



**W. L. Benedict**  
**Sheriff**

# **Clallam County Sheriff's Office**

*WASPC Accredited Agency*

*223 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 12  
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015*

*Support Services: (360)417-2270  
Fax: (360)417-2498*

*<http://www.clallam.net/departments/sheriff>*

*sheriff@co.clallam.wa.us*

Ron Cameron  
Undersheriff

Brian King  
Chief Criminal Deputy

Alice Hoffman  
Chief Civil Deputy

Wendy Peterson  
Chief Corrections Deputy

File:

## **ANNUAL ANALYSIS 2019**

**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 2019**

In 2019, nine formal complaints were reported and recorded as an A36 or internal investigations.

1. 2019-01 – **Field Deputy** – Chapter 340.5.3 Ethics, Chapter 340.5.7 Relationships and Chapter 340.5.8 Conduct. **SUSTAINED – Paid Administrative Leave, Last Chance Agreement**

*Deputy had inappropriate contact with a domestic violence victim through texting.*

2. 2019-02 – **Operations Sergeant** – 340.5.8 Conduct – **NOT SUSTAINED-No action taken**

*An allegation was made against the Sergeant that suggested damage to some personal property was made by the Sergeant. No evidence was developed to prove or disprove the allegation.*

3. 2019-03 – **Field Deputy** – 340.5.8 Conduct – **UNFOUNDED – No Action Taken**

*A stepson accused his father of inappropriate activity at a party that the field deputy was attending. The stepson reported that the stepfather and the deputy pointed a gun at him. After investigation, it was found that the event never occurred.*

4. 2019-04 – **Corrections Sergeant** – 340.5.8 Conduct – **EXONERATED** – **Discussion with the employee only**

*Dealing with an upset parent of an inmate, the Sergeant was unable to have a meaningful conversation with the parent on the phone and ultimately hung up on the citizen. While there is no violation, the Chief Corrections Deputy and the Sergeant discussed ways to deal with such folks in the future so that it may not come to ending the conversation in such a way. Again, no discipline involved.*

5. 2019-05 – **Corrections Deputy** — 340.5.8 Conduct (Discourteous Treatment of an Inmate) – **SUSTAINED- Suspension w/o pay for 16 hours.**

*Deputy used vulgar language towards an inmate.*

6. 2019-06 – **Field Deputy** – 340.5.1 Ethics; 340.5.6 Efficiency; 340.5.7 Performance; 344.1.1 Report Preparation-**SUSTAINED** (except 340.5.1, unfounded) – **Letter of Reprimand**

*All violations resulted from a report filed by the deputy that presented discrepancies, inaccuracies, and mischaracterizations. This led to statements that were potentially misleading in court and had to be corrected. The investigation did demonstrate that the deputy did not lie in the report, but that the information was poorly captured and communicated within the narrative.*

7. 2019-07 – **Field Deputy** – 340.5.8 Conduct–**SUSTAINED- Documented Oral Counseling, including admonishment and instruction on de-escalation tactics and courteous treatment of all citizens.**

*Complaint on the lack of crisis intervention tactics employed by the deputy in an ITA situation.*

8. 2019-08 – **Field Deputy** – 340.5 Conduct (several variations and counts relating to excessive force, neglect of duty, discourteousness, and performance– **SUSTAINED- Suspension of 30 hours (three working days)**)

*Multiple violations of policy were sustained when the deputy, while off duty, became involved in a situation between a bartender and what the member thought was an intoxicated patron. The deputy interceded in a heated conversation and, even though the bartender reported to the deputy she had the situation handled, the deputy continued to order the “patron” to leave the establishment and requested staff in the bar call police. When the patron did not leave, the deputy physically escorted him to the door and outside where a scuffle broke out. Ultimately, the skirmish was broken up and the deputy was made to understand that the patron was in fact the bartender’s boyfriend and she was simply telling him to go home.*

*The deputy left the scene on foot with friends and returned a short time later. Police were now at the same bar that the incident took place, but the deputy left the area without contacting them. The deputy, knowing the situation and actions he took should be reported to a supervisor, waited until the next afternoon (more than 12 hours later) to report the incident.*

*While excessive use of force, any criminal conduct and discourteousness treatment of others was addressed and found to be exonerated or not sustained, the investigation did sustain other violations including judgment, failure to remain at the scene and failure to report the situation to a supervisor right away.*

9. 2019-09 – **Field Deputy** – 340.5.8 Social Media violation Chapters 388 and 1060 –**SUSTAINED- Letter of reprimand issued**

*Employee posted department information on their personal Facebook page that was later found to be factually incorrect and had the potential to damage an active investigation.*

There were also a handful of “informal complaints.” These are complaints that are generated by sometimes anonymous citizens, or those that simply “don’t want to get the deputy into trouble”. One of these, a report conflict of interest was clearly unfounded by the supervisor and documented as such.

