

Tactical Review Committee Annual Report

January 2016 to December 2016

Police Chief Jeri L. Williams

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Purpose of the 2016 Tactical Review Committee (TRC) Annual Report

This report:

- Reviews Officer-Involved Shooting (OIS) incidents from 2016.
- Provides trend analysis of OIS data over the previous three years.
- Discusses potential future training topics based on OIS analysis and other relevant topics.

Note: For the purpose of this report an officer-involved shooting is defined as a deadly force encounter in which an officer discharged their firearm intentionally at a subject regardless if injury occurred.

Overall Post-OIS Tactical Topics Covered in 2017-2018 Advanced Officer Training

- Containment options.
- Decision making, de-escalation.
- Using time, space, and barriers – slowing down the incident.
- Timing with negotiations.
- Considerations when dealing with impaired subjects.
- Communication between team members and command.
- Counter ambush responses.
- Utilizing small team tactics.
- Active Shooter Intervention.
- Understanding the basics of a structure fire.
- Crisis entry training.
- Breaching basics for patrol.
- Unified command with the Fire Department - communications interoperability.
- Shooting through barriers.
- Cover and containment slowing down the incident.
- Deploying in positions of tactical advantage.
- Dynamics of high-risk vehicle stops and officer safety considerations.

Equipment Considerations Identified by the TRC

- Procurement of Arwen Less Lethal System for patrol officers.
- Ballistic shield replacement for patrol.
- Ballistic helmet for patrol.
- Breaching kit for patrol.
- Replacement of current long-gun racks for the interior of patrol vehicles.

Officer-Involved Shootings January 1, 2016 thru December 31, 2016:

There were 25 OIS incidents in 2016. Below is a brief synopsis of each incident.

1. January 19, 2016 - 1800 West Peoria Avenue
Officers were dispatched to an unknown trouble call of a possible suicidal male. Special Assignments Unit officers assumed the tactical operations of this incident. After approximately six hours the suspect eventually exited the house, pointed a handgun at the Special Assignments Unit officers, who then discharged their weapons. The suspect was pronounced at a local hospital.
2. February 21, 2016 - 2200 West Heatherbrae Drive
Officers responded to several radio calls of shots fired and eventually identified the apartment where the suspect was located. Officers established containment and attempted communication with the suspect during the barricade. While standing at a window, the suspect held a gun to his chest. A short time later he started swinging the gun towards the ground and pointed it at an officer, who discharged his rifle at the suspect. The suspect was pronounced at a local hospital.
3. February 23, 2016 - 4800 West Sunnyside Avenue
Officers responded to a domestic violence call for service during which the suspect shot and killed four members of his family. The suspect used an accelerant to set the house on fire. During the barricade, the suspect pointed his handgun at a Special Assignments Unit officer, who discharged his rifle at the suspect. The suspect was pronounced at the scene.
4. February 24, 2016 - 7500 West I-10 Freeway
Plain clothes auto theft detectives requested units to assist in stopping a stolen vehicle near 9100 W. Roosevelt. After felony flight was established, the Air Unit had officers back off and a tactical surveillance was initiated. When the suspect stopped in traffic at a red signal light the suspect was "boxed in" by civilian vehicle traffic. A two-officer patrol unit acted on the information by exiting their vehicle and attempted to take the suspect into custody. When the suspect drove his vehicle at an officer, another officer discharged his handgun striking the suspect once. The suspect was pronounced at a local hospital.
5. March 30, 2016 - 5700 North 67th Avenue, Glendale
Officers responded to a possible kidnapping. While en route to a location where the suspect may be located, officers observed the suspect vehicle stopped at the above location. The suspect shot the driver of his vehicle and then shot multiple rounds at several officers. The officers returned fire and the suspect fled on foot. The suspect entered an apartment where he barricaded himself with hostages. Special Assignments Unit officers successfully de-escalated the incident and the suspect surrendered uninjured.

6. May 14, 2016 - 3700 West McDowell Road
Officers responded to a possible home invasion call for service and while attempting to locate the apartment, the suspect ambushed the officers by shooting at them from behind a vehicle. One officer returned fire, striking the suspect who was pronounced at the scene. Both officers were struck by rounds and survived their injuries.
7. May 18, 2016 - 7700 South 48th Lane
Officers responded to a burglary in-progress call for service. Officers formulated a plan and during the implementation of the containment plan, the suspect ambushed two officers who were using their Tahoe to block in the suspect's van. Several officers fired at the suspect who was pronounced at the scene. An officer was shot and killed during this incident.
8. May 19, 2016 - 5100 West Camelback Road
The suspect pointed a gun at his teacher and committed multiple felonies at different locations throughout the day. The last call for service involved the suspect threatening himself and others with a handgun at an apartment complex. The suspect fled the scene in a truck, intentionally drove at officers, and a pursuit was initiated and then terminated. During this incident, the suspect pointed a gun at an officer. The officer fired multiple rounds through the patrol vehicle's windshield but did not strike the suspect. The suspect was taken into custody uninjured.
9. May 26, 2016 - 3300 West Southern Avenue
Officers responded to a shots fired, possible homicide, radio call for service. Responding officers located the suspect, who refused to comply with verbal commands. Officers deployed a Taser and a stunbag with no effect. As the suspect raised a handgun toward officers, an officer fired his rifle striking the suspect. The suspect was pronounced at a local hospital.
10. June 1, 2016 - 2000 North 75th Avenue
Officer responded to a check welfare radio call to assist the Fire Department. Upon arrival, the officer saw the suspect armed with a handgun, hiding behind a building pillar. As the officer waited for additional units to arrive, the suspect attempted to ambush the officer, who returned fire. Additional officers arrived, and the suspect continued to shoot at them. The officers returned fire and struck the suspect, who was pronounced at the scene.
11. June 4, 2016 - 6900 South 38th Drive
Officers were investigating a party crew. As officers drove by in an unmarked two-officer unit, they heard shots fired and saw the suspect walking with a shotgun while pointing it at a group of teenagers. The suspect pointed the shotgun at the officers, and an officer discharged his weapon from inside the vehicle shooting through the vehicle's windshield. The suspect was not injured, fled the scene, and was later captured.

12. June 16, 2016 - 4400 East Deer Valley Drive

Officers responded to a subject with a gun call for service. When officers located the suspect; he refused to comply with their verbal commands. As the suspect walked toward the officers and pointed his handgun at them, an officer discharged his weapon. (The suspect's weapon was found later to be a toy gun.) The suspect was struck and treated for a non-life threatening injury at a local hospital.

13. July 8, 2016 – 1600 East Thomas Road

An officer responded to a silent robbery alarm and made contact with the suspect outside the store. The officer saw what appeared to be the handle of a gun but was later found to be a flare gun. The officer attempted to take the suspect into custody and a physical confrontation ensued. After the officer was struck several times, the suspect then tried to take away the officer's gun. In the struggle the officer fired one round striking the suspect. The suspect was transported to a local hospital for non-life threatening injuries prior to being booked into jail.

14. August 7, 2016 – 2000 North Alvarado Road

Officers responded to a potential domestic violence call in which the suspect was outside assaulting his girlfriend. The suspect ran into the house before police arrived. A barricade ensued as officers continued to try and negotiate. Once the suspect started to assault his mother, officers went inside finding the suspect with a large kitchen knife. As the suspect lunged at the officers, an officer fired one round striking the suspect in the forearm.

15. August 13, 2016 – 3800 North 43rd Avenue

As officers were serving a search warrant they were confronted by a homicide suspect who was hiding in a bedroom closet. The suspect lunged at an officer slashing his hand with a knife. The officer fired two rounds striking the suspect who was pronounced at the scene.

