%), and four (4) Caucasian females – (8%).

The subject’s age in less-lethal use of force are: 11 subjects under the age of 25 – (21%), 15 subjects between 25 – 34 years of age – (29%), 21 subjects between the ages of 35-44 (40%), 2 subjects between 45-54 years of age – (4%), and 3 subjects are 55 years of age and older – (6%).



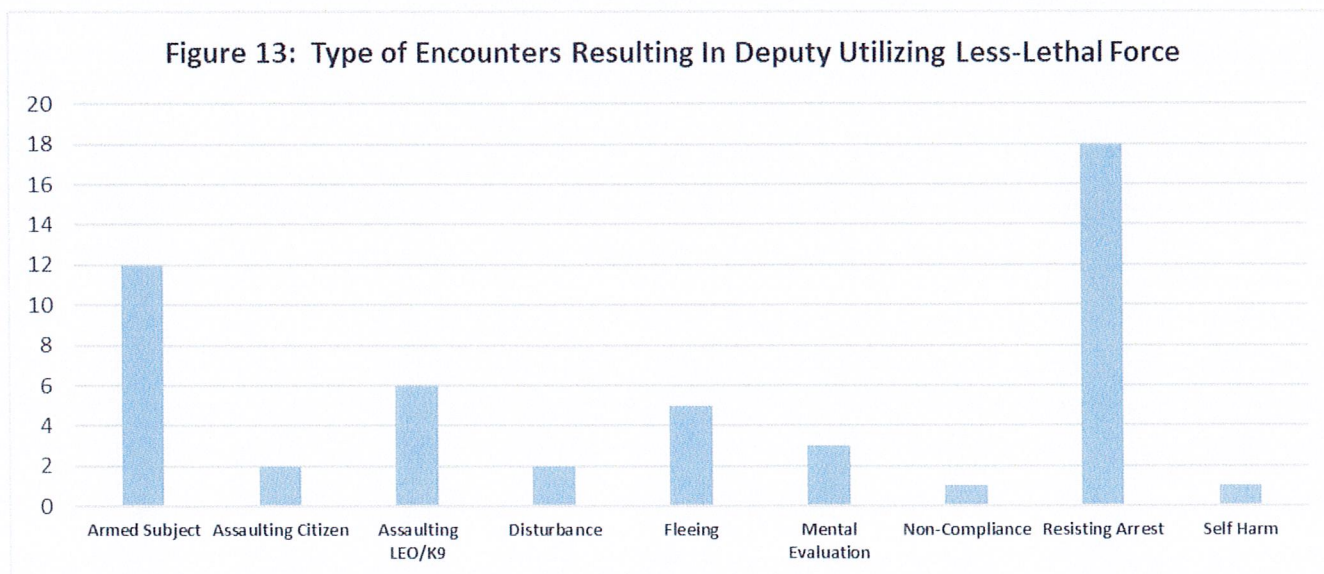
REASON FOR INITIAL CONTACT BY DEPUTY IN LESS-LETHAL FORCE INCIDENTS

Deputies responded to the following calls for service that resulted in Deputies utilizing less-lethal force: two (2) aggravated batteries (4.0%), two (2) conveyance burglaries (4.0%), one (1) burglary in progress (2.0%), one (1) crash (2%), 9 disturbances/domestic disturbances (18.0%), one (1) intoxicated person (2.0%), one (1) mentally ill person (2.0%), three (3) stolen vehicles (6.0%), two (2) suicidal persons (4.0%), two (2) suspicious persons (4.0%), and three (3) trespassers (6.0%). Deputies responded to assist other law enforcement agencies three (3) times (6.0%). Deputies conducted nine (9) pedestrian/traffic stops (18.0%), served six (6) warrants (12.0%), and a civil process (2.0%). In the remaining four (4) incidents, Deputies responded for Baker Acts (8.0%).



