

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY BUREAU



Use of Force Audit

Department Policy Assessment

Antelope Valley Stations

Project No. 2024-53-A



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The County of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD or Department), and the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) entered into the Antelope Valley (AV) Settlement Agreement (Agreement) on April 28, 2015¹, with the goal of ensuring police services are provided to the AV community in a manner that fully complies with the Constitution and the laws of the United States. The Department is expected to implement the mandated stipulations of the Agreement to effectively ensure both public and deputy safety, while fostering a renewed public confidence in the LASD.

The Audit and Accountability Bureau (AAB) was authorized by the Sheriff of Los Angeles County, the DOJ, and the AV Monitoring Team (MT) to conduct audits of the Department's use of force investigations. These limited scope audits, referred to by the AAB as "mini" audits, focused on a narrow set of audit objectives and specific audit populations. For Part I of the Use of Force Audit, auditors examined de-escalation techniques and assessed the degree to which the Department was complying with use of force policies. Auditors also evaluated the provisions governing the reporting and investigation of reportable use of force events and provided Lancaster Station and Palmdale Station (AV Stations) with timely feedback, allowing for necessary operational improvements.

The table below lists the project numbers, published dates, and audit population time periods for the three prior audits conducted for Part I Department Policy Assessment, formerly De-Escalation and Use of Force Assessment (2024-5-A, 2024-23-A, and 2024-31-A), as well as this Reassessment Audit (audit), Project No. 2024-53-A, which will be discussed in further detail below:

Project No.	Published Date	Population Time Period
2024-5-A	June 24, 2024	October 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023
2024-18-A	November 7, 2024	January 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024
2024-31-A	December 10, 2024	April 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024
2024-53-A	-	May 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024

After the completion of the three prior audits, the auditors prepared a thorough Comprehensive Review Report (review), Project No. 2024-51-A. The review outlined patterns, trends and observations identified across the three prior audits. The review focused on highlighting key areas of concern and provided actionable recommendations to address issues identified throughout the auditing process.

¹ [Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, No. CV 15-03174, United States v. Los Angeles County et al. \(D.C. Cal. April 28, 2015\)](#)

Reassessment Report

Following the completion of the review, the AAB conducted this audit to compare the findings from this audit with the findings reported in the review of the three prior audits. The main objective was to assess the effectiveness of the audit process and evaluate the extent to which the AV Stations have improved in meeting the established Agreement Compliance Metrics (compliance metrics) for all objectives.

The table below indicates the audit findings for this audit based on each AV Station's compliance and compliance metrics.

Summary of Reassessment Findings

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	Lancaster %	Palmdale %	AV Total	Compliance Metrics %	
1	DE-ESCALATION ASSESSMENT					
1(a)	Using Advisements, Warnings, Verbal Persuasion Before Force	100%	100%	100%	90%	
1(b)	De-Escalate as Control is Achieved	100%	100%	100%	90%	
2	USE OF FORCE ASSESSMENT					
2(a)	Force Used on Passive Resistive Subjects	100%	100%	100%	90%	
2(b)	Force Used on Subjects Displaying Resistive Behavior	100%	100%	100%	90%	
2(c)	Proportional Force	100%	100%	100%	90%	
2(d)	Retaliatory Force	100%	100%	100%	90%	
2(e)	Force Used on Persons Recording Police Activities	NIN ²	NIN	NIN	90%	
2(f)	Head Strike Procedures	NIN	NIN	NIN	90%	
3	MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT OF USE OF FORCE					
3(a)	Management Oversight of Critical Deficiencies	NCI	100%	100%	100%	90%
		CAT1	100%	100%	100%	90%
		CAT2	100%	100%	100%	93%
3(b)	Management Oversight of Non-Critical Deficiencies	NCI	67%	100%	100%	85%
		CAT1	100%	100%	100%	85%
		CAT2	88%	63%	75%	85%

The audit found notable improvements in areas where the AV Stations and the Department met the established compliance metrics during the audit period.

Specifically:

- Proportional force
- Management oversight of non-critical deficiencies

² NIN stands for "No Incidents Noted."

The AAB will follow up on the implementation of any recommendations resulting from this audit that were not addressed in the review.

The following is a summary of the cumulative findings based on the AV Stations' compliance and the compliance metrics from the two previous audits. The auditors assessed the AV Stations individually for each objective and combined the results to evaluate the overall compliance.

Summary of Cumulative Findings

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	2024-5-A	2024-18-A	2024-31-A	2024-53-A	Compliance Metrics %
1	DE-ESCALATION ASSESSMENT					
1(a)	<i>Using Advisements, Warnings, and Verbal Persuasion Before Force</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
1(b)	<i>De-Escalate as Control is Achieved</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
2	USE OF FORCE ASSESSMENT					
2(a)	<i>Force Used on Passive Resistive Subjects</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
2(b)	<i>Force Used on Subjects Displaying Resistive Behavior</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
2(c)	<i>Proportional Force</i>	100%	100%	90%	100%	90%
2(d)	<i>Retaliatory Force</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
2(e)	<i>Force Used on Persons Recording Police Activities</i>	NIN ³	100%	100%	NIN	90%
2(f)	<i>Head Strike Procedures</i>	NIN	NIN	NIN	NIN	90%
3	MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT OF USE OF FORCE					
3(a)	<i>Management Oversight of Critical Deficiencies</i>	NCI	100%	100%	100%	90%
		CAT1	100%	50%	100%	90%
		CAT2	100%	100%	100%	93%
3(b)	<i>Management Oversight of Non-Critical Deficiencies</i>	NCI	75%	100%	100%	85%
		CAT1	100%	40%	80%	85%
		CAT2	100%	100%	67%	85%

The AAB will also continue to conduct detailed audits to uphold transparency and accountability and provide recommendations for ongoing improvement at the AV Stations.

³ NIN stands for "No Incidents Noted."

**Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Audit and Accountability Bureau**

**Part I of Use of Force Audit:
Department Policy Assessment
Antelope Valley Stations
Project No. 2024-53-A**

AUDIT REPORT

PURPOSE

The Audit and Accountability Bureau (AAB) conducted the Use of Force Audits under the authority of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD or the Department), pursuant to the United States Department of Justice¹ (DOJ) Antelope Valley (AV) Settlement Agreement (Agreement) Paragraph 149, which states:

The Monitor shall... determine whether LASD has implemented and continues to comply with the material requirements of this Agreement... Where appropriate, the monitor will make use of audits conducted by the [Audit and Accountability Bureau] taking into account the importance of internal auditing capacity and independent assessment of this agreement.

This Use of Force Audit, designated as Part I, focused on evaluating the current state of use of force (UOF) practices and determined whether the findings from the three prior audits (2024-5-A, 2024-18-A, and 2024-31-A) indicate meaningful improvements or if further adjustments to operational activities are necessary. The goal is to ensure continuous improvement and effective management of protocols specifically related to UOF.

BACKGROUND

The County of Los Angeles, the Department, and the DOJ entered into the Agreement on April 28, 2015, with the goal of ensuring police services are provided to the AV community in a manner which fully complies with the Constitution and the laws of the United States. The Department is expected to implement the mandated stipulations of the Agreement to effectively ensure both public and deputy safety, while fostering a renewed public confidence in the LASD.

¹[Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, No. CV 15-03174, United States v. Los Angeles County et al. \(D.C. Cal. April 28, 2015\)](#)

The AAB was authorized by the Sheriff of Los Angeles County, the DOJ, and the AV Valley Monitoring Team (MT) to conduct audits of the Department's use of force investigations. These limited scope audits, referred to by the AAB as "mini" audits, focused on a narrow set of audit objectives and specific audit populations. The mini audits were intended to provide timely feedback to the AV Stations, facilitate opportunities for operational improvements, and demonstrate an increasing commitment toward meeting the established AV Agreement Compliance Metrics (compliance metrics).

For Part I of the Use of Force Audit, the auditors conducted three audits (2024-5-A, 2024-18-A, and 2024-31-A) to assess de-escalation and use of force at Lancaster Station and Palmdale Station (AV Stations).

Additionally, the auditors prepared a thorough Comprehensive Review Report (review), Project No. 2024-51-A, outlining patterns, trends, and observations resulting from the three prior audits for Part I – Department Policy Assessment, formerly De-escalation and Use of Force Assessment. The review highlighted key areas of concern and provided actionable recommendations to address the issues identified throughout the auditing process.

For a comparative analysis of the findings from the three prior audits, the AAB conducted this Reassessment Audit (audit), Project No. 2024-53-A. The main objective of this audit was to assess the effectiveness of the audit process and evaluate how well the AV Stations have improved in meeting the established compliance metrics.

The table below is a list of the project numbers, published dates, and audit population time periods of the three prior audits conducted as well as this audit:

Project No.	Published Date	Population Time Period
2024-5-A	June 24, 2024	October 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023
2024-18-A	November 7, 2024	January 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024
2024-31-A	December 10, 2024	April 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024
2024-53-A	-	May 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024

OBJECTIVE, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

Audit Scope and Criteria

The AAB carefully designed the audit objectives, scope and methodology with a focus on the Agreement and the compliance metrics. Audit work plans were developed and previously submitted to the Subject Matter Experts (SME), MT, and DOJ for approval. This collaborative approach ensured the audits aligned with the compliance metrics and promoted transparency and thoroughness in the review process.

Audit objectives and methodologies were adjusted based on input from the SME. This involved ongoing discussions on several subjects, such as audit objectives, procedures, and audit testing, population sampling and selection, and interpretation of audit findings. In addition, changes to the audit methodologies were adjusted, when applicable, to ensure the appropriate audit test work was performed and the audit documentation was gathered and analyzed.

Under Manual of Policy and Procedures (MPP), 3-10/038.00: *Reportable Use of Force and Force Categories* (updated 07/19/2024), *classify use of force into five categories:*

Pointed Firearm at Person (PFP) - Reportable Incident, involves a Department member intentionally pointing a firearm (pistol, rifle, or shotgun) at a person.

Drawing from the holster, a slung rifle or shotgun, or displaying a firearm while pointing it in a low ready or other safe position if not pointed at a person's body does not constitute a reportable PFP incident. Pointing a Stunbag, Taser, Arwen, or other launcher or chemical irritant delivery system at a person does not constitute a PFP incident, as these are less-lethal force options and not firearms.

The *MPP 3-10/038.00* includes a provision for PFP. However, AAB did not review PFP incidents because this provision has not yet been implemented. While the broader Use of Force policy is active, the implementation of the PFP provision is pending the launch of the required documentation module, which is expected later this year. As a result, PFP incidents are currently outside the scope of this audit and have been excluded.

Non-Categorized Force Incident (NCI) involves any of the following where there is no injury or complaint of pain from the subject, and no allegation of unreasonable force or other misconduct:

- Resisted Hobble application;
- Resisted searching and handcuffing techniques; and/or
- Resisted firm grip, control holds, come-along, or control techniques.

For compliance purposes, auditors used the same metrics for NCIs as Category 1 cases².

Category 1 Force (CAT 1) involves any of the following where there is no injury:

- Take downs; and/or
- Use of Oleoresin Capsicum spray, Freeze +P or Deep Freeze aerosols, or Oleoresin Capsicum powder from a pepper-ball projectile (when a subject is not struck by a pepper-ball projectile) if it causes only discomfort and does not involve injury or lasting pain.

Category 2 Force (CAT 2) involves any of the following:

- Any identifiable injury;
- A complaint of pain that a medical evaluation determines is attributable to an identifiable injury; and/or
- Any application of force other than those defined in Category 1 Force but does not rise to the level of Category 3 Force.

Category 3 Force (CAT 3) involves any of the following:

- All shootings in which a shot was intentionally fired at a person by a Department member;
- Any type of shooting by a Department member which results in a person being hit;
- Force resulting in admittance to a hospital;
- Any death following a use of force by any Department member;
- All intentional head or neck strikes with an impact weapon;
- Kicks or knee strikes intentionally delivered to a person's head or neck;
- Intentionally striking a person's head against a hard, fixed object;
- Skeletal fractures caused by any Department member, with the exception of minor fractures of the nose, fingers or toes;
- Any use of Improvised Weapons and/or Techniques;
- All canine bites; or
- Any force which results in a response from the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Force/Shooting Response Team, as defined in Manual of Policy and Procedures (MPP) Section 3-10/130.00, Activation of the IAB Force/Shooting Response Teams (July 19, 2024).

² Antelope Valley Monitoring Team, 4th Use-of-Force Audit, November 15, 2023, page 9.

Audit Population and Sampling

The auditors had initially selected an audit period of June 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024. However, no CAT 2 investigations were completed during this timeframe. Therefore, the audit period was expanded to May 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024, and focused on one population from which samples were judgmentally extracted. This population included the following:

- Most recently completed UOF investigations of incidents which occurred during the audit period.

The NCIs and CAT 1 investigations were considered complete once approved by the Unit Commander³. The CAT 2 investigations were considered complete once approved by the North Patrol Division (NPD).

AAB did not evaluate CAT 3 force investigations because these cases are already subject to an intensive and multi-layered review process led by the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) and the Executive Force Review Committee (EFRC). CAT 3 force incidents represent the highest-risk and most serious uses of force; such as deputy-involved shootings, force resulting in hospitalization, deaths following use of force, and other significant physical impacts and therefore trigger an immediate and comprehensive response from IAB.

Once IAB completes its investigation, the EFRC, composed of area commanders and representatives from key Department units, conducts a full review to determine whether the actions taken were within policy, consistent with Department training, and tactically sound. This process includes input from the Training Bureau, Risk Management Bureau, and others, ensuring that CAT 3 incidents are heavily scrutinized from multiple professional perspectives.

These investigations are complex and time-intensive by design, given the severity and potential impact of the events involved. Because of this high level of scrutiny and the thorough existing mechanisms in place, the AAB strategically focuses its audit resources on other categories of use-of-force incidents or Department practices where independent oversight can add unique value or where gaps in systemic review may exist.

³ The Department's Supervisor's Non-Categorized Incident User's Guide for Patrol specifies that NCIs are complete upon approval by the Unit Commander.

The audit population documents were obtained from the AV Stations' internal tracking systems and the Risk Management Bureau's Discovery Unit via the Performance Recording and Monitoring System (PRMS)⁴, resulting in 165 UOF investigations during the audit period. Of the 165 UOF investigations, 132 investigations were completed, two (2) were CAT 3 investigations which were not evaluated by the AAB, and the remaining 31 investigations were pending completion.

The auditors judgmentally selected a total of 30 of the most recently completed investigations to be evaluated, with an equal distribution of fifteen from each AV Station. Additionally, the auditors judgmentally selected a maximum of three NCI investigations, four CAT 1 investigations, and eight CAT 2 investigations from each AV Station.

Below is a breakdown of UOF investigations during the audit period.

AV Stations	Total Number of UOF Investigations Initiated				Total Number of UOF Investigations Completed				Total of UOF Investigations in Audit Sample			
	NCI	CAT 1	CAT 2	Total	NCI	CAT 1	CAT 2	Total	NCI	CAT 1	CAT 2	Total
Lancaster	59	18	27	104	57	12	11	80	3	4	8	15
Palmdale	28	10	21	59	27	10	15	52	3	4	8	15
AV Total	87	28	48	163	84	22	26	132	6	8	16	30

Audit Procedures

The auditors reviewed the compliance metrics related to UOF as well as all UOF investigation packages and relevant BWC recordings for each force incident. This included audio/video files (i.e., BWC recordings, audio recordings, and images) obtained from LASD.Evidence.com.

Attention was focused on policy compliance, de-escalation techniques, the force used, and management oversight and review of UOF investigations to determine the AV Stations' ability to demonstrate compliance with the metrics and Departmental policies.