16. August 19, 2016 – 2900 North 20th Street

While checking a suspicious vehicle in a City park at approximately two in the morning, the officer contacted a subject acting erratically. During the pat down search, the suspect started striking the officer which resulted in a broken nose. As the suspect attempted to take the officer's gun, another officer arrived to assist. Both officers fired their weapons. The suspect was pronounced at the scene.

17. August 27, 2016 – 5700 West Thomas Road

Officers responded to a domestic violence call involving a gun. The ex-boyfriend was in the victim's home with a gun threatening her. As the officers approached, the male suspect pointed a handgun at the officers from the front door. An officer fired six rounds. (The weapon was later found to be a BB gun.) The suspect was pronounced at the scene.

18. September 2, 2016 – 21600 North 33rd Drive

The officer observed a suspicious person matching the description of an armed robbery suspect from two days prior. Upon attempting to stop and question the suspect, he threatened the officer with a knife and the officer fired two rounds stopping the suspect. Suspect was transported to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

19. September 6, 2016 – 1800 West Baseline Road, Tempe

Avondale Police were actively pursuing an armed bank robbery suspect into the Phoenix area when members of the Special Assignments Unit assisted by implementing a tactical surveillance. A decision was made to stop the vehicle using the pit maneuver after the vehicle sideswiped a patrol car in an attempt to enter the freeway. Once the vehicle was stopped, the driver pointed a handgun at officers. Officers fired several rounds at the suspect who was pronounced at the scene.

20. September 6, 2016 – 3100 North 37th Street

Officers responded to a follow up on a domestic violence call between a mother and son. The son was threatening her and other family members with a knife. Officers located the suspect at a different location. When asked to come out of the friend's house he stepped out with a large knife. The suspect walked towards officers waving the knife in an up and down motion. Officers issued several commands to stop and drop the weapon. After refusing to do so and continuing to approach, officers fired several rounds. The suspect was pronounced at the scene.

21. September 15, 2016 – 2000 East Watkins Street

Officers responded to a home invasion in progress. One suspect surrendered without incident but another fled from the scene. While jumping into a vehicle the fleeing suspect pointed a handgun at officers and fired at them as he fled. The vehicle pursuit ended with the suspect crashing his vehicle and running from the scene. Officers chased the suspect who turned around with his handgun in hand aiming at officers. One sergeant fired multiple rounds hitting the suspect who was pronounced at the scene.

22. September 27, 2016 – 20800 North 19th Avenue

Officers attempted to make contact with a suspect involved in the sale of narcotics. Officers conducted a traffic stop and upon approaching the driver he pointed a handgun at an officer. As the officers retreated, the suspect reversed his vehicle ramming the officer's patrol car. Fearing that the officers conducting the stop would be hit by the driver, the officer in the patrol car fired one round striking the driver in the neck, stopping the vehicle and threat. The suspect was transported to the hospital but later succumbed to his injury.

23. October 11, 2016 – 3700 East Van Buren Street

Officers responded to a subject with a gun call after a citizen reported the suspect pointed a gun at him and threatened to kill him. Officers found the suspect in the neighborhood putting on body armor. The suspect ran from officers. As the officers were trying to contain the suspect he pointed the gun at them. One officer fired striking the suspect in the knee. The suspect was transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

24. December 29, 2016 – 4800 East Mockingbird Lane

The Peoria Police Department was engaged in the pursuit of an armed robbery suspect. Phoenix Police Special Assignments Unit responded as the pursuit entered Phoenix. They were conducting a tactical surveillance when the suspect exited the U-Haul truck he was driving and attempted to carjack a vehicle at gunpoint. Fearing for the life of the victims (a mother and daughter) the officer confronted the suspect firing his weapon striking the suspect. The suspect was pronounced at the scene.

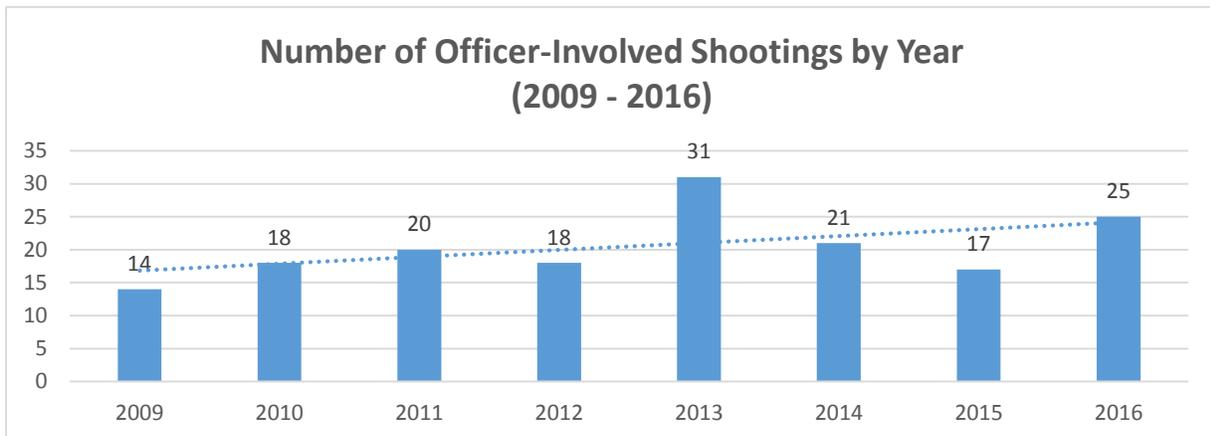
25. December 30, 2016 - 7500 North 12th Street

Officers responded to an armed robbery call. After searching the area, officers located the suspect on the canal bank. Upon making contact the suspect started walking towards the officers with two large knives in his hands. After several commands and attempts to use the Taser the suspect continued to approach. The officer discharged his weapon striking the suspect. The suspect was pronounced at the scene.

Summary of Data Collection and Analysis of Officer Involved Shootings

During 2016, the Phoenix Police Department was involved in 25 Officer-Involved Shootings (OIS). The following analysis is based on the combined effort of Professional Standards Bureau Inspections Team, Crime Analysis and Research Unit (CARU) and the Training Bureau.

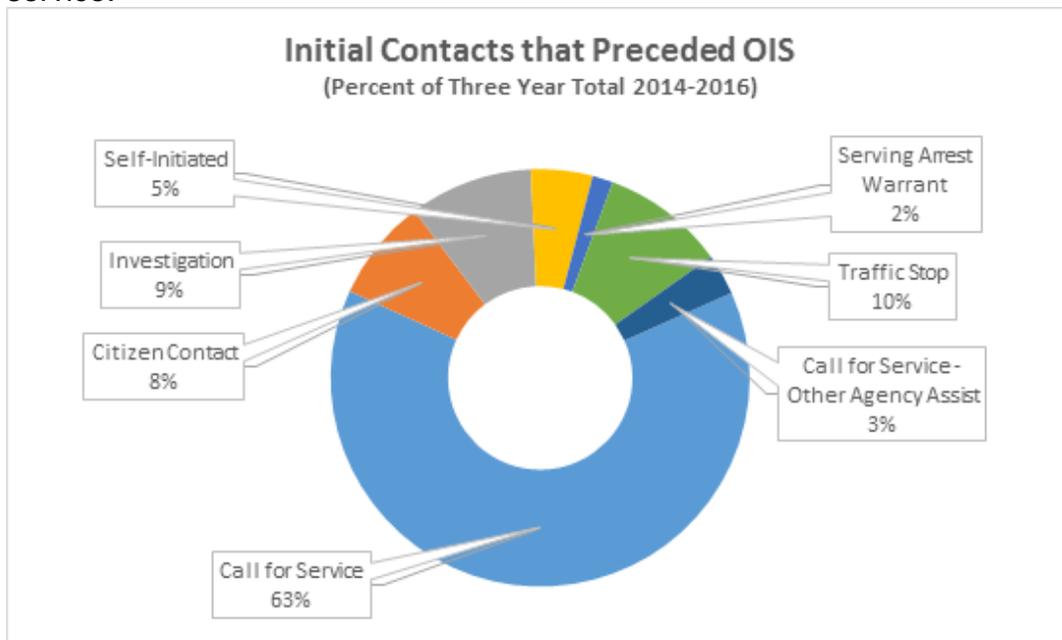
Since 2009 the average number of OIS per year is 20.5. 2016 was slightly up from the average.



