



*Timothy K. Cameron*  
**SHERIFF**

# *Office of the Sheriff*

## *St. Mary's County, Maryland*

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**An Internationally  
Accredited Agency**

February 26, 2021

TO: Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron

SUBJECT: Analysis of Officer Use of Force for 2020

The following is an analysis of the use of force reported by deputy sheriffs of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office during the period of January 1 through December 31, 2020. Data for the analysis was derived from the collection of the Use of Force reports completed by law enforcement officers and reviewed by the officer's chain of command. Once the reports are reviewed and approved, they are forwarded to the Office of Professional Responsibilities (OPR) for additional review and entered into the IAPRo database.

Sheriff's Office policy requires, all instances of the use of firearms (with the exception of dispatching an animal), FN-303, TASER discharges, chemical agents, pressure point control tactics, impact weapons, physical force other than routine handcuffing, deputies complete a Use of Force Report via Blue Team. In addition, supervisors are required to complete a supervisory review of all instances of use of force when able to do so.

In 2020, the Sheriff's Office handled 80,822 calls for service as compared to 75,062 for the year 2019; a 7.2% increase. In 2020, there were 286 instances of use of force. This includes 55 Show of Force incidents where the deputy pointed a firearm or Taser at a person without discharging the device and the person complied with the deputy's commands. This equates to force being utilized once in every 283 calls for service.

The percentages of the total Use of Force Incidents showing the most common reasons for officers using force are as follows:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
• Effect an Arrest	49%	50%
• Emergency Petition	22%	28%

There were two Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) incidents in 2020. In both incidents, the suspect was shot by on duty uniformed deputies. The first instance occurred on January 27, 2020 in Lexington Park after deputies responded to a reported Domestic Violence call where the female victim was able to leave the suspect prior to police arrival. The suspect had barricaded himself inside a residence and began discharging firearms striking a neighbor's house several times with projectiles. The Emergency Services Team (EST) was deployed and the suspect exited the residence and began firing at the armored vehicle (Bearcat) and also attempted to detonate an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) he placed near the vehicle. Other EST members were attempting to form a perimeter around the residence when the suspect pointed a rifle at

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them, and two EST members fired their weapons killing the suspect. The administrative investigation determined the use of deadly force was justified and the separate criminal investigation concluded it was a justified homicide.

The second OIS event occurred on December 29, 2020 at the Big Lots Store in Lexington Park. Two deputies were dispatched to the store to investigate a theft reported by the store manager. The suspect was inside the store and approached by the deputies who attempted to identify the suspect at which time the suspect retrieved a large knife from inside his jacket and began attacking the deputies with the knife. One deputy fired his handgun twice striking the suspect in his right arm and the second deputy did not fire his handgun. The suspect was treated at the hospital with non-life threatening injuries and the deputy who fired his handgun was also treated at the hospital for non-life threatening injuries sustained by the knife attack. This OIS is still under investigation both administratively and criminally.

The percentages of the total Use of Force Incidents showing if the citizen or officer was injured are as follows:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
• Citizens Injured	30%	25%
• Officer Injured	8%	6%

There was one (1) instance in 2020 of a K-9 released from their lead. There were also zero (0) instances of a K-9 biting a citizen or officer. Compared to 2019 there were zero (0) instances where a K-9 was released from their lead during building searches and zero (0) instances of a K-9 biting a citizen or officer.

The following statistics indicate the percentage of the total uses of force compared to the demographic breakdown of the citizens when force was applied by the officers:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
• White Males	26%	36%
• White Females	12%	13%
• Black Males	41%	34%
• Black Females	11%	13%
• Hispanic Males	7%	1%
• Hispanic Females	0%	1%
• Other Males	3%	1%
• Other Females	0%	1%

Arm Control was the most common type of force used in 2020 and the Taser was deployed twenty-one (21) times. Compared to 2019, the most common type of force used was the Arm Bar Takedown and the Taser was deployed sixteen (16) times.

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The following indicates the number and percentage of each type of force used by officers. Note: Each incident may include more than one type of force used. Last year's report, 2019 data did not include Show of Force incidents.

<b>Force Type</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
Arm Bar	22	7.7%
Arm bar take down	16	5.6%
Arm Control	40	14.0%
Carry	5	1.7%
Common Peroneal	1	0.4%
Escort hold	1	0.4%
Hand push	10	3.5%
Hand restrain	6	2.1%
Hand strike	2	0.7%
Handgun	1	0.4%
Handgun Pointed Only	32	11.2%
Head Control	7	2.4%
Knee Strike	4	1.4%
Leg Sweep	7	2.4%
OC Spray	4	1.4%
Other	17	5.9%
Palm Heel Strike	4	1.4%
Pressure Point	8	2.8%
Restraint/Shoulders	5	1.7%
Rifle	2	0.7%
Rifle Pointed Only	3	1.0%
Secured Legs	12	4.2%
Secured wrist	11	3.9%
Take Down	23	8.0%
Taser	21	7.3%
Taser Pointed Only	13	4.6%
Vehicle extraction	2	0.7%
Wrist Lock	7	2.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>286</b>	



Clayton O. Safford  
Sergeant  
Office of Professional Responsibilities

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Agree

Yes ( ) No, see indorsement. Major:  Date 3-11-21

Yes ( ) No, see indorsement. Sheriff:  Date 3-12-21