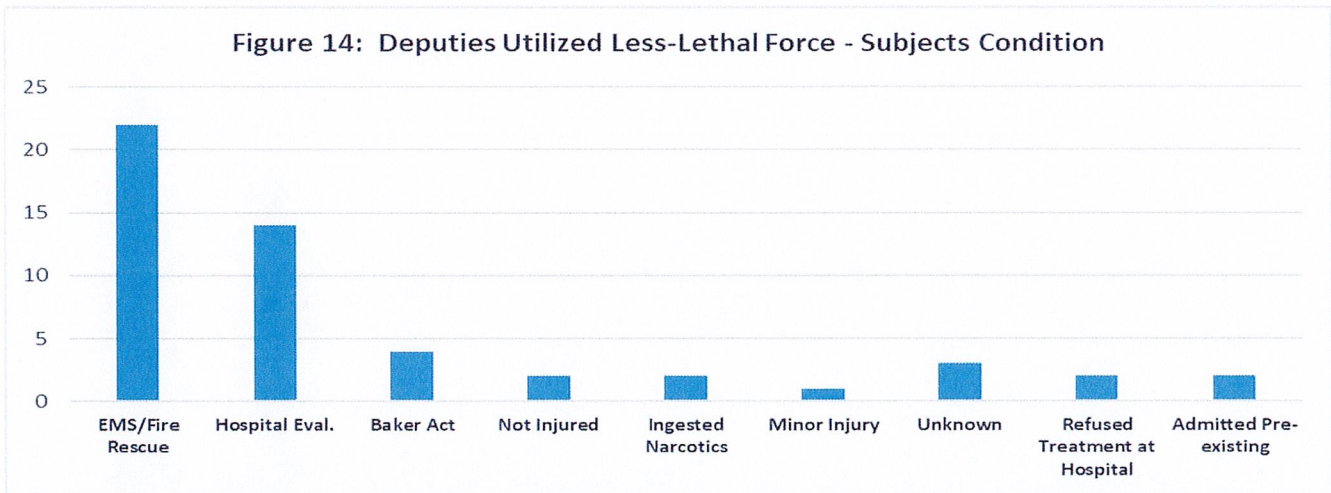
TYPES OF ENCOUNTERS RESULTING IN DEPUTY UTILIZING LESS-LETHAL FORCE

During 2021, the types of encounters resulting in Deputies utilizing less-lethal force were: 12 armed subjects – (24%), two (2) assaulting a citizen - (4%), six (6) assaulting a LEO/K9 - (12%), two (2) disturbances - (4%), five (5) fleeing - (10%), three (3) mental evaluations – (6%), one (1) non-compliance – (2%), 18 resisting arrest – (36%), and one (1) involving self-harm – (2%). Two of the armed subjects also were attempting self-harm.



DEPUTY UTILIZED LESS-LETHAL FORCE – RESPONSE TO SUBJECT RESISTANCE

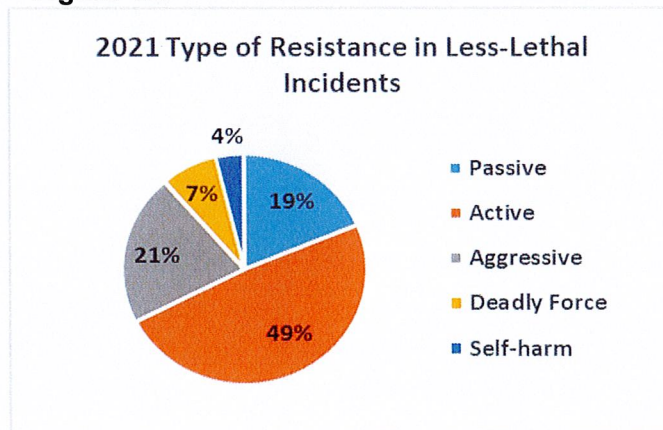
Of the 52 subjects where deputies responded to resistance with less-lethal force, the following summarizes the subjects’ injury/condition: two (2) subjects were not injured (3.8%); two (2) subjects ingested narcotics (3.8%), one (1) subject had minor injuries not requiring EMS (1.9%); 22 subjects were treated/released by EMS or Fire/Rescue (42.3%); two (2) subjects refused further treatment at hospital (3.8%); 14 subjects were evaluated at a hospital (26.9%); two (2) subjects were admitted to the hospital for pre-existing conditions (3.8%); and four (4) subjects were admitted to the hospital as a Baker Act (7.7%). An additional three (3) subjects evaded Deputies (5.8%); it is unknown if they were injured.



TYPE OF RESISTANCE DEPUTIES ENCOUNTERED IN LESS-LETHAL FORCE INCIDENTS

During calendar year 2021, Deputies responded to 50 different incidents that required use of less-lethal force in response to subjects’ resistance. In the 24 of these incidents, Deputies utilized less-lethal force in response to more than one level of resistance or 48% of the 50 incidents. The subjects’ resistance in the 50 incidents were active resistance – 39 (49%), aggressive resistance – 17 (21%), passive resistance – 15 (19%), deadly force/life threat to others – 6 (7%), and self-harm – 3 (4%).

