

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

***Internal
Affairs
Unit***



2017 Annual Report

Summary of 2017

Internal Affairs Investigations

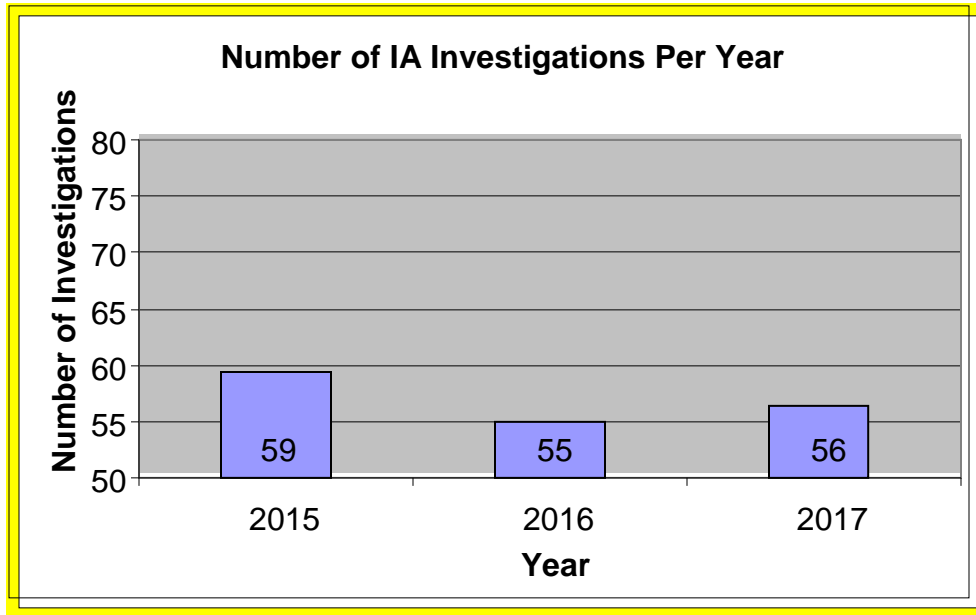
Use of Force Incidents

Vehicle Incidents

Internal Affairs Investigations

Internal Affairs Statistics

As detailed in the graph below, there were 56 internal affairs investigations in 2017. This is a 1.8% increase from 2016 during which there were 55 internal investigations. A total of 59 investigations were conducted in 2015.



In 2017, there were 53 employees involved as subjects in 56 internal affairs investigations. Of those, 6 employees had two separate investigations. One employee had three separate investigations in 2017.

Number of Employees Subject to Internal Affairs Investigations		
	2016	2017
Those with ONE Investigation	56	46
Those with TWO Investigations	8	6
Those with THREE Investigations	0	1
Total Employees	64	53

The below graph illustrates the number of employees involved in an internal investigation with regard to a specific bureau. The Detention Services Bureau had the

highest number of employees involved in internal investigations as well as the highest percentage of employees involved with respect to the size of the bureau. Overall, 8.61% of the agency's employees were involved in an internal investigation.

Authorized Strength vs. Number of Employees in Internal Affairs Investigations 2017			
	Number of employees involved in an I.A.	Number of approved positions in each Bureau	Percentage of employees involved in I.A.'s per Bureau
Detention Services Bureau	32	361.25	8.85%
Public Safety Bureau	20	230.25	8.68%
Support Services Bureau	1	98.50	1.01%
Administration	0	12	0.0%
Totals	53	707.75	7.48%

In 2017, the majority of the agency's complaints were generated externally (from citizens or other outside sources). Of the 89 external complaints filed, 4 resulted in full internal affairs investigations, with the remainder of those handled at the supervisor level and documented in the contact log. Internally, 40 of the 71 total complaints mandated a full investigation with the remaining 25 documented in the contact log.

Complaints and Internal Affairs Investigations			
External	2015	2016	2017
Contact Log	103	79	82
Sustained IA	3	1	3
Not Sustained IA	0	1	1
Unfounded IA	0	4	0
Exonerated IA	0	0	0
External Complaint	106	85	89*
Internal	2015	2016	2017
Contact Log	16	23	25
Sustained IA	50	41	38
Not Sustained IA	0	1	0
Unfounded IA	1	0	0
Exonerated IA	1	5	1
Resolved	4	2	1
Internal Complaint	72	72	71*

**At the time of report, 3 external and 6 internal investigations were still pending a disposition.*

While there was a decrease in internal affairs investigations, the number of overall allegations also decreased from 2016 to 2017. Allegations were down 9.83% from 112 in 2016 to 101 in 2017. The largest decreases of specific allegations were in the areas of “Public Trust and Authority” which dropped 100% and “Vehicle Operations/Use of Force” allegations which were down 78% from the previous year.