The auditors conducted detailed test work using audit tools designed to assess the different audit objectives. The information was analyzed by the auditors and their findings were methodically recorded on work papers and subjected to additional levels of review.

⁴ The PRMS provides a systematic recording of data relevant to incidents involving uses of force, shootings, administrative investigations, and commendations/complaints involving Department personnel.

Summary of Findings

The table below indicates the audit findings based on the AV Stations' compliance and the compliance metrics.

Summary of Reassessment Findings

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	Lancaster %	Palmdale %	AV Total	Compliance Metrics %	
1	DE-ESCALATION ASSESSMENT					
1(a)	Using Advisements, Warnings, and Verbal Persuasion Before Force	100%	100%	100%	90%	
1(b)	De-Escalate as Control is Achieved	100%	100%	100%	90%	
2	USE OF FORCE ASSESSMENT					
2(a)	Force Used on Passive Resistive Subjects	100%	100%	100%	90%	
2(b)	Force Used on Subjects Displaying Resistive Behavior	100%	100%	100%	90%	
2(c)	Proportional Force	100%	100%	100%	90%	
2(d)	Retaliatory Force	100%	100%	100%	90%	
2(e)	Force Used on Persons Recording Police Activities	NIN ⁵	NIN	NIN	90%	
2(f)	Head Strike Procedures	NIN	NIN	NIN	90%	
3	MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT OF USE OF FORCE					
3(a)	Management Oversight of Critical Deficiencies	NCI	100%	100%	100%	90%
		CAT1	100%	100%	100%	90%
		CAT2	100%	100%	100%	93%
3(b)	Management Oversight of Non-Critical Deficiencies	NCI	67%	100%	100%	85%
		CAT1	100%	100%	100%	85%
		CAT2	88%	63%	75%	85%

⁵ NIN stands for "No Incidents Noted."

The following is a summary of the cumulative findings based on the AV Stations' assessment and the compliance metrics. The auditors assessed the AV Stations individually for each objective and combined the results to evaluate the overall population.

Summary of Cumulative Findings

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	2024-5-A	2024-18-A	2024-31-A	2024-53-A	Compliance Metrics %
1	DE-ESCALATION ASSESSMENT					
1(a)	<i>Using Advisements, Warnings, and Verbal Persuasion Before Force</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
1(b)	<i>De-Escalate as Control is Achieved</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
2	USE OF FORCE ASSESSMENT					
2(a)	<i>Force Used on Passive Resistive Subjects</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
2(b)	<i>Force Used on Subjects Displaying Resistive Behavior</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
2(c)	<i>Proportional Force</i>	100%	100%	90%	100%	90%
2(d)	<i>Retaliatory Force</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
2(e)	<i>Force Used on Persons Recording Police Activities</i>	NIN	100%	100%	NIN	90%
2(f)	<i>Head Strike Procedures</i>	NIN	NIN	NIN	NIN	90%
3	MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT OF USE OF FORCE					
3(a)	<i>Management Oversight of Critical Deficiencies</i>	NCI	100%	100%	100%	90%
		CAT1	100%	50%	100%	90%
		CAT2	100%	100%	100%	93%
3(b)	<i>Management Oversight of Non-Critical Deficiencies</i>	NCI	75%	100%	100%	85%
		CAT1	100%	40%	80%	85%
		CAT2	100%	100%	67%	85%

Detailed Findings

This report will provide detailed information on the findings noted during the audit for all sub-objectives.

Objective No. 1 – De-Escalation Assessment

This objective evaluated whether de-escalation techniques were attempted or used, when possible, prior to and during the use of force as specified in the AV Agreement compliance metrics.

Objective No. 1(a) – Using Advisements, Warnings, and Verbal Persuasion Before Force

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 103 (partial), states:

Deputies shall use advisements, warnings, and verbal persuasion, and/or other de-escalation tactics, when possible, before resorting to force...

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, USE OF FORCE, The Use of Force, Compliance Measures 3E (partial), (August 2019), states:

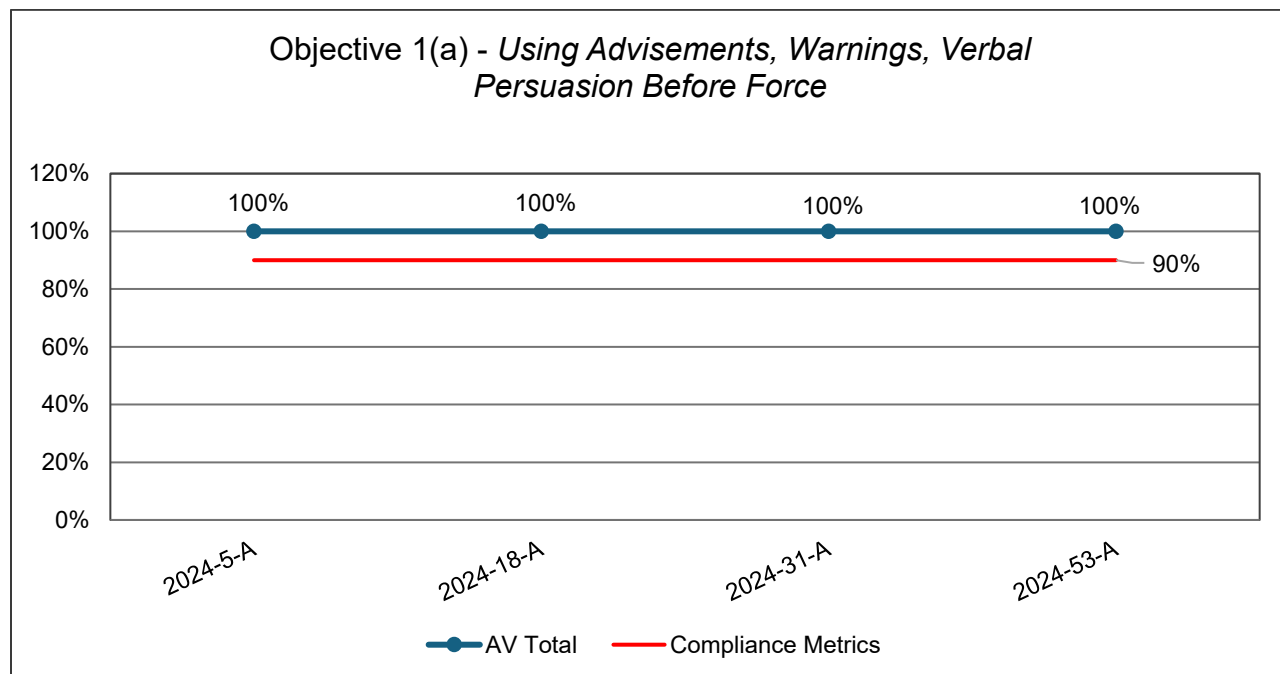
3. *The Department will be deemed in outcome compliance with these provisions when:*
 - E. *For Paragraph 103, deputies use advisements, warnings and verbal persuasion, and/or other de-escalation tactics, when possible, before resorting to force, and de-escalate the use of force immediately as resistance decreases in:*
 2. *At least 90% of the Category 2 use-of-force incidents; and,*
 3. *At least 90% of the Category 1 use-of-force incidents.*

Procedures

The auditors evaluated a total of 30 UOF investigation packages as well as related audio/video files (i.e., BWC recordings, audio recordings, and images) obtained from LASD.Evidence.com, for each force incident to determine whether Department personnel used de-escalation techniques, when possible, prior to resorting to force.

The line graph below demonstrates the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics for Objective 1(a) in all four audits.

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	2024-5-A	2024-18-A	2024-31-A	2024-53-A	Compliance Metrics %
1	DE-ESCALATION ASSESSMENT					
1(a)	<i>Using Advisements, Warnings, Verbal Persuasion Before Force</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%



Findings

For the AV Stations combined, all 30 UOF investigations reviewed met the criteria for this objective. Department personnel adequately attempted to de-escalate the incident using verbal communication (advisements, warnings, and verbal persuasion), use of time-tone - and-distance tactics, or other common-sense methods before resorting to force.

For Lancaster Station, auditors reviewed 15 UOF investigations. Of these, all 15 (100%) investigations met the criteria because Department personnel used de-escalation techniques prior to the UOF.

Similarly, for Palmdale Station, auditors reviewed 15 UOF investigations. Of these, all 15 (100%) investigations met the criteria because Department personnel used de-escalation techniques prior to the UOF.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics.

Objective No. 1(b) – De-Escalate as Control is Achieved

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 103 (partial), states:

Deputies shall... de-escalate force immediately as resistance decreases.

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, USE OF FORCE, The Use of Force, Compliance Measures 3E (partial), (August 2019), states:

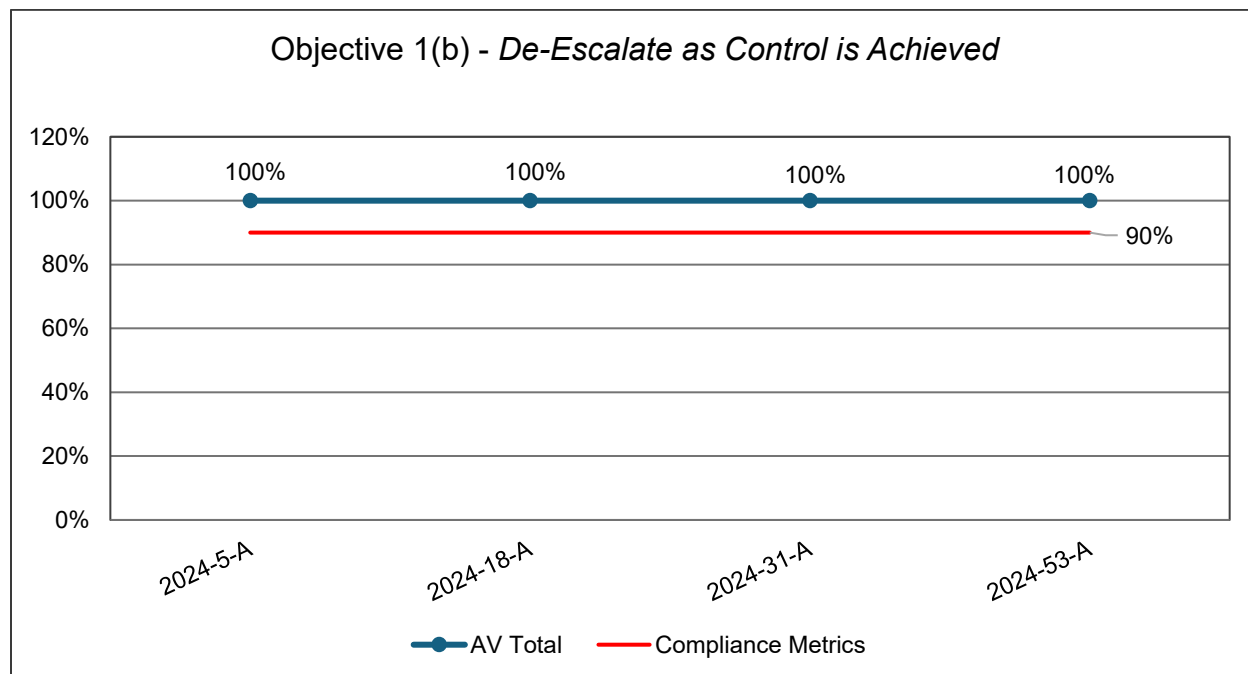
3. *The Department will be deemed in outcome compliance with these provisions when:*
 - E. *For Paragraph 103, deputies use advisements, warnings and verbal persuasion, and/or other de-escalation tactics, when possible, before resorting to force, and de-escalate the use of force immediately as resistance decreases in:*
 2. *At least 90% of the Category 2 use-of-force incidents; and,*
 3. *At least 90% of the Category 1 use-of-force incidents.*

Procedures

The auditors evaluated a total of 30 UOF investigation packages, including BWC recordings, for each use of force incident. Auditors assessed whether the deputies de-escalated the UOF as control of the subject was achieved.

The line graph below demonstrates the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics for Objective No. 1(b) in all four audits.

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	2024-5-A	2024-18-A	2024-31-A	2024-53-A	Compliance Metrics %
1	DE-ESCALATION ASSESSMENT					
1(b)	<i>Using Advisements, Warnings, Verbal Persuasion Before Force</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%



Findings

For the AV Stations combined, all 30 UOF investigations reviewed met the criteria for this objective. Department personnel decreased the level of force used once control was achieved and it was reasonably safe and feasible to do so.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics.

Objective No. 2 – Use of Force Assessment

This objective evaluated whether the force used by deputies was consistent with Department policy as specified in the AV Agreement compliance metrics.

Objective No. 2(a) – Force Used on Passive Resistive Subjects

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 102, states:

LASD agrees to continue to prohibit the use of force above unresisted handcuffing to overcome passive resistance, except where physical removal is permitted as necessary and objectively reasonable.

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, USE OF FORCE, The Use of Force, Compliance Measures, 3B and 3C, (August 2019), states:

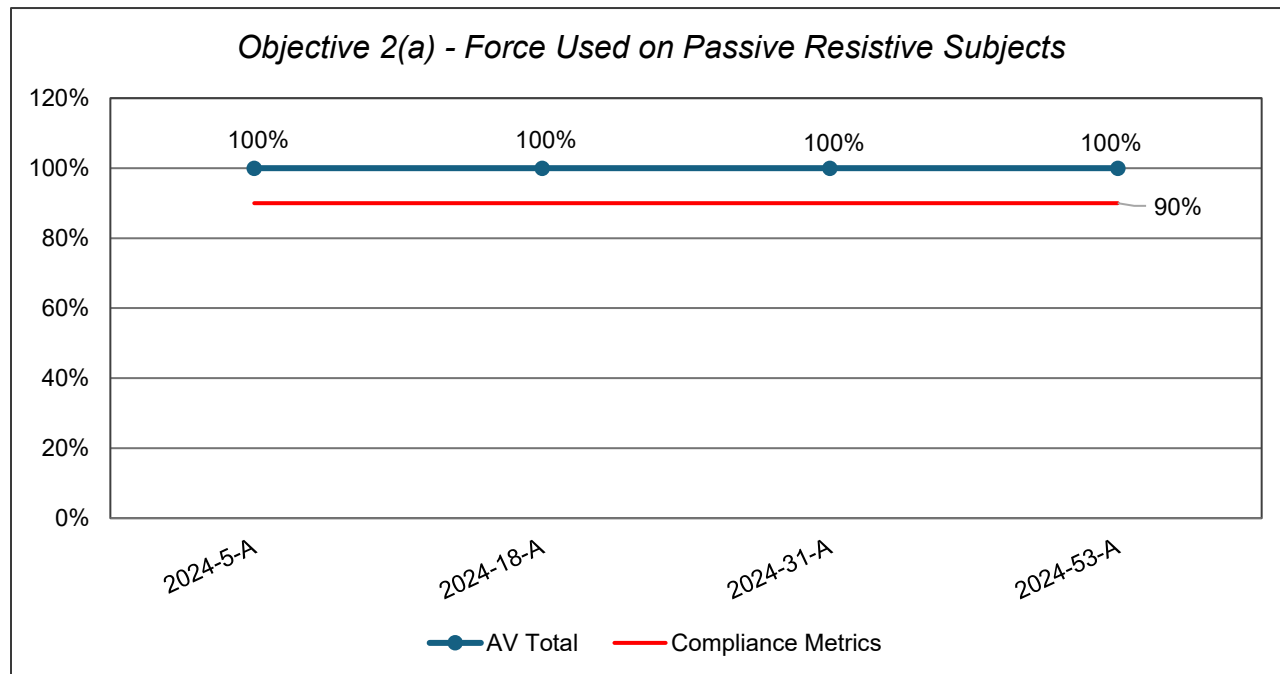
3. *The Department will be deemed in outcome compliance with these provisions when:*
 - B. *At least 90% of the Category 2 use-of-force incidents are assessed as objectively reasonable according to ¶102, 104, 105, 106g and 107; and.*
 - C. *At least 90% of the Category 1 use-of-force incidents are assessed as objectively reasonable according to ¶102, 104, 105, 106g and 107.*

Procedures

The auditors evaluated a total of thirty UOF investigation packages, including BWC recordings, to determine whether force was used on a passive resistive subject.

