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**REPORT**  
Police Services Board

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SUBJECT: **2015 USE OF FORCE ANNUAL REPORT**

FROM: David Jarvis, Deputy Chief, Corporate Services

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL POLICE SERVICES BOARD  
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**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that this document be received as the 2015 Annual Use of Force Report

**REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- The total number of Use of Force incidents reported during 2015 increased primarily due to a change in reporting requirements implemented in July of 2014.
- In 2015, training scenarios were designed to assist officers encountering individuals living with mental illness in a crisis situation. The focus of the training is on containment, communication and de-escalation techniques, along with transitioning through various force and de-escalation options as the situation evolves.
- The CEW reporting requirements implemented in July of 2014 indicate that displaying the CEW can be an effective de-escalation strategy.

**BACKGROUND**

Police officers may be required to use force to protect the public and themselves, and as such, are granted authority by the Criminal Code of Canada to use reasonable force when necessary to carry out their duties. Regulations issued by the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services specifically address the reporting requirements of these events. Reported information is focused on identifying and evaluating training needs in general terms and/or specific to individual officers. This annual report provides a summary of all Use of Force incidents during 2015 involving the Peel Regional Police (PRP).

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Ontario Police Services Act, Regulation 925 Sec. 14.5 (1) directs that - *an officer shall submit a report to the Chief of Police or Commissioner whenever the officer:*

- Draws a handgun in the presence of a member of the public, excluding a member of the police force while on duty*

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- b) *Points a firearm at a person*
- c) *Discharges a firearm*
- d) *Uses a weapon other than a firearm on another person, including a CEW in cartridge/probe mode, three point contact, and drive/push stun mode; or*
- e) *Uses physical force on another person that results in an injury requiring medical attention.*

## **TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

*Ontario Policing Standards (OPS) AI-012 Use of Force Guidelines and the Equipment and Use of Force Regulation (Ontario Regulation 926/90)*, outlines standards regarding training, equipment, qualifications and re-qualifications.

## **ANNUAL USE OF FORCE TRAINING**

The design and delivery of Use of Force training is subject to an internal review on an annual basis. In identifying trends, the constant objective is to provide officers with the knowledge, skills and abilities to better enable them to deal with situations they could encounter during the course of their duties. Learning and Development conducts annual environmental scans relating to police reviews and use of force encounters, including those involving armed, emotionally disturbed people (EDP). In 2015, the Use of Force Bureau participated in an Active Assailant Immediate Rapid Deployment (IRD) exercise held at Pearson International Airport. The Use Of Force Bureau was also actively involved in a collaborative research project with the University of Toronto regarding officer responses and their cognitive abilities during critical encounters with armed subjects. As a result of these activities, specific training scenarios were designed around EDP encounters, to better assist officers encountering this type of incident.

The 2015 training sessions focused on containment, communication, de-escalation techniques and transitioning through various use of force options as situations evolved. A pragmatic approach to firearms and defensive tactics training was also maintained. The physiological effects of combat stress continued to be an integral part of this training, while utilizing more practical environments and maintaining an increased focus on judgement and situational awareness. The lecture component of this training continued to address best practice approaches when dealing with people experiencing some form of mental illness, crisis or drug induced chaotic event, and conducted a review of legislation, case law, directives, policies and procedures.

During 2015, a sergeant position was created in the Training Bureau to fulfil the Leadership and Incident Command portfolio. The Leadership and Incident Command Training Sergeant collaborated with the Diversity Relations Bureau and Use of Force Bureau to incorporate a Crisis Intervention and De-escalation (C.I.D.) model. Examples of critical decision making and planning tools include: C.A.C.R (Contact, Assess, Collaborate, Resolve), I.C.E.N. (Isolate, Contain, Evacuate, Negotiate), and N.R.A. (Necessary, Risk Effective, Acceptable). These are delivered during the Mental Health Awareness and Incident Command courses.

For 2016, training scenarios are being expanded to promote "re-assessment", following the application of force that results in injuries to a subject and the activation of officer initiated first aid and EMS measures.