Incident Analysis for 2016

The following analysis compares the last three years of aggregated data when identifying potential training trends. This is followed by a subset of specific variables noted within the breakdown of 2016 incidents.

Over the last three years, 63% of the officer involved shootings originated with a call for service.

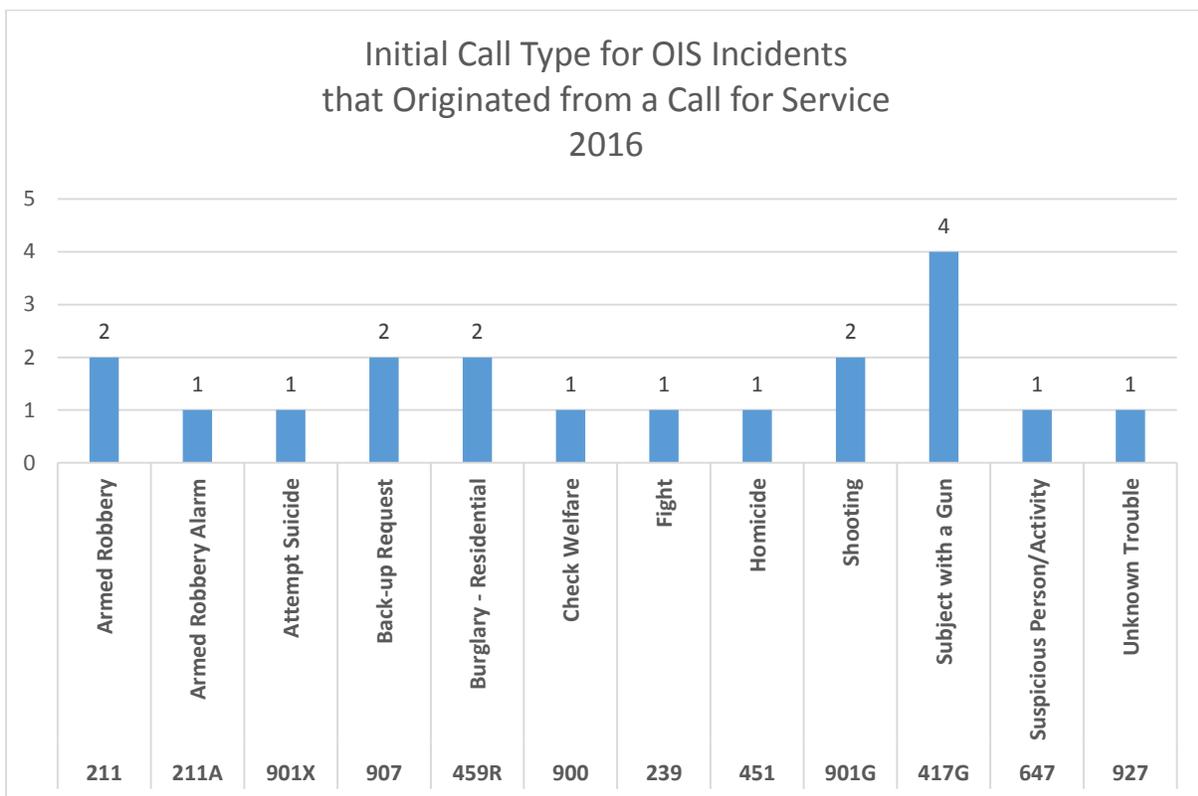


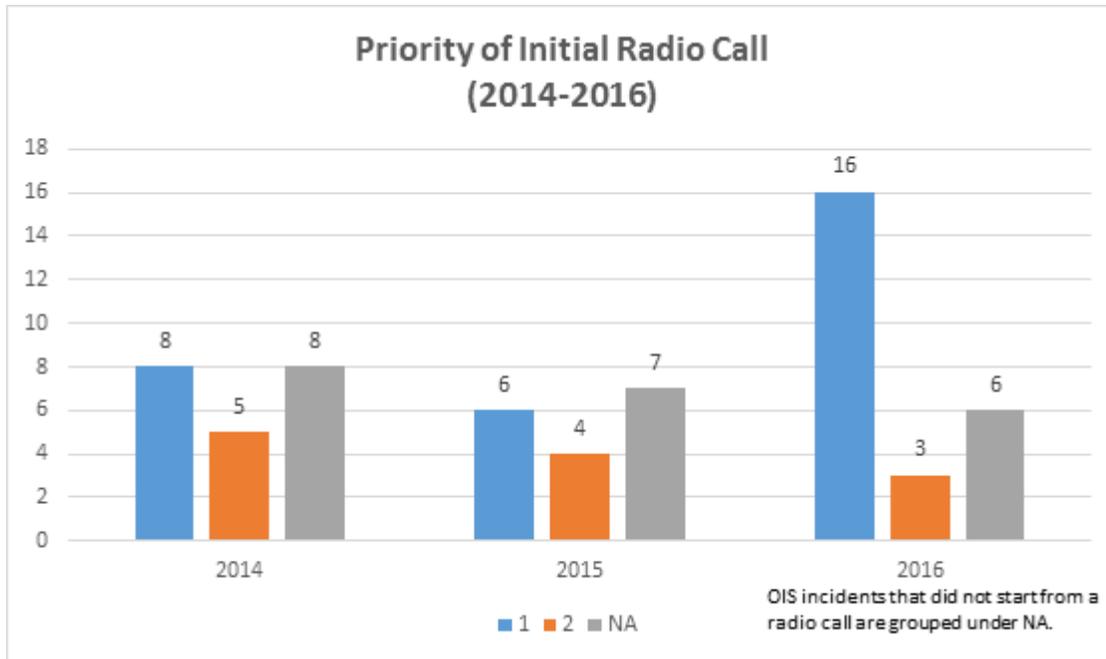
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2016 OIS data remains consistent with prior years for initial contacts. The following information is specific to 2016:

Call for Service	17	68%
Citizen Contact	2	8%
Investigation	2	8%
Traffic Stop	2	8%
Call for Service – Other Agency Assist	2	8%

- 17 of the 25 incidents in 2016 were dispatched as a priority one, crime in progress.
- In 2016 the most frequent call type involved:
 - 5 Armed Robbery incidents which includes the back-up request.
 - 4 Domestic Violence related incidents.