The line graph below demonstrates the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics for Objective No. 2(a) in all four audits.

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	2024-5-A	2024-18-A	2024-31-A	2024-53-A	Compliance Metrics %
2	USE OF FORCE ASSESSMENT					
2(a)	<i>Force Used on Passive Resistive Subjects</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%



Findings

Of the 30 UOF investigations reviewed for the AV Stations, the auditors identified 11 investigations involving passive resistant subjects. The remaining 19 investigations did not involve passive resistant subjects.

For Lancaster Station, auditors reviewed 15 UOF investigations. Of these, eight investigations did not involve passive resistant subjects. The remaining seven (100%) investigations met the criteria because Department personnel did not use force above unresisted handcuffing to overcome passive resistant subjects.

Similarly, for Palmdale Station, auditors reviewed 15 UOF investigations. Of these, 11 investigations did not involve passive resistant subjects. The remaining four (100%) investigations met the criteria because Department personnel did not use force above unresisted handcuffing to overcome passive resistant subjects.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics.

Objective No. 2(b) – Force Used on Subjects Displaying Resistive Behavior

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement, Paragraph 104.1, states:

LASD agrees to clarify that Antelope Valley deputies may not use force against individuals who may be exhibiting resistive behavior, but who are under control and do not pose a threat to the public safety, themselves, or to other deputies.

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, USE OF FORCE, The Use of Force, Compliance Measures, 3B and 3C, (August 2019), states:

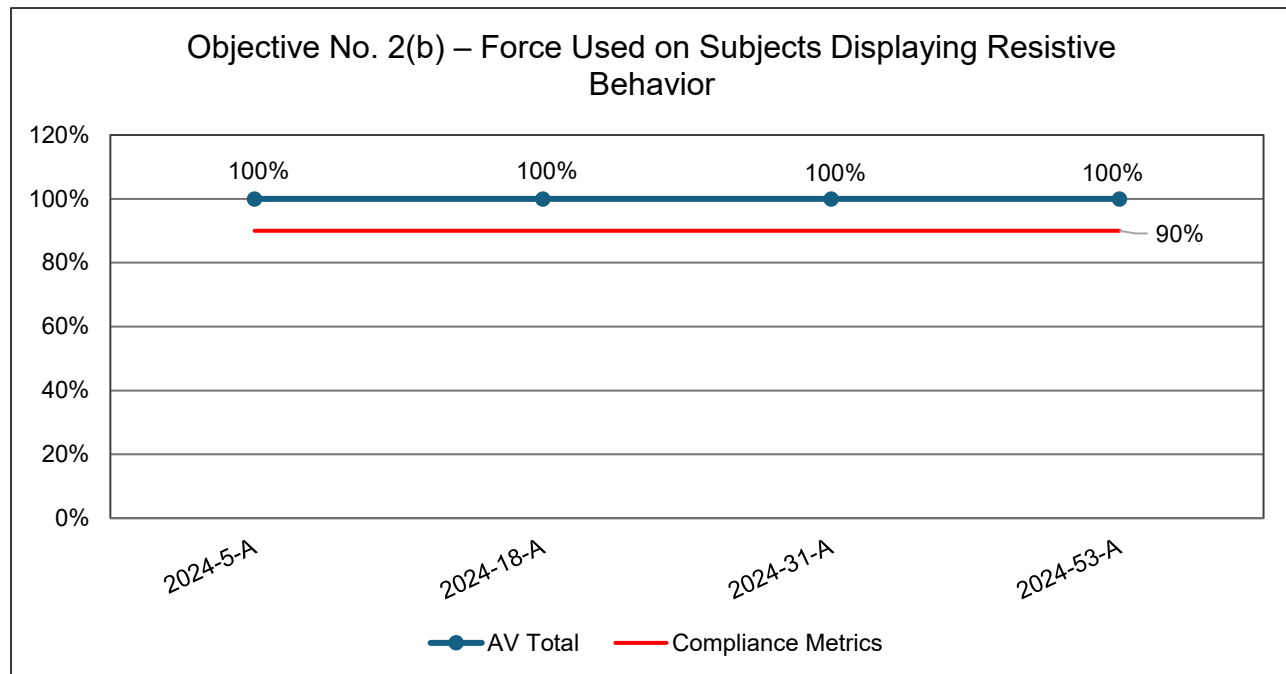
3. *The Department will be deemed in outcome compliance with these provisions when:*
 - B. *At least 90% of the Category 2 use-of-force incidents are assessed as objectively reasonable according to ¶102, 104, 105, 106g and 107;*
 - C. *At least 90% of the Category 1 use-of-force incidents are assessed as objectively reasonable according to ¶102, 104, 105, 106g and 107;*

Procedures

Auditors evaluated a total of 30 UOF investigation packages, including BWC recordings, to determine whether force was used on a subject who was exhibiting resistive behavior but was under control and did not pose a threat to the public safety, themselves, or deputies.

The line graph below demonstrates the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics for Objective No. 2(b) in all four audits.

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	2024-5-A	2024-18-A	2024-31-A	2024-53-A	Compliance Metrics %
2	USE OF FORCE ASSESSMENT					
2(b)	<i>Force Used on Subjects Displaying Resistive Behavior</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%



Findings

For the AV Stations combined, all 30 (100%) UOF investigations reviewed met the criteria for this objective. Department personnel did not use force against individuals exhibiting resistive behavior who were under control and not posing a threat to public safety, themselves, or deputies.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics.

Objective No. 2(c) – Proportional Force

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 104.2, states:

LASD agrees to continue to require that Antelope Valley deputies assess the threat of an individual prior to using force and emphasize that a use of force must be proportional⁶ to the threat or resistance of the subject. If a threat or resistance no longer exists, deputies cannot justify the use of force against a subject.

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, USE OF FORCE, The Use of Force, Compliance Measures, 3B and 3C, (August 2019), states:

3. *The Department will be deemed in outcome compliance with these provisions when:*
 - B. *At least 90% of the Category 2 use-of-force incidents are assessed as objectively reasonable according to ¶102, 104, 105, 106g and 107;*
 - C. *At least 90% of the Category 1 use-of-force incidents are assessed as objectively reasonable according to ¶102, 104, 105, 106g and 107;*

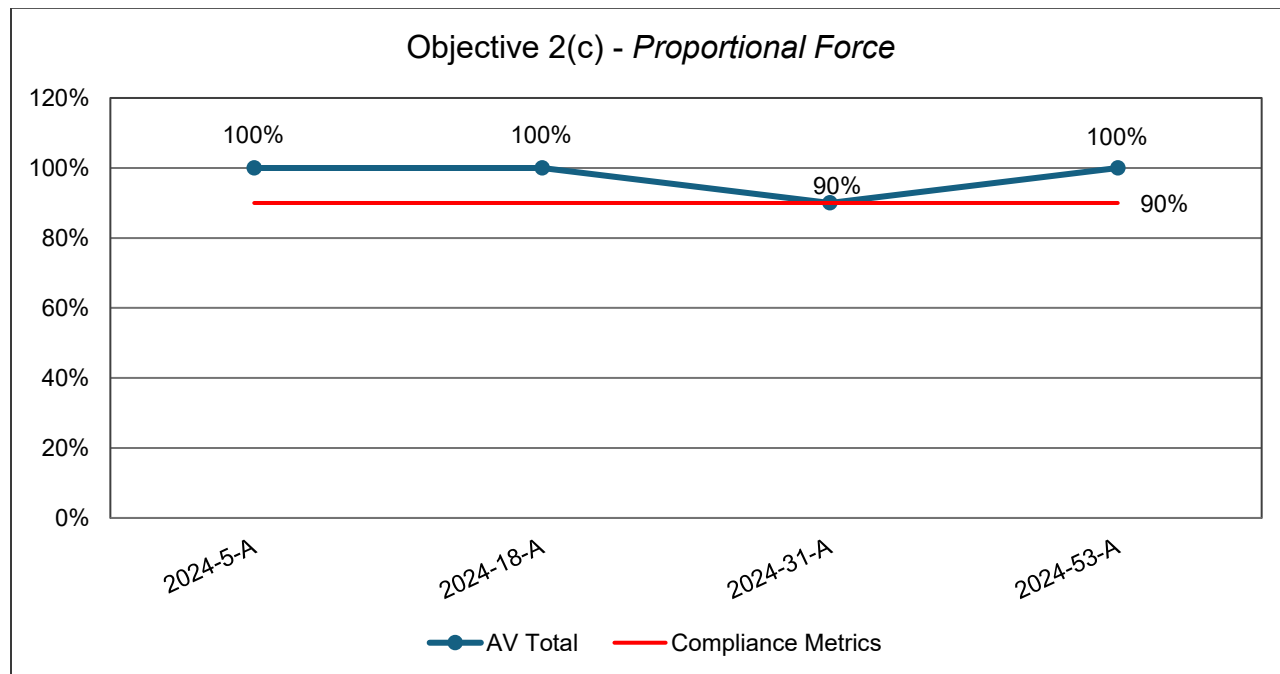
Procedures

Auditors evaluated a total of 30 UOF investigation packages, including BWC recordings, for each force incident to determine whether Department personnel used force proportional to the threat or resistance posed by the subject, as defined by the parties, and discontinued force when the threat or resistance no longer existed.

⁶ The parties (The “Parties” is comprised of LASD, AV Agreement Monitoring Team, and USDOJ.) have agreed that proportional force does not require that deputies use the same type or amount of force as the subject. The more immediate the threat and more likely it may result in death or serious physical injury, the greater the level of force that may be objectively reasonable and necessary to counter it.

The line graph below demonstrates the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics for Objective No. 2(c) in all four audits.

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	2024-5-A	2024-18-A	2024-31-A	2024-53-A	Compliance Metrics %
2	USE OF FORCE ASSESSMENT					
2(c)	<i>Proportional Force</i>	100%	100%	90%	100%	90%



Findings

For the AV Stations combined, all 30 (100%) UOF investigations reviewed met the criteria for this objective. Department personnel used only the amount of force, which was proportional, and reasonably necessary to perform their duties.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics.

Objective No. 2(d) – Retaliatory Force

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 105, states:

LASD agrees to explicitly prohibit the use of retaliatory force, particularly against subjects who express criticism of, or disrespect for, LASD Antelope Valley deputies.

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, USE OF FORCE, The Use of Force, Compliance Measures, 3B and 3C, (August 2019), states:

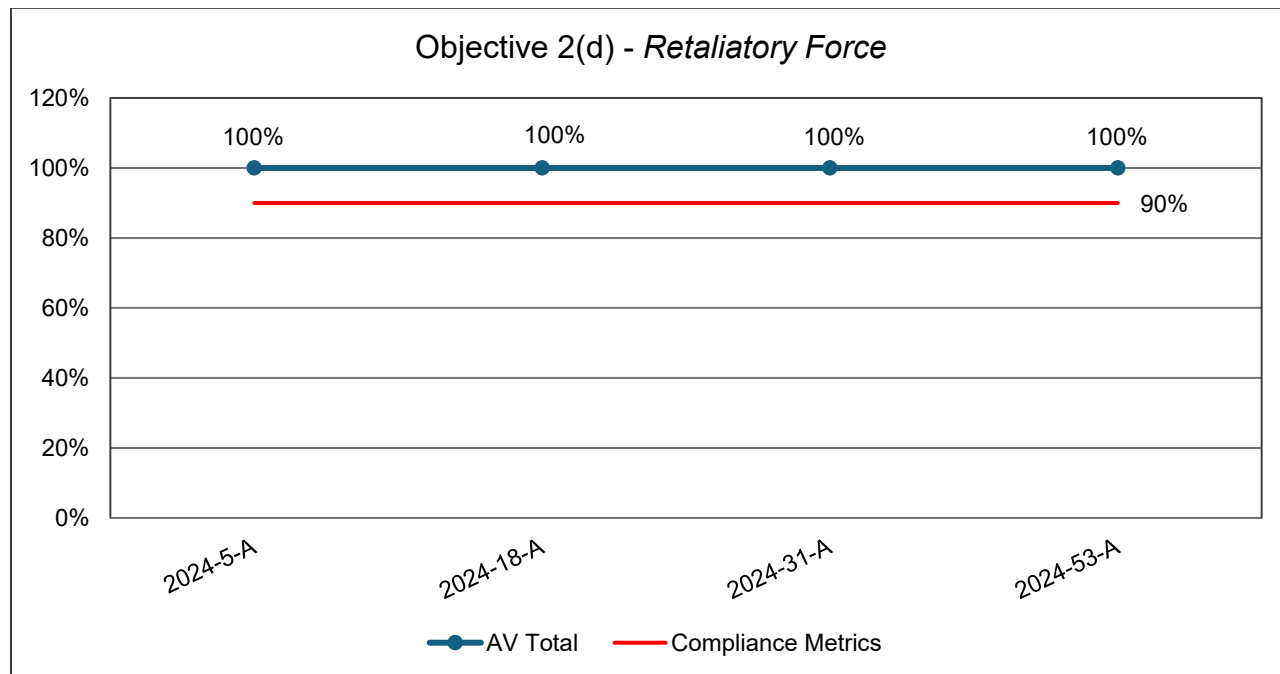
3. *The Department will be deemed in outcome compliance with these provisions when:*
 - B. *At least 90% of the Category 2 use-of-force incidents are assessed as objectively reasonable according to ¶102, 104, 105, 106g and 107;*
 - C. *At least 90% of the Category 1 use-of-force incidents are assessed as objectively reasonable according to ¶102, 104, 105, 106g and 107;*

Procedures

Auditors evaluated a total of 30 UOF investigation packages, including BWC recordings, for each force incident to determine whether Department personnel used retaliatory force against the subject. Auditors determined whether any retaliatory force was used or if force was used against a subject because of expressed criticism or disrespect toward Department personnel.

The line graph below demonstrates the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics for Objective No. 2(d) in all four audits.

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	2024-5-A	2024-18-A	2024-31-A	2024-53-A	Compliance Metrics %
2	USE OF FORCE ASSESSMENT					
2(d)	<i>Retaliatory Force</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%



Findings

For the AV Stations combined, the auditors reviewed 30 UOF investigations. The auditors identified five investigations involving individuals who expressed criticism or disrespect toward Department personnel, while the remaining 25 investigations did not. However, in all cases (100%) reviewed there were none in which a deputy used retaliatory force.

Similarly, for Palmdale Station, auditors reviewed 15 UOF investigations. Of these, 13 investigations did not involve criticism or disrespect toward Department personnel. The remaining two (100%) met the criteria because Department personnel did not use force, in a retaliatory nature, against a subject who expressed criticism or disrespect toward Department personnel.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics.

Objective No. 2(e) – Force Used on Persons Recording Police Activities

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 106g, states:

LASD agrees to explicitly prohibit interfering, threatening, intimidating, blocking or otherwise discouraging a member of the public, who is not violating any other law, from taking photographs or recording video (including photographs or video of police activities) in any place the member of the public is lawfully present. Such prohibited interference includes... g. Using force upon that person; ...