## OTHER RELATED TRAINING AND COMMITTEE INFORMATION

### **Mental Health Awareness Training**

The four day Mental Health Awareness course delivered by mental health practitioners provides officers with an overview of mental health disorders, communication techniques, the Crisis Intervention and De-escalation (C.I.D.) model, and familiarizes officers with the various community resources available. During the course, officers interact with individuals who live with mental health disorders and receive scenario based training involving actors specially trained in portraying mental health disorders.

In 2015, this training was commenced at an earlier stage in an officer's career. All newly hired officers are provided with this training approximately six months following their swearing-in, as part of a foundation layer of the Career Long Professional Development Model. These hiring cohorts are also pre-scheduled on other courses, which include scenario based training with potential use of force encounters.

### **Conductive Energy Weapon "CEW" Expansion and X2 Model Transition**

On November 26th, 2013, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services announced that Police Services Boards were approved to authorize an expansion in the issuance of CEWs - Conducted Energy Weapons ("Tasers") to include: *"other classes of officers deemed appropriate, in consultation with the Chief of Police"*. In February of 2014, the Peel Services Board concluded that police constables who have been deemed "qualified" to perform the duties of an Acting Sergeant would represent an appropriate class for this purpose. The Board also approved the expansion of the number of CEWs that PRP would deploy from 100 to 130. The increase allowed for deployment of an additional six CEW's to each uniform Division, bringing the total divisional number to ten units, thereby enhancing the availability of this less-lethal weapon to frontline personnel.

At the beginning of 2015, the CEW model used by PRP was the Taser X26, which ceased production in 2014. Purchasing and transitioning to a new CEW model - known as the Taser X2 - was delayed until the device received provincial approval, which was granted in November of 2014. The purchasing process for the Taser X2 began in December 2014; budget approval was granted in February 2015, and transition training commenced in September 2015. Transition occurred systematically, one division at a time, and was completed in February of 2016. There are now approximately 268 officers trained in the use of the X2 CEW.

### **Immediate Rapid Deployment "IRD" Training**

Immediate Rapid Deployment (IRD) training is designed to assist frontline officers with confronting and engaging armed subjects in the midst of a critical incident, such as a shooting at a school or place of worship. Training is conducted at local decommissioned schools, made available to PRP as a courtesy of both school boards. The initial IRD training program for all officers was completed in 2014. For 2015, the IRD curriculum was revised to reflect up-to-date strategies and techniques in conjunction with the delivery of a new training cycle. PRP strives to deliver refresher IRD training to all Uniform Patrol, NPU, and Airport Division officers every two years.

In addition, an eLearning IRD course is being developed to supplement scenario based training and will be utilized for non-frontline officers.

### **Colt C-8 Patrol Rifle**

Transition training to the new Colt C-8 Patrol Rifle commenced in September of 2014 and was completed in June of 2015. Approximately 185 officers are trained on the new rifle. Officers are required to re-qualify once every 6 months. The Colt C-8 rifle is issued as part of the standard equipment in every Patrol Sergeant's vehicle and to other supervisory staff in a limited number of bureaux, including Court Services, Street Crime and Intelligence. The Ruger-PC4 rifle has been withdrawn from service and decommissioned.

### **Reality Based Training (RBT) in Use of Force**

RBT is an extremely well planned training method that puts officers into the most realistic situations possible with real equipment and uses basic psychological methods. The purpose is to train officers to learn while experiencing realistic, high-stress situations and seeing the incident through to a natural conclusion. Training compromises are limited and intensive instructor involvement is required. Use of Force instructors are being sent on instructional training programs with the goal of enhancing RBT in our training regimen.

### **University of Toronto & PRP Collaborative Research Project – iPREP**

In 2015, Peel Regional Police entered into a collaborative research project with the University of Toronto HART (Heath, Adaptation, Research on Trauma) Lab, concerning resilience training for police officers. The program, known as "iPREP" (Individual Performance Resilience and Efficiency Program), studies psychological stress responses that police officers display in both training scenarios and fieldwork. The focus of the research is to identify ways in which stress responses can impact the health (mental and physical) and performance of officers during critical incidents and chronic stress. The ultimate goal is to develop interventions that target both the psychological and physiological stress responses. In previous research studies, U of T demonstrated how their intervention strategies improved officer's situational awareness, decision making skills and enhanced physiological control during high stress events. It is recognized that improvement in stress response physiology, decision making and situational awareness among officers should have a significant benefit to both the officers and the public. Recruit constable class 15-02 was utilized as the study group for the project and use of force instructors were vital in providing content delivery and scenario facilitation. This research project is continuing through 2016 with volunteers from PRP front line personnel being sought to participate.

