



NEW BERN POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
P.O. BOX 1129  
NEW BERN, N.C. 28563  
(252) 672-4100

# City of New Bern

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New Bern, North Carolina

Three Centuries of North Carolina Heritage



FRANK PALOMBO  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
(252) 672-4190

**TO:** Frank Palombo, Chief of Police

**FROM:** Ernest Flowers III, Internal Affairs Sergeant

**VIA:** Edward Preston, Deputy Chief of Police

**COPIES:** Mary Trude, Accreditation Manager, Internet, File

**DATE:** March 9, 2009

**Subject:** Use of Force Report for 2008

**1.3.7 – Review of use of force reports**  
**1.3.13 - Analysis of use of force reports**

The New Bern Police Department is required by CALEA standards to prepare an annual assessment of reported use of force incidents to identify training needs with respect to the use of force. Therefore this report is submitted to document this assessment.

**Analysis:**

During 2008 a total of (42) use of force reports were filed by the officers. This represents