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, USE OF FORCE, The Use of Force, Compliance Measures, 3B and 3C, (August 2019), states:

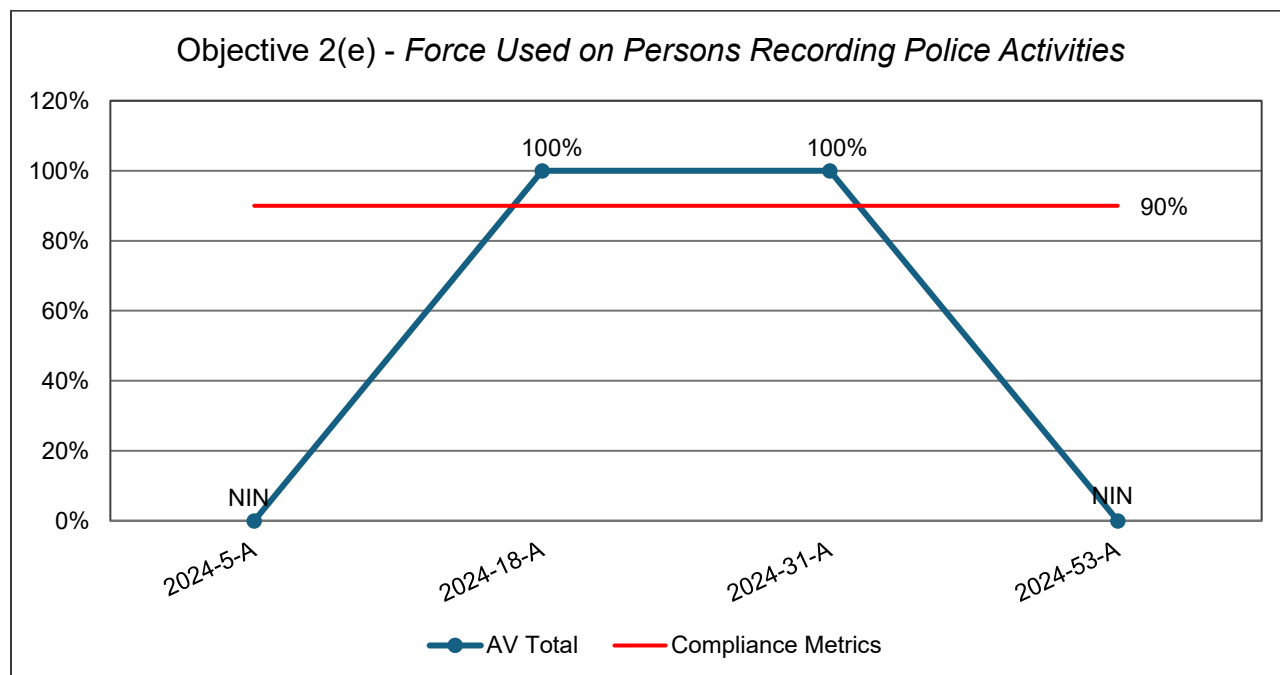
3. *The Department will be deemed in outcome compliance with these provisions when:*
 - B. *At least **90%** of the Category 2 use-of-force incidents are assessed as objectively reasonable according to ¶102, 104, 105, 106g and 107;*
 - C. *At least **90%** of the Category 1 use-of-force incidents are assessed as objectively reasonable according to ¶102, 104, 105, 106g and 107;*

Procedures

Auditors evaluated a total of 30 UOF investigation packages, including BWC recordings, for each force incident to determine whether Department personnel used force against a member of the public who was not violating any law, solely to prevent them from taking photographs or recording video in any place the member of the public was lawfully present.

The line graph below demonstrates the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics for Objective No. 2(e) in two audits where individuals recorded police activities. In the remaining two audits, there were no incidents noted pertaining to the criteria for this objective.

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	2024-5-A	2024-18-A	2024-31-A	2024-53-A	Compliance Metrics %
2	USE OF FORCE ASSESSMENT					
2(e)	<i>Force Used on Persons Recording Police Activities</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%



Findings

For the AV Stations combined, all 30 UOF investigations reviewed did not involve incidents when a member of the public was taking photographs or recording videos of police activities. Therefore, the compliance rate is “NIN”, as no incidents pertained to the criteria.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations because the compliance rate is “NIN”, as no incidents pertained to the criteria.

Objective No. 2(f) – Head Strike Procedures

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 107, states:

LASD will continue to require, and emphasize in its training, that a hard strike to the head with any impact weapon, including a baton, is prohibited unless deadly force is justified. Unintentional or mistaken blows to these areas must be reported to ensure that all reasonable care was taken to avoid them.

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, USE OF FORCE, The Use of Force, Compliance Measures, 3B and 3C, (August 2019), states:

3. *The Department will be deemed in outcome compliance with these provisions when:*
 - B. *At least 90% of the Category 2 use-of-force incidents are assessed as objectively reasonable according to ¶102, 104, 105, 106g and 107;*
 - C. *At least 90% of the Category 1 use-of-force incidents are assessed as objectively reasonable according to ¶102, 104, 105, 106g and 107;*

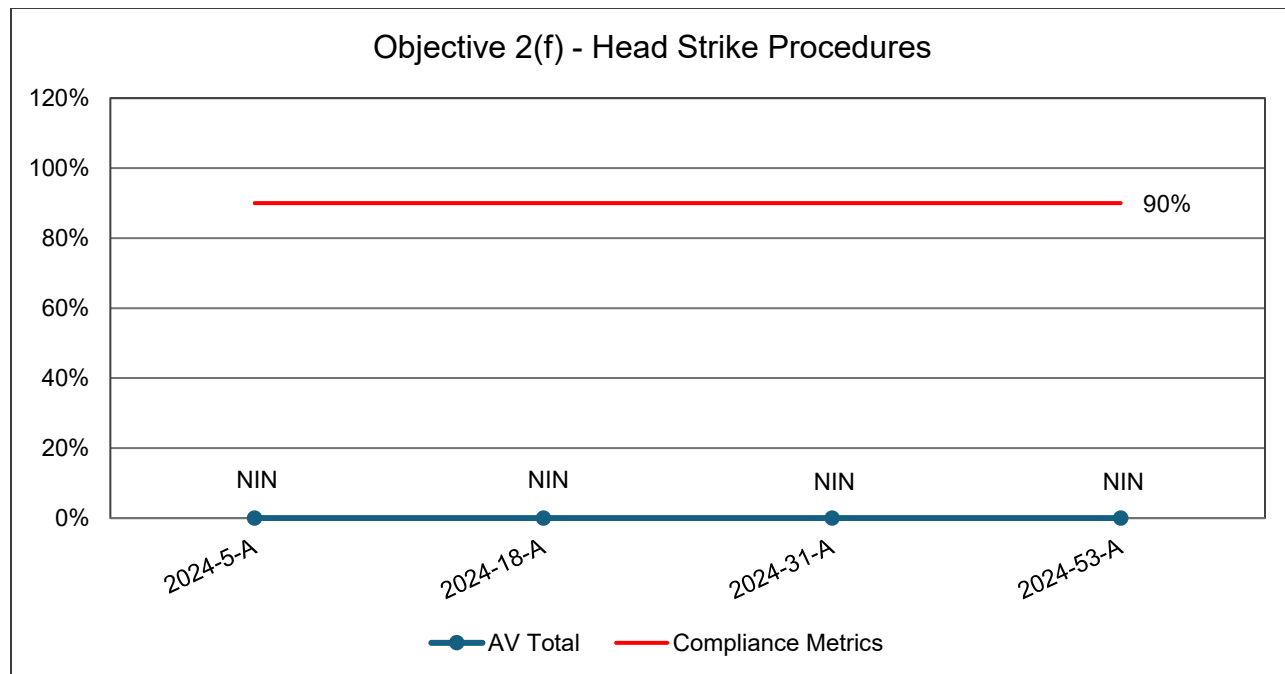
Procedures

Auditors evaluated a total of 30 UOF investigation packages, including BWC recordings, for each incident, to identify any misclassified investigations that contained a hard strike to the head with any impact weapon.⁷ If any misclassified investigations were identified, auditors documented them as a finding, recommended corrective action, and referred them to IAB for appropriate investigation.

⁷ A hard strike to the head with an impact weapons would be classified as a Category 3 use of force.

The line graph below demonstrates there were no incidents noted pertaining to the criteria for Objective No. 2(f).

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	2024-5-A	2024-18-A	2024-31-A	2024-53-A	Compliance Metrics %
2	USE OF FORCE ASSESSMENT					
2(f)	<i>Head Strike Procedures</i>	NIN	NIN	NIN	NIN	90%



Findings

For the AV Stations combined, all 30 UOF investigations reviewed were not misclassified investigations that contained a hard strike to the head with any impact weapon. Therefore, the compliance rate is “NIN”, as no incidents pertained to the criteria.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations because the compliance rate is “NIN”, as no incidents pertained to the criteria.

Objective No. 3 – Management Oversight of Use of Force

This objective evaluated if management oversight and review of UOF investigations addressed the requirements of the AV Agreement compliance metrics and Department policy.

Objective No. 3(a) – Management Oversight of Critical Deficiencies

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, USE OF FORCE, Management Oversight, Paragraphs 113-118 (August 2019), Compliance Measures, 1A (partial) states:

1. *The Monitor will use the following criteria to evaluate use-of-force adjudications for completeness and compliance with the SA requirements:*
 - A. **Critical Deficiency**...*failure to hold supervisors accountable for not detecting, adequately investigating, or responding to force that is unreasonable or against LASD policy; ...*

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, USE OF FORCE, Management Oversight, Paragraphs 113-118 (August 2019), Compliance Measures, 4A and 4C states:

4. *LASD will be deemed in substantial outcomes compliance when:*
 - A. *At least **90%** of the Category 1 adjudications do not contain a Critical Deficiency.*
 - C. *At least **93%** of the Category 2 adjudications do not contain a Critical Deficiency.*

Procedures

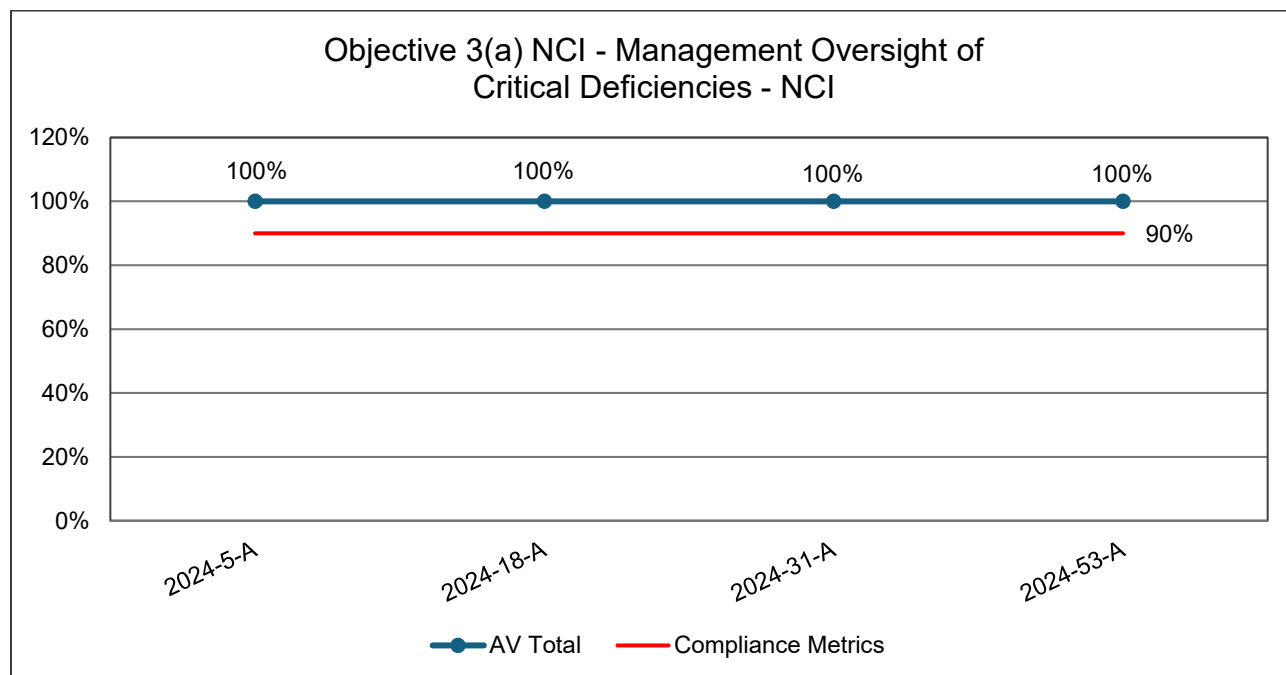
The auditors evaluated a total of 30 UOF investigation packages, including BWC recordings, for each force incident to determine whether management reviewing the investigation held supervisors accountable for adequately investigating the feasibility, use of de-escalation techniques, and unreasonable UOF. Auditors determined if critical deficiencies were found in the UOF investigations conducted by Department supervisors.

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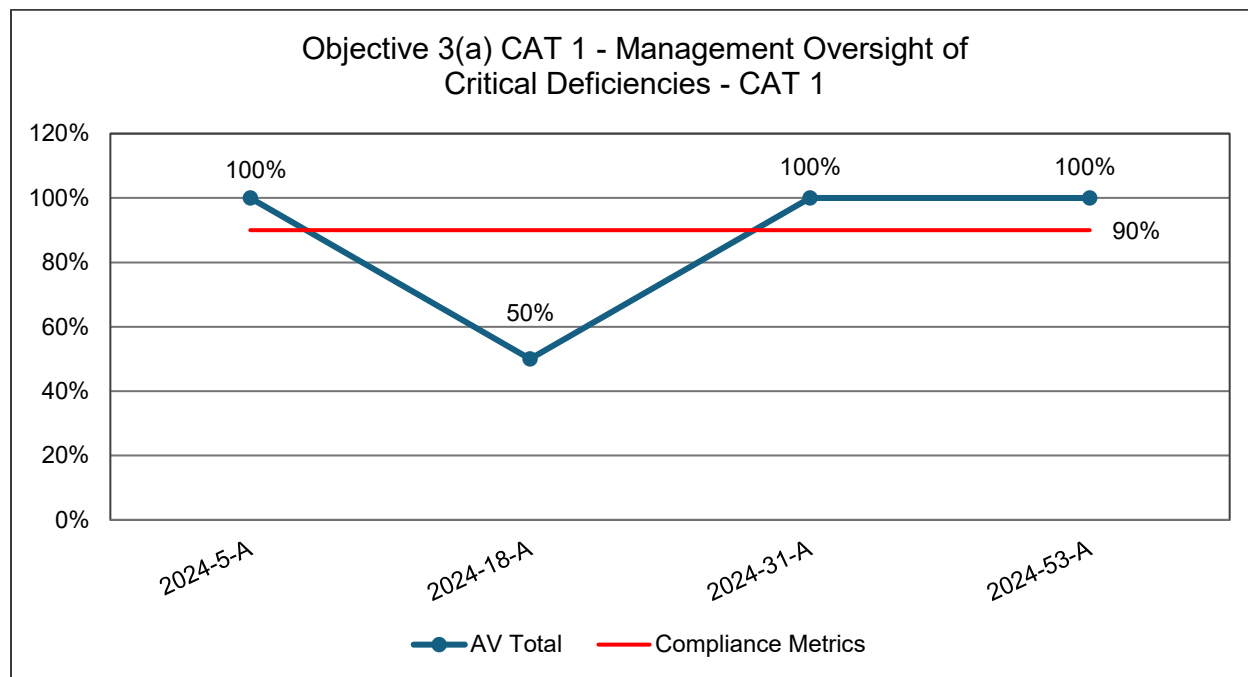
UOF Category	Lancaster		Palmdale		Total Reviewed	Cumulative %	Compliance Metrics %
	Criteria (Met)	Criteria (Not Met)	Criteria (Met)	Criteria (Not Met)			
NCI	3	0	3	0	6	100%	85%
CAT 1	4	0	4	0	8	100%	85%
CAT 2	8	0	8	0	16	75%	85%
Total	15	0	15	0	30	100%	