Figure 15:



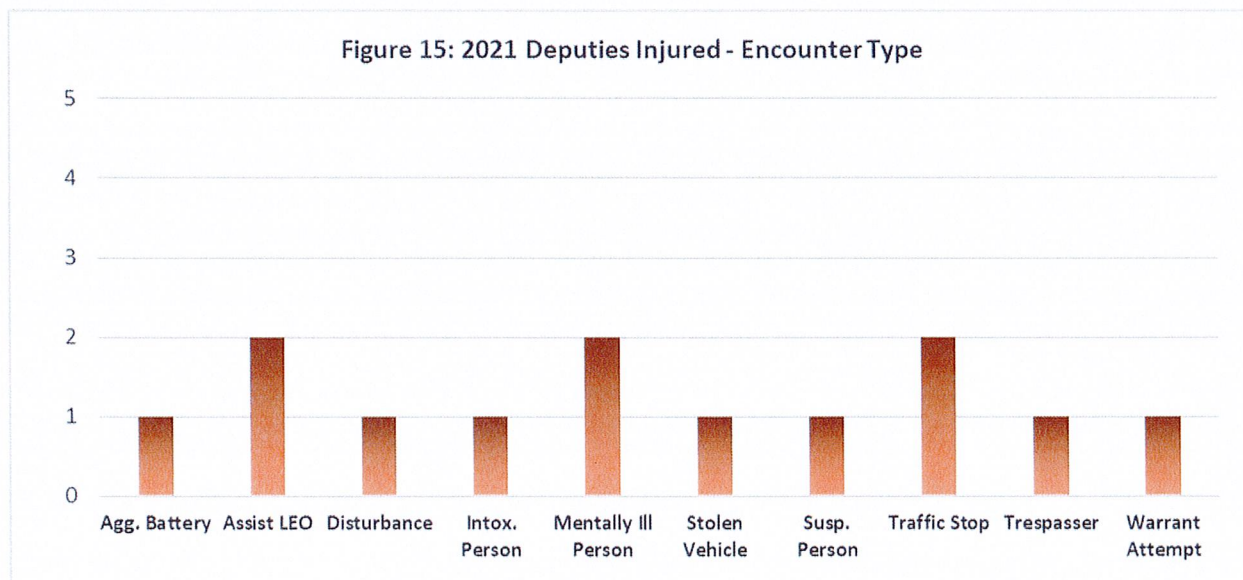
In the 24 incidents where the subjects resisted deputies in more than one type of resistance, the nature of call was: assist LEO – 1 (4%), aggravated battery – 1 (4%), civil process – 1 (4%), car break – 1 (4%), disturbance/domestic disturbance – 7 (29%), intoxicated person – 1 (4%), stolen vehicle – 1 (4%), suicidal person – 4 (17%), suspicious person – 2 (8%), traffic stop – 4 (17%), and warrant attempt – 1 (4%).

DEPUTIES INJURED IN ENCOUNTERS WHERE LESS-LETHAL FORCE UTILIZED

In the 50 incidents where Deputies utilized less-lethal force, 13 Deputies were injured (18%). Fire / Rescue treated three (3) Deputies on scene (4%); seven (7) Deputies did not require or refused medical services (10%); three (3) Deputies required evaluation at the hospital (4%); 61 deputies were not injured (82%).

Of the 52 subjects where Deputies used less-lethal force, 18 subjects were chemically impaired or suspected of being under the influence of either drugs or alcohol (35%), and in six (6) incidents, subjects were having a mental health crisis (12%).

One (1) Deputy responded to an aggravated battery (7.7%), two (2) Deputies assisted other agencies (15.4%), one (1) Deputy responded to a disturbance (7.7%), one (1) Deputy responded to an intoxicated person (7.7%), two (2) Deputies responded to a mentally ill person (15.4%), one (1) Deputy responded to a stolen vehicle (7.7%), one (1) Deputy responded to a suspicious person (7.7%), two (2) Deputies responded to a traffic stop (15.4%), one (1) Deputy responded to a trespasser (7.7%), and one (1) Deputy served a warrant (7.7%).



