

THE WORLD OF
FORCE INVESTIGATION



Captain Gregg Caylor
FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM



POLICY REFORM

➤ Title 8 Seattle Police Manual- Use of Force

- Encompasses every aspect of use of force
 - Force options
 - De-escalation techniques
 - Using force
 - Type (classification) of force
 - Reporting requirements
 - Investigation of force
 - Supervisory investigative requirements
 - Review of force incidents

De-escalation

- When Safe under the Totality of the Circumstances and Time and Circumstances Permit, Officers Shall Use De-Escalation Tactics in Order to Reduce the Need for Force
- Examples:
 - Slow down situation
 - Physical barriers
 - Containment
 - Changing position
 - Decreasing exposure – distance/cover/concealment
 - Communication from a safe distance
 - Using negotiation and LEED tactics to calm
 - Calling extra resources – CIT, specialized tools

CLASSIFICATION OF FORCE

➤ TYPE I-

- Transient pain, disorientation, aiming of firearm

➤ TYPE II-

- Physical injury, complaint of injury, less lethal

➤ TYPE III-

- Serious injury, deadly force, loss of consciousness, criminal or serious officer misconduct, impact weapon to the head

THE U.O.F. INVESTIGATION

➤ Typical UOF investigation-
handled by shift supervisor



- Supervisor responds and makes initial assessment
- Interviews the subject
- Photographs
- Canvass the area for witnesses and video
- All officers' actions accounted
- Evaluates the incident for areas of concern
- Prepares a detailed report

FIT is Created

- Started in January, 2014 as part of the implementation of the consent decree to investigate the most serious Use of Force cases
- Collaborative effort between monitoring team and the Seattle Police Department
- Modeled after Los Angeles Police Department Force Investigations Division, and others
- Investigates serious use of force incidents including officer involved shootings



2014

A YEAR OF PROGRESS AND GROWTH

- Permanent team established
- 46 total cases; 9 officer involved shootings
- All thorough and complete investigations
- Made improvements to the process according to feedback from the Monitor, DOJ, OPA, involved officers, and others
- Detectives attended intense training



2015 - REFINEMENT and SHARING

- Continuing Education to improve skills
 - Interview techniques
 - Other agency practices – LA, Las Vegas
- Process improvements continue – we are always looking for ways to improve FIT investigations
- Agencies are looking to SPD as a model
- Our ultimate goal is to be the best we can be for our community, our officers and our department

TEAM MEMBERS AND TRAINING

- Captain
 - Lieutenant
 - Sergeant
 - 6 Detectives
-
- Very experienced group who received intense training specific to the investigation of use of force incidents.
 - Serious about investigating these properly

EXPECTATIONS AND GOALS

- Comprehensive and objective investigation
- Handled with the utmost integrity and professionalism
- Remain transparent throughout the course of the investigation
- Compassionate to our community members and to affected officers
- Introspective in our internal evaluations- always striving to improve our investigative process



FIT INVESTIGATION

- Respond to and assume responsibility for scene
- Collaborative effort with CSI on most serious incidents for scene processing
- Careful handling of officers and subjects involved
- Meticulous follow up investigative process

FIT INVESTIGATION (Cont'd)

- Coordinated effort from beginning to end
 - FIT
 - CSI
 - OPA (for accountability and oversight)
 - Training (for learning points)

- Investigation follows basic process utilized to investigate lower level incidents, but far more in depth

ACCOUNTABILITY & OVERSIGHT

- OPA oversight of the FIT investigation
 - Misconduct identified is referred to OPA for investigation and disposition
 - OPA monitors FIT investigations for objectivity and thoroughness
- Training Unit Assessment
 - Were the officer(s) actions consistent with training and department policy
- The Monitor and DOJ Review Investigations

THE REVIEW PROCESS (CONT'D)

- 3 levels of FIT supervisor/command staff review internally before submission
- Completed case forwarded to OPA for review
- Monitor reviews each case. It is anticipated that the Office of the Inspector General will assume this role.
- Case is forwarded for presentation to the Force Review Board

FORCE REVIEW BOARD

➤ Observers and Oversight

- Monitoring Team
- DOJ attorney
- OPA Director
- Patrol and Investigations Sergeants/Lieutenants
- Training and Policy Sergeants
- SPOG Representative (for shooting cases)
- Citizen Observer (for shooting cases)

FORCE REVIEW BOARD (Cont'd)

- Each case is rigorously dissected and evaluated by the board
 - Constitutional standard of “Objective Reasonableness” applied to the use of force
 - Lessons learned and points for take away are identified
 - Constant evaluation and discussion related to improvement of procedures, tactics, policies, and equipment

EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY IN OUR JOURNEY

- Collaborative effort involving the community in our investigations
- Sharing of information that does not compromise the investigation during sensitive incidents

BUILDING THE BRIDGE TO TRUST

- Networking with community groups
- Information sharing
- Allowing our community to be heard
- Continuously working with community stakeholders in our mission to better policing

TRANSPARENCY

- Accurate information dispersed in a timely manner
 - Information is released via:
 - Media
 - SPD Blotter
 - Twitter
- FIT Investigations provide the most complete work product with meticulous internal review
- Court inquest in fatal incidents
- Process that the community can trust will bring every fact of an incident to light

THE TEST

- The true test is more than improving what we do internally:
 - The community stamps the process with approval
 - Accomplished through open lines of fruitful and informative communication among all of the involved parties
 - Quality marks from the Monitoring Team & DOJ
 - Recognizing the dynamic nature of constantly improving policing and exercising a willingness to make the necessary changes

MONITORING TEAM SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

“FIT investigations are consistently excellent”

“Their willingness, too, for accepting suggestions and incorporating guidance from the OPA, the FRU, the FRB, the DOJ, and the technical assistance of the Monitoring Team has been laudable.”

9-24-15 FORCE ASSESSMENT

“Rank and file officers have responded to clear rules of the road for systematically documenting force whenever it is used, sergeants have responded to the scene in way that permits a thorough investigation, and FIT investigations are consistently excellent.”

- Policies
- Training
- Oversight

QUESTIONS?