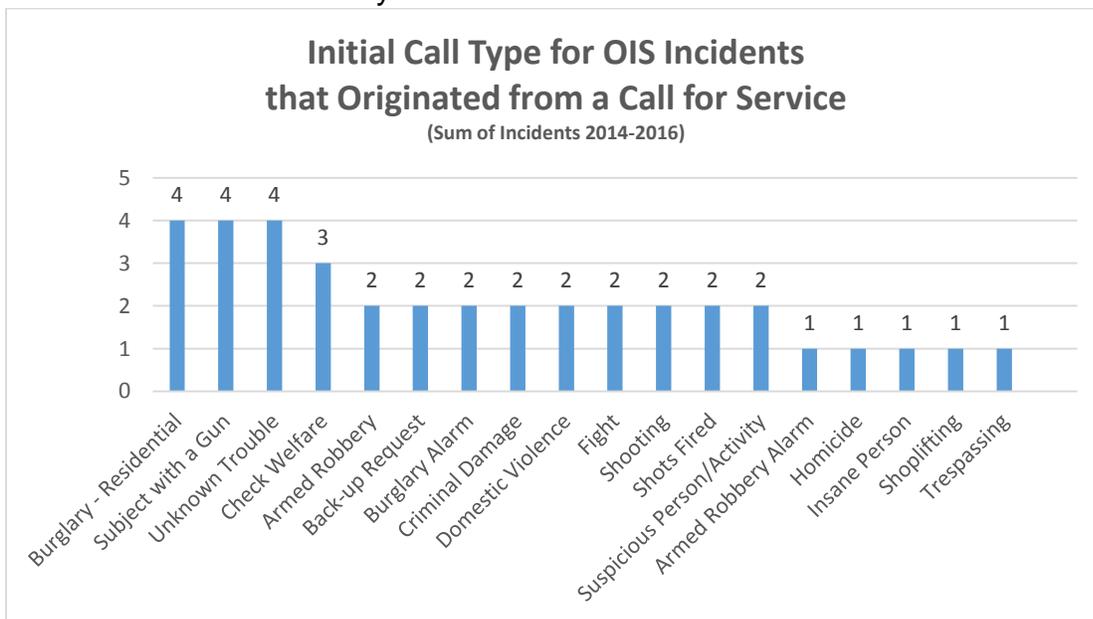


In comparing 2016 to previous years there has been a significant increase in the priority one calls for service (128.6%) which resulted in OIS incidents although priority two has remained more consistent.

- Two of the priority one calls for service were requests from outside agencies in pursuit of a suspect.

Reasons Citizens Called for Police Assistance

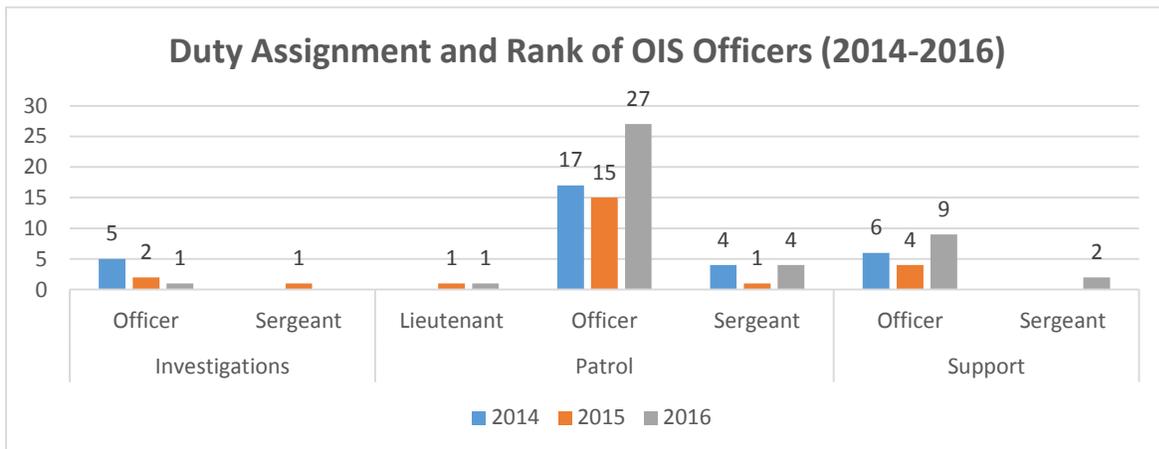
Overview of the last three years 2014-2016.



Specific to the Twenty-five OIS Incidents in 2016

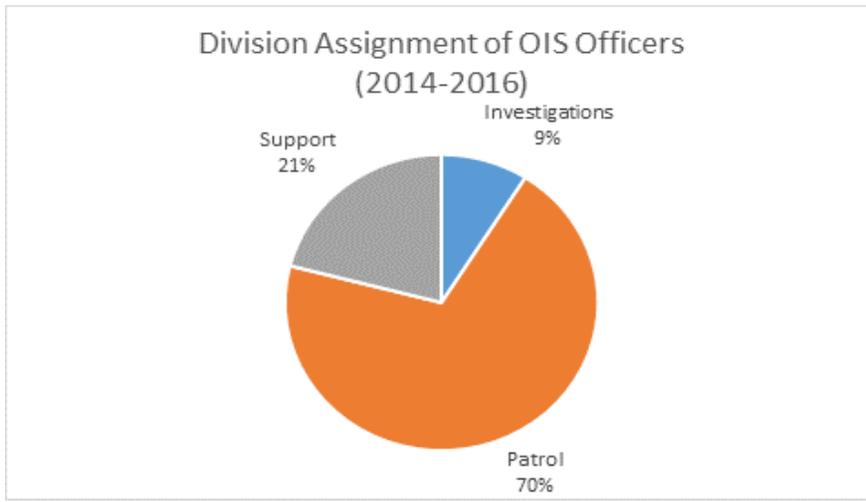
- 18 suspects had a firearm or replica (BB gun, toy gun, or flare gun).
- 16 of the 25 incidents resulted in the fatality of the suspect.
- 2 barricades involving a suicidal subject with a firearm.
- 5 suspects had a knife.
- 3 incidents involved officers that were the subject of an ambush.
- 1 officer killed in the line of duty.
- 6 officers injured.
- 3 incidents involved the suspect inside of a moving vehicle.
 - 2 of which the officer perceived the vehicle as a threat.
- 3 incidents involved officers firing from inside their vehicle.
 - 2 of which were through glass.

Duty Assignment by Division/Rank of the Officer at the time of the OIS Incident



Breakdown Based on Division Assignment

Of the 63 incidents from 2014-2016 with a total of 100 officers discharging their weapon.

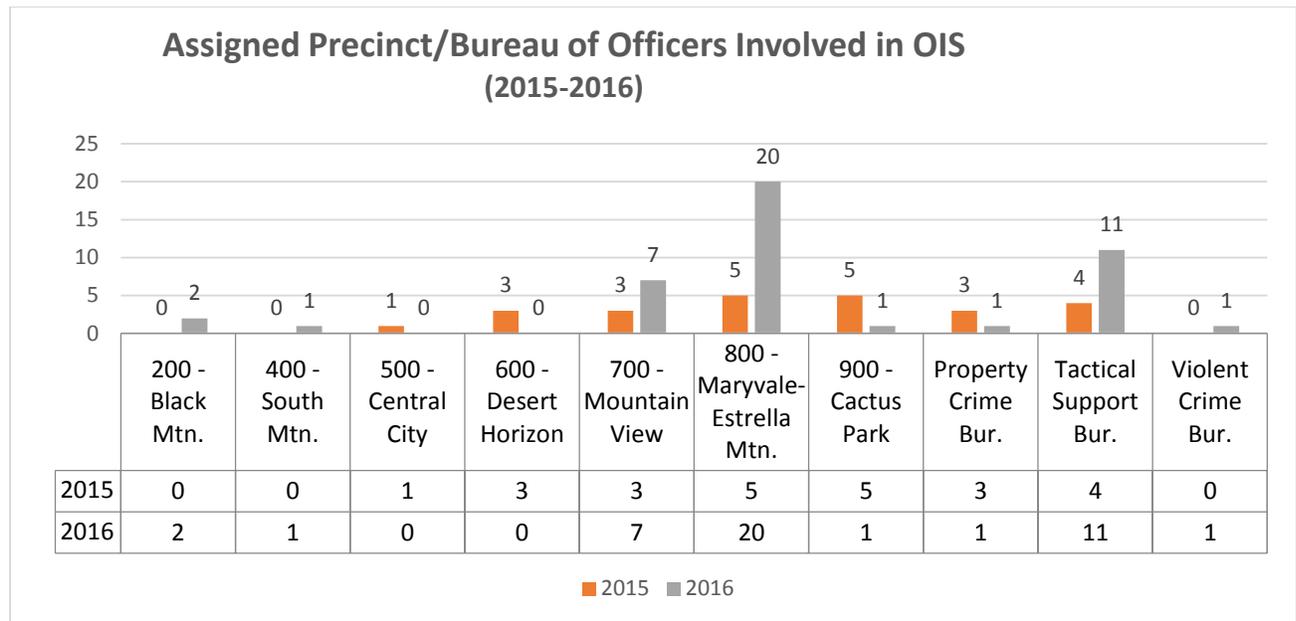


	2014	2015	2016	Total	
Investigations	5	3	1	9	9%
Officer	5	2	1	8	
Sergeant		1		1	
Patrol	21	17	32	70	70%
Lieutenant		1	1	2	
Officer	17	15	27	59	
Sergeant	4	1	4	9	
Support	6	4	11	21	21%
Officer	6	4	9	19	
Sergeant			2	2	
Grand Total	32	24	44	100	100%

