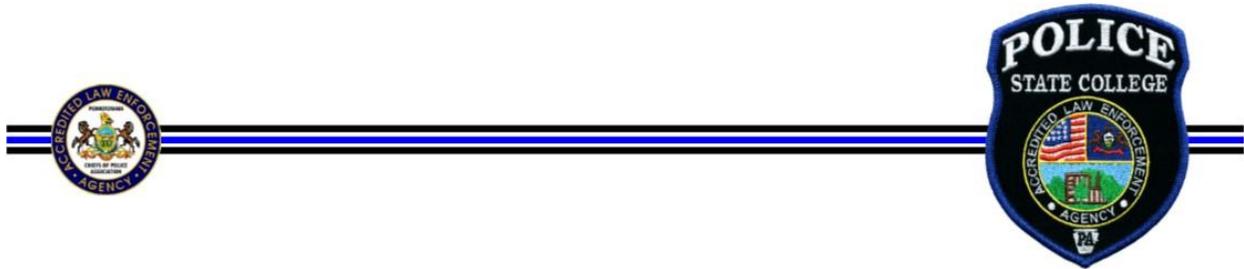


STATE COLLEGE POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL TASER REPORT 2017



OVERVIEW

The State College Police Department officially equipped officers with TASERs on February 23, 2015. This was the culmination of several months of research, policy development and training done in partnership with the Penn State Police Department. Department staff specifically researched the best device for use, costs, training needs and policy. Sergeant Angellotti and Officer Wolfe were selected to be certified by TASER International as instructors. They attained certification as Instructors in October 2014. Once Penn State/ State College officers were certified a committee approach was used to select the most proper and effective TASER device for State College and Penn State Officers to use in the field.

Patrol Captain Matthew Wilson attended a TASER Use of Force, Risk Management & Technologies Solutions Seminar in July 2014. Along with this training, policy was researched using the International Association of Police Chief's website (IACP.net). Numerous policies from accredited police departments across the country, to include IACP's model policy were reviewed and considered to formulate the State College Police Department policy. Staff also met with other local police departments already having deployed TASERs for several years and obtained policies, learned practices and advice on devices and equipment from our neighboring partner agencies.

In November 2014, the department purchased 10 – Taser X26P devices to include training and related equipment at a cost of \$16, 924.98. Once the policy and a training curriculum

were finalized, all State College Officers received TASER certification in January and February 2015. The certification consisted of a TASER International approved 8 hour class to include written and practical examinations. Although not required, 22 officers volunteered to be exposed to a TASER probe deployment. Once all training was completed, TASER's were officially deployed on February 23, 2015. The Department purchased another 10 – TASER X26P devices to include training and related equipment in July 2015 at a cost of \$14,255.55. This allowed for most uniformed officers to carry a TASER even during special event weekends when deployed staff is at the highest level.

2017 TRAINING

All State College Officers received re-certification in the use of the TASER during January and February 2017. That recertification consisted of a TASER International 4-hour course that included a practical examination. The training consisted of an approved and updated TASER curriculum current with recent case law and trends regarding TASER use. The practical examination added targeting subjects from multiple positions. Five newly hired officers were also given initial TASER certification prior to authorization to carry. In October 2017 Officers Nick Raia and Mike Williams completed instructor certification in preparation for 2018 training.

2017 TASER PURCHASES

In April 2017 the department purchased 6 new X26P TASER devices. The purchase totaled \$12,339.57. It included extra batteries, cartridges and training equipment for 2018 training. This purchase brought the department's compliment to a total of 35 - X26P TASER devices. Still not enough tasers to equip each officer, however certainly enough to equip most uniformed officers working during special event deployments.

