

Departmental Correspondence

**Crystal Lake Police
Department**

To: Chief Black
From: Commander Miller
CC: Deputy Chief Kotlowski, Deputy Chief Neumann
Date: January 28, 2025
Re: Response to Resistance Analysis – Calendar Year 2024 CALEA 4.2.4

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 2024. 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. For calendar year 2024, Officers were involved in 27 incidents which were reviewed by supervisory staff, one incident was determined to not meet the standard of force which would initiate a RTR review. For the purposes of this analysis, 26 incidents involving RTR will be utilized.

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 2024, the Department responded to 26,142 (decrease of 438 from 2023) calls for service and effected 955 (increase of 56 from 2023) arrests. Therefore, of the 26,142 calls for service, only 3.65% (0.27% increase from 2023) involved an arrest.

- 866 adult (increase of 50 from 2023)
- 89 juvenile (increase of 6 from 2023)

In 2024, 20 RTR incidents involved an arrest being made. This equates to approximately 2.09% of arrests requiring a RTR. This is a decreased need for RTR review during arrests of 1.36% as compared to 2023. Conversely, no type of RTR was used in approximately 97.91% of arrests. With 26,142 total calls for service in 2024, approximately .1% involved a RTR. This remained essentially the same as compared to 2023.

Date and Time of Incidents-

For the purposes of this analysis, time of day was examined and represented in terms of which shift the RTR occurred on.

- 14 Afternoon (12 arrests, 4 involving battery to officer)
- 9 Midnights (5 arrests, 1 involving battery to officers)
- 3 Days (3 arrests, 1 involving battery to officers)

Afternoon shift saw 54% of the RTR incidents. Midnights accounted for 35% and Days accounting for 11%.

By month, the follow number of RTR were recorded: January 3, February 4, March 1, April 2, May 3, June 2, July 1, August 0, September 0, October 5, November 1, December 4. For this analysis the winter months of December, January, February, accounted for 11 of the 26 RTR incidents, or 42%. In contrast, the winter of 2023 only accounted for 15% of that years RTR incidents.

Types of Encounters Resulting in Response to Resistance-

RTR incidents are categorized as one of three types of encounters, “Mental Health”, “Intoxication”, or “Other”. Incidents where both Intoxication and Mental Health were prevalent were considered as a Mental Health incident for purposes of this report. The Other category encompass incidents where Mental Health nor Intoxication were factors in the RTR incident.

- 10 Intoxication related RTR, where no mental health issues were prevalent, were recorded.
 - This constitutes 38.5% of RTR encounters primarily related to Intoxication
 - 1 subject was hospitalized without being Arrested
 - 9 resulted in an Arrest
 - 4 of which resulted in a battery to an officer
 - 40% of RTR encounters involving Intoxication resulted in a battery to an officer or officers.

- 6 Mental Health related RTR (includes one where Intoxication was also listed as a factor).
 - This constitutes 23% of RTR encounters primarily related to Mental Health.
 - 3 resulted in Arrests
 - 2 of these arrests were for battery to an Officer.
 - 33% of RTR encounters involving Mental Health resulted in a battery to an officer.

- 10 Other related RTR were recorded in 2024. These include RTR where no Mental Health or Intoxication were prevalent factors in the encounter.
 - This constitutes 38.5% of RTR encounters being primarily related to Other
 - 9 of these encounters resulted in an Arrest
 - 1 of which involved a battery to an officer
 - 10% of RTR encounters not considered Mental Health or Intoxication resulted in an officer being battered.
 - The Other classification of RTR is the only one where multiple subjects were encountered under a RTR report. This occurred 2 times.

Trends related to race, age and gender-

Gender and Race of those who resisted:

- 23 of 31 individuals involved in the 26 RTR incidents were male (75%).
 - 2 of these males were Black (9%)
 - 6 were Hispanic (26%)
 - 15 (65%) were White

- 8 of 31 individuals involved in the 26 RTR incidents were female, all were White.

- Three RTR incidents involved juveniles, 6 males and one female were involved in RTR incidents.
 - 1 White Juvenile Female
 - 1 Hispanic Juvenile Male
 - 5 White Juvenile Males

The number of subjects involved in RTR by age:

- 7 Juveniles
- 5 in their 20's
- 10 in their 30's
- 5 in their 40's
- 1 in each of 50's,60's,70's and 80's.