The others could be fit into Chapter 340 violations as it relates to performance and courtesy. Several situations were reported that fit these categories and were

sustained. In each case, the member's supervisor counselled and admonished the employee and documented the information for inclusion in future evaluations.

**Individuals investigated by section**

- 2 Corrections Section
- 3 Operations Section

**The issue that presents itself this year is that one person is responsible for three sustained events. This in itself could be a red flag and normally, I would recommend we monitor the performance of this individual. However, that is being done and, at the time of this report, the employee's behavior has improved impressively. Still, it reminds us to be vigorous in the follow up of discipline in these situations.**

**Over all, most of the complaints focus around courteous treatment of citizens. Reminders to field deputies and corrections deputies by supervisors should be constant in advising employees to practice patience with citizens, even when they are hard to deal with, and to treat them the way they themselves would want to be treated.**

**Use of Force during 2019**

Patrol Sgt. Shaun Minks provided our information for our Use of Force Incidents for this report.

Given the current climate, I believe adding application of force to race would be a level of examination that would be beneficial in our overall annual analysis.

In summary, there were a total of eighty-seven (87) use of force reports for the year; fifty-nine (59) for Patrol, and twenty-eight (28) for Corrections. I have broken down the incidents by Department Divisions. 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.

**Total Incidents Patrol/Corrections: 87**

**Race of Citizens involved in UOF Incidents: 2019**

<b>White:</b>	75
<b>Native:</b>	7

<b>Hispanic:</b>	2
<b>Black:</b>	2

These are department totals, meaning the corrections and field bureaus are combined. However, working through the numbers, and comparing them to our areas demographics, the incidents seem to match up with population percentages for the most part. In the coming year, we will examine better ways to evaluate applications of force as it relates to race.

<b><u>Patrol: Total Incidents</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>37</b>

**Level 1- 68**

<b>Techniques Utilized:</b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
Display of Taser	7	6	1
Display Firearm	17	7	7
Taser Deployment	6	8	4
Counter Joint	18	16	20
Level 1 Takedown	9	8	13
Overpower / Outmuscle	25	25	13
Hair Hold	2	0	0
VNR	0	0	0
Pressure Point	1	0	0

<b>Level 2 – 0</b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------

<b>Techniques Utilized:</b>			
Hand Strikes (x2)	0	1	0
Stop Kick	0	0	0
Knew Strikes	0	1	0
Baton Strikes (SL20)	0	0	0

**Lethal Force –0**

<b>Techniques Utilized:</b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
Firearm	0	0	0

<b><u>Corrections: Total Incidents</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
	28	42	41

Level 1 – 66

Techniques Utilized:	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
Display of Taser	1	2	9
Taser Deployment	2	2	6
Counter Joint	8	12	17
Level 1 Takedown	24	6	4
Overpower / Outmuscle	16	11	16
Hair Hold	1	2	6
VNR	3	3	1
Pressure Point	5	0	0
Restraint Chair/Wrap	6	7	0

<b>Level 2 – 0</b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------

Techniques Utilized:			
Knee Strikes	0	0	0
Hand Strikes	0	1	0
Elbow Strikes	0	1	1

In comparing 2019's use of force review to 2018's, use of force reports from the Patrol Division are equal to 2018. Call load and numbers of arrests were higher in 2018. As a reminder, Deputies also have incidents involving using force in order to take people into custody for ITA. Reviews from the last three years show the lowest year was 2017 with 37 uses of force incidents reported and the highest being 2018 and 2019, but there is no statistical data to show the change in number of incidents between years.