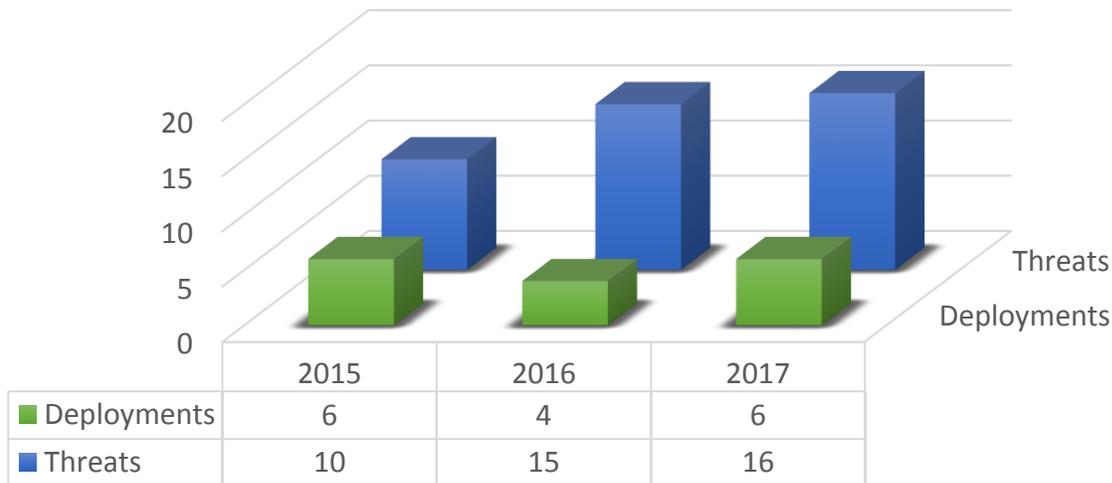


The department currently owns 35 - X26P TASER Devices

2017 TASER DEPLOYMENTS

YEARLY COMPARISON

Deployment vs. Threats of Use



****A threat of deployment includes the officer arming the TASER and pointing it at the subject while verbally advising the subject he or she is going to be tased if he or she does not comply or stop resisting.***

There was a total of 6 TASER deployment incidents along with 16 incidents where officers threatened to use the TASER in 2017. These numbers are relatively consistent with 2015 and 2016 uses. All six of the TASER deployments were reviewed by the Department Conduct and Procedures Review Board as per department policy. The Board reviews the reasonableness of the deployment along with consistency with established department policy. The Board recommendations may include policy changes, training needs or referral to Internal affairs. The Board is recommending one minor clarification be made in policy regarding post deployment procedures. Following is a listing of each incident where a TASER was deployed in 2017:

- 1) March 2017 – An Officer deployed a TASER on a male that was actively resisting arrest and refusing to place his arms behind his back. The TASER was in-effective due to the probes not making contact through clothing.
- 2) April 2017 – An Officer deployed a TASER on a male suffering from a mental health episode who fled emergency room care and refused verbal attempts to stop.

- 3) April 2017 – An Officer deployed a TASER on a male suffering from a mental health crisis. The male refused attempts to get medical assistance and kicked an officer in the groin repeatedly before the TASER was utilized.
- 4) June 2017 – An Officer deployed his TASER on an intoxicated male that resisted arrest and actively fought with officers. The initial probe deployment was not effective so the Officer followed up with a drive stun to accomplish handcuffing.
- 5) October 2017 – An Officer deployed his TASER on a male threatening himself and the public.
- 6) November 2017 - An Officer deployed his TASER on a male who had been involved in a fight and actively resisted arrest. The initial drive stun deployment proved ineffective and a second drive stun was used to accomplish handcuffing.

INJURIES

One subject did suffer a cheek abrasion due to actively struggling with officers. Otherwise, there were no injuries beyond a signature or contact burn from a drive stun or small punctures from a probe deployment. All subjects exposed to the TASER received medical evaluation/attention as per department policy. There was one officer injury related to being kicked by a subject repeatedly.



Typical result of Probe Deployment



Typical result of Drive Stun

Probe Deployment: When activated two tiny probes are launched and (ideally) attach to a subject's clothing or skin to complete an electrical circuit back to the TASER. An electrical signal is transmitted through the wires and probes resulting in immediate loss of the subject's neuromuscular control.

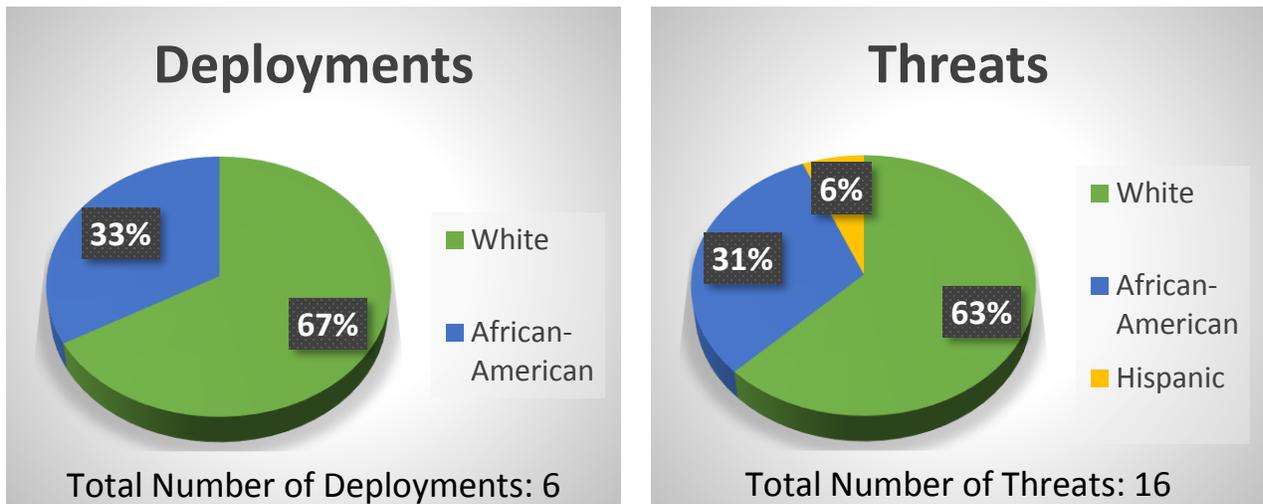
Drive Stun: When the probe cartridge is removed from the unit and the TASER contact points are held against a subject's body while the TASER is activated. This activation results in pain felt by the subject but does not create neuromuscular incapacitation.