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives		2024-5-A	2024-18-A	2024-31-A	2024-53-A	Compliance Metrics %
3	MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT OF USE OF FORCE						
3(a)	<i>Management Oversight of Critical Deficiencies</i>	NCI	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
		CAT1	100%	50%	100%	100%	90%
		CAT2	100%	100%	100%	100%	93%

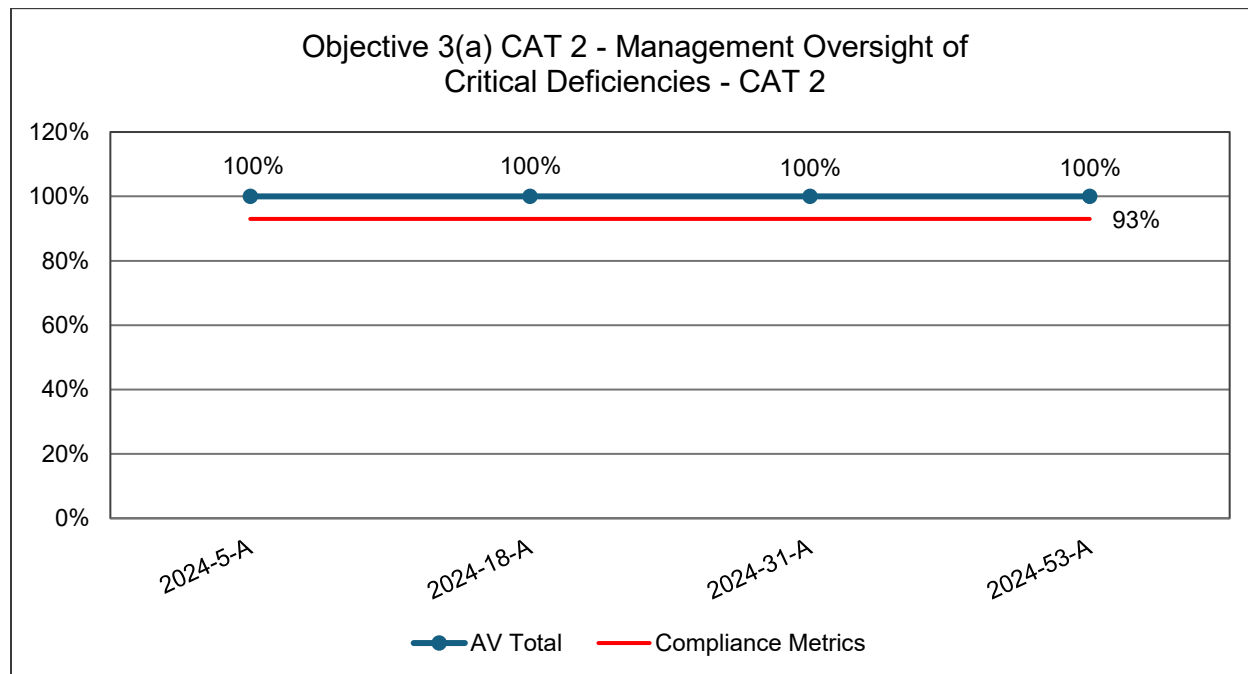
The line graph below demonstrates the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics for Objective No. 3(a) NCI – Management Oversight of Critical Deficiencies in all four audits.



The line graph below demonstrates the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics for Objective No. 3(a) CAT 1 – Management Oversight of Critical Deficiencies in three audits. In the remaining audit (2024-18-A), management did not hold supervisors accountable for detecting and adequately investigating the UOF in two of the four investigations reviewed during this audit period.



The line graph below demonstrates the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics for Objective No. 3(a) CAT 2 – Management Oversight of Critical Deficiencies in all four audits.



Findings

For the AV Stations combined, all 30 UOF investigations reviewed met the criteria for this objective. Department management ensured there were no deficiencies within the investigation. Specifically, regarding the de-escalation efforts used when appropriate and possible and the reasonableness of the force.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics.

Objective No. 3(b) – Management Oversight of Non-Critical Deficiencies

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, USE OF FORCE, Management Oversight, Paragraphs 113-118 (August 2019), Compliance Measures, Section 1B (partial) states:

1. *The Monitor will use the following criteria to evaluate use-of-force adjudications for completeness and compliance with the SA requirements:*

B. Non-Critical Deficiency...*failure to ensure that all pertinent aspects of the incident were recorded accurately on the use-of-force form...*

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, USE OF FORCE, Management Oversight, Paragraphs 113-118 (August 2019), Compliance Measures, 4B and 4D states:

4. *LASD will be deemed in substantial outcomes compliance when:*

B. At least 85% of the Category 1 adjudications do not contain a Non-Critical Deficiency.

D. At least 85% of the Category 2 adjudications do not contain a Non-Critical Deficiency.

Procedures

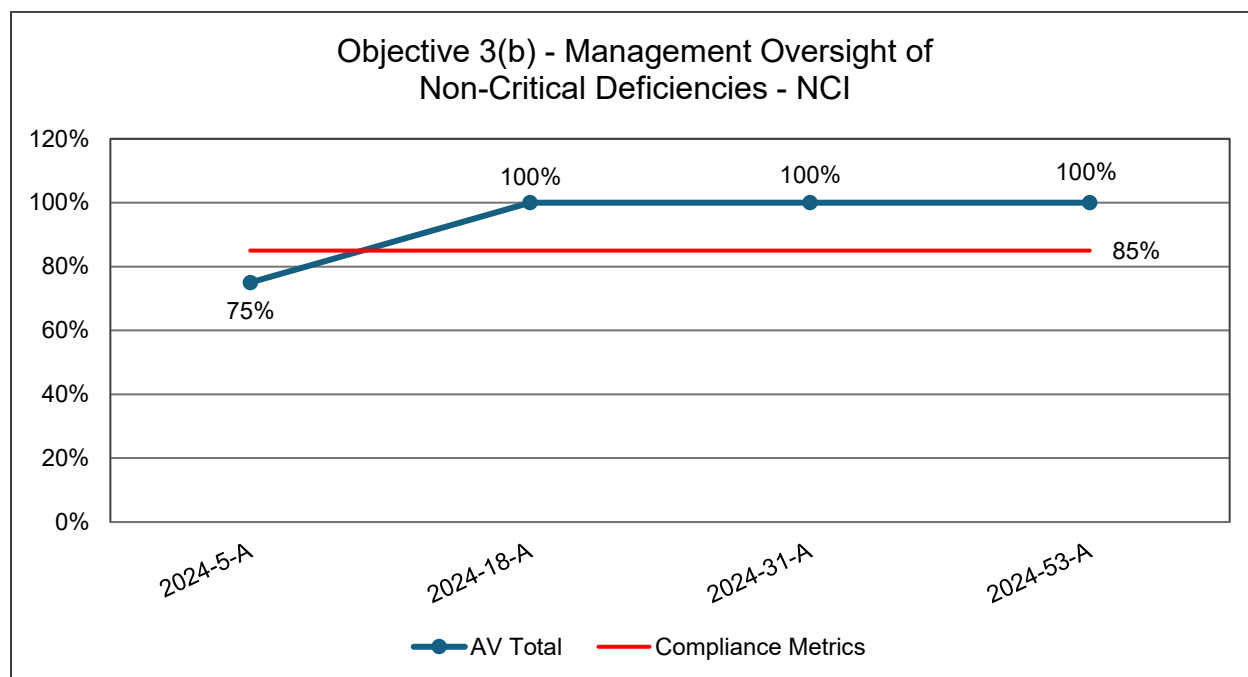
Auditors evaluated a total of 30 UOF investigation packages, including BWC recordings, for each force incident to determine whether management reviewing the investigation held supervisors accountable for adequately documenting pertinent information regarding the incident on the Supervisor's Report on Use of Force.

UOF Category	Lancaster		Palmdale		Total Reviewed	Cumulative %	Compliance Metrics %
	Criteria (Met)	Criteria (Not Met)	Criteria (Met)	Criteria (Not Met)			
NCI	3	0	3	0	6	100%	85%
CAT 1	4	0	4	0	8	100%	85%
CAT 2	7	1	5	3	16	75%	85%
Total	14	1	12	3	30	86%	

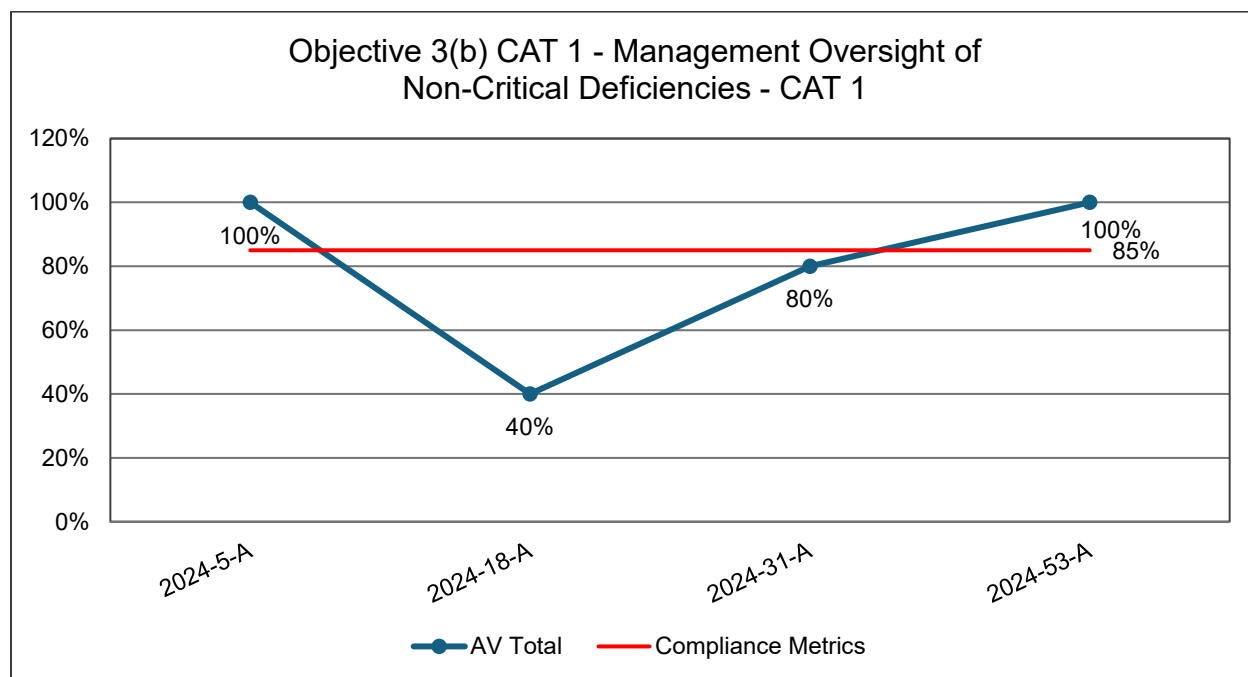
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Obj. No.	Audit Objectives		2024-5-A	2024-18-A	2024-31-A	2024-53-A	Compliance Metrics %
3	MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT OF USE OF FORCE						
3(b)	<i>Management Oversight of Non-Critical Deficiencies</i>	NCI	75%	100%	100%	100%	85%
		CAT1	100%	40%	80%	100%	85%
		CAT2	100%	100%	67%	75%	85%

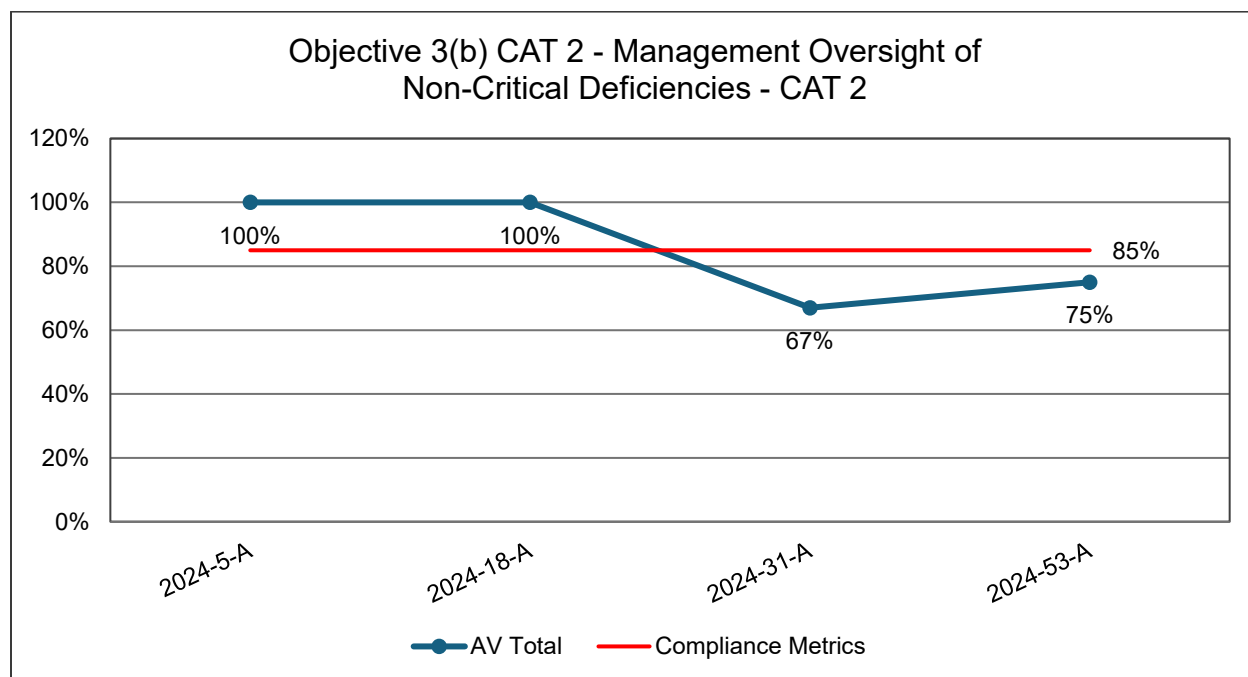
The line graph below demonstrates the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics for Objective No. 3(b) NCI – Management Oversight of Non-Critical Deficiencies in three audits. In the remaining audit (2024-5-A), management did not ensure pertinent information was contained in the Supervisor’s Report on Use of Force in three of the four investigations reviewed during the audit period.



The line graph below demonstrates the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics for Objective No. 3(b) CAT 1 – Management Oversight of Critical Deficiencies in two audits. In the remaining two audits, management did not ensure pertinent information was contained in the Supervisor’s Report on Use of Force in three of the five (2024-18-A) and one of the five (2024-31-A) investigations reviewed during the audit periods.



The line graph below demonstrates the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics for Objective No. 3(b) CAT 2 – Management Oversight of Critical Deficiencies in two audits. In the remaining two audits, management did not ensure pertinent information was contained in the Supervisor’s Report on Use of Force in one of the three (2024-31-A) and one of the five (2024-53-A) investigations reviewed during the audit periods.



Findings

Non-Categorized Force Incident

For the AV Stations combined, all six (100%) investigations met the criteria for this objective because Department management ensured pertinent information was contained in the Supervisor’s Report on Use of Force.