After reviewing 2019 reports, Deputies appear to be following the provided training that started in 2018 and carried on through 2019 regarding how/when use of force reports will be documented. Some updated training had been given throughout 2018 and 2019 instructing Deputies when to write reports in areas where they normally would not. For example, if a suspect doesn't resist arrest but is instructed to lie on the ground and the Deputy uses body weight to control the suspect while cuffing, I instructed Deputies to write a use of force report. Also, if the suspect tenses up and the Deputy uses a counter joint technique to force the suspect's wrists into restraints, that would also be a use of force report required. Once Blue Team was in place, Deputies were required to complete use of force reports if they were involved in the incident and used force.

For corrections, there was a decrease in the number of use of force reports by one showing 28 reports in 2019. Corrections have stuck with their standardized style of when

to complete use of force reports. Like operations, corrections also moved to using Blue Team and some of their use of force incidents had multiple reports for the same incident. In 2019, Corrections Deputies had more Level 1 Takedowns and Overpower/Outmuscle than 2018.

## **Pursuits during 2019**

In 2019 the Clallam County Sheriff's Office initiated 4 vehicle pursuits. The pursuit reports are contained in administrative file A41 Vehicle Pursuit Reports for 2019 and are issued numbers sequential to the event.

The pursuits are summarized as follows:

19-01:

- Deputies involved: 1.
- Number of units: 1
- Vehicle: Car.
- Reason for pursuit: Driving habits. Suspect varying speeds etc.
- Duration: 1.5 min.
- Distance: 1 mile.
- Max speed: 70
- Termination dispo: Deputy lost sight of vehicle.
- P.I.T.: No.
- Injuries: No.
- Final charges: N/A.
- Notes: None.

19-02:

- Deputies involved: 1
- Number of units: 1
- Vehicle: Car.
- Reason for pursuit: Switched plates, possible stolen.
- Duration: 2 min, 22 seconds
- Distance: 3.
- Max speed: 90.
- Termination dispo: Suspect crashed.
- P.I.T.: No.
- Injuries: None however suspect was cleared by hospital.
- Final charges: switched plates, reckless, attempted elude

19-03:

- Deputies involved: 3
- Number of units: 3
- Vehicle: Car.
- Reason for pursuit: Robbery 1 suspect.
- Duration: not recorded.
- Distance: 3 miles
- Max speed: 85 mph.
- Termination dispo: Suspect ultimately led pursuing deputies to a home where he went in and barricaded.
- P.I.T.: attempted, but no contact.
- Injuries: None.
- Final charges: Robbery 1 and attempt elude.
- Notes:

19-04:

- Deputies involved: 1.
- Number of units: 3 (2 PAPD).
- Vehicle: Car.
- Reason for pursuit: DOC wanted
- Duration: 3 mins.
- Distance: 2 miles.
- Max speed: 80 mph.
- Termination dispo: After hand off to PAPD, suspect stopped a short time later
- P.I.T.: None.
- Injuries: None.
- Final charges: Controlled Substance with intent, Elude.
- Notes:

In 2018, there were 7 pursuits, three more than in 2019. All pursuits in 2019 were reviewed by supervisory and command staff. All were initiated and conducted with policy and none developed into internal inquiries or discipline/training of deputies.

**Recommendation:**

- **None. The events in 2019 where deputies elected to pursue were proper choices and reflective of good judgment. In one case, the deputy self-terminated the pursuit to keep themselves and others from being hurt and**



**the initial reason for the stop was di minimis. Again, this shows good decision making of those in the field to protect the safety of all.**

## **Biased Based Policing 2019**

No reports or complaints from citizens were received by this agency in 2019 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. There was one internal investigation informal citizen complaint that was titled “Biased”, but it was a conflict of interest complaint where the deputy allegedly knew the suspect and therefore had a “biased” attitude in his investigation. The internal was unfounded.

I researched arrests made in 2019 by race. Through computer based recall, we found a total of 899 cases cleared by arrest by deputies in 2019. This is actually a slight decrease in arrests compared to 2018. The race of the defendants in those cases breaks down as follows:

White, non Hispanic	784	or	87.2 %
Asian	5	or	less than 1%
Black	22	or	2.5%
Hispanic	22	or	2.5%
Native American	63	or	7%

A similar check of Traffic Events during 2019 produced slightly different statistics. From a total of 395 events reported:

White, non Hispanic	363	or	90%
Asian	7	or	about 1%
Black	0	or	a little over 1%
Hispanic	6	or	about 3%
Native American	18	or	about 4.5%

*Remainder is classified as unknown*

Traffic events were down significantly in 2019 compared to 2018. A traffic event can be a citation, notice of infraction or a person involved in a traffic collision.