Specific to the Twenty-five OIS incidents in 2016

- 6 incidents involved SAU.
 - 2 SAU related incidents involved a tactical surveillance.
 - 1 suspect surrendered uninjured.
- 1 incident involved detectives that were assigned a shift in Patrol.
- 1 incident initiated by detectives involving a stolen vehicle ending in a Patrol Division OIS.
- 1 incident initiated during a surveillance of a party crew.
- 2 incidents originated in other jurisdictions, vehicle pursuit into Phoenix.

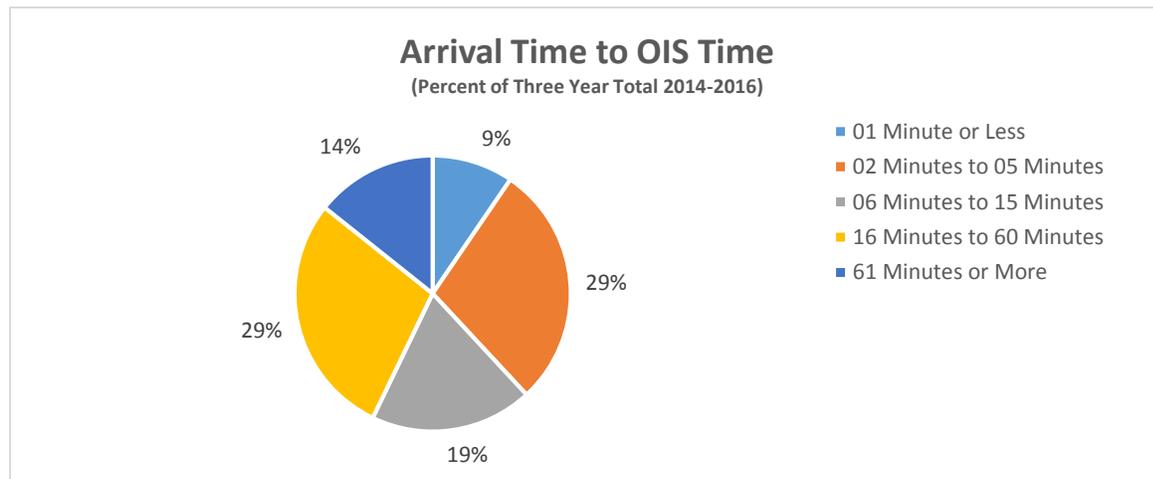
OIS Officer's Duty Assignment at The Time of the Incident



Note: only 2015-2016 is available due to precinct boundary changes in 2014. More than one officer may have discharged their weapon in one incident. Counts are number of officers that fired their weapon not incident counts.

Times Relevant to OIS incident

This chart depicts the time between the first unit's arriving on scene to the time of incident.

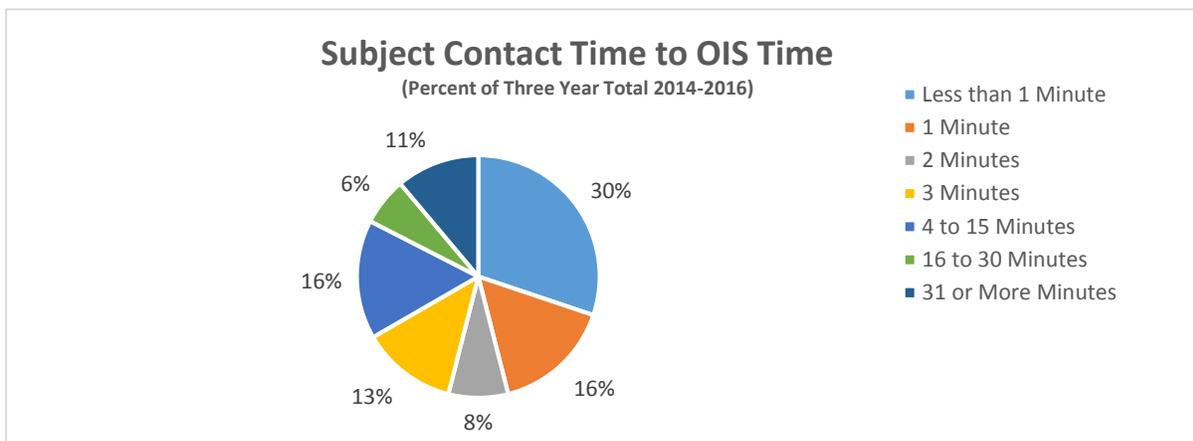


Over the last three years there were a total of 63 OIS incidents:

- 6 incidents occurred in one minute or less of arrival on scene.
- 18 incidents occurred in less than five minutes of arrival.
- 24 or 38% of all OIS occurred within five minutes of arrival on scene.

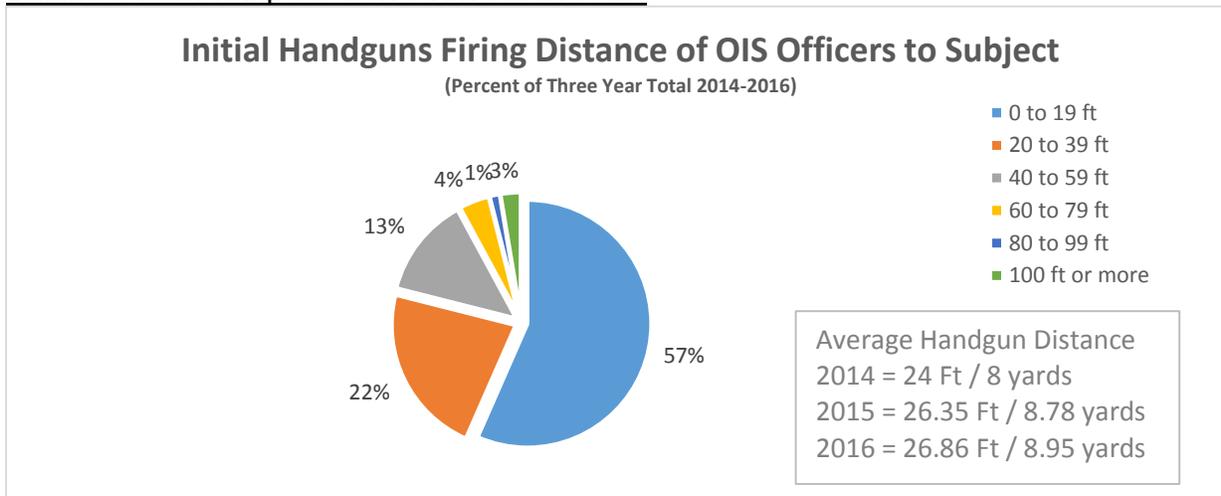
Contact with Suspect

This chart depicts the time between the first unit’s contact with the suspect and the OIS incident.