Category 1 Force

For the AV Stations combined, all eight (100%) investigations met the criteria for this objective because Department management ensured pertinent information was contained in the Supervisor’s Report on Use of Force.

Category 2 Force

For the AV Stations combined, 12 (75%) investigations met the criteria for this objective because Department management ensured pertinent information was contained in the Supervisor's Report on Use of Force. The remaining four (25%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because Department management did not hold supervisors accountable for ensuring all pertinent aspects of the incidents were recorded accurately.

For Lancaster Station, seven (88%) of the eight investigations reviewed met the criteria for this objective because Department management ensured pertinent information was contained in the Supervisor's Report on Use of Force. The remaining one (12%) investigation did not meet the criteria for this objective because Department management failed to ensure pertinent information was contained in the Supervisor's Report on Use of Force.

Similarly, for Palmdale Station, five (63%) of the eight investigations reviewed met the criteria for this objective because Department management ensured pertinent information was contained in the Supervisor's Report on Use of Force. The remaining three (37%) investigations did not meet the criteria for this objective because Department management failed to ensure pertinent information was contained in the Supervisor's Report on Use of Force.

Specifically:

L-4⁸: The auditors identified discrepancies in the Supervisor's Report on UOF. The Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Notified box was checked both "Yes" and "No". An IAB notification was not required. The supervisor also indicated there was "No" reassessment during the application of force to determine if the type and amount of force was having the desired effect on the subject's actions. Furthermore, an explanation was not provided as to why the reassessment was not completed. Auditors reviewed the BWC and determined the deputy did reassess during the application of force.

L-8: The auditors determined management did not hold supervisors accountable for adequately documenting pertinent information regarding the incident on the Supervisor's Report on Use of Force form. During the Watch Commander interview, the subject stated he had pain in his left ankle (foot), which he had previously injured before the encounter with the deputies, but he was unsure what caused the current pain. The medical evaluation conducted after the interview indicated the subject had a metatarsal fracture, a small broken bone, in his foot. The subject's injury should have been investigated further, and the UOF should have been re-categorized from a CAT 1 to a CAT 2.

⁸ L refers to Lancaster Station. The number represents the sample being referred to of the 15 UOF investigations reviewed for Lancaster Station.

P-5⁹: The auditors identified inaccuracies in the Supervisor's Report on UOF. The supervisor indicated the subject did not complain of pain; yet specified the subject complained of pain to his ribs and his knees. Additionally, the supervisor indicated the subject was not injured as a result of the use of force; however, the supervisor also specified the subject sustained abrasions on his knees from the use of force.

P-11: The auditors determined the deputy who wrote the DUI Complaint Report (SH-R-221) documented witnessing the use of force; however, he was not listed as an employee witness on the Supervisor's Report of UOF.

P-12: The auditors identified a missing witness not identified in the Supervisor's Report on UOF. Approximately four witnesses, who are shown on BWC, are not listed as non-employee witnesses. Auditors did not locate a statement in the investigation report indicating why the additional witnesses were not identified or interviewed.

Additionally, during the unrecorded sergeant interview, the subject stated he was injured on the left side of his head by family members prior to the deputies' arrival. This is inconsistent with the subject's response during the watch commander's interview, when he stated his injury "contusion" to the left side of his head occurred when he fell to the ground following the deployment of a Taser by the Department members. The auditors reviewed the BWC of the use of force incident and determined the subject struck the "right" side of his face upon contact with the ground .

Recommendations

It is recommended management implement a "management monitoring process" to address and identify discrepancies or issues discovered during the review process and document the corrective action taken.

Additionally, it is recommended that all supervisors completing the UOF investigations review all associated BWC footage on Evidence.com and note their review in the "Notes" section prior to completing the investigation report. This will allow management to hold supervisors accountable for adequately documenting pertinent information regarding the incident on the Supervisor's Report on UOF, providing a thorough review, determination, and adjudication of the investigation to ensure accuracy.

⁹ P refers to Palmdale Station. The number represents the sample being referred to of the 15 UOF investigations reviewed for Palmdale Station.

CONCLUSION

The evidence collected during this audit suggests the AV Station personnel and the Department are aware of the provisions of the SA and are largely performing to those standards. The auditors evaluated several UOF investigations, when deputies utilized de-escalation techniques, when possible, prior to and during the use of force. The deputies also used only the level of force proportional to the situation and within Department policy to gain control of a combative or resistive subject, when needed. Once control was achieved, the level of force was reduced.

However, AV Stations' management must be mindful of holding their supervisors accountable for complete reviews of UOF investigations and ensuring all required details and pertinent information regarding incidents are thoroughly documented and recorded for proper analysis and adjudication. This will ensure all elements of the incident are identified, appropriate corrective actions are taken and will enhance the ability to prevent future occurrences.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this section is to provide a summary of the recommendations aimed at improving compliance with the Agreement. The recommendation listed below is the same as indicated above.

Objective No. 3 – Management Oversight of Use of Force

- a) **Management Oversight of Non-Critical Deficiencies:** It is recommended management implement a “management monitoring process” to address and identify discrepancies or issues discovered during the review process and document the corrective action taken.

Additionally, it is recommended that all supervisors completing the UOF investigations review all associated BWC footage on Evidence.com and note their review in the “Notes” section prior to completing the investigation report. This will allow management to hold supervisors accountable for adequately documenting pertinent information regarding the incident on the Supervisor’s Report on UOF, providing a thorough review, determination, and adjudication of the investigation to ensure accuracy.

DEPARTMENT APPLICATIONS

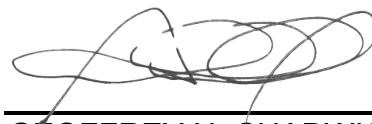
- Performance Recording and Monitoring System (PRMS)
- Station/Bureau Administration Portal (SBAP)
- LASD.Evidence.com
- Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)

REFERENCES

- United States Department of Justice – Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Case Number CV 15-03174 (April 2015)
- Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics (October 2019)
- Antelope Valley Monitoring Team 4th Use-of-Force Audit (November 15, 2023)
- Manual of Policy and Procedures Sections:
 - Chapter 10 – Force Policy

Views of Responsible Officials

The AAB provided the audit findings to the AV Stations on April 3, 2025. Subsequently, both stations have yet to submit a response to the AAB's audit findings. The AAB presented the final audit report to the Division Director of the Office of Constitutional Policing.



08/19/2025

GEOFFREY N. CHADWICK DATE
Captain
Audit and Accountability Bureau
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Addendum A
Part I of Use of Force Audit
Department Policy Assessment
Antelope Valley Stations
Project No. 2024-53-A

PART I OF USE OF FORCE AUDIT:
DEPARTMENT POLICY ASSESSMENT
ANTELOPE VALLEY STATIONS
PROJECT NO. 2024-53-A

Table A
Summary of Uses of Force

Control No.	Category	Summary
L-1	NCI	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding criminal threats involving an intoxicated subject who was allegedly attempting to break into a bedroom where the informant and their family had taken refuge.</p> <p>Upon arrival, the subject's mother stated her son had been drinking but denied any threats, explaining he had challenged a tenant to a fight. The deputies determined no crime had occurred. While standing in the driveway, deputies attempted to speak with the subject, who was behind a side gate in the backyard. Despite repeated requests for the subject to come to the front and speak with the deputies, the subject refused to cooperate. Instead he remained behind the gate and made alarming statements, including that deputies were going to kill him and today would be the day he dies. After a few minutes of unsuccessful communication, and with no crime established, deputies began to leave. As they were starting to leave, the subject suddenly ran toward them, stating he had a gun, and raised his hands above his head as if holding an object. The deputies issued verbal commands, but the subject continued approaching. He then became physically aggressive, swung at a deputy, lost his balance, and fell to the ground. Once on the ground the deputies used control holds to restrain him and handcuffed him without further incident.</p> <p>The subject complained of an injury to his wrist from the handcuffs but stated none of his scratches or abrasions were related to the use of force by the deputies.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Table A
Summary of Uses of Force

Control No.	Category	Summary
L-2	CAT 1	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding an attempted robbery. The informant stated the subject had threatened them with a firearm and fled the scene on foot. While patrolling the area, deputies observed an individual matching the subject's description.</p> <p>Deputies coordinated with responding units to confirm the subject's location. Deputies issued verbal commands instructing the subject to stop and raise his hands, but he failed to comply and began walking away. Additional units arrived and gave several more commands for the subject to stop. The subject fled on foot, and deputies pursued him in a brief foot pursuit. Deputies caught the subject, performed a takedown, and used control holds to restrain him. The subject was handcuffed without further incident.</p> <p>The subject did not sustain any injuries and did not complain of pain.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

Table A
Summary of Uses of Force

Control No.	Category	Summary
L-3	CAT 2	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding a domestic violence incident in which the victim's boyfriend was reportedly hitting her.</p> <p>Deputies encountered the victim yelling at the subject not to run away and separated both parties. The victim stated the subject had thrown a cup at her neck. The subject said he was upset over infidelity but denied the altercation was physical. The subject appeared agitated, avoided eye contact, and repeatedly looked around as if seeking an escape route.</p> <p>The deputies determined a crime had occurred and attempted to handcuff the subject by grabbing his right forearm. The subject immediately pulled away and stated, "No, don't touch me. I didn't do anything. Don't touch me!" Deputies ordered him to comply, or he would be tased. Deputies again attempted to handcuff the subject, but he actively resisted. Deputies attempted verbal persuasion to de-escalate the situation.</p> <p>When presented with the Taser, the subject briefly placed both arms behind his back. However, without warning, he twisted his body, broke free from the deputies' grasp, and lunged toward the sergeant. The sergeant deployed his Taser, striking the subject and causing him to fall to the ground. Deputies tried to handcuff the subject, but he attempted to stand up. Deputies used control holds to prevent him from standing. He continued to resist as the sergeant activated the Taser while a deputy performed a takedown. The subject still refused to comply. The sergeant cycled the Taser a third time, after which the subject finally complied and was handcuffed without further incident.</p> <p>The subject sustained puncture wounds to his chest, consistent with being struck by Taser darts, but he did not report any other injuries. He was treated for Taser-related injuries and exposure to electric current. He received medical clearance for incarceration.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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L-4	CAT 2	<p>While on patrol, a deputy stopped a vehicle with expired registration which was occupied by six individuals. The driver (subject) did not have a driver's license and became confrontational. The subject was asked to step out of the vehicle to confirm her identity and was placed in handcuffs. The subject was uncooperative, and she refused to place her hands behind her back.</p> <p>During a pat-down, the deputy discovered a firearm in her shorts. While the deputy attempted to secure the firearm, the subject began to overpower him. The deputy managed to remove the firearm and passed it to the assisting deputy. The subject continued to resist, pulling away and attempting to break free. The deputy applied control holds to restrain her, but she continued to resist and nearly dragged the deputy with her. The deputy gave verbal commands before performing a takedown, bringing the subject to the ground in a seated position. After regaining control, the subject was placed in the patrol vehicle but refused to put her legs inside and began kicking. The deputy applied forward pressure to place her in the vehicle without further incident.</p> <p>The subject sustained a superficial abrasion to her right knee. She also complained of pain in her left wrist, however, no visible injuries were observed. She was transported for medical evaluation and cleared for incarceration.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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L-5	CAT 2	<p>Deputies responded to a shots-fired call for service identified by the ShotSpotter system¹. Upon arrival, an informant reported hearing a gunshot from a vacant home. After locating the subject inside, he fled on foot while holding his waistband.</p> <p>Deputies saw the subject on a nearby rooftop, but he jumped into a yard and continued to run. The subject entered a cluttered shed as deputies pursued him. Inside, the subject resisted, grabbing the door frame. A deputy pressed his Taser against the subject's back while simultaneously using his body weight to pin the subject against the wall. Due to the clutter inside the shed, deputies were challenged in controlling the subject. Despite multiple commands to stop and comply, the subject refused. Deputies restrained the subject's hands behind his back. They warned him not to move his hands toward his waistband, or he would be tased. As additional deputies arrived, the Taser was removed from the subject's back. A takedown was performed from the rear, and deputies handcuffed the subject without further incident.</p> <p>The subject sustained an abrasion to his left elbow. He was transported for medical evaluation and cleared for incarceration.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy. While concerns were noted regarding the use of profanity, radio communication, and tactical concerns, these issues were appropriately addressed by supervisory personnel.</p>

¹ ShotSpotter is an acoustic gunshot detection system that uses sensors to detect, locate, and alert law enforcement agencies to potential gunfire incidents in real time.

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L-6	NCI	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding an assault involving a subject who allegedly threw a pipe at the victim. Upon arrival, deputies observed several employees directing their attention to the subject, who was subsequently detained at gunpoint. The subject exhibited erratic behavior, flailing his arms in the air, yelling, sweating profusely, and pacing back and forth. Despite multiple verbal commands to lie on the ground, the subject fled, leading deputies on a foot pursuit. During the chase, the subject attempted to leap over a row of bushes but fell onto his stomach. The subject tucked his arms under his chest. Deputies gained control of the subject's arms and were able to handcuff him. The subject began to kick the deputies, so they used a hobble restraint on his legs without further incident.</p> <p>The subject did not sustain any injuries. He was transported to the hospital and received medical clearance for incarceration.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy. However, some tactical concerns were noted regarding the foot pursuit. These concerns were addressed in the foot pursuit evaluation.</p>