### **PRP Use of Force Review Committee**

The standing committee tasked with identifying issues regarding equipment, policy, trends, or training related to PRP use of force, was formed and held its first meeting in February of 2015. The Committee is chaired by Staff Superintendent Randy Patrick and meets quarterly.

### **Provincial Use of Force Reporting Committee**

Throughout 2015, PRP continued to have a representative on the Provincial Use of Force Reporting Committee. Having already pioneered electronic filing of Use of Force reports, Peel is in a leadership role as the Province moves towards electronic reporting for all police services. Peel Regional Police is in the process of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding to share this software program with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

### **Provincial Use of Force Community Practices Committee**

In 2015, a new provincial committee was formed - the Provincial Use of Force Community Practices Committee. The committee's mission is to serve as an information sharing forum between the Ontario Police College (OPC) and the community of Use of Force Trainers in the province. The intended purpose is to foster relevant, current, effective and evidence-based use of force training practices to minimize risk and liability, and to maximize public and officer safety.

### **Auxiliary Police Members**

The Peel Regional Police has approximately 118 Auxiliary members. While these volunteers do not carry firearms, they are required to receive firearms orientation and other use of force training. Nine training sessions are provided annually, and are designed to expose auxiliary officers to the utilization and deployment of use of force techniques.

### **Special Constables and Process Servers**

Peel Regional Police has 67 full-time and 12 part-time Prisoner Escort Officers, 19 Court Liaison Officers and 5 Process Servers. Special Constables and Process Servers are civilians, and as such, are not authorized to carry any firearm. Special constables receive annual training on defensive tactics, use of judgement and with various use of force options such as the baton and pepper spray.

## **STATISTICAL DATA AND ANALYSIS**

The data used to prepare this report is compiled from PRP Use of Force and CEW reports for the period 2011 – 2015 inclusive. Some categories in Use of Force reports allow for multiple entries within a particular classification, including categories such as: "Types of Calls for Service" and "Use of Force Options Utilized". For this reason, the sum of all category entries may exceed the number of actual Use of Force reports.

In July of 2014, PRP broadened the requirements of Use of Force reporting to capture the impact and effectiveness that the presence of the CEW has during an incident. Since that time, officers have been required to file a Use of Force Report when a CEW is drawn from its holster during an encounter with a member of the public, even if it is not fired. This change has increased the total number of Use of Force reports filed in 2015. The collection of this data has demonstrated that the CEW proves to be an effective option in resolving some situations simply by being displayed.

### **Number of Use of Force Incidents**

The number of total "Calls for Service" decreased slightly in 2015. Total Use of Force incidents (less the increase attributable to the change in CEW reporting requirements) have remained relatively stable since 2013.

With allowance for the change in CEW reporting requirements, there is no significant change in the number of incidents requiring submission of a Use of Force Report. There was an upward trend in officers submitting reports relating to the use of "Physical Control - Soft Only" and "Physical Control - Hard Only", where no injuries were sustained by the subject (a report is not mandated in these cases). There was also an increase in reports regarding "Firearm Pointed at Person" and "Handgun - Drawn Only".

<b>Use of Force Report Per Calls for Service</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Calls for Service</b>	<b>Number of Use of Force Incidents</b>	<b>Rate Per 100,000 Calls for Service</b>
2011	231,147	523	225.8
2012	229,473	518	225.7
2013	226,487	456	201.3
2014*	226,756	526 (457*)	232 (201.5*)
2015*	226,006	620 (459*)	274 (203.1*)
<b>5 Year Average</b>	<b>227,973</b>	<b>528 (483*)</b>	<b>231.76 (211.5*)</b>

\* With the July 2014 change to Use of Force CEW reporting requirements removed.

