

MENIFEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2024 USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS



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Chief of Police

Purpose Statement

“We Deliver an Experience, Where People Feel Unified, Engaged, and Safe.”

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Purpose

It is the policy of the Menifee Police Department that at least annually, a Use of Force analysis will be completed to review and analyze use of force incidents. This report contains information that helps identify patterns or trends that could indicate needs or modifications to existing training, equipment, and/or department policies that would result in safer interactions between the public and officers. The report was completed by the Professional Standards Unit and submitted for review to the Chief of Police. This process aligns with department policy 300.9: Use of Force Analysis.

Introduction

This Use of Force analysis is specific to incidents between *January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024*. This use of force analysis was completed using the department's use of force data retrieved from the Blue Team and IA Pro databases, Central Square: Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Report Management Systems (RMS), and the department's Peregrine analytics platform. This analysis provides an overview of how the Menifee Police Department is performing when it comes to Use of Force incidents, training, and policy review.

The Menifee Police Department maintains use of force data in software applications that are housed within the Office of the Chief: Professional Standards and Training Unit. Blue Team is a software database which is used to collect initial use of force data provided by supervisors (Sergeants). This Blue Team data is eventually compiled within the paired software, IA Pro. Use of force documentation and review begins in the form of criminal and incident reports that are completed by involved officers. Supervisors then upload use of force incident data into a Blue Team administrative report. This data may include reports, body-worn and dash-cam footage, photos, and other incident related information. The supervisor reviews all the material to ensure completeness and to potentially identify deficiencies requiring attention. The Blue Team report is then forwarded to the division lieutenant for further review. Once the division lieutenant has reviewed and approved the report, it is forwarded to the Office of Professional Standards where the data is retained in the IA Pro software for tracking and future reporting. The operations captain then has the opportunity to review use of force cases within the IA Pro system. This process is in line with Menifee Police Department use of force reporting guidelines outlined in policies 300.5: Reporting the Use of Force, and 300.7: Supervisor Responsibilities.

Office of Professional Standards

The Menifee Police Department Office of Professionals Standards reports to a designated lieutenant and captain who then reports directly to the Chief of Police. There is currently

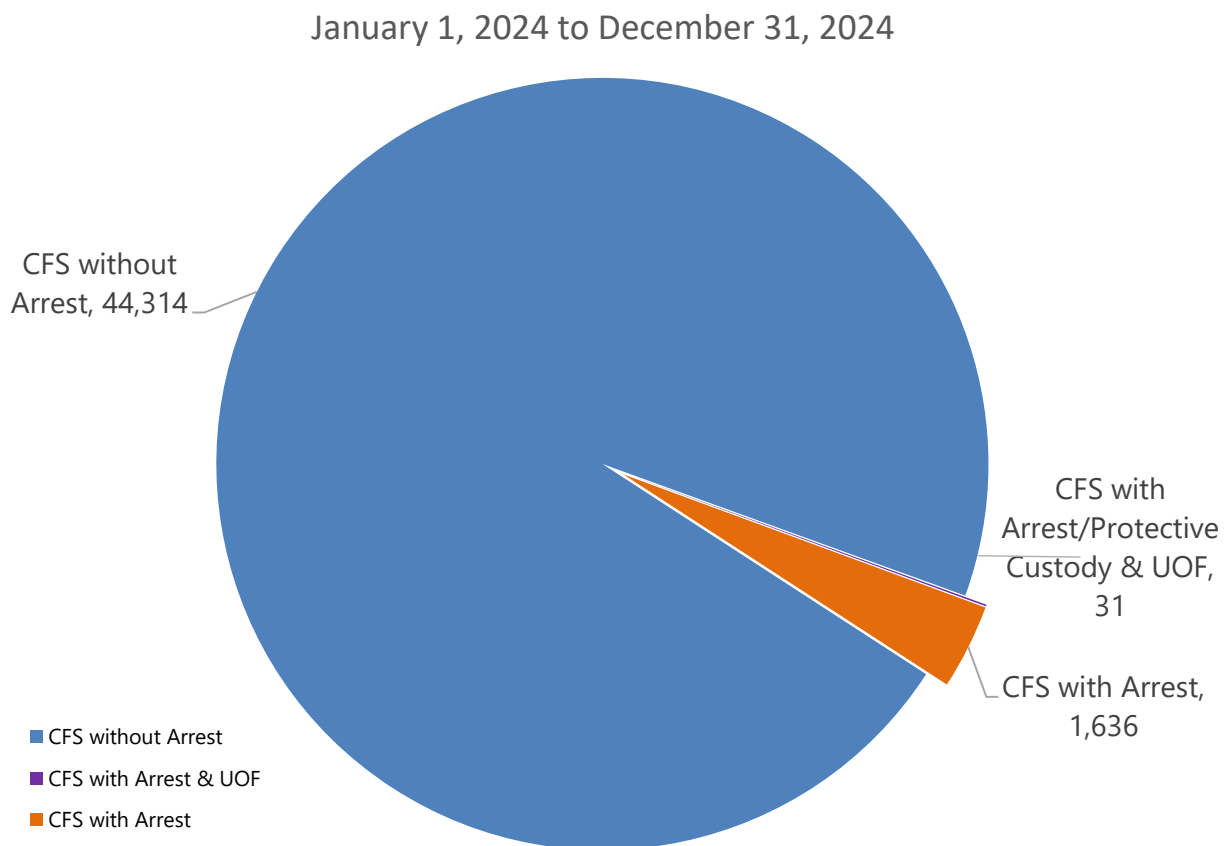
one professional standards sergeant assigned to the office. The sergeant is responsible for the management of IA Pro and Blue Team, the collection of use of force data, Internal Affairs, risk management, and the litigation liaison to the City Attorney's Office.