Likely explanations for the large drop in numbers regarding force and vehicle operations include a more comprehensive force review system, a new camera system in detentions as well as body worn cameras that were deployed for all patrol members. These new systems helped the reviewing members to actually see what took place in great detail eliminating, to some degree, the need for an internal investigation into force incidents that may not have clear detail from the reports alone.

Number and Types of Allegations		
Allegation Year	2016	2017
Obedience to Laws Directives and Orders	57	53
Respect for Others	7	0
Public Trust and Authority	8	0
Gifts and Gratuities	0	0
Vehicle Operations/Use of Force	9	2
Conduct Unbecoming of a Member or Auxiliary	21	23
Accountability and Responsibility (includes truthfulness)	9	17
Use of Alcohol and Drugs	1	6
Total Allegations	112	101

2017 Internal Affairs Allegation Findings		
Findings		% of Total
Not Sustained	1	1.79%
Unfounded	0	0%
Exonerated	1	1.79%
Sustained	44	78.57%
Resolved	1	1.79%
Total Investigations	*47	83.92%

**At the time of report, 9 investigations (16.07%) were still pending a disposition.*

Detention Facility Specific Complaints and Findings

The following specific items of interest are required for reporting under the American Correctional Association (ACA) accreditation process.

Complaints from the Community 2017

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	8

Positive Statements Made by Media Regarding the Facility 2017

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5

Complaints Filed by Media Regarding Access to Information 2017

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sexual Misconduct Incidents between Staff and Inmates 2017

Alleged

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	7

Confirmed

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2

Sexual Misconduct Incidents between Volunteers/Contractors and Inmates

Alleged

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Confirmed

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sustained Incidents of Policy Violations

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	0	0	24

Staff Terminations

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3

Termination for Drug Use

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

Termination for Conduct Violations

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2

Termination or Demotion Hearings

Hearings Requested

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Hearings in which the Decision to Terminate or Demote was Upheld

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Substance Abuse Tests Administered

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Substance Abuse Tests Failed

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Discipline

In 2017, the most frequent type of discipline imposed was a Letter of Reprimand. There were six incidents involving a suspension of less than 40 hours and zero incidents involving a suspension of 40 hours or more. One employee was demoted for disciplinary reasons in 2017, and one resigned pending the disposition of an internal investigation. One employee retired as a result of sustained misconduct allegations.

Disciplinary Actions Imposed in 2016 and 2017		
Type of Disciplinary Action	2016	2017
Verbal Counseling	1	3
Letter of Counseling	9	18
Letter of Reprimand	30	21
Suspension < 40 hours	5	7
Probation	4	3
Suspension 40+ hours	2	0
2% pay reduction	0	0
Termination	0	4
Termination-Unsuccessful Probation	0	0
Remedial Training	5	4
Resignation	3	1
Demotion	0	1
Resolved	1	1
Reassignment	1	1
Total	61	64

Note: several IAs have more than one Disciplinary Action.

Biased-Based Policing

Biased-Based Policing includes discrimination, inappropriate comments, racial profiling, and rudeness. In 2017, there was one reported allegations of Biased-Based Policing incidents. The Internal Affairs Unit investigated this complaint, which was determined to be unfounded. The biased conduct complaints of 2017 are compared to the previous years in the graph below.

Biased Based Policing Complaints

Complaints from:	2015	2016	2017
Traffic contacts	1	1	0
Field contacts	2	1	1
Asset Forfeiture	0	0	0

Total	3	2	1
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Annually, all sworn personnel are required to attend refresher training in anti-biased based policing.

In 2017, there were 30,625 traffic contacts resulting in 25,640 traffic citations issued. Of the overall contacts, there were 2,935 written traffic warnings with 2,050 verbal warnings or otherwise miscellaneous traffic related contacts conducted throughout the year.

Traffic Citations by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Number of traffic citations issued	Percentage of traffic citations issued
White	18,981	74.0%
Hispanic	1,354	5.3%
Black	2,766	10.8%
Asian/Pacific	794	3.1%
Unreported/Other	1,672	6.5%
Native American	73	0.3%
TOTAL	25,640	100.00%

Traffic Citations by Gender

Gender	Number of traffic citations issued	Percent of traffic citations issued
Female	10,402	41%
Male	14,268	56%
Unreported/Other	970	3%
TOTAL	25,640	100.00 %

Use of Force

A Use of Force (UOF) incident includes all deputies who used any and all types of force during the incident beyond compliant handcuffing or verbal commands. An incident may involve multiple deputies and may require the use of more than one type of force application to gain compliance of a subject. In 2017, there were 651 UOF incidents. This is an increase of 35.6% when compared to the 480 incidents in 2016. Of all the UOF incidents, 326 occurred in the Detention Facility and 325 occurred during arrest or civil detention situations involving Public Safety Bureau or Support Services Bureau personnel. Precinct 5 showed the highest number of incidents with 77, followed by Precinct 7 with 53 incidents and Precinct 4 with 50 incidents. As cited above, this increase is primarily due to the added types of incidents that qualify as a use of force under the new reporting standards (such as pointing a firearm or Taser).