In comparison I checked with the US Census Bureau records to compare activity with our ethnic population. The 2019 population estimates are the latest available and break down as follows:

White, non Hispanic	87.3%
Asian	1.8%
Black	1.2%
Hispanic	6.3%
Native American	5.6%

*Note: some individuals reported mixed or multiple race which slightly skews the total*  
*Source: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/clallamcountywashington/PST045216>*

Again, I juxtaposed the percentages of the ethnicity of those arrested with the reported population of Clallam County by the US Census Bureau.

This is the fifth year that such statistics are reported as part of the annual report to the Sheriff. While the number of criminal cases cleared by arrest is down slightly, the number of traffic tickets is down significantly. And yet the percentages are very close to the same as previous years, and well within what we can consider tolerances of evenly placed enforcement. Even the Native American numbers, which were a little high the last couple of years, have fallen to levels that are consistent with our population numbers.

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. But I do believe this gives a reasonable snapshot of our field deputy's performance in the field. These numbers, along with no reports of biased policing complaints would indicate that such activity is not occurring.

## Evidence Report

In 2019, Chief Civil Deputy Alice Hoffman continued to work to improve processes in our evidence systems. A new barcode software solution was installed in October after several months of testing the data to be exported from LERMS property module into the new system. This new solution is very intuitive and allows batch updates throughout the system for receipt of property, data input by Records staff, location transfers, and final disposition of the property. Except for the Records data entry, the bar code scanner is available for use in three of our five evidence storage facilities. We have found that our IT section is challenged in making this program work to its full potential, and are looking forward to the day that all the issues are resolved to allow it to provide us an top notch service.

As of 12-31-19, there were a total of 10,603 items on hand. This is a decrease of 277 items or almost 2.6% less than was reported last year at this time. The evidence folks were tasked the first three months of the year helping to collect, sort, store, and retrieve the 558 items of evidence collected at the end of 2018/beginning of 2019 from a triple homicide case. This was very time consuming for them and they simply did not have the time to concentrate on disposal of items. However while they were concentrating on the homicide case, other staff were researching dispositions of property items and coding items in the computer system to allow the evidence folks to begin purging when they had the time. You can see the last three months of the year they utilized the new system to help them get caught up with purging.

The number of items disposed of in 2019 totaled **2,456**. (1580 Jan-Sept and 876 Oct-Dec).

1180 were destroyed

1276 were returned to owner, deposited to the treasurer, or donated to charity

Alice and staff are continuing to conduct a major clean up and purge of items that have been unclaimed for some time. Hundreds of disposition authorizations have been received and input into the computer with a “pending” status. There are 638 items identified as pending auction, destroy, drug destruction, or return to owner. They will be pending until such time the auction item is sold, the item can be destroyed, or the owner comes in to claim.

## **Summary**

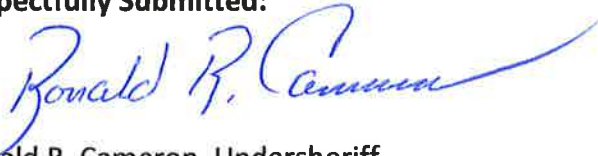
In review of all topics addressed in this document, the only issue that bears discussion is the information I pointed out in the Internal Investigations section. Here, one employee was involved in several incidents which were becoming a concern. However, the employee has been confronted with the concerns on several levels from the line folks to command staff, and that person’s demeanor appears to have improved significantly.

I find no real issues in the Use of Force, Pursuit or Biased Policing reports for 2019. Numbers in all categories are similar to 2018’s, and nothing significant can be located to address for policy changes.

While I have no specific recommendations in this year’s review, we should continue to proactively address our expectations with our staff. This acts as a reminder for all that we need to be cognizant of our activities and interaction with the public at all times. And we want to encourage our staff at any rank, to respond quickly to the red flags as they are observed and brought forward. Addressing

these matters early is the best way to keep them from becoming bigger problems later.

**Respectfully Submitted:**



Ronald R. Cameron, Undersheriff

Concur:

Sheriff's Signature  Date: 10-1-2020