Synopsis of Use of Force Incident Data

Between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, the Menifee Police Department responded to a total of 45,950 calls for service. Those responses resulted in the following:

- 44,314 calls for service were handled without an arrest.
- 1,636 calls for service resulted in a person being arrested.
- 31 of the 1,636 calls for service resulted in a use of force incident of an arrested person or of a person taken into protective custody.
- The 31 use of force incidents involved 31 separate people and 58 officers. All of these incidents were reviewed and deemed to be within department policy.

The following diagram illustrates this information.



When comparing the total number of calls for service (45,950) and total arrests made (1,636), to the number of arrests resulting in a use of force (31), the following data was derived:

- Officers used force during 0.07% of the 45,950 calls for service.
- Officers used force during 1.89% of the 1,636 arrests that were made during calls for service.
- There were zero cases of fatalities or officer-involved shootings (OIS).

The following data was used to analyze the department's thirty-one (31) use of force incidents which were reported between *January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024*. This data was retrieved from the department's IA Pro database.

Type and effectiveness of force used by officers:

	Effective		Not Effective		Total
	#	%	#	%	
40 mm	1	50%	1	50%	2
CEW	11	92%	1	8%	12
Control Hold	8	80%	2	20%	10
Firearm	0	0%	0	0%	0
Hands On	4	57%	3	43%	7
K-9 Utilized	1	50%	1	50%	2
Knee Strike	1	100%	0	0%	1
Less Lethal Shotgun	2	100%	0	0%	2
Pepper Spray	3	100%	0	0%	3
Punched	0	0%	0	0%	0
Take Down	15	100%	0	0%	15

- *1 CEW was listed as Limited in effectiveness*

Type of resistance posed by the involved Citizen:

	Count	Percent of total
Assaultive	9	29%
Confirmed Firearm	1	3%
Confirmed Other Weapon	1	3%
Confirmed Sharp Weapon	1	3%
Other	0	0%
Passive Non-Compliance	1	3%
Perceived Firearm	1	3%
Perceived Other Weapon	1	3%
Perceived Sharp Weapon	2	6%
Resistance	9	29%
Threat to Life	5	16%
Total	31	

Type of injury sustained by the involved Citizen:

	Count	Percent of total
Admitted to Hospital	2	6%
Abrasion/Laceration	6	19%
Complaint of Pain	2	6%
Minor Injury	8	26%
No injuries noted or visible	12	39%
Treated/Released – Scene	1	3%
Total	31	

Number of incidents where a citizen was arrested or taken into protective custody in conjunction with a use-of-force:

	Count	Percent of total
No	8	26%
Yes	23	74%
Total	31	

Type of criminal charges against involved citizens:

	Count	Percent of total
Felony – Drugs	1	2%
Felony - Person	12	26%
Felony - Property	2	4%
Felony - Warrants	2	4%
Misdemeanor - Drugs	0	0%
Misdemeanor - Person	5	11%
Misdemeanor - Property	1	2%
Misdemeanor - Warrants	1	2%
Resist / Obstruct	9	41%
Traffic	3	7%
Total	23	

Number of incidents where a citizen was injured in conjunction with a use-of-force:

	Count	Percent of total
No	13	42%
Yes	18	58%
Total	31	

Number of incidents where a citizen was taken to a hospital in conjunction with a use-of-force:

	Count	Percent of total
No	13	42%
Yes	18	58%
Total	31	

*The total number of individuals transported to the hospital may not accurately reflect the number of those who may have been admitted for more extensive medical treatment. Citizens may be transported to the hospital as a precautionary measure following a Use of Force incident.