RACE, GENDER & AGE OF DEPUTIES INJURED IN LESS-LETHAL FORCE ENCOUNTERS

The breakdown of the Deputies injured is eight (8) Caucasian males (61.5%), two (2) African American males (15.4%), and three (3) Caucasian females (23.1%). The ages of the injured Deputies are: seven (7) Deputies were between the ages of 25 – 34 (53.8%), two (2) Deputies were between the ages of 35 – 44 (15.4%), two (2) Deputies were between the ages of 45 – 54 (15.4%), and two (2) Deputies were under 25 years of age (15.4%).

Figure 16:

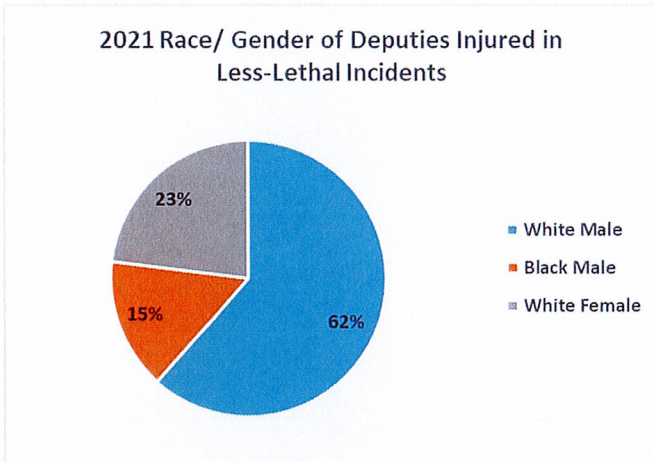
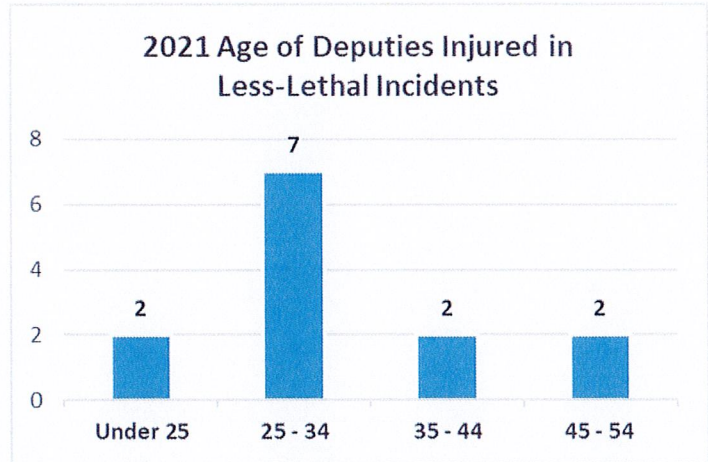


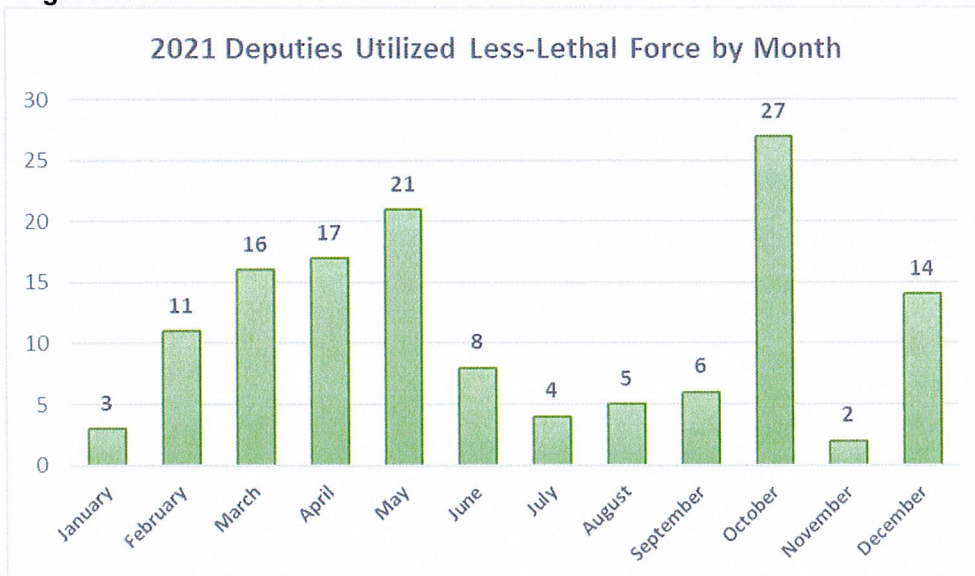
Figure 17:



DATE AND TIME LESS-LETHAL FORCE UTILIZED

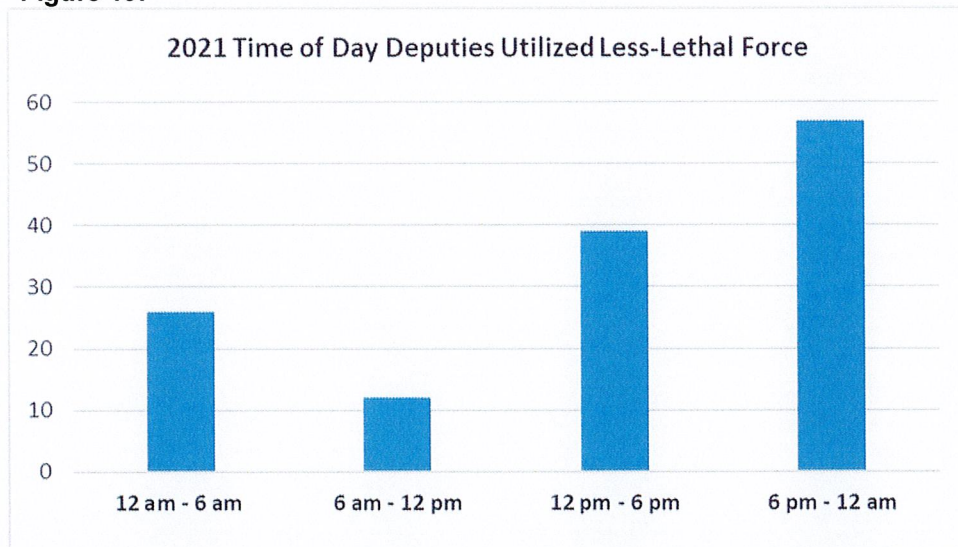
Deputies utilized less-lethal force on subjects: three (3) times in January (2.2%), 11 times in February (8.2%), 16 times in March (11.9%), 17 times in April (12.7%), 21 times in May (15.7%), 8 times in June (6.0%), 4 times in July (3.0%), 5 times in August (3.7%), 6 times in September (4.5%), 27 times in October (20.1%), 2 times in November (1.5%), and 14 times in December (10.5%).

Figure 18:



Of the 134 uses of less-lethal force, 26 uses occurred between 12 am – 6 am (19.4%), 12 uses occurred between 6 am – 12 pm (9.0%), 39 uses occurred between 12 pm – 6 pm (29.1%), and 57 uses occurred between 6 pm -12 am (42.5%).

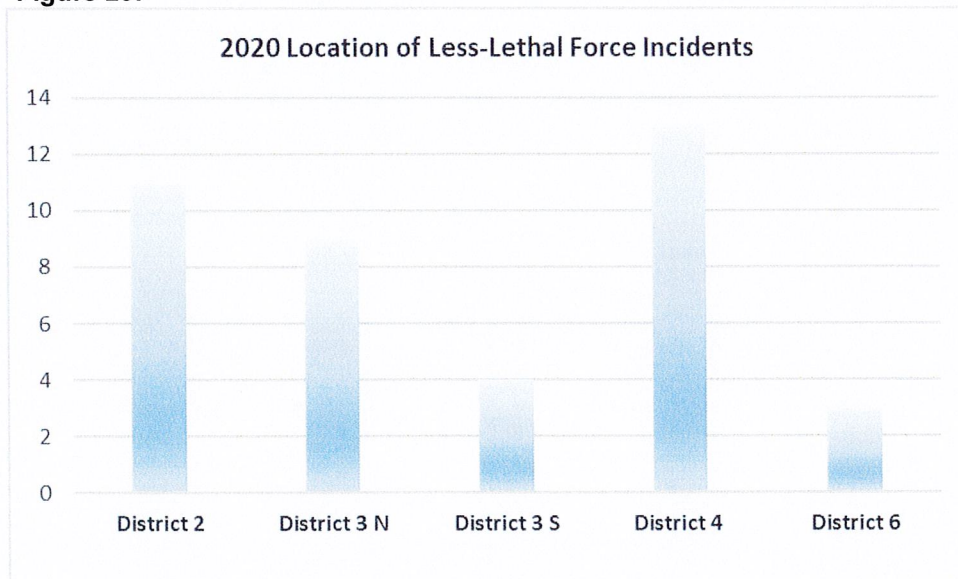
Figure 19:



LOCATION OF LESS-LETHAL INCIDENTS

Of the 50 incidents of less-lethal force, 14 incidents occurred in District 2 (28%), 11 incidents in District 3 N (22%), 5 incidents in District 3 S (10%), 16 incidents in District 4 (32%), and 4 incidents in District 6 (8%).