Public Safety Bureau Use of Force Statistics

UOF Reports By Precinct/Service Area	
Precinct	Total
1	30
2	26
3	19
4	63
5	77
6	21
7	53
8	21
Other Jurisdiction	16
Total	326

Detention Facility Use of Force Statistics

The total use of force incidents in the Detention Facility were up from 235 in 2016 to 325 in 2017, which is a 38.29% increase.

Total Use of Force Incidents in 2016 by Month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
24	18	29	26	35	22	27	24	31	25	38	26	325

Sustained "Inappropriate" Use of Force by Month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3

Types of Use of Force Utilized

Of the 2,918 Use of Force applications in 2017, 2,219 of these were *physical* UOF applications. This is a 18.1% increase from 2016, which had 2,471. Physical UOF applications include, but are not limited to restraints, restraint chair, control holds, pressure points, taser use, chemical agent (OC), baton, and *physical* contact with a subject. There were 423 non-physical UOF applications in 2017, which is a 67% increase from 2016, in which there were 252.

Physical		Non-Physical	
2017			
Restraints	219	Other	88
Restraint Chair	151	Firearm Display	146
Control Hold	592	Forced Entry	6
Pressure Point	56	Vehicle Pursuit	11
Physical	1411	K-9 deployed	10
Taser	41		
Deterrent Spray	5	Taser Display	161
Firearm Discharge	8		
Baton	3	Impact Round	1
K-9 Bite	9		
TOTAL	2495	TOTAL	423

Vehicle Pursuits			
	2015	2016	2017
Terminated by Agency	6	3	3
Policy Compliant	5	5	5
Policy Non-compliant	0	3	1
Accidents	0	2	3
Injuries: Officer	2	0	0
Suspects	2	2	1
Third Party	0	1	0
Traffic	0	6	0
Misdemeanor	1	1	2
Felony	5	2	4
Total	6	8	6

3 Year Use of Force Comparison			
	2015	2016	2017
Firearm Use	7	15	8
EMD	16	21	41
Baton	5	8	3
Chemical Agent	17	4	5
Weaponless	2,095	2,194	2,478
K-9 Bite**	NA	NA	9
Other	887	229	383
Total Uses of Force*	3,027	2,471	2918
*ACSO policy defines "use of force" and <u>requires a review of any incident beyond compliant handcuffing.</u>			
** K-9 Bite is a new field as of 2017.			

Total Use of Force Statistics by Gender and Race/Ethnicity

During force incidents, there may be more than one suspect involved. Additionally, one suspect may be involved in more than one incident. Of the use of force incidents for 2017, there were 1512 suspects involved from various ethnic backgrounds.

UOF By Race/Ethnicity		UOF By Gender	
White	842	Female	347
Black	541	Male	1142
Hispanic*	66	Unknown or N/A	23
Asian	18	Total	1512
Native American	4		
Other/Unknown	41		
Total	1512		

* Since Hispanic is not a race, some white and black individuals also self-identify as Hispanic ethnicity.

In 2017, three of the 651 incidents resulted in a full internal affairs investigations. One was from the Detentions Bureau and the other two incidents were out of the Public Safety Bureau. These incidents involved a vehicle pursuit, a use of restraints and the deployment of a K9. The results are shown in the graphs below:

2017 Out of Compliance UOF resulting in an Internal Affairs Investigation(s)				
Type of Force	Vehicle Pursuit	Restraint	K9	
Case Number	CT17-14188	AC17-40777	AC17-48473	
Month	April	October	November	
Precinct	2	Jail	5	
Event	Pursuit	UOF	Dog Bite	

In 2015, a tiered system was developed and added to the review process. Under the new system, a member of Command Staff is assigned as the final reviewer of each incident depending on the level of force used. In 2016, several changes were made to the use of force policy in an effort to ensure a more effective review process as well as a more accountable method of review and reporting. In 2017 these changes accounted for a significant increase in the use of force numbers as many incidents are now labeled as a use of force that were not labeled as such previously.