### **Call for Service Type**

When an officer completes a Use of Force Report, they have the option of selecting from multiple types of "Call for Service" or incidents. Therefore, the total number of types of "Call for Service" may exceed the total number of Use of Force Reports, as was the case in 2015 with 1,120 different "Call for Service" types described in the 620 Use of Force incidents. "9-1-1 Calls" made up the most frequently reported "Call for Service" type at 174, followed by "Weapons Dangerous" at 127, "Arrests" at 99, and calls involving "Emotionally Disturbed Persons" at 97.

In 2015, officers responded to 226,006 calls for service, of which 5,464 were coded as involving Emotionally Disturbed Persons. During these encounters officers submitted use of force reports on 97 occasions, which represents 1.78% of all calls coded as involving an EDP. This is consistent with previous years. (Data provided by Corporate Planning)

### **Injuries to Subjects & Officers**

For the purpose of Use of Force reporting, only injuries requiring medical attention are recorded. Reporting guidelines direct that if Police have a Use of Force encounter, injuries requiring medical attention, sustained by a citizen prior to the arrival or involvement of police must be noted on the report. These injuries could include either self-inflicted wounds or injuries caused by a third person. Statistical analysis of the data must be mindful of the effect of this reporting obligation.

Further, PRP policy requires that when CEW probes are imbedded in a person, as a result of deployment of the weapon, the probes are to be removed by paramedics. Simple wounds caused by CEW probes are not considered injuries, according to Provincial reporting criteria. Reportable injuries resulting directly or indirectly from CEW deployment accounted for 48 of the total 151 injuries acquired during use of force encounters. The majority of injuries resulted from subjects resisting in a physical confrontation and were relatively minor in nature.

<b>Injuries Per Use of Force Incidents</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Use Of Force Incidents</b>	<b>Subject Injuries</b>	<b>Officer Injuries</b>
2011	523	186	53
2012	518	137	27
2013 *	456	140 (118*)	55
2014 *	526	138 (94*)	53
2015 *	620	151 (105*)	59
<b>5 Year Avg.</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>150 (128*)</b>	<b>49</b>

\*Subject injuries occurring prior to the Use of Force Incident have been removed from the total. Collection of this data began in 2013.

### **Police Presence at Time of Incident**

In 85% of the Use of Force incidents, more than one officer was present, up 4% from 2014. By comparison, more than one officer is dispatched to a Call for Service 68% of the time. This is consistent with statistical observations relating to "Call for Service" types and supports a continued focus on officer communication skills during Use of Force training.

### **Number of Subjects Involved per Incident**

There was no significant change in the ratio of involved citizens (subjects) per Use of Force incident. Incidents involving a single subject being 64%, two subjects at 17%, and three or more subjects at 21%.

### **Firearms as a Use of Force Option**

Pointing a firearm was the Use of Force option utilized 41% of the time in 2015. There were 19 incidents where rounds were discharged by PRP Officers from a firearm. 53 rounds were discharged in total, 24 pistol rounds and 29 rifle rounds. These numbers are relatively consistent with the use and effectiveness reported in 2014.

There were 4 police shootings in 2015, two of the incidents were assigned to the SIU for investigation.

### **CEW**

The CEW was utilized in 237 incidents, an increase of 83 from 2014, which is directly related to the increased reporting requirements previously mentioned. The number of CEWs available to patrol officers also increased in accordance with the expanded user group approved by the Police Services Board in February of 2014.

The CEW was only used in a drive stun and/or probe deployed mode, 66 of the 237 times it was drawn.

The CEW was used in 70 of the 97 incidents coded as involving an Emotionally Disturbed Person. Situational de-escalation was achieved in 43% of these occasions, therefore probes were not deployed. The breakdown of the 70 incidents is as follows:

- probes deployed – 27
- drive stun – 6
- combination probes deployed & drive stun – 7
- armed and displayed, but not deployed – 21
- drawn only – 9

### Physical Control

The application of hard physical control techniques decreased to 25% when compared to the average of 29% in 2014. The reported effectiveness remained consistent at 84%. The use of soft physical control decreased slightly to 30%.

