



INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

POLICE DEPARTMENT

"To Serve and Protect"

March 30, 2009

TO: Acting Deputy Chief Mary Newman

FROM: Ryan Behrens - Research & Planning Specialist, C958 *RLB*

SUBJECT: 2008 Analysis of Use of Force Reports

REPORTED USE OF FORCE COMPARISON - 2007/2008		
	2007	2008
Firearms	74	79
Impact Weapons	15	4
Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint (LVNR)	47	45
Pepperball	36	14
Mace	39	39
Bodily Force	477	420
Taser	142	75

The Omaha Police Department (OPD) experienced a 6.7% increase in reported firearms discharges between 2007 and 2008. These incidents represent no significant variation from those in previous years, and no change in policy or training is recommended at this time.

Impact weapons include use of police batons. Use of impact weapons decreased by 60% between 2007 and 2008, although the rarity of usage prevents a conclusion of significance. These incidents represent no significant variation from those in previous years, and no change in policy or training is recommended.

The lateral vascular neck restraint (LVNR) technique is used to subdue combative subjects. There was no significant change in use of the LVNR technique between 2007 and 2008, and no significant variation from those in previous years. No change in policy or training is recommended at this time.

Use of the pepperball weapon system decreased by 61% from 2007 to 2008, due to fewer large crowd disturbances necessitating the system's use. No misuse of the pepperball weapon system was noted and no change in policy or training is recommended.

Use of mace by officers remained constant from 2007 to 2008. No misuse was noted and no change in policy or training is recommended.

Use of bodily force decreased by 11.9% from 2007 to 2008, and few instances of misuse were noted. In those few instances where misuse of physical force was evident, involved officers were immediately corrected and given remedial training on the use of force. No change in policy or training is recommended at this time.

Taser use decreased by 47% between 2007 and 2008, and no change in policy or training is recommended.