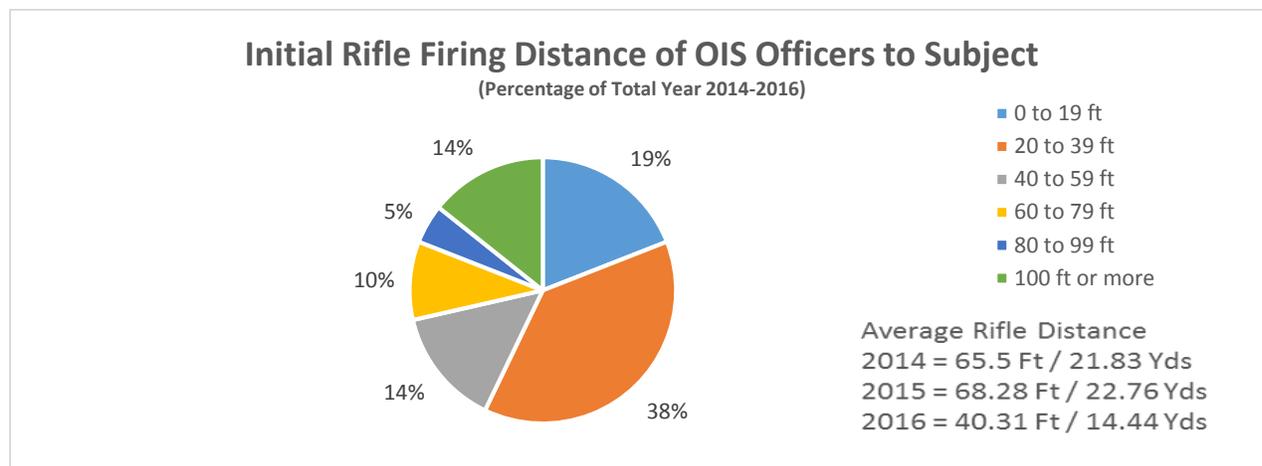
In review of the 63 incidents over the last three years, 42 or 67% of all OIS incidents occurred within 3 minutes of making contact with the suspect.

Distance from Suspect at the Time of the OIS



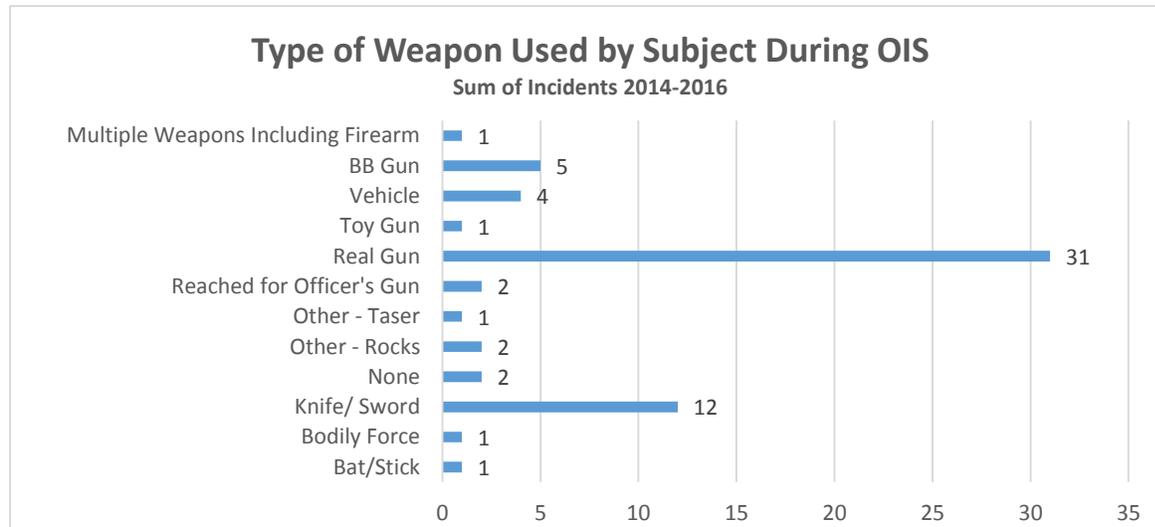
Note: could be more than one officer firing their weapon per incident.

- A breakdown of the three years of data for 63 incidents:
 - 19 handguns were fired at approximately 8 feet from suspect.
 - 28 handguns were fired within 12 feet from suspect.
 - 50 handguns were fired within 26 feet from suspect.
- A total of 79 handguns were fired in 63 incidents. Three distances could not be measured. The following calculation is based on 76 known deployments.
 - 66% of all handguns were fired at less than 26 feet or approximately 8 yards.
 - 15 handguns were fired between the 34-50 foot ranges (12-16 yards).
 - 9 handguns were fired between the 54-155 foot ranges (18-52 yards).



- A breakdown of the three years of data for 63 incidents in which there were 21 rifles used in the OIS incident:
 - There were no rifles fired at less than 8 feet from suspect.
 - 4 rifles were fired between 9 -19 feet from suspect.
 - 11 (52%) were fired between 23-53 feet from suspect.
 - 6 were fired between 63-182 feet from suspect.

Suspect Actions

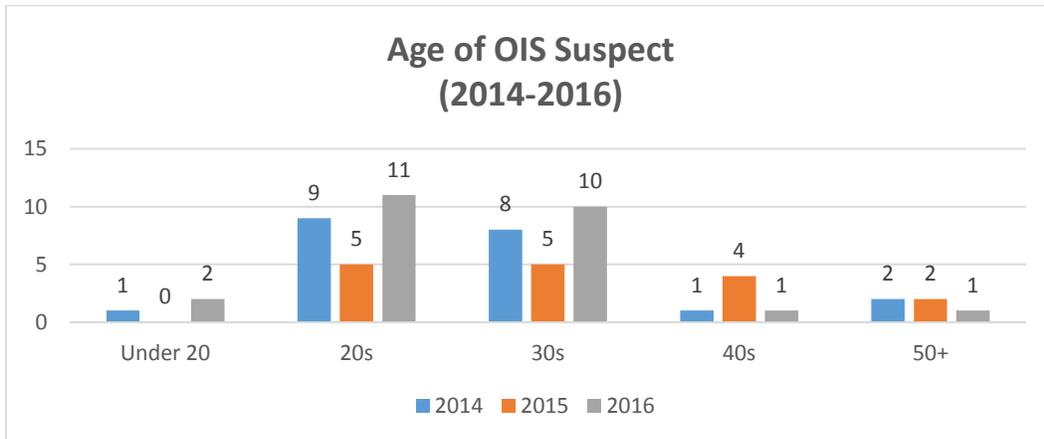


Over the past three years officers have only engaged one subject threatening per incident. Below is an analysis of weapons used by the suspect at the time of the OIS incident. There were a total of 63 subjects.

- Between 2014 and 2016, 38 (60%) of the suspects threatened or used a handgun or handgun replica. Almost half, 18 (47%) of which occurred in 2016.
- Factors contributing to the suspect's behavior:
 - 11% were impaired by drugs or alcohol.
 - 10.5% were in a state of mental health crisis.