Types of injuries sustained by employees involved:

	Count	Percent of total
Abrasion/Laceration	1	2%
Complaint of Pain	5	9%
Minor Injury	4	7%
No injuries noted or visible	48	82%
Moderate Injury	1	2%
Total	58	

Incidents where an employee was injured in conjunction with use-of-force:

	Count	Percent of total
No	23	74%
Yes	8	26%
Total	31	

Number of incidents where an employee was taken to hospital in conjunction with use-of-force:

	Count	Percent of total
No	27	87%
Yes	4	13%
Total	31	

Reason for use-of force:	Count	Percent of total
Defense of Another Person(s)	6	19%
Defense of Self	13	42%
Other	12	39%
Total	31	

Type of service being rendered at time of use-of-force:

	Count	Percent of total
Call for Service	28	90%
Pedestrian Stop	1	3%
Vehicle Stop	1	3%
Welfare Check	1	3%
Total	31	

Gender of involved citizens:

	Count	Percent of Total
Female	3	10%
Male	27	87%
Unknown	1	3%
Total	31	

Race of involved citizens:

	Count	Percent Total
Black	5	16%
Hispanic	13	42%
White	10	32%
Unknown	3	10%
Total	31	

Average age of involved citizens: 34

Year-to-Year Comparison

A year-to-year comparison of Use of Force incidents highlighted that our officers responded to 754 fewer calls for service in 2024 compared to 2023. This amounts to a decrease of 1.6% in calls responded to by officers. The data shows that there was an increase of 0.04% in the amount of Use of Force incidents during the 2024 evaluation period in comparison to 2023. There was also an increase of 1.17% in the percentage of arrests that involved Use of Force. The following chart highlights the year-to-year analysis between 2023 and 2024:

2023 vs 2024

CFS & Arrests	2023	2024	Difference 2023 vs 2024	% Increase/Decrease
CFS	46,704	45,950	-754	-1.61%
CFS without Arrest	45,187	44,314	-873	-1.93%
CFS with Arrest	1,517	1,636	119	7.84%
Arrests without UOF	1,506	1,605	99	6.57%
CFS with Arrest & UOF	11	31	20	181.82%
% of CFS had UOF	0.02%	0.07%	0.04%	0.04%
% of Arrests had UOF	0.73%	1.89%	1.17%	1.17%
Citizens Involved in UOF	11	31	20	181.82%
Officers Involved in UOF	18	58	40	222.22%

Use of Force Training

Per the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), sworn law enforcement must complete perishable skills training every 2-year cycle. This training includes 4 hours of Tactical Firearms, 4 hours of Driving Training and Awareness, 4 hours of Arrest & Control, 2 hours of Strategic Communications, and 4 hours of Use of Force.

The Menifee Police Department has POST certified instructors for Tactical Firearms, Arrest & Control, Strategic Communication, & Use of Force. Some of these instructors have reached advanced instruction levels and are certified to teach at any POST Police Academy in the State of California in their area of expertise. Because of these certification levels, the department conducts POST certified training in Tactical Firearms, Arrest & Control, Strategic Communication, and Use of Force.

Less-than-lethal force options training, including taser, baton, & impact weapons are re-certified each year by department master instructors. For master certification in taser, bi-annual update training is required and completed.

Improving our officers' skills in arrest & control, strategic communication, and Use of Force techniques requires consistent practice, training, and a commitment to learning. To accomplish this, the Menifee Police Department:

- Enrolls its personnel in both in-house and external professional training classes.
- Schedules regular training that allows officers time to practice their skills.
- Incorporates scenario-based training options into department training programs.
- Includes de-escalation training exercises, so officers learn to verbally diffuse tense situations.
- Incorporate case law and legislative mandate reviews into training programs.

