

# Departmental Correspondence

**Crystal Lake Police  
Department**

To: Chief Black  
From: Commander Coutre  
CC: Deputy Chief Kotlowski, Deputy Chief Neumann  
Date: August 28, 2023  
Re: Response to Resistance Analysis (Amended) – Calendar Year 2022 CALEA 4.2.4

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The purpose of this memorandum is to document an analysis of the response to resistance (RTR) by officers during the performance of their official duties for the calendar year 2022. Each incident resulting in a RTR is reviewed by several members of the agency including the Unit Supervisor, Training Coordinator, Unit Commander, Deputy Chief, and the Chief of Police. The reviews ensure the response was appropriate, lawful, within training guidelines and policy.

### **Policy 300.3 RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE-**

Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and circumstances perceived by the officer at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

The reasonableness of force will be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene at the time of the incident. Any evaluation of reasonableness must allow for the fact that officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force that reasonably appears necessary in a particular situation, with limited information and in circumstances that are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving.

Given that no policy can realistically predict every possible situation an officer might encounter, officers are entrusted to use well-reasoned discretion in determining the appropriate response to resistance in each incident.

It is also recognized that circumstances may arise in which officers reasonably believe that it would be impractical or ineffective to use any of the tools, weapons or methods provided by the Department. Officers may find it more effective or reasonable to improvise their response to rapidly unfolding conditions that they are confronting. In such circumstances, the use of any improvised device or method must nonetheless be reasonable and utilized only to the degree that reasonably appears necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

While the ultimate objective of every law enforcement encounter is to avoid or minimize injury, nothing in this policy requires an officer to retreat or be exposed to possible physical injury before applying reasonable force.

Employees will use de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for force when it is safe and feasible to do so based on the totality of the circumstances. This includes continually

assessing the situation and modifying the use of force as circumstances change and in ways that are consistent with officer safety, including stopping the use of force when it is no longer necessary. Examples of de-escalation techniques include but are not limited to:

- a. providing a warning and exercising persuasion and advice prior to the use of force.
- b. determining whether the employee may be able to stabilize the situation through the use of time, distance, or positioning to isolate and contain a subject.
- c. requesting additional personnel to respond or make use of specialized units or equipment including crisis intervention team trained officers, as necessary and appropriate.

### **Calls for Service and Arrests-**

In 2022, the Department responded to 23,211 calls for service and effected 776 arrests.

- 710 adult
- 66 juvenile

Therefore, of the 23,211 calls for service, only 3.34% involved an arrest.

### **Purpose of Response to Resistance-**

For calendar year 2022, Officers were involved in 30 incidents involving a RTR with twenty-eight (28) different individuals. There were 2 instances where the same individuals were involved in 2 separate RTR events.

- 28 incidents involved criminal activity
- 2 incidents involving subjects who were in need of medical attention and hospitalization for mental health purposes.

This equates to approximately 3.6% of arrests requiring some type of RTR. Conversely, no type of RTR was used in approximately 96.4% of arrests.

With 23,211 total calls for service in 2022, approximately 0.1% involved a RTR. Meaning, in 99.9% of calls, no type of RTR was needed.

### **Injuries Sustained-**

- 1 officer sustained minor injuries. Medical was attention provided.
- Two (2) offenders sustained injuries. Medical was attention provided.
  - 1 Offender sustained minor scrapes to their face, shoulders, elbows, and back, along with small lacerations to their abdomen and lower back from deployed Taser prongs.
  - 1 Offender sustained minor scrapes to a shoulder and knee.

### **Demographics-**

Of the response to resistance incidents, twenty (20) involved male offenders and ten (10) involved female offenders. A male was the offender in 67% of the incidents. The offender was white in 80% of the incidents. The average age of the offenders was twenty-eight (28). There were five (5) juveniles involved in a response to resistance in 2022. The twenty-five (25) adult offenders ranged in age from 18-55 years old. The only discernable pattern identified was that the offender involved in a response to resistance incident is more likely to be a white male. Seventy-three (73) male officers were involved in incidents, while ten (10) incidents involved a female officer.

A type of response to resistance was employed by eighty-three (83) officers during the thirty (30) incidents. Some officers used more than one type of response during an incident. The types of responses ranged from “Empty Hand Controls” to “Firearm Displayed”. The frequency of those responses is as follows:

- Empty Hand Control = 76
- WRAP Deployment = 5
- Taser Displayed (not deployed) = 1
- Taser Deployed = 3
- Baton Strike = 0
- Firearm Displayed (not discharged) = 2

Overall response to resistance incidents decreased from 2018 to 2021, with a slight increase occurring in 2022. For example, there were thirty-nine (39) response to resistance incidences in 2018, to thirty-four (34) in 2019, thirty-one (31) in 2020, twenty-five (25) in 2021 and thirty (30) in 2022. Deadly force was not employed in 2022. Empty hand controls is still the primary type of response used. In 2022, one officer was injured during a response to resistance incident, which mirrored the same status of 2021 when one officer sustained an injury. Upon reviewing the documented response to resistance incidents it appears our officers are responding appropriately to encountered resistance. Those responses are within the law and their training.

June had the most occurrences of the incidents involving a response to resistance with six (6). 53% of the response to resistance incidents happened in the second quarter of the year. The first quarter of the year had the least amount of incidents with 13%. Twenty (21) of the incidents resulting in a response to resistance occurred between 1400 hours and 2300 hours, which would coincide with heavier call volumes. Six (6) of the documented response to resistance incidents occurred between 2300 hours and 0400 hours. The remaining incidents when a response to resistance was necessary occurred at various times throughout the day with no discernible pattern.

The incident reports and Response to Resistance Reviews for each incident are available for your review if desired.

**Conclusion-**

Based on this analysis, I recommend that no changes should be made to the Department's policies or procedures at this time. I do not recommend acquiring any additional items of equipment at this time. Lastly, I recommend the information contained in this analysis be shared with the personnel who develop the Department's scenario-based training. The trainers can then design sessions to include events with particular details to better prepare the officers. The incident reports and Response to Resistance Reviews for each incident are available for your review if desired.

This analysis was amended on August 28, 2023 to include an analysis of age and race in the demographics section.