Type of Force Used	2011	2012	2013	2014*	2015	5 Year Average
<b>Firearm</b>						
Firearm Pointed at Person	362	316	429	432	493	406
Handgun - Drawn Only	41	67	80	50	100	67
Firearm Discharge Intentional	35	30	22	25	19	26
<b>CEW – Total</b>	66	74	70	154*	237*	120*
Drawn/Displayed Not Deployed				69*	171*	
Drive Stun and/or Probes Deployed	66	74	70	85	66	72
<b>Physical Control</b>						
Physical Control Soft Only	215	330	237	275	326	276
Physical Control Hard Only	211	256	208	248	288	242
<b>Other Options</b>						
Oleoresin Capsicum Spray	55	44	40	49	53	48
Impact Weapons	9	10	11	9	10	10
Arwen***	1	2	3	4	12	4
Canine	16	4	12	1	9	8
Other Types of Force	5	11	1	0	7	5

\* Increased reporting criteria for CEW began in July 2014

\*\*\*Arwen is a weapon that fires an AR1 impact round, otherwise known as a "rubber bullet".



### Officer Assignments

Officers assigned to uniform patrol accounted for 424 Use of Force incidents, a 6% increase from 2014. Overall, investigative areas, courts and officers on paid duties showed a decrease in the number of Use of Force incidents when compared to 2014. Assignment areas reporting an increase in Use of Force incidents in 2015 included: The Tactical and Rescue Unit, Canine Unit, Station Duty, Traffic and "Other".

	Officer Assignment					5 Year Average
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Uniform Patrol	269	245	245	327	424	302
Tactical	196	196	158	119	137	161.2
Canine	*	*	14	8	24	9.2
Investigation - CIB	43	38	18	40	25	32.8
Other	n/a	n/a	14	14	22	10
Courts	n/a	n/a	6	14	10	6
Investigation - Drugs	8	12	9	13	8	10
Paid Duty	n/a	n/a	3	11	5	3.8
Traffic	n/a	n/a	4	7	12	4.6
Station Duty	n/a	n/a	7	5	12	4.8
Off Duty	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0

\*Canine reports included with Tactical.

### 2016 – PLANNED TASKS AND ACTIVITIES

#### Immediate Rapid Deployment "IRD" eLearning and Breacher Training

Use of Force continues to develop an eLearning version of IRD training that will be available to non-front line officers and as a supplement for front line officers. Breacher training is being incorporated into both forms of IRD training in support of the new "Breacher Kit Program".

#### OIPRD Review

The 2015 Annual Report advised that The Office of the Independent Police Review Director had expanded its systemic review of police training, focusing on de-escalation techniques when dealing with individuals living with mental health issues, Emotionally Disturbed People and people in crisis. The OIPRD has not contacted Peel Regional Police for any involvement at this time. The Director has indicated that the OIPRD will be releasing the first part of their review later in 2016.

### CONCLUSION

The total number of Use of Force incidents reported by PRP during 2015 was consistent with the number of incidents reported in 2014. (*Taking into account increased reports was directly related to the new CEW reporting requirements that came into effect in July 2014.*)

While the Peel Regional Police continue to use force in appropriate circumstances, and consistent with all Federal and Provincial statutes, training and officer education continue to evolve in order to provide the best service possible to our community.

The expansion of the CEW user grouper, coupled with the expansion of crisis and de-escalation training has provided positive results, these programs will be continue to be developed, expanded, and disseminated through a variety of training platforms.

Other initiatives aimed at better preparing officers for Use of Force encounters include:

- Examining the effectiveness of police judgement simulator systems
- Increased open hours for officers to attend the range
- Increase video e-training from Canadian Police Knowledge Network "CPKN" and Ontario Police Training Video Association "OPTVA" regarding Use of Force and de-escalation methods for officers
- Updating patrol rifles to the Colt C-8 with a lighting system
- Participation in provincial standing committees and working groups
- PRP chairs the OACP Incident Command, Education and Training and Professional Development subcommittee.
- Incorporating Critical Incident Response strategies into UOF of training
- Incorporating mental health crisis intervention and de-escalation models into UOF training.

**Approved for Submission:**



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David Jarvis, Deputy Chief, Corporate Services

*For further information regarding this report, please contact Inspector K. Delaney at extension 3800 or via e-mail at 1137@peelpolice.ca*

Authored By: *Inspector K. Delaney #1137*