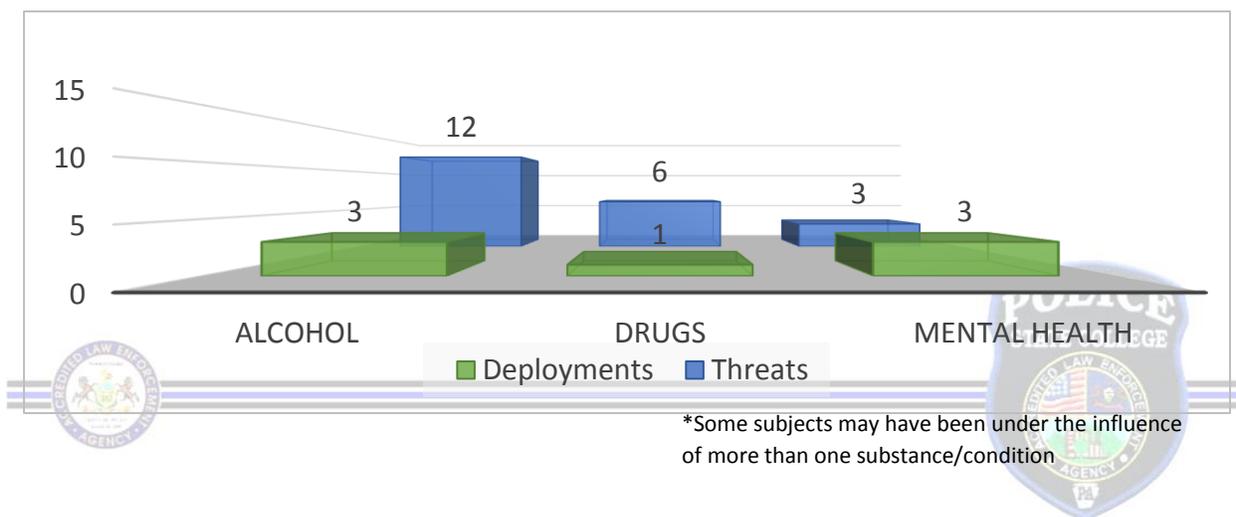
FURTHER STATISTICS

- In all 6 deployments the subjects were males.
- In 4 of the 6 deployments the subject was exposed to one (1) – 5 second cycle. Two deployments resulted in (2) – 5 second cycles due to the 1st cycle proving in-effective.
- Following are further statistics and graphs displaying demographics involving TASER use in 2017.

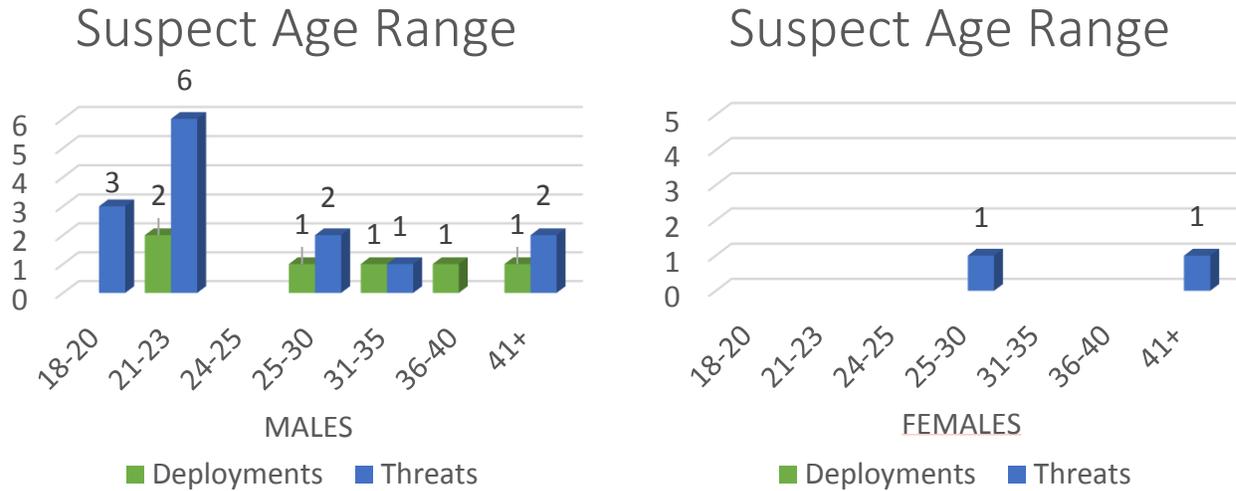
2017 Ethnicity Breakdown of Deployments vs. Threats