The Menifee Police Department strives to incorporate innovative ways to include de-escalation and less-than-lethal force options in its training programs. During the 2024 calendar year, the department trained all of its officers on the use of the PepperBall system and has re-trained and certified its officers in the use of other less-than-lethal options to include the Axon Taser and 40MM less-than-lethal impact launcher system.

Policy Review and Revisions

Policy 300: Use of Force is reviewed regularly to ensure department policy aligns with best practices and legislative updates. To ensure familiarity with changes to policy, all

officers are required to review the policy and acknowledge their review within the Lexipol Knowledge Management System. Supervisors utilize team briefings and roll calls to discuss policy updates. Department Use of Force instructors incorporate policy updates in their department training outlines.

Recommendations

The department's review of Use of Force incidents during the time frame covered by this report has highlighted the appropriate conduct of its personnel. The following are observations and recommendations that will be considered for this upcoming year.

1. Enhanced Training in De-Escalation and Conflict Resolution

- **Current Observations:** Year over year the incidents involving the use of force by an officer increased almost three-fold. A significant portion of the force used falls under situations of resistance or threat to life, with 29% of incidents involving citizen resistance and 58% resulting in injury. Notably, a large percentage of incidents involved citizens actively resisting or obstructing officers.
- **Recommendation:** Invest in more training programs that focus on de-escalation techniques and non-violent conflict resolution. This may better equip officers with strategies to manage resistance and reduce the need for force, especially in situations of passive non-compliance or perceived threats. Training should emphasize communication and decision-making, helping officers to defuse confrontations before force is necessary.

2. Review and Improve the Use of Less than Lethal Options

- **Current Observations:** The data indicates that less-than-lethal force methods, such as CEWs (Tasers), pepper spray, and take-downs, have a high effectiveness rate (ranging from 80% to 100%). However, there are also instances of ineffective use, such as the limited effectiveness of one CEW.
- **Recommendation:** Regular reviews of less-than-lethal force options should be conducted to ensure that officers are properly trained and confident in their use. This includes not only physical practice but also scenario-based exercises to improve judgment on when these methods are most appropriate. Additionally, refining the equipment itself or integrating newer technologies could help in improving overall effectiveness and reducing the likelihood of injuries to both citizens and officers. In 2025, Menifee police officers will transition to the new and

more effective Taser 10 CEW device. The transition to the TASER 10 represents a significant advancement in less-than-lethal technology, offering officers more options to help reduce the escalation of force. With increased probe capacity of up to 10 probes, and an extended range of 45 feet, this new TASER 10 device provides officers with more time and space to assess situations, enhancing decision-making and reducing risk for all parties involved.

3. Implement Post-Incident Debriefs with Officers to Reinforce Proper Tactics and Analyze Effectiveness

- **Current Observations:** While the use-of-force data highlights a variety of tactics being employed (from CEWs to take-downs), there is no indication of a structured process to review these tactics immediately after an incident. The effectiveness of each tactic is sometimes listed, but the department may benefit from a more proactive approach to ensure that officers continuously learn from each encounter.
- **Recommendation:** Introduce post-incident debriefs with officers, conducted as soon as possible after the incident, to reinforce proper tactics and evaluate the effectiveness of the tactics used. These debriefs should be brief but thorough, giving officers the opportunity to reflect on their decisions, discuss what went well, and identify areas for improvement. Supervisors or trainers should be involved to help analyze whether the force applied was appropriate for the level of resistance or threat, based on the department's use-of-force continuum. This immediate feedback will support the reinforcement of good practices, tactical decision-making, and create opportunities for continuous learning. Additionally, it will provide support to address emotional or psychological impacts of the incident in a supportive setting, potentially reducing future stress and improving long-term decision-making under pressure.

Conclusion

This use of force analysis highlights the low frequency of use of force incidents in relation to the number of calls for service to which our officers respond. Statistically, our officers are faced with the need to use force in less than 2 percent of the calls for service to which they respond.

The data also shows that our officers are applying a level of force which is necessary and objectively reasonable based on the circumstances they face. None of the 31 use of force

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incidents during this reporting period met reporting requirements to the Department of Justice as outlined in Government Code 12525.2.

The Menifee Police Department is committed to transparency to the citizens of the City of Menifee, the safety and wellbeing of its police personnel, and to the adherence of department policy, state, federal, and local laws. This yearly Use of Force analysis, along with our continued focus on department approved training, will continue to support our organizational commitment.