Demographics

Suspects

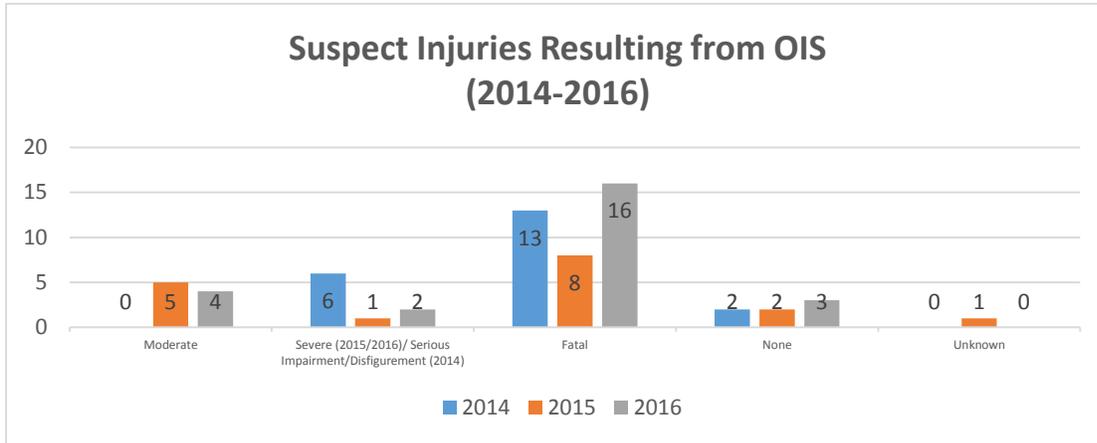


Race and Ethnicity of Suspects

- 7 African American
- 6 American Indian
- 25 White
- 25 Hispanic/Latino

Gender of Suspects

- 60 Males
- 3 Females



*Categories of Superficial, Minor, Fatal and Self-inflicted fatality had a count of zero

- In 2016 there were 9 incidents in which the suspect was either uninjured or sustained a non-fatal injury.
 - In 2 incidents officers returned fire but did not strike the suspect
 - In 1 incident the suspect fired at officers but the officers did not return fire

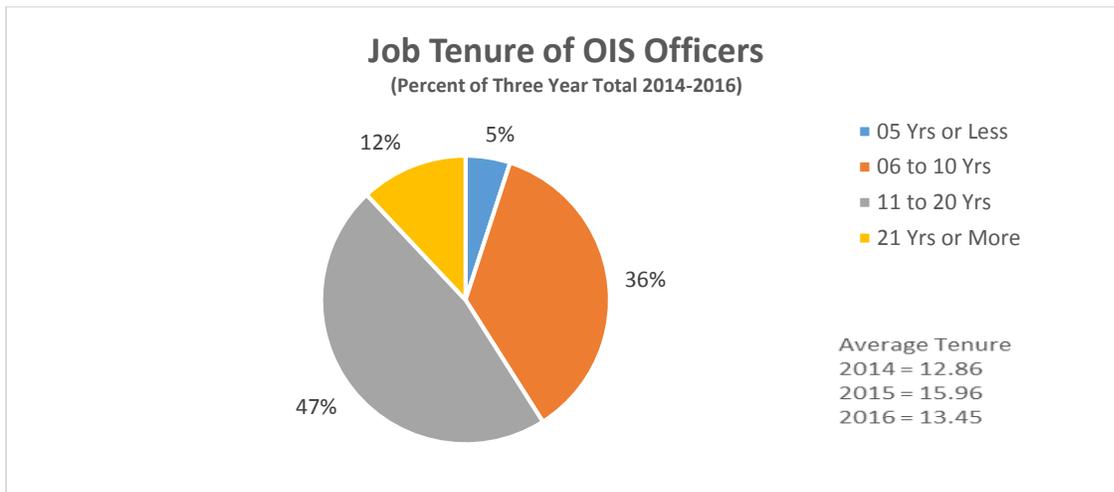
OIS Officers

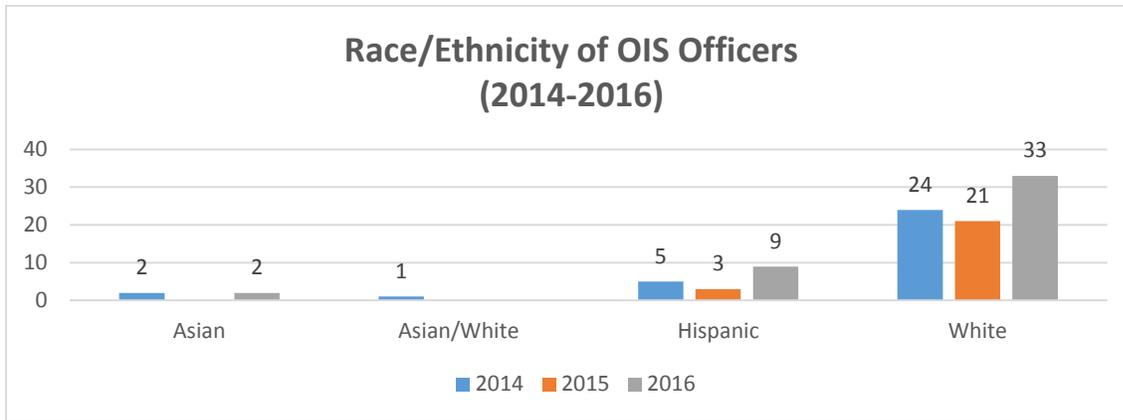
Of the 63 incidents from 2014-2016 there were 100 officers involved. Ninety-nine of the officers were male. Average age of the officer at the time of the OIS.