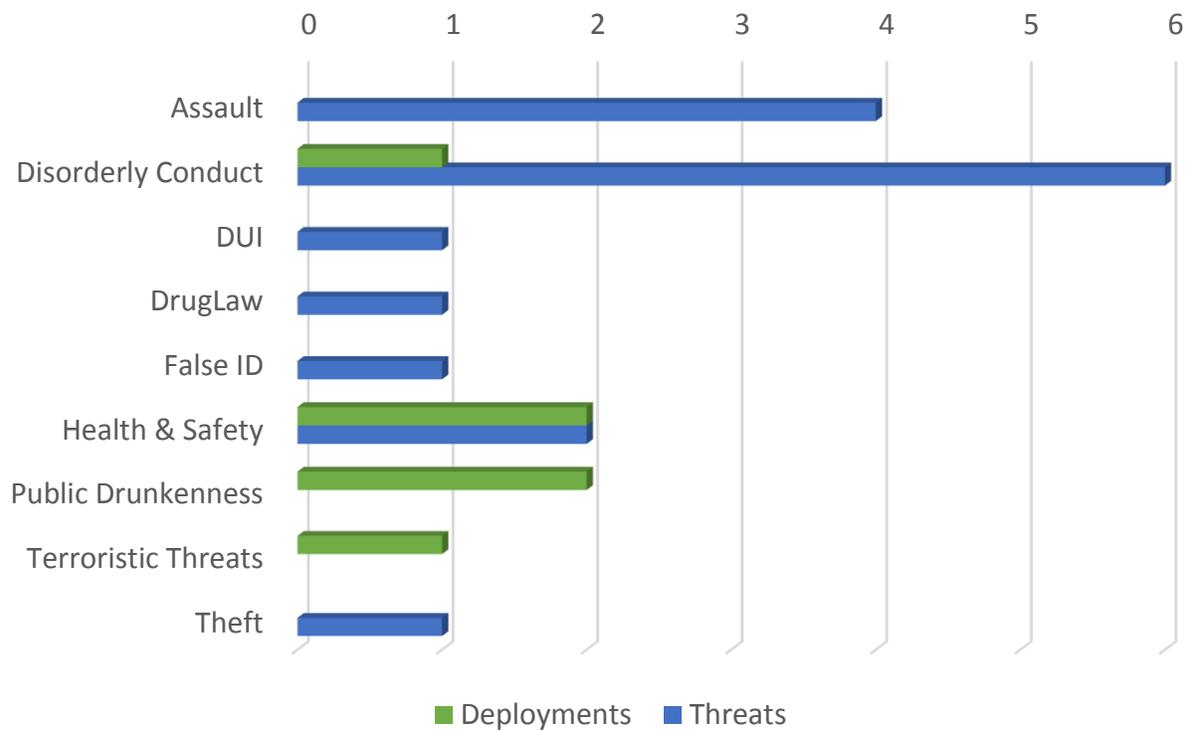
2017 Subjects Under the Influence or Suffering from Mental Health Crisis



2017 Age/Gender of Suspects Deployments vs. Threats



2017 Nature of Call with Taser Deployments or Threats



SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

TASER deployments and the threats of deployment slightly increased over 2015 and 2016 numbers. In 5 of 6 deployments the TASER proved an effective tool to gain voluntary compliance from an otherwise aggressive or resisting subject. The injuries associated with these incidents remain minimal. Furthermore, officers continue to successfully gain voluntary compliance in most incidents with merely the threat of using a TASER on a subject. This occurred in 15 out of 16 separate incidents in 2017. As a result, the TASER remains an effective tool to be used by trained State College Police Officers.

Regarding purchases and training, the State College Police Department has budgeted to acquire 3 more X26P TASER devices in 2018 bringing the total to 38 devices. The department will also continue to certify in-house instructors and will conduct 2018 officer TASER re-certifications as well as provide first time certification to all newly hired officers before they are authorized to carry the TASER on patrol. The department also plans to add scenario based training in 2018.

The Department's Conduct and Procedures Review Board will continue to review each TASER deployment for consistency with department policy. These reviews will also consider possible training needs and policy changes. The department will also continue to monitor and review court decisions to ensure that policy is consistent with the law regarding reasonable use of the TASER.