Vehicle Incidents

In 2017, there were 75 reported vehicle incidents. This is a 9.54% decrease from 2016 in which there were 82. Of the 75 reported vehicle incidents, 7 were investigated internally with 7 having sustained policy violations. The number one cause of vehicle

damage was from striking another vehicle or object, followed by being struck by another vehicle or object. When employees discovered damage on their vehicles, it often consisted of maintenance issues, such as peeling decals and/or paint, molding coming loose, etc. When broken down by bureau, it is important to note that the Public Safety Bureau was responsible for the majority of the incidents (both investigated and not-investigated). This is due largely in part to the fact that much, if not all, of the day-to-day patrol operations are conducted in or around a vehicle.

2017 Vehicle Incidents by Bureau

Bureau	Not Investigated	Investigated	Total	%
Public Safety	57	6	63	84%
Detention Services	3	0	3	4%
Support Services	7	1	8	11%
Administration	1	0	1	1%
Total	68	7	75	100.00%

Detention Facility Vehicle Incidents

Incidents Causing Injuries to any Person

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Incidents Causing Property Damage

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3

Summary

Internal Affairs Investigations

In a direct correlation to the decrease in internal affairs investigations, the number of overall allegations decreased from 2016 to 2017 as well. Allegations were down 9.8% from 112 in 2016 to 101 in 2017.

Likely explanations for the drop in numbers include a more comprehensive force review system, as well as body worn cameras that were deployed for all patrol members. These new systems helped the reviewing members to actually see what took place in great detail eliminating, to some degree, the need for an internal investigation on a complaint that is clearly unfounded.

Biased-Based Policing

Biased-Based Policing includes discrimination, inappropriate comments, racial profiling, and rudeness. In 2017, there was one reported allegation of Biased-Based Policing incidents. The Internal Affairs Unit investigated this complaint, which was determined to be unfounded.

Use of Force

Of the 2,918 Use of Force applications in 2017, 2,495 of these were *physical* UOF applications. This is an 11.1% increase from 2016, which had 2,219. Physical UOF applications include, but are not limited to restraints, restraint chair, control holds, pressure points, taser use, chemical agent (OC), baton, and *physical* contact with a subject. There were 423 non-physical UOF applications in 2017, which is a 67.9% increase from 2016, in which there were 252.

In 2015, a tiered system was developed and added to the review process. Under the new system, a member of Command Staff is assigned as the final reviewer of each incident depending on the level of force used. In 2016, several changes were made to the use of force policy in an effort to ensure a more effective review process as well as a more accountable method of review and reporting. Two of the significant changes were the mandatory Use of Force review of pointing a firearm and pointing a taser at a subject. These changes were implemented in 2017 and had a noticeable effect on the use of force numbers as many incidents are now labeled as a use of force that were not labeled as such previously. For example: Firearm Display jumped from 37 incidents in 2016 to 146 incidents in 2017 and Taser Display jumped from 90 in 2016 to 161 in 2017. These numbers jumped because previously a supervisor had the discretion to report these as uses of force or not.

Physical Force

The most common Use of Force was “physical” applications involving restraints. Different types of restraints used include the restraint chair, control holds, and pressure point tactics. These are occasionally accompanied by other physical force applications used to overcome resistance such as, EMD device applications (taser), deterrent spray (OC), and baton tactics.

Electro Muscular Disruption (EMD) Devices

There were 41 reported incidents of a Taser being used in 2017, which is a 95.2% increase from the 21 reported incidents in 2016.

Chemical Agents

The use of chemical agents increased in 2017 with 5 reported incidents. This is a slight increase from 2016 in which there were 4 incidents.

Restraint Chair

The restraint chair, which is used only by the Detention Bureau, was used in 151 of 325 Detentions Use of Force incidents in 2017.

Vehicle Pursuits

In 2017, there were 6 vehicle pursuits; the same amount occurred in 2015 with 8 vehicle pursuits in 2016. One was found to be out of compliance with policy.

Vehicle Disabling Devices

There were no reported incidents involving the use of vehicle disabling devices for 2017 or 2016; although PIT and/or blocking maneuvers were used in 3 incident in 2017.

Vehicle Incidents

In 2017, there were 75 reported vehicle incidents. This is a 8.5% decrease from 2016 in which there were 82. Of the 75 reported vehicle incidents, 7 were investigated internally with 7 having sustained policy violations. The number one cause of vehicle damage was from striking another vehicle or object, followed by being struck by another vehicle or object. When employees discovered damage on their vehicles, it often consisted of maintenance issues, such as peeling decals and/or paint, molding coming loose, etc. When broken down by bureau, it is important to note that the Public Safety Bureau was responsible for the majority of the incidents (both investigated and not-investigated). This is due largely in part to the fact that much, if not all, of the day-to-day patrol operations are conducted in or around a vehicle.