RTR cause and Age:

- Mental Health incidents were fairly distributed throughout age groups.
- Intoxication RTR were more concentrated in the 30's and 40's.
- Other incidents were heavily concentrated in the Juveniles, 20's and 30's age groups.

RTR cause and Race:

- Both RTR encounters with Black subjects were categorized as Other.

- There were 4 RTR incidents involving Hispanics,
 - 1 was Mental Health,
 - 2 were Intoxication
 - 1 were indicated as Other

- There were 19 RTR incidents involving White subjects,
 - 5 were due to Mental Health,
 - 8 Intoxication
 - 6 listed as Other

Demographics - Summary of subjects involved in RTR

Of the response to resistance incidents, 75% involved male subjects. The subject was white in 74.2% of the incidents. The subject involved in the RTR was in their 30's 32.25% of the time with an average age of was thirty-four (34). The only discernable pattern identified was that the subject involved in a response to resistance incident is likely to be a white male 48.4% of the time, of which 53% of the time it is not related to Intoxication or Mental Health. Additionally, White Males under the age of 30 are involved in 31% of all RTR reviews, 73% of the time due to reasons other than Mental Health or Intoxication. White Females are the next most likely group to be encountered, 25.8% of the time. Females involved in RTR incidents are in their 30's 62.5% of the time and involves Intoxication 37.5% of the time, Mental Health 37.5% of the time.

Injuries Sustained and Officers Battered-

- 9 officers were battered in 7 separate RTR incidents
 - 30% of the time, where an arrest involved a RTR, an officer was also battered.

- 4 officers sustained minor injuries during 3 incidents. No medical attention required.
 - 2 officers had scraped hands, 1 had nail marks, 1 was kicked in the head.
 - 1 involved Intoxication and 2 involved Mental Health

- 2 of the 3 offenders were female
- No offenders sustained or reported injuries due to officer involvement in their RTR.

Officer's involvement-

Thirty-six (36) different Officers were involved with 26 RTR incidents. There were 2 instances where the same officers were involved in 6 separate RTR events, 1 instance of the same officer was involved in 5 separate RTR events. A type of response to resistance was employed by 105 individual officers during the 26 incidents, some incidents involved more than one type of response during the incident or the same type was used multiple times.

The types of response to resistance ranged from “Empty Hand Controls” to “Firearm Pointed”. The frequency of those responses is as follows:

- Empty Hand Control = 23 incidents involving 70 officers
- WRAP Deployment = 6 deployments 27 officers involved
- Taser Displayed (not deployed) = 1
- Taser Deployed = 0
- Baton Strike = 0
- Firearm Displayed (not discharged) = 7 officers displayed their firearms during 4 incidents
- Firearm Discharged = 0

Summary-

There was a sharp decrease in the number of response to resistance incidents in 2024, 26 incidents, compared to 41 in 2023. The average number of RTR for the years 2019-2024 was 31.17. Deadly force was not utilized in 2024. Empty hand controls is still the primary type of response used. The average number of officers involved in Empty Hand Control RTR incident increased from 2.47 in 2023 to 3.04 in 2024. The WRAP was utilized twice as much in 2024 as it was in 2023. The average number of officers involved in the application of the WRAP decreased from 5 to 4.5. In 2024, four officers were injured during response to resistance incidents, which was a decrease from five in 2023. Unlike 2023, none of these injuries required medical treatment. 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.

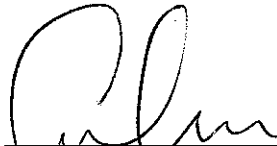
Commentary-

Although RTR incidents can naturally vary from year to year in number and type, changes in the profession over time can possibly shed some light on trends. De-escalation techniques, as they are solidified in law enforcement ethos, can aid in explaining why there are fewer RTR incidents. The natural consequence of attempting to de-escalate a situation, generally prolongs the incident, allowing for additional officers to arrive on scene. This might assist in explaining why the average number of officers involved in the most common type of force, Empty Hand Control, increased, as injuries to officers and offenders alike decreased in number and severity in a year to year comparison. Beyond de-escalation, as the work force becomes more proficient with utilizing the WRAP, we have seen its

use increase with fewer officers involved. Although the use of the WRAP has been a successful tool, currently they are housed in the Sergeant's vehicle, which forces supervisor oversight every time it is deployed.

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. It is recommended that in order to allow officers to become more proficient in the use of the WRAP, increased training be assigned. 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.


Submitted _____ Date 1-28-25


Received _____ Date 01/28/25