Figure 20:



2021 REVIEW OF USE OF FORCE POLICY AND PRACTICES:

Information Technology implemented updates to IAPro Blue Team in 2021. Internal Affairs indicates a vast improvement in reliability over the past system. In addition, this management software provides for collection of demographic data for subjects, which has not been feasible with the past system.

Volusia Sheriff's Office revised its Deputy Training Officer program to increase the training impact and field evaluation phase. This has received positive feedback and provides enhanced direction/coaching of new deputies.

The Volusia Sheriff's Office has also received approval from FDLE and CJSTC to begin basic law enforcement training for new Deputy Recruits at the Saboda Training Center in 2021. The inaugural Training Academy Class 21-1 started on June 7, 2021 and graduated on November 30, 2021.

Statistical data of index crime and number of arrests indicate dramatic reduction in both since 2017; however, in 2020 the number of use of force incidents and the number of deputies assaulted both increased slightly. In 2021, the use of force incidents decreased 21.7% when compared to 2020. The number of Deputies assaulted in 2021 also declined 23.2% from 2020.

Since implementing the new training model beginning in 2017, and with continued emphasis and investment in the Guardian and de-escalation philosophies, the agency has seen a 56% decrease in the use of force incidents from 2017 overall, and 33% decrease in use of deadly force.

In June 2021, the agency revised General Order 001-03 Use of Less-Lethal Weapons and Devices changing the general order to: all Taser discharges will be investigated as a Use of Force, (with the exception of accidental discharges not associated with the display of force or a use of force).

Proactive promotion of the agency engaging with the community and the reduction in crime, continues to build trust and new partnerships with the community. This investment in the community is vital to engaging all segments of the community and especially crucial when highly emotional incidents/events occur. Social media as a tool continues to raise awareness and open doors for future opportunities.

- PURSUIT ANALYSIS ON FOLLOWING PAGE -

FIGURE #21: PURSUIT MATRIX

Incident	Time	Reason for Pursuit	Method of Termination	Result in Crash	Injuries/Hospital	Avg/Max mph	Total Distance miles/time	Violator Eluded/Arrested	Within Policy
21-4350 / VP 21-002	16:25	Shooting into occupied vehicle	Suspect's vehicle crashed	Yes	Yes / Yes Passenger injuries from crash & K-9 bite	93.4 / 132 mph	Over 10 miles / 13 minutes	Yes / Yes	Yes
21-8380 / VP 21-003	16:30	Assist Cocoa PD - stolen vehicle with weapons inside	Deflated two front tires Stop sticks 3	No	Yes/ No, Rescue for Taser	97.1 / 115 mph	5.8 miles / 3 minutes 35 seconds	Yes / Yes	Yes
21-19013 / MVA 21-015	3:33	Car break in progress	Driver stopped vehicle and fled Stop sticks: 2	Yes	Unknown	? / 53 mph	0.8 miles / 2 minutes	Yes / No	No, Pursuit not authorized by supervisor.
21-19319 / MVA 21-017	13:59	Assist USMS - warrant for armed robbery w/firearm; rammed LE vehicles	Driver stopped vehicle and fled into ICW Stop sticks: EWPDP	No	Yes / No, TFA rammed suspect's vehicle	50 / 75 mph	4.3 miles/ 6 minutes	Yes / Yes	Yes
21-22479 / VP 22-003	10:10	Assist DBPD – aggravated assault on LEO	Suspect's vehicle crashed due to deflated tires Stop sticks: 7	Yes	No	69 / 102.9 mph	1 – 2 miles / 2 minutes	Yes/Yes	No, Pursuit not authorized by supervisor.

PURSUIT REVIEW:

There were five (5) pursuits during 2021; supervisory and administrative reviews were well-documented providing good detail. Three (3) of the five (5) pursuits were initiated in assistance of other agencies (60%).