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L-7	NCI	<p>Deputies responded to a 9-1-1 hang up call regarding a disturbance at a business. Deputies attempted to detain a subject for trespassing . Deputies gave the subject verbal commands to exit the business, but she failed to comply and exhibited signs of being under the influence of a controlled substance.</p> <p>The subject asked deputies to leave the store and allow her to pay for her items. Deputies stepped outside to give the subject an opportunity to complete her purchase and exit the store; however, she continued to disregard their orders. Deputies requested a sergeant to respond to the location due to her uncooperative and erratic behavior.</p> <p>Deputies used control holds in an attempt to place her under arrest. The subject resisted handcuffing and continued to be uncooperative. While being escorted to the patrol vehicle, she abruptly stopped, planted her feet, and threw her bodyweight backward. Upon reaching the patrol vehicle, the subject was placed in the backseat but refused to place her feet inside. Deputies grabbed the subject's right bicep and assisted the subject into the patrol vehicle without further incident.</p> <p>The subject did not complain of any pain or sustain any injuries.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determine the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
L-8	CAT 1	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding vandalism and a fight in progress. Upon arrival, deputies observed the subject being restrained in the street by bystanders and kicking at everyone around him.</p> <p>Deputies attempted to detain the subject, but he physically resisted, thrashing his body and kicking his legs. Deputies used control holds, applied handcuffs, and placed a hobble restraint on him to gain control. They then lifted and carried the subject to the patrol vehicle and secured him in the backseat. The subject began yelling and slipped the hobble off his ankles. Despite deputies' attempt to calm him, he continued yelling and complained of wrist pain from the handcuffs. The deputies adjusted the handcuffs without further incident.</p> <p>Upon arrival at the station, the subject became uncooperative and began kicking deputies in the lower leg area. Deputies performed a team takedown as the subject continued to kick. They applied additional control holds and re-applied the hobble restraint to limit further resistance. After searching him, deputies removed the hobble, exited the cell, and closed the cell door. The handcuffs were removed through the tray slot without further incident.</p> <p>The subject complained of pain to his left ankle and was transported to the hospital for evaluation. The subject stated he previously injured his foot prior to contact with the deputies but was unsure what caused the current pain. He was diagnosed with a metatarsal fracture and received medical clearance for incarceration.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
L-9	CAT 1	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding vandalism and a family disturbance. Upon arrival, witnesses identified the subject as the person who broke the window at the residence. Deputies detained and handcuffed the subject. Once at the patrol vehicle, the subject became argumentative, pulled away from deputies, and stated she intended to make things difficult. Deputies issued clear verbal commands, but the subject refused to comply.</p> <p>The subject kicked the patrol vehicle and pushed her body weight backward toward the deputies in an attempt to escape. Deputies applied additional control holds, pressing her upper body against the patrol vehicle, to close the distance between the subject and the patrol vehicle.</p> <p>While assisting the subject into the backset, the subject refused to lift her legs or sit properly. As a result, the subject's upper body fell into the vehicle while her legs remained at the door threshold.</p> <p>The subject's family members approached deputies and became verbally hostile. Deputies issued verbal commands for the subject to place her legs inside the vehicle, which she eventually complied with, without further incident.</p> <p>The subject did not sustain any injuries, nor did she complain of pain.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
L-10	CAT 1	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding a stolen motorcycle. Upon arrival, they contacted the property owner and the subject. After conducting their investigation, deputies determined there was sufficient cause to arrest the subject and informed him he was being detained. The subject became uncooperative and began to physically resist.</p> <p>Deputies attempted to overcome the subject's resistance using control holds, but the subject continued to pull away. In response, deputies used their forearms to apply forward pressure to the subject's chest in an effort to pin him against the chain-link fence. The subject pushed off the fence and lunged forward.</p> <p>Deputies conducted a team takedown and struggled to control the subject's arms in order to place him in handcuffs. Despite receiving verbal commands to show his hands, the subject kept them underneath his body and refused to comply. Deputies applied their weight on top of the subject to prevent further movement and were able to bring his arms behind his back and handcuff him without further incident.</p> <p>The subject did not sustain any injuries, nor did he complain of pain.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determine the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
L-11	CAT 2	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding a burglary in progress. Upon arrival, deputies observed the subject inside a mobile home. Deputies issued verbal commands for the subject to exit the mobile home, but the subject did not comply. A request was made for a sergeant to respond to the scene, however, there was no supervisor available.</p> <p>After additional verbal commands, the subject walked out of the mobile home carrying a backpack full of miscellaneous items. The subject turned towards the deputies and stated, "You better get away from me!" The subject then clenched his fist, widened his stance, and lunged towards deputies.</p> <p>In response, deputies deployed a Taser, striking the subject in the upper torso. The Taser was effective, causing the subject to tense up and drop the items he was holding. Deputies issued verbal commands instructing the subject to get on the ground; however, the subject did not immediately comply. Deputies performed a team takedown, bringing the subject to the ground. Deputies assisted the subject in lying flat while using control holds to gain control and secure him in handcuffs without further incident.</p> <p>The subject did not sustain any injuries, nor did he complain of pain.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
L-12	CAT 2	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding a domestic violence incident involving a possibly intoxicated subject. The informant stated she was home with her baby when the subject began yelling at her. She sounded scared, and the call was subsequently disconnected.</p> <p>Upon arrival, deputies heard screaming from inside the residence. Deputies announced themselves and knocked on the locked security screen door. When no one responded and the screaming inside continued, deputies removed the screen door and attempted to kick in the front door. Deputies gave multiple commands for the subject to exit the residence with his hands up, but he refused and blocked the view inside by placing items in front of an open window while yelling repeatedly "what is going on."</p> <p>Deputies kicked the door open due to exigent circumstances and encountered the subject standing near the door. As the deputies attempted to enter, the subject immediately attempted to close the door on them. Given the subject's active resistance, deputies made entry, contacted the subject and performed a takedown onto a mattress inside the residence. Despite repeated verbal commands, the subject continued resisting, requiring deputies to utilize personal weapons and deliver two knee strikes to the subject's rib area, which were effective in gaining compliance. The subject was handcuffed without further incident.</p> <p>The subject reported injuries to his head, knee, neck, back, arms, wrist, and legs, stating he sustained them from the deputies. The subject was transported for medical evaluation and cleared for incarceration. An IAB notification was submitted.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
L-13	CAT 2	<p>Deputies transported a juvenile (subject) to the station, as she was a witness to a murder. Homicide detectives informed deputies they would be responding to interview the subject who had blood (evidence) on her skin and clothing from the murder. The subject stated she was tired of waiting to be interviewed and demanded to leave the station.</p> <p>Deputies contacted the homicide unit and notified them the subject wanted to leave and was planning to walk out of the station. Deputies were informed the subject was not free to leave, as she was a material witness to the homicide and was being detained for a curfew violation. Deputies told the subject she was not free to leave, which caused her to become upset. Deputies requested a sergeant to the location. The subject walked around the station, stating she was going to walk out as soon as she found an exit.</p> <p>Deputies followed the subject around the station, and the subject suddenly ran towards the exit door leading into the secure area of the station's parking lot. Deputies attempted to detain the subject using control holds, however the subject pulled away. She began yelling, then lowered her body and sat on the ground. Deputies maintained a firm grip on her arm and repositioned themselves behind the subject to handcuff her. The subject resisted by moving her body around on the ground to avoid being handcuffed. Deputies continued to use control holds in their effort to handcuff her. Once handcuffed to the front (due to her pregnancy), the subject was escorted back into the station.</p> <p>The subject stated her arm was injured and knee was scraped. The subject was transported to the hospital and medically evaluated. The subject was treated for a "feared condition not demonstrated," as well as her pregnancy, and was medically cleared for incarceration.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determine the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
L-14	CAT 2	<p>Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle illegally parked and did not have license plates. A deputy asked the driver (subject) for his license and registration and ordered him to place his hands on the steering wheel. The subject complied initially, but when asked to lower the front passenger window, he refused. When a second deputy opened the passenger door, the subject began moving around and told the deputies to close the passenger door. Despite verbal commands to stop reaching down, the subject continued reaching around the vehicle. The deputy attempted to open the driver's door; however, the subject held it closed with his left arm. The deputy asked the subject to exit the vehicle and cited case law as justification. Deputies requested a supervisor to respond to the location. Fearing the subject was arming himself, deputies took hold of the subject's left arm and used control holds to remove the subject from the vehicle. The subject wrapped his left arm around the frame and interlocked his hands together in front of his body near his waistband. Deputies gave the subject verbal commands to place his hands behind his back, but he refused. The subject clenched his hands near his waistband and deputies used control holds to place the subject's body against the vehicle.</p> <p>Deputies continued to give commands to the subject to stop resisting and place his hands behind his back. When the subject failed to comply, deputies stated they would take him to the ground. In response the subject immediately went to his knees and stated, "I'll just go down." Deputies maintained control holds on the subject and continued giving commands for him to place his hands behind his back, but he still did not comply. He continued to keep his hands clenched near his waistband and flexed his arms, refusing to show his hands. As the subject rolled onto his stomach he concealed his hands under his waistband area. Fearing the subject may be concealing a weapon in his waistband, deputies gave additional commands for him to show his hands, but he continued to refuse. Deputies used personal weapons to deliver knee strikes to the subject's lower body. A sergeant arrived at the location and gave the subject verbal commands to place his hands behind his back, at which point the subject complied. Deputies handcuffed the subject and escorted him to the patrol vehicle. The subject sat in the back seat of the vehicle but refused to put his feet inside. Deputies gave multiple commands to put his feet inside, but he refused. A deputy went to the opposite side of the vehicle and pulled the subject further inside by sliding his body, allowing his feet to enter the vehicle without further incident.</p> <p>The subject sustained a bruise to his left arm and an abrasion on his right leg. The subject was transported to the hospital and medically evaluated. He was medically cleared for incarceration.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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L-15	CAT 2	<p>Deputies responded to the location regarding an emergent call for service regarding a gunshot victim. The caller stated her father had shot her 15 year old brother.</p> <p>Upon arrival, deputies detained a male outside of the residence who matched the description of the subject. A deputy approached the subject to conduct a pat-down search. The subject began acting hostile by flexing and tensing his left arm downwards towards his waistband area. They continuously ordered him to place his hands behind his back. The subject refused their orders and continued to resist. Deputies attempted to gain control by pulling the subject down towards the ground, however, they were unable to overcome his resistance. A deputy warned the subject he would be tased if he continued to resist. The deputy gave a Taser warning and employed his Taser to the back of the subject, striking him with the Taser darts. The Taser had the desired effect, causing the subject to fall to the ground while one deputy continued to control his right arm. The subject was handcuffed and placed in the back of the patrol vehicle. While in the back seat, the subject began to kick the windows. Fearing he would break the windows, deputies used the hobble to secure his feet without further incident.</p> <p>The subject sustained puncture wounds consistent with being struck by Taser darts. He did not claim any other injuries. He was treated at the hospital for Taser injuries and exposure to electric current.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
P-1	NCI	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. The subject was arrested without incident and transported to the hospital to be medically cleared for incarceration. Upon arrival, at the hospital, the subject refused to exit the patrol vehicle and had slipped the handcuffs to the front of his body. Deputies gave the subject several verbal commands to exit the patrol vehicle, but he did not comply. Deputies used control holds to guide the subject out of the patrol vehicle; however, the subject resisted and asked the deputies to kill him. After several attempts to persuade the subject to exit the patrol vehicle, the subject stated he would willingly exit the patrol vehicle if deputies released his arm. Deputies released control of the subject, and he exited the patrol vehicle. Deputies secured him on a gurney and escorted him into the hospital without further incident.</p> <p>The subject did not sustain any injuries and did not complain of pain.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
P-2	CAT 1	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding a person experiencing a mental health crisis. Deputies contacted the subject at a bus stop, where he agreed to be handcuffed, and was placed in the patrol vehicle pending a mental health evaluation.</p> <p>Deputies transported the subject to his father's residence where the Mental Evaluation Team (MET) conducted their assessment while the subject remained secure in the patrol vehicle. MET determined the subject met the criteria for a mental health hold and parked their vehicle next to the patrol vehicle in preparation to take the subject into their custody. When deputies opened the rear passenger door to escort the subject out, they saw the handcuffs in the subject's hand, being held like brass or metal knuckles, instead of secured on his wrists. Deputies gave the subject verbal commands to let go of the handcuffs. The subject leaned backward out of the backseat of the patrol vehicle, forcing the door open and colliding with deputies. Deputies used control holds and performed a team takedown to gain control of the subject. M.E.T. deputies placed handcuffs on the subject's wrists and secured him in the back seat of their vehicle without further incident.</p> <p>The subject did not sustain any injuries and did not complain of pain. The subject was transported to the hospital and received medical clearance for incarceration.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
P-3	CAT 2	<p>There were five calls for service over a two-hour period regarding a female adult (subject) throwing rocks at vehicles, damaging two city buses, and interfering with businesses. Deputies located a female adult matching the description. As deputies approached, the subject entered the courtyard of an apartment complex, became increasingly agitated, and began shouting hysterically at the deputies.</p> <p>Deputies attempted to de-escalate the situation by speaking calmly with the subject and requested assistance from the MET. As deputies attempted to detain and handcuff the subject by controlling her biceps, she resisted by tensing her muscles, clenching her right fist, and dropping her weight to sit on the ground. The subject then picked up a sharp-edged stick and pointed it toward a deputy's face. In response, the deputies held her shoulder down and attempted to deploy a Taser while removing the weapon from the subject's grasp. The Taser malfunctioned during the struggle.</p> <p>The subject continued to resist by kicking, thrashing, and lying on her back. The subject struck one deputy in the upper torso and attempted to bite another. In response, a deputy deployed OC spray to the subject's face for approximately one to two seconds. Additional personnel, including a sergeant, arrived shortly thereafter. The sergeant directed the deputies to take control of the subject and handcuff her. During the continued struggle, the subject kicked a deputy in the arm and the deputy punched the subject in the face. As the deputies attempted to gain control and handcuff the subject, one deputy shouted that the subject was attempting to grab her firearm. The deputy responded by delivering a strike to the subject's back. Deputies were ultimately able to gain control, handcuff the subject, and apply the hobble restraint. The subject was then placed in the recovery position.</p> <p>The subject was transported to the hospital for medical evaluation. She sustained two scratches on her right knee, an abrasion to her left shin, and had dried blood around her mouth. Medical personnel determined the leg injuries to be pre-existing and not as a result of the UOF. The subject was diagnosed with "mouth bleeding" and medically cleared for incarceration.</p> <p>The investigating supervisor and management determined the UOF by deputies was reasonable but ineffective. The subject was clearly suffering from mental illness and would not have been taken into custody without the UOF. It was determined the deputies should have developed a more effective tactical plan, which could have reduced the level of force required and brought the incident to a conclusion more efficiently.</p> <p>The involved deputies were scheduled to attend Arrest and Control training and completed the training on July 25, 2024 and September 25, 2024.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
P-4	CAT 2	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding a theft. While responding to the call, deputies were advised the incident had escalated to a robbery and the subject had fled the scene. During an area search, deputies observed a vehicle matching the subject's description driving recklessly. Deputies attempted to conduct a traffic stop, leading to a short vehicle pursuit.</p> <p>The subject eventually stopped in front of a residence, exited the vehicle, and sat down in the middle of the street. Deputies detained the subject at gunpoint while issuing verbal commands, but the subject did not comply and shouted incoherently. Deputies waited the arrival of a supervisor and developed a tactical plan to approach the subject. As deputies approached, the subject stood up, allowing deputies to handcuff her and escort her to the patrol vehicle.</p> <p>Despite repeated verbal commands to enter the vehicle, the subject refused to comply. The deputies used control holds to restrain the subject and continued to direct her to take a seat. The subject resisted by moving her body side to side. Deputies maintained a firm grip on both arms. During the struggle, the subject kicked one deputy and grabbed his groin area. Deputies redirected the subject's body forward and repositioned themselves to prevent further aggression. The subject eventually complied and sat inside the patrol vehicle.</p> <p>Deputies observed a pouch located around the subject's neck. While attempting to remove the pouch, the subject resisted and spat towards deputies' faces. The deputies turned the subject away and using her own arms to prevent further spitting. Deputies then stepped back and secured the vehicle door without further incident.</p> <p>The subject complained of pain to her wrists from being handcuffed and was found to have bruising on her right arm and left thigh. The subject was transported to the hospital for treatment and medically cleared for incarceration.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
P-5	CAT 2	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding a fight. Upon arrival, deputies contacted employees at the Metrolink Station who requested the subject either leave or be arrested for trespassing. Deputies initially attempted to persuade the subject to voluntarily leave the premises, but the subject refused, stating he was waiting for a ride. After numerous attempts to gain subject's cooperation, the informants requested that deputies arrest the subject for trespassing.</p> <p>Deputies ordered the subject to turn around and place his hands behind his back. As deputies attempted to handcuff the subject, he flailed his arms upward. Deputies repeatedly gave verbal commands for him to stop resisting and applied control holds to secure the subject. Deputies repositioned themselves, firmly grasped the subject's arms and successfully placed them behind his back. The subject was handcuffed and escorted to the patrol vehicle.</p> <p>At the patrol vehicle, the subject became agitated about his phone and tried to pull away from the deputies. Deputies warned the subject that if he continued resisting and failed to comply with commands, a Taser would be deployed. While conducting a search, the subject continued moving erratically, tensed his body, and attempted to headbutt deputies by abruptly swinging his head backward. Deputies quickly moved out of the subject's reach while maintaining control and immediately performed a takedown. The subject rolled onto his stomach as deputies maintained their control holds, then assisted the subject to a seated position on the curb. Additional deputies arrived and the subject was placed in the backseat of the patrol vehicle without further incident.</p> <p>The subject was transported to the hospital, where a medical evaluation indicated the subject sustained no injuries from the UOF. However, during a subsequent Watch Commander interview, the subject complained of pain in his ribs and knees. He then displayed abrasions on his head, prompting an Internal Affairs Bureau notification.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
P-6	NCI	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding a subject who was threatening to harm fellow residents in their sleep. The Mental Evaluation Team (MET) was requested to respond to the location. Upon arrival, deputies observed the subject in the backyard, yelling hysterically. Deputies immediately evacuated residents to the front yard to ensure their safety, while continuing to monitor the subject, who remained agitated and was speaking angrily to himself.</p> <p>When deputies approached and made contact with the subject in the backyard, his demeanor shifted, and he became cooperative. However, due to deputies prior encounters with the subject, his history of a previous suicide attempt, and ongoing concerns for the safety of others, deputies detained the subject pending a mental evaluation hold. The subject was then escorted to the patrol vehicle pending the arrival of the MET.</p> <p>While waiting for MET to complete the witness interviews, approximately 40 minutes passed with the subject in the back seat of the patrol vehicle. To avoid further delay or agitate the subject, deputies decided to transport the subject to the hospital themselves. When the deputies opened the vehicle door to handcuff the subject, he became agitated and refused to go to the hospital. He grabbed onto the vehicle door frame with both hands and attempted to exit the patrol vehicle. Deputies issued verbal commands to stop and attempted to de-escalate the situation. Despite these efforts, the subject continued resisting, using his partially amputated left leg to push against the door frame. Deputies responded by applying control holds, gripping the subject's hands and guiding them back toward his chest, attempting to move him back into the vehicle. As the subject continued to try to exit, deputies further secured him by firmly holding his shoulders. Eventually, the subject calmed down, sat back in the seat, and deputies were able to close the vehicle door without further incident.</p> <p>The subject was not injured and did not complain of pain.</p> <p>The investigating supervisor and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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P-7	NCI	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding a family disturbance. Upon arrival, deputies contacted the victim, who stated her son (the subject) was in the backyard taking a shower with a garden hose. The victim explained she had an active restraining order against the subject, provided deputies with a copy, and positively identified him.</p> <p>Deputies entered the backyard to speak with the subject, who quickly became upset and refused to follow deputies' verbal commands. The subject told deputies he did not want to go to jail, admitted he knew he shouldn't be on the property, and further stated he was on probation. As his demeanor grew increasingly uncooperative, deputies requested the assistance of a field sergeant.</p> <p>Upon arrival, the sergeant directed deputies to conduct a records check, which revealed the subject had an active felony warrant. Deputies also confirmed the restraining order had previously been served, and the subject was fully aware of its restrictions.</p> <p>Based on this information, deputies placed the subject in handcuffs without any incident. However, while escorting the subject from the residence to the patrol vehicle, the subject intentionally dropped his body weight and refused to walk. Deputies repeatedly gave verbal commands to continue walking, but the subject remained noncompliant. The sergeant directed deputies to carry the subject to the patrol vehicle, where he was placed into the backseat without further incident.</p> <p>The subject was not injured and did not complain of pain.</p> <p>The investigating supervisor and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
P-8	CAT 1	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding a disturbance and a restraining order violation. Deputies arrived at the location and located the subject seated on the front porch. When deputies called the subject by name, he stood up and walked toward the south side of the residence. Deputies walked towards the subject and observed him stepping onto a cement block in an attempt to climb over a fence. Familiar with the layout of the residence, deputies knew if the subject jumped the fence into the backyard, he could gain entry into the house. Deputies approached the subject and pulled him towards them, causing him to lose his balance and fall onto the cement block in a seated position. Deputies then placed both arms around the subject's chest and held him downward, resulting in the subject landing on his stomach. Deputies gained control of the subject and placed him in handcuffs without further incident.</p> <p>The subject did not complain of pain or sustain any injuries as a result of the UOF.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

PART I OF USE OF FORCE AUDIT:
DEPARTMENT POLICY ASSESSMENT
ANTELOPE VALLEY STATIONS
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Control No.	Category	Summary
P-9	CAT 1	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding a battery. The caller reported the subject had punched a social worker in the face and requested police and medical assistance.</p> <p>Upon arrival, deputies contacted the victim, who identified the subject. Deputies coordinated a tactical plan prior to contacting the subject. Deputies issued verbal commands, which the subject complied with and placed her hands behind her back while holding her cell phone. Deputies took the cellphone from the subject and attempted to place it in the front pocket of the subject's sweater. The subject tensed up, pulled her arms forward, and fled on foot, causing deputies to lose physical control of her. As the subject ran toward the street, she tripped on a curb and rolled onto the street, landing on both of her knees. When she attempted to get up, deputies used control holds and conducted a team takedown to gain control. Deputies handcuffed the subject and assisted her to a seated position without further incident.</p> <p>The subject did not complain of pain; however, she sustained abrasions to both knees, which were caused when she attempted to flee from the deputies, tripped, and fell on the ground. She was transported to the hospital for a medical evaluation. Medical personnel determined the injuries were not caused by the deputies or as a result of the UOF.</p> <p>The investigating supervisor and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
P-10	CAT 2	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding a trespassing incident. The caller reported the subject had jumped a fence into a vacant property. Deputies made contact with the subject in the backyard of the residence. The subject stated he lived at the location and refused to leave. The subject then jumped over a brick wall into the backyard of a neighboring residence. Deputies did not pursue the subject due loss of visual contact. Assisting units were notified and provided a description of the subject. Deputies canvassed the surrounding area but were unable to locate the subject.</p> <p>A short time later, another trespassing call was broadcasted. The address to the location was near the residence of the original incident. Deputies located the subject and attempted to contact him; however, he ran into oncoming traffic and proceeded into a nearby shopping complex. Deputies positioned their vehicles in front of the subject, forming a containment around him. Deputies gave the subject verbal commands to stop, but he did not comply. Deputies approached the subject and attempted to detain him by using control holds; however, the subject actively resisted and continued to pull away. Deputies applied downward pressure to the subject's shoulders and back, to guide the subject to the ground. Once on the ground, deputies overcame the subject's resistance, gained control, and handcuffed him without further incident.</p> <p>The subject complained of pain to his shoulder; however, he stated it was due to a pre-existing injury. He was medically evaluated and cleared for incarceration.</p> <p>The investigating supervisor and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
P-11	CAT 2	<p>Deputies responded to a traffic collision where the subject had rear-ended and sideswiped two vehicles. Upon arrival, they contacted the subject, who was uncooperative and refused to follow their commands. The subject was sitting in the driver's seat with the car door open, and deputies detected the odor of alcohol emitting from his breath. The subject refused to provide identification or step out of the vehicle.</p> <p>Deputies requested a sergeant to respond to the location. The subject said he would use whatever force was necessary to remain in the vehicle. Deputies attempted to reason with him and gave multiple commands for him to exit the vehicle. Upon the sergeant's arrival, deputies briefed him regarding the subject's behavior. One deputy observed a knife on the dashboard of the vehicle near the passenger side. The deputy walked to the passenger side, opened the door and removed the knife from the subject's reach. After the knife was retrieved, the subject began reaching inside the vehicle toward the passenger side. The deputy observed this and took hold of the subject's arm, to prevent further movement. The sergeant ordered the deputy to remove the subject from the vehicle.</p> <p>The deputy gained control of the subject's left arm and attempted to remove him from the vehicle. The subject resisted by holding onto an unknown object inside the vehicle.. Deputies grabbed the subject's shirt and were able to pull him out and guide him to the ground. The subject landed on his buttocks and was given commands to lie flat on his stomach, which he refused. Deputies gained control of the subject and rolled him onto his stomach. Despite some resistance, deputies were able to handcuff the subject behind his back. As deputies escorted the subject to the rear seat of the patrol vehicle, he sat on the step panel and refused to get in. A deputy placed his hands underneath the subject's armpits while another deputy pulled him by his right arm and assisted him into the vehicle without further incident.</p> <p>The subject sustained abrasions to his lower back and both elbows. The subject was transported to the hospital but refused medical treatment.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
P-12	CAT 2	<p>Deputies responded to an emergent call for service regarding a domestic violence incident. The caller stated the subject was inside the residence assaulting his girlfriend. Upon arrival, deputies observed a male matching the subject's description standing on the front lawn standing near a female (victim), engaged in a verbal argument. As deputies approached the subject, they asked him if he had any weapons on his person. The subject immediately became uncooperative and told the deputies they better not touch him and walked closer to the victim. Due to the subject's uncooperative demeanor, deputies requested a sergeant to their location. Deputies approached the subject, and attempted to detain him, one deputy on each side, holding the subject's arm and wrist. A female (witness) walked by and informed the deputies that the subject had also assaulted her father, and she wanted to press charges.</p> <p>While deputies were holding the subject's arms, he began to tense up and walk forward. Despite verbal de-escalation attempts, the subject continued moving forward, and then thrashed his body forward, breaking free from one of the deputy's grip. The second deputy-maintained control of the subjects arm as the subject clenched his fist and turned toward the deputy. Fearing the subject was going to punch the deputy, another deputy employed his Taser without providing a Taser deployment advisement. The Taser had the desired effect, causing the subject to fall to the ground. The subject was ordered to place his hands behind his back. He complied and was handcuffed without further incident.</p> <p>The fire department responded to evaluate the subject, but he refused treatment. He was transported to the hospital for removal of the Taser probes and was medically cleared for incarceration. During the interview, the subject initially claimed a head injury caused by family members before deputies arrived, but later stated it occurred when he fell after the Taser was used on him. Medical paperwork did not note any examination of his head or face.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Summary of Uses of Force

Control No.	Category	Summary
P-13	CAT 2	<p>A deputy responded to a call for service regarding a traffic hazard involving a male adult with no shirt running in the street. Upon arrival, deputies saw the subject walking southbound on a bike path, before he ran into traffic, causing multiple cars to swerve to avoid hitting him.</p> <p>A deputy drove towards the subject and ordered him to stop. The subject stated he needed water and ran back into traffic lanes. The deputy gave the subject several more verbal commands to stop but he refused. The subject appeared panicked, had a wide eye stare, and was frantically moving his arms up and down. Deputies, determined he was under the influence and concerned for his safety, attempted to detain him and requested a sergeant.</p> <p>When the sergeant arrived, he recognized the subject from prior encounters. The sergeant told the subject to stop but the subject ignored his orders and ran into traffic, causing a traffic hazard. Deputies coordinated in an attempt to contain and apprehend the subject. He continued to run through traffic and attempted to open drivers' doors. Fearing the subject would cause a serious accident or possible carjacking, the sergeant coordinated with deputies to apprehend him. As deputies closed the distance, the subject ducked down behind a stopped vehicle, appearing to gain access to it. The sergeant displayed his Taser and ordered the subject to stop. The subject attempted to flee, running between the sergeant and the deputies. The sergeant issued a Taser warning, which the subject ignored. He then deployed the Taser, striking the subject in the right arm. Although the subject slowed down, he continued to take a few steps in an attempt to escape. Deputies used control holds on the subject's arm and ordered him to lie on his stomach. The subject initially got on his knees, then onto his side, and eventually rolled onto his back. As the subject continued to resist verbal commands and failed to position himself as directed, the sergeant activated the Taser a second time. Following this activation, the subject complied. Deputies then assisted him onto his stomach and handcuffed him without further incident.</p> <p>The subject did not complain of pain but sustained two puncture marks on his right arm from the Taser darts. The subject was transported to the hospital and treated for puncture wounds and cleared for incarceration.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management noted the field sergeant should have taken a more supervisory role and directed the UOF, rather than becoming directly involved in the physical apprehension of the subject. However, it was determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

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Control No.	Category	Summary
P-14	CAT 2	<p>Deputies responded to a call for service regarding a family disturbance. The informant stated the subject had killed their chickens and threatened to fight her husband. The informant believed the subject was under the influence of a controlled substance.</p> <p>Upon arrival at the location, deputies spoke with the informant and her husband (victim). Deputies were informed the subject, and his dogs went into their backyard and a dog killed several of their chickens. When the informant asked the subject to leave the property, he responded with bizarre statements and asked to speak to agents. The subject then hit the victim in the mouth and entered a trailer parked on the property. Deputies learned the subject had a felony warrant for cockfighting and animal abuse. The victim confirmed the subject's identity and requested assistance in having the subject escorted off the property.</p> <p>The field supervisor and additional units arrived at the location. Deputies made announcements, issuing verbal commands for the subject to come out of the trailer with his hands up. The subject did not comply. After approximately 1.5 hours of announcements with no response, a tactical plan was formulated to utilize Clear Out² to draw the subject out of the trailer. Additionally, a deputy fired one 44mm baton round into the trailer to create a diversion. The subject began coughing, and deputies formed an arrest team while continuing to issue commands. The subject still did not comply. After approximately 30 minutes, a second deployment of Clear Out was introduced. The subject began to cough again as deputies continued their announcements. Twenty minutes later, deputies entered the trailer to arrest the subject.</p> <p>Upon entry, the subject was hiding behind a closed door. A deputy kicked the door, breaking it from its hinges. The subject was ordered to turn around and place his hands behind his back. The subject complied and was handcuffed without further incident.</p> <p>The subject complained of pain to the tendons in his knees and pain to his head from being struck by the door. He additionally complained of pain to his head from striking it with the back seat of the patrol vehicle. The subject had swelling to the back of his head and bruising on the right side of his forehead, consistent with being struck by a hard object. The subject was medically evaluated for alcohol intoxication and received medical clearance for incarceration. An IAB notification was submitted for complaint of injury to the subject's head.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>

² Clear Out gas is made from a combination of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray and CS gas. It is non-flammable and may be used inside a structure when residual contamination or fire is a concern. Clear Out gas will normally be the initial tool of choice in a removal, and will, when feasible, be employed before any other weapons are used. In such cases, it is important the agent be given time to take effect.

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Control No.	Category	Summary
P-15	CAT 2	<p>While conducting a security check of the station jail, a Custody Assistant (CA) observed an inmate lying unresponsive on the jail cell floor. The CA entered the cell to check the inmate's condition and found that he was breathing and had a pulse. The CA quickly retrieved the emergency response and opioid response kits and returned to the cell to render medical aid.</p> <p>The CA contacted the desk and watch sergeant, advising them of a possible medical emergency involving the inmate. Upon re-entering the cell, the CA administered one dose of Narcan. The inmate immediately regained consciousness, jumped to his feet, and began assaulting the CA in an attempt to exit the cell. The CA tried to push the inmate back into the cell and secure the door; however, the inmate overpowered the CA and forced his way into the hallway.</p> <p>The CA used control holds to restrain the inmate, but the inmate continued to resist aggressively, twisting and turning his upper torso to break free. Despite repeated verbal commands from the CA to stop fighting, the inmate refused to comply. A second CA responded from the jail booth to assist, but the inmate continued fighting. The first CA attempted a takedown, which led to both the inmate and CA falling to the floor, with the inmate landing on top of the CA, pressing his back against the CA's chest. The CA managed to push the inmate off and unholstered his Taser, again instructing the inmate to turn around and place his hands behind his back. After the inmate ignored these commands, the CA deployed the Taser into the inmate's abdomen area, which effectively stopped the resistance. The second CA activated the jail emergency duress button, notifying station personnel of the officer involved fight. The CA gave the inmate commands to turn onto his stomach and placed his hands behind his back. The subject was then handcuffed without further incident.</p> <p>The inmate complained of pain to his abdomen from the Taser darts. The inmate was transported to the hospital for medical evaluation and cleared for incarceration.</p> <p>The investigating supervisors and management addressed the CA entering the cell alone to administer aid. Both CAs were trained on the use of Narcan and scheduled for Force Refresher training. The training was completed on June 4, 2024. It was determined the UOF was reasonable and within Department policy.</p>