2014 = 38.5

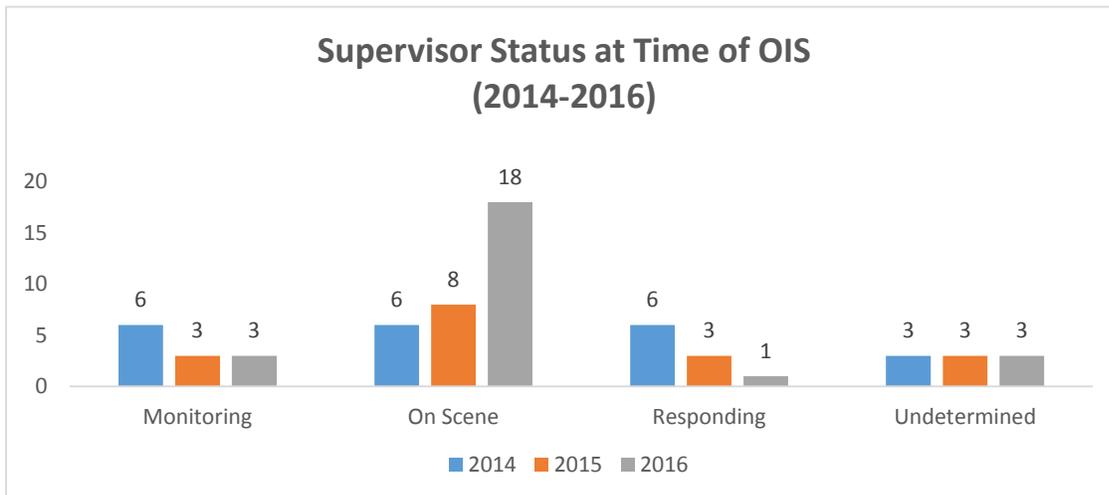
2015 = 41.3

2016 = 38.4

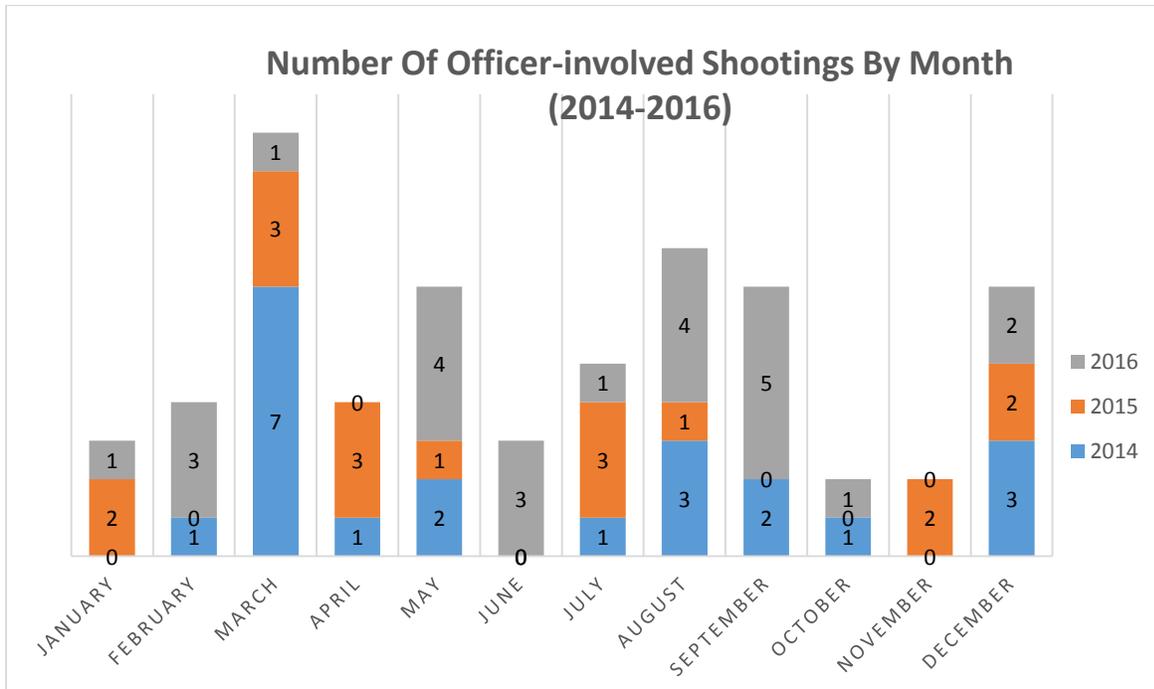




Patrol Staffing Considerations



- There has been a significant increase in the number of supervisors on scene at the time of the OIS incident. Conversely, there has been a slight decrease in the number monitoring at the time of the incident from 2014.

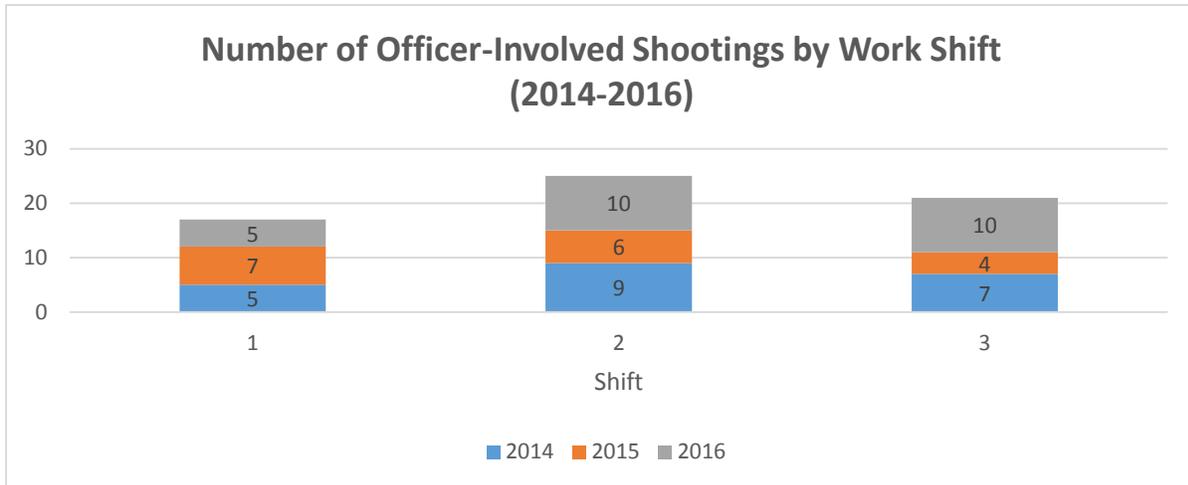


Over the last three years the OIS by shift worked:

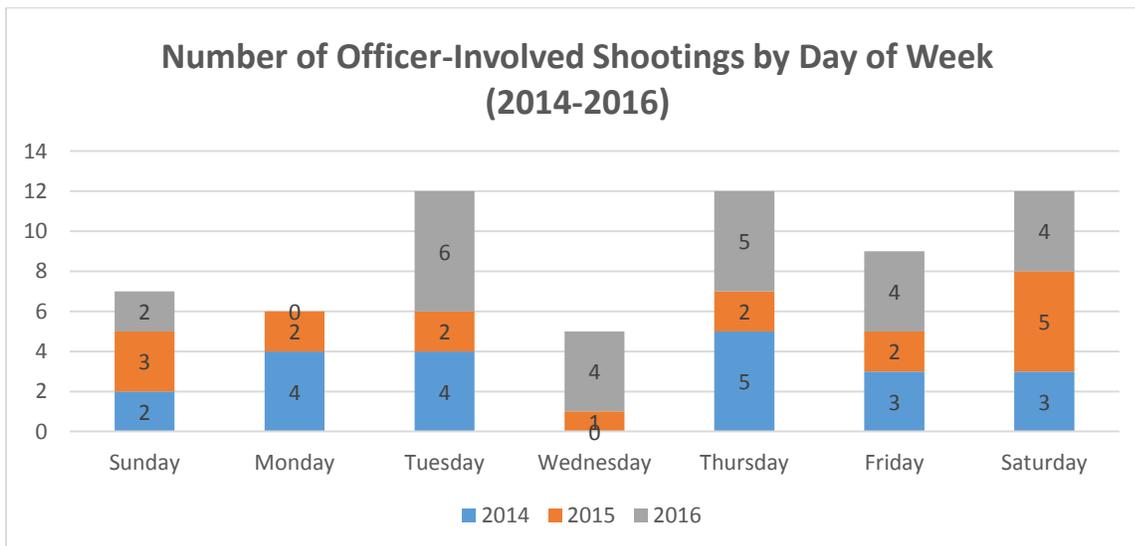
Shift one = 17

Shift two = 25

Shift three = 21



Day of Week



Over the last three years, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday show higher incidents of Officer-involved shootings.

Enhanced Training Opportunities

Many of the incidents encountered by officers occur within five minutes of arriving on scene and within three minutes of making contact with the suspect. Most shooting distances are within eight yards, and the officer is confronted by one suspect. The focus over the next training cycle will be to offer more courses emphasizing distance, time and barriers by:

1. De-escalation.
2. The creation of and maintaining distance between the officer and the suspect.
3. Using barriers in the environment to hinder the suspect's aggression towards the officer.
4. Using time to slow things down to better manage exigency.

Content Considerations

- Squad based or small group training to focus on individual efforts.
- Tactical handgun drills between 0-8 yards.
- Tactical considerations for rifles at 25 yards or less.
- Develop internal Subject Matter Experts (SME) in less lethal technologies.
 - Focus on distraction, disorientation, and incapacitation.
 - Distance, time, and barriers.
- Knowing how to use all your tools and what works best in what situation.
 - Use of less lethal devices, projectile weapons, launchers, light.
- Tactical considerations before arriving at a scene maintaining distance, using barriers and using time to take advantage of containment and communications.
- Tactical considerations before making contact with a potential suspect as approximately 67% of all OIS incidents occurred within three minutes of making contact with the suspect.
- Decision making challenges within three minutes of arriving on scene.
- Driving (backing, pursuit policy review, tactical considerations with a vehicle)
- Emphasis on slowing things down and communicating a planned response before arriving on scene when possible.
- Close quarters (weapons retention, intermediate control techniques).
- Supervisor barricade training, de-escalation training.
- Tactical considerations involving rifle operators and officers with handguns at barricades. Maintaining awareness of your surroundings and team positions.
- Active shooter intervention (schools).
- Education on body-brain response to prolonged stress.
 - Controlling the psycho-physiological response in extreme stress
 - Maintaining awareness of what is happening around you

This report is provided to the TRC Committee for its review.