

City of Burbank
MEMORANDUM

2-9-2021
CONTENTS
Michael Albanese
NOTED

Date: February 09, 2021
To: Deputy Chief Michael Albanese
From: Lieutenant Adam Cornils – Internal Affairs Bureau
Subject: Annual Analysis of Assault on Law Enforcement Officers - 2020

CALEA Standard 4.2.5 requires the Department to complete an evaluation of all assaults on Burbank Police Department (BPD) law enforcement officers to determine trends or patterns with recommendations to enhance officer safety, revise policy, or address training issues.

This is the fourth year the Department has conducted this review to comply with this CALEA standard. It should be noted that an assault on a law enforcement officer does not necessarily result in a use of force by a Department member. Also, in some cases more than one officer or suspect were involved.

Methodology and Data

The unit of analysis for this administrative review is assaulted officers in the line of duty. The *Federal Bureau of Investigation's* definition of *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* (LEOKA) was used. Officers included in this analysis met the following criteria at the time of the incident:

1. Were acting in an official capacity
2. Were duly sworn and had arrest powers
3. Wore/carried badges
4. Carried department-approved firearms/less lethal options/equipment

The data was extracted from the *Tiburon* database by a Records Bureau supervisor.

Summary and Findings

In accordance with CALEA Standard 4.2.5, I reviewed Burbank Police Department assault on law enforcement officer cases for the 2020 calendar year. I discovered there were 22 cases involving assaults on sworn officers in our jurisdiction. A total of 41 officers and 22 suspects were involved in the 22 cases. Two of the incidents, which included an officer-involved-shooting (OIS), involved officers from outside agencies conducting operations in BPD's jurisdiction.

My review of the LEOKA incidents determined the following:

Day/Time/Location:

- Assaults on officers happened mostly on Wednesdays (with 6 incidents), with Saturdays second, with 4 incidents.
- Assaults were evenly split between daywatch (0540 – 1800 hours) and nightwatch (1740 – 0600 hours) shifts, with 11 each.
- Assault cases were distributed between the Hill (41%) and Valley (55%) sections of the City. One case took place outside of BPD jurisdiction, when officers made a traffic stop of a known wanted suspect in North Hollywood. The Downtown Beat had 6 assaults (27%), four of which took place in the BPD Jail.
- 59 percent of the incidents resulted from a *call for service* (CFS). 41 percent resulted from officer-initiated contacts.
- 77 percent of the assaults took place outdoors.

Officer Characteristics

- The majority of the officers assaulted were males (93%), as compared to females (7%). By demographics, the Department consists of 86% male and 14% female officers. All four officers from outside jurisdictions who were assaulted were males.
- 36 percent of the assaults resulted in some type of injury to an officer (cut, scrape, laceration, swelling, bruising, soft tissue joint injury, etc.). None of the officers were seriously injured (requiring hospitalization or significant medical intervention) or killed. This was a 2 percent increase from 2019.
- Force was used by officers in 41 percent of the incidents. The vast majority of these uses of force involved control holds, takedowns, or strikes with personal weapons. None of the suspects were seriously injured (requiring hospitalization or significant medical intervention) or killed. This was on par with uses of force from 2019.
- Of note, one OIS occurred during an assault on officers using a vehicle. The suspects were not struck by the gunfire and were apprehended following a short pursuit. The OIS and pursuit were conducted by deputies of the Orange County Sheriff's Department, who were attempting to apprehend suspects in a criminal investigation from their jurisdiction.¹

Suspect Characteristics

- 86 percent were males and 14 percent were females
- 41 percent were White
- 32 percent were Black
- 27 percent were Hispanic
- None were Asian or 'Other'
- The average age of the offenders was 32. The youngest was 21. The oldest was 59.
- 23 percent of the incidents resulted in an injury to the suspect (laceration, bruising, swelling, fracture, etc.). None required hospitalization.

¹ Burbank Police Officers were not involved in the OCSD investigation, contact with the suspect, OIS, pursuit, or apprehension. BPD responded to the shots-fired call in a support capacity, as the incident occurred in our jurisdiction.

- In three of the incidents, the suspect assaulted the officers with an object. In five of the incidents, the suspect used a vehicle as a weapon. In 64 percent of the incidents, the suspect used a personal weapon (feet, hands, spit, etc.)
- In 36 percent of the incidents, the suspect was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- In 23 percent of the incidents, the suspect exhibited signs of underlying mental health issues.

Trends or Patterns

Most of the assaults in 2020 occurred when officers had to make physical contact with or detain a suspect. Suspect management continues to be a critical component to officer safety when making field contacts. Tactical planning, recognizing behavioral cues, and engaging with adequate resources remain key to managing incidents effectively.

Placing suspects in patrol cars continues to be a dangerous time for officers as they are vulnerable to being kicked, spat on, or bitten as they are in close proximity with suspects who may become increasingly resistive as they face imminent transportation to jail. The potential for violence continues in the custodial environment. Four of the assaults in 2020 took place in the BPD jail.

There were no incidents in 2020 in which a laser was shined at our police helicopter, compared to one in 2019, and one in 2018.

A continuing trend is the apparent presence of mental health issues or drug/alcohol intoxication. These were exhibited by suspects in 59% of the incidents in 2020.

Recommendations

In reviewing the data, I did not identify any substantial deficiencies in officer safety practices that would require modifications to policy or training. The Department's Critical Incident Review Board (CIRB) examines use of force incidents in detail on a monthly basis. CIRB provides timely input on policy, training, and equipment recommendations addressing trends or areas of concern.

cc. Acting Police Administrator Courtney Padgett