Upon administrative review, all pursuits were justified with the exception of MVA 21-017 and VP22-003, where two Deputies initiated pursuits without their supervisor's approval; Lieutenant and Sergeant only approved stop sticks. After review by Internal Affairs, the Deputies received roll call remedial training on VSO General Order 041-02 Motor Vehicle Apprehension.

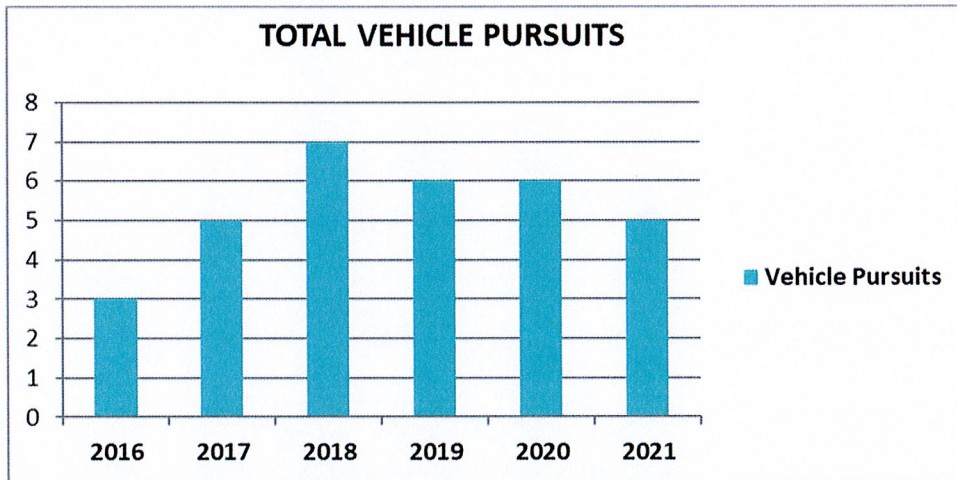
Stop Sticks - During 2021, Deputies deployed stop sticks 12 times in support of planned tactical measures to terminate pursuits. In three (3) of the five (5) pursuits or 60%, Deputies successfully deployed stop sticks terminating the pursuits, with two (2) ending because the suspect vehicles' tires were deflated and one (1) ending when the suspect stopped his vehicle. One (1) pursuit ended when the suspect vehicle crashed and in the final pursuit, the suspect stopped his vehicle and fled into the Intracoastal Waterway.

NOTE: Deputies also utilized 28 additional stop sticks in motor vehicle apprehensions/stop stick deployments in order to **prevent** escalation/engaging in active pursuits. Deputies deployed stop sticks in 29 incidents successfully preventing pursuits in 24 incidents (83%).

The below 6-year trend line 2016 - 2021 indicates an average of 5.3 pursuits/year.

Historical review for this period 2016 - 2021 reflects that of the 32 pursuits, 6 (19%) were found not in compliance with established policy.

FIGURE #22: SIX-YEAR PURSUIT TREND



REVIEW OF PURSUIT POLICY AND PRACTICES:

Review of agency policy and practices indicates good use of additional resources such as Air One, K-9 and support vehicles. Primary and support vehicles are functioning in their proper roles.

The agency trains all sworn officers in emergency vehicle operations, roadblocks and stop sticks. Only Deputies, who have demonstrated PIT proficiency after receiving competency-based training from PIT certified driving instructors, are authorized to initiate the technique.

Supervisory and administrative reviews are being conducted and documented in accordance with policy, and are forwarded through chain-of-command. As with all incidents involving pursuits, Command Staff conducts final review for justification and policy adherence as presented by Internal Affairs.

In addition to review of all pursuits, the agency conducts administrative reviews through chain of command on all motor vehicle apprehensions as a precautionary measure to ensure established procedures are being followed and that law enforcement response does not elevate to “pursuit mode” in violation of policy. This review facilitates the early detection of potential training needs, ensures continued deputy safety, and preserves the intent of policy and integrity of practice. Documented progressive discipline is utilized when needed.

Overall, the combination of strict pursuit guidelines, training, supervisory authorization and review, and professional deputy restraint continue to keep the number of pursuits to minimum numbers. In addition, the supervisory authorization and the review process itself adds a level of accountability and an evaluation element to each incident, which re-enforces the practice of individual professional restraint. This review process also provides a means to address any policy issues in a timely manner to ensure that practice continues to reflect procedure; no change to policy was required during this review period.

Professional Compliance Unit
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