



# Clallam County Sheriff's Office

WASPC Accredited Agency

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Ron Peregrin  
Undersheriff

Ron Cameron  
Chief Criminal Deputy

Alice Hoffman  
Chief Civil Deputy

Ron Sukert  
Chief Corrections Deputy

**W. L. Benedict**  
Sheriff

File:

January 23, 2017

## ANNUAL ANALYSIS 2017

**To: Sheriff Bill Benedict**

**Please find below our annual analysis for our agency. This addresses key statistical information and summaries that can serve as early warning signals to issues within our department.**

### **Internal Investigations/Complaints during 2017**

In 2017, five events were reported and recorded as an A36 or internal investigations.

1. 2017-01 – **Records Specialist** – Standards of Conduct 340.5.6, efficiency and (b) unsatisfactory work performance. **SUSTAINED – Verbal Reprimand and Remedial Training.**

*Employee gave incorrect advice to a citizen regarding civil process.*

2. 2017-02 – **Evidence Manager** – Release of Property 800.6.5 and associated RCW's – **SUSTAINED – Verbal Reprimand** (Release or destruction of property without authorization)

*Employee released property that was still part of an active investigation.  
No 026 on file.*

3. 2017-03 – **Field Deputy (detective)** – 340.4 General Standards and RCW 9.73.030 – **SUSTAINED – Verbal Counseling and Remedial Training.**  
(Inappropriate interception of communications)

*Employee intercepted communications during an investigation without proper order from the court.*

4. 2017-04 – **Records Specialist (corrections)** - 116.4 General Standards and 116.5.1 (b) and (f) Ethics – **SUSTAINED – 12 hours leave without pay**  
(Unauthorized access of medical records)

*Employee entered patient's records for personal training purposes when in fact, this is a HIPPA violation*

5. 2017-05 – **Corrections Deputy** — 612.8 Sexual Harassment between staff and inmates - **employee resigned in anticipation of discipline**

*Employee conducted himself in an inappropriate, intimate manner with inmates while on duty. Considered a PREA matter / violation.*

#### **Individuals investigated by section**

2 Corrections Section  
1 Operations Section  
2 Administration Section

All allegations were sustained.

Of the individuals investigated there were none that were involved in more than one incident.

**This is a significant uptick in the number of investigations as compared to 2016. Still, the range of violations are so different, there is no indication of any pattern of conduct a department wide issue in any subject.**

**I do recommend regular follow up with Supervisors by the Chief Deputies to reassert management's interest in proper application of all policies and procedure. A couple of the violations were significant enough that, under a slightly different set of facts, could have exposed the agency to significant liability.**

**Staff should be monitored to ensure DTB's are completed and supervisors should take steps to reassert that many procedures are in place as safeguards against making mistakes.**

## Use of Force during 2017

There was a total of seventy-eight (78) use of force reports for the year; thirty-seven (37) for Patrol, and forty-one (41) for Corrections. The incidents have been broken down by Department/ Section. The incidents have been categorized by level of force used and the techniques that were utilized were recorded. Many of the incidents had multiple techniques utilized; therefore there are significantly more techniques utilized than the number of incidents.

<b><u>Patrol: Total Incidents</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>
	<b>37</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>36</b>

Level 1- **48**

Techniques Utilized:	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Display of Taser	1	6	1
Taser Deployment	1	4	3
Counter Joint	20	11	15
Level 1 Takedown	13	13	12
Overpower / Outmuscle	13	9	0
Hair Hold	0	0	0
LVNR	0	0	1
Pressure Point	0	0	2

<b>Level 2 – 3</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
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Techniques Utilized:			
Hand Strikes (x2)	1	0	0
Stop Kick	1	0	0
Baton Strikes (SL20)	1	0	0

Lethal Force – 7

Techniques Utilized:	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Display Firearm	7	6	1
Deploy Firearm	0	2	0

<b><u>Corrections: Total Incidents</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>
	<b>41</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>

Level 1 – 60

Techniques Utilized:	2017	2016	2015
Display of Taser	9	6	4
Taser Deployment	6	4	2
Counter Joint	17	12	16
Level 1 Takedown	4	13	12
Overpower / Outmuscle	16	8	0
Hair Hold	6	3	5
LVNR	1	2	2
Pressure Point	1	0	0

Level 2 – 1

Techniques Utilized:	2017	2016	2015
Knee Strikes	0	1	0
Hand Strikes	0	0	2
Elbow Strikes	1	1	0
LVNR	0	0	6

In comparing 2016's use of force review to last years, there is an overall increase in use of force reports from the Patrol Division, from 26 to 37. Call load and numbers of arrests are not significantly different between the two years, so those factors cannot be attributed to the change. In looking back to 2015, the number of use of force reports was 36, which is very close to 2017's number of 37. Reviews from the last three years show there was a dip in 2016 of use of force incidents reported but there is not even statistical data to show the change in number of incidents between years.

After reviewing 2017 reports, there is definitely a change in how reports are written. Some Deputies have remained standardized with how they have been trained and others have strayed from their training. I would agree with Sgt. Munger that deputies should receive training in 2018 in writing use of force reports in order to not only train new hires but to refresh training for the other deputies and get back to a standard. During the review it was also noted three uses of force reports where the deputies said they used Level 2 force but after reading each report it was found that they used Level 1 force. Training to address this matter has been scheduled for 2018..

For corrections, there was an increase in the number of use of force reports from 32 incidents reported in 2016 to 41 incidents reported in 2017.

During Sgt. Munger's 2016 review he noted: ***"I noticed that some of the larger in stature and more skilled in DT Corrections Deputies had more use of force reports than their peers. I spoke with Corrections Sgt. Finley about this. Sgt. Finley explained to me that in the Corrections environment, there are many times that they can predict that they are going to need to use force; such as when they are doing a cell entry on an unruly inmate. In those situations, they***

***can strategically use the larger and more skilled Deputies to make the cell entry. This in turn increases the use of force reports for those Deputies.”***

For 2017, the trend for the larger more skilled deputies continued to have the most use of force incidents reported. The three Deputies with the most use of force reports were all sergeants; larger stature and have the experience and a number of years of service. These three accounted for 20 of the 41 use of force reports. This statistic would go along with Sgt. Munger’s assessment of what he learned from Sgt. Finley that these three Sergeants would be part of the entry team to deal with unruly inmates. This could also mean that the Sergeants were just the ones who completed the use of force report. During the review of these reports all of the reports involved multiple Deputies with most of them involved in the use of force.

There were a lot of new hires last year of younger deputies with less experience. These deputies have either zero or a small number of uses of force reports. This statistic supports Sgt. Finley’s explanation. I talked to a newer deputy about use of force reports and was told Sergeants are usually the first person to stack up on the cell doors when they make entry so they can formulate the plan of entry and direct the deputies. This also supports the statistic of the three Sergeant’s having more reports because they become the “primary” Deputy so they would be completing the report.

## **Pursuits during 2017**

In 2017 the Clallam County Sheriff’s Office initiated 3 vehicle pursuits. The pursuit reports are contained in administrative file A41 Vehicle Pursuit Reports. The reports in 2017 are titled A41-17-01 through A41-17-3

The pursuits are summarized as follows:

### **17-01:**

- Number of deputies involved = 2
- Number of units involved= 2
- Suspect Vehicle: 1990 Mazda PU
- Original violation/crime: Erratically driven vehicle/ Driving/DUI/Felony Elude.
- Duration: 14 minutes
- Distance traveled = 10 miles
- Maximum Speed: 105 mph
- Termination Disposition: Ended in accident/ Spike strips deployed, one tire punctured
- Successful P.I.T. maneuver
- Injuries: none
- Charging Disposition: Charged Felony Elude.

### **17-2:**

- Number of deputies involved= 3

- Suspect Vehicle: 2007, Yamaha, motorcycle
- Original violation/crime: Driving with no headlights, during hours of darkness
- Duration: 15 minutes. Distance: 10 miles.
- Maximum speeds: 40 mph.
- Termination Disposition: Crashed in private driveway.
- Injuries: None.
- Charging Disposition: Charged Felony Elude, plead PSP (motorcycle)

### 17-03

- Number of deputies involved= 1,
- Other agency officers = 3 Port Angeles PD
- Suspect Vehicle: Truck
- Original violation/crime: Stolen vehicle
- Duration: Approximately 2 minutes
- Distance: 3.3 miles
- Maximum Speeds: Approximately 75-80 mph
- Termination Disposition: Ended in accident
- Injuries: 2 males, 1 female transported to OMC with serious injuries
- Charging Disposition: Theft of a motor vehicle, attempting to elude law enforcement, reckless driving and DWLS 3rd
- Disposition: Charged Vehicle Assault

During 2017 there were 3 pursuits reported by the CCSO, one less pursuit than reported in 2016. All pursuits in 2017 were subject to supervisory and administrative review and all were found, through the review process, to have been conducted within the parameters of the department's pursuit policy.

After reviewing file: A41-17-2, I became aware that the pursuit intervention techniques used by the deputy during this pursuit were not within our department's pursuit policy. The deputy 1) did not seek supervisory approval before employing pursuit intervention techniques; 2) the pursuit intervention techniques utilized (roadblocks and blocking/vehicle intercept) were excessive when weighed against the seriousness of the offense for which the pursuit was initiated (minor traffic infraction).

In deciding whether to use intervention tactics, deputies must balance the risk of allowing the pursuit to continue with the potential hazards arising from the use of each tactic to the public, the deputies and persons in the pursued vehicle. Roadblocks and blocking/vehicle intercept techniques involve a potential for serious injury or death to occupants of the pursued vehicle if the suspect does not stop.

#### **Recommendation:**

- **Send out a training memo to all department operations and field deputies regarding our department's pursuit policy and techniques.**
- **A counseling session with the deputy involved in A41-17-2 regarding our department pursuit policy, and a review of incident.**

## Biased Based Policing 2017

No reports or complaints from citizens were received by this agency in 2017 that would indicate there were any incidents of biased based police activity. In a spot check of incidents throughout the year, no indications of any profiling or racially motivated actions were engaged in by any department member as well.

I researched arrests made in 2017 by race. Through computer based recall, we found a total of 917 cases cleared by arrest by deputies in 2017. The race of the defendants in those cases breaks down as follows:

White, non Hispanic	779	or	84.9%
Asian	2	or	less than 1%
Black	27	or	2.9%
Hispanic	18	or	1.9%
Native American	91	or	10.6%

A similar check of Traffic Events during 2017 produced slightly different statistics. From a total of 863 events reported:

White, non Hispanic	761	or	88%
Asian	5	or	less than 1%
Black	19	or	about 2%
Hispanic	21	or	about 2%
Native American	35	or	4%

*Remainder is classified as unknown*

A traffic event can be a citation, notice of infraction or a person involved in a traffic collision. There are also about 317 warnings reported by deputies where ethnicity was not captured.

In comparison I checked with state demographic records to compare activity with our ethnic population. 2016 population estimates are the latest available and break down as follows:

White, non Hispanic	87.6%
Asian	1.7%
Black	1.1%
Hispanic	6.1%
Native American	5.6%

*Note: some individuals reported mixed or multiple race which slightly skews the total*

This is the third year that such statistics are reported as part of the annual report to the Sheriff. This year the statistics are, while not remarkable, are different than the previous two years, which had shown some similarities.

In arrests, what was the most noticeable was a spike in reported arrests of Native Americans. During 2017, Native Americans made for 10.6% of total arrests, a significant increase. Other ethnic groups recorded similar percentages from previous years. Chief Deputy King and I reviewed some of the arrests during 2017, but found nothing that could help answer why the sudden jump.

The traffic events in 2017 remained consistent with previous years and do not fall far outside the breakdown of our population. I will mention however, that the numbers of traffic events are far greater than years past, but the percentages remained similar.

While race is only one factor in biased police monitoring, there is little that is pointing in a direction that would make it seem deputies are profiling any group, race, religion, etc. in their enforcement duties.

The computer recall method used in this analysis is not scientific. Capturing of the specific information from street level to reporting level can vary for a number of reasons. This could be what has contributed to the reported rise in Native American arrests report.

## **Evidence Report**

In 2017, the management duties for the Evidence and Property Section were reassigned to the Chief Administrative Deputy, Alice Hoffman. As part of the process, we conducted a 100% audit of all evidence and property in our care. As expected, some anomalies surfaced, and those inaccuracies are still being dealt with, but overall, there were no striking issues such as loss of money or large amount of material.

Alice has already implemented new procedures in our evidence and property room to make the cataloguing and reporting more efficient. Currently, she is actively working on acquiring and implementing a new bar code system that could make submission, inspection and recording of evidence much quicker and more efficient.

We have also made steps to update our alarm systems. The new systems will be installed in our entire site and off site facilities and have a multiple reporting



feature so not just dispatch will be alerted to a break in or fire, but evidence managers can as well.

As of 12-31-17, a total of 13,253 items on hand. This is an increase of 748 items or 6% over that which was reported last year at this time. Both evidence managers have been diligent in the disposal of property throughout 2017. There has been an uptick in some criminal cases which could contribute to the increase. I am confident that Chief Hoffman's efforts in acquiring a better inventory tracking system will slow or even stop the growth of property and evidence within our evidence room and this year's purging activities will yield perhaps even less amounts in the coming year.

## **Summary**

Analysis of all internal investigations, use of force incidents and pursuits found no common thread indicating any single individual is responsible for an inordinate or unusual number of reports in any category or any reoccurring issue that needs to be dealt with more directly other than what was determined by examination of pursuits.

There are also no indications of an inordinate number of reports across the four main reporting issues, (Use of Force, A36, Biased Based Policing & Pursuit) that would indicate any particular individual deputy is experiencing an inordinate number of incidents.

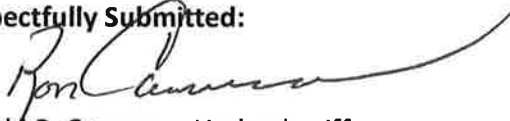
Finally, I am confident that the performance of the folks in the property room are operating in line with expectations, purging evidence as they can. I am excited for the advancement of electronic cataloguing that can streamline inventory management and will aid in efficient purging of items on a continual basis.

**We must reaffirm with Command Staff to communicate with their personnel, that all persons contacted be treated with courtesy, dignity and respect. Inappropriate contact with those we are charged to protect is, under any circumstance, unacceptable and the message must be clear that there will be no tolerance on such behavior. Further, by law, practice and training, deputies shall not practice profiling of persons based on sex, ethnicity or other universal factor.**

**The Evidence Manager, CCD Hoffman has done a remarkable job in retasking some elements of the property room making it more efficient. I recommend she continue to pursue the move to bar coding to help make our inventory of items easier, quicker and more accurate.**

Finally, I fully intend to follow up on the recommendations mentioned in Use of Force in regards to reporting by all deputies to maintain accurate recordings, and the reminder of vehicle pursuit procedures.

Respectfully Submitted:



Ronald R. Cameron, Undersheriff

Sheriff's Signature WJ Benedict Date: 7-16-2018

Concur with findings

Do not concur with findings