

Corinth Police Department



2011

This report summarizes the uses of force by the officers of the Corinth Police Department for the 2011 calendar year.

Year End
Use of Force
Report

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OVERVIEW

The Corinth Police Department's Use of Force Policy General Order 800 provides guidelines on the use of non-deadly force and deadly force and procedures for reporting and investigating such uses.

General Order 800 was issued June 2010 and addresses permissions of the use of force under specified circumstances and use of force required to be exercised under certain circumstances. This policy makes clear the intolerance of unnecessary uses of force, or the force being more than needed to reasonably control the situation. General Order 800 also covers the manner in which use of force incidents are reported and investigated.

INCIDENT BREAKDOWN

During the course of the 2011 year the Department had 4 documented incidents where a use of force was necessary. Of these incidents, three resulted in empty hand control, and one incident the use of a Taser was needed to subdue a subject. The breakdown of incidents is detailed in the following table:

Type	2010	2011
Empty Hand Control	10	4
Chemical Irritant*	1	0
Impact Weapons	0	0
Discharge of Firearm	0	0
Diversionsary Device	0	0
Apprehension by Dog	0	0
Taser	1	1
Other*	1	0
TOTAL INCIDENTS	10	4
Uses of Force	13	5

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All 4 incidents were followed by administrative inspection as dictated by policy. The inspection initially looks at the incident by taking into consideration the seriousness of the offense committed by the suspect, threat posed to the officer or some other person at the scene and if the suspect is attempting to resist arrest or evade arrest by flight. The Department also stresses the importance of canvassing the area for possible witnesses to the use of force incident. We want to go look for them because many times they will not report what they observed to us. Each member of command staff and the training Sergeant are included in the review process. The review process looks at audio/video from the incident and any related documents. If a training issue or excessive or inappropriate use of force incident is observed appropriate corrective action will take place. The Department had no allegations or cases of excessive or inappropriate use of force incidents in 2011.

ANALYSIS

The reported uses of force for the 2011 calendar year are down from overall uses in 2010. In 2010 the Corinth Police Department reported 10 use of force incidents, down to 4 for 2011. After analyzing the cases it appears as though officers are taking in to consideration what they learned in the in-service defensive tactics and ASP baton training in January 2011. The instructors spent time on how to avoid physical confrontations in the Taser, defensive tactics, and ASP baton training classes. The instructor(s) discuss how command presence and not talking down to individuals can diffuse a use of force incident before it occurs. That being said, some incidents are going to take place no matter what the officer does due to the behavior of the offender.

POLICY

There were no changes made to the use of force policy in 2011.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

In 2011 Corinth Police Officers were given instruction in various aspects of Use of Force including Firearms, Taser, Active Shooter Response and ASP Baton instruction. Prior to any type of training or qualification, classroom instruction on the use of force policy is provided and documented by instructors.

The eight officers who received Active Shooter training were new officers who have never received the training or officers who are assigned to the schools or court room. The Active Shooter training/scenarios did not focus solely on school shootings but also included active shooting situations in churches, office buildings, and homes. Some of the scenarios also included a don't shoot situation.

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The PPCT/Handcuffing and ASP baton training held was the first for the Department in approximately ten years. This was the first refresher training since the police academy for many of the officers. Many officers become too reliant on new defense technology such as the Taser.

During our training the instructors discuss the importance of knowing solid defensive tactics, handcuffing techniques, etc. because the Taser will not always work and may not be the appropriate measure for the officer to consider.

The table shows the training topics and number of officers who received the particular training in 2011:

Training Type and Date	Number of Officers Attending
ASP Baton Recertification 1/2011	19
PPCT/Handcuffing	19
Active Shooter 8/2011	8
Department Firearms Qualifications 6/2011	All Officers

CHANGE TO EQUIPMENT

In January/February 2011 Each Officer completed PPCT and ASP Baton training and were issued the ASP Baton and the ASP baton scabard. The baton scabard issued is the "side break" style which allows officers to deploy their ASP baton and secure it in the scabard still extended. In the past officers did not have this option due to the type of scabard which was carried. The Department also started having issues with Taser holsters in 2011. The Department currently has a limited number of Taser holsters so officers must switch them out with other officers at shift change. This wear and tear on the holsters has caused many to be inoperable. Due to this the Department will be ordering a holster for each officer in patrol in 2012.

CHANGE IN OPERATION/RESPONSE

During the 2011 calendar year the Department hired several officers. We learned that not all officers were receiving the same type of training in regards to Taser and ASP baton during their academy training. Starting in 2012, the Department will train all new hires in-house on the Taser and ASP baton. This will ensure all officers are on the same page with the use of the weapons and to receive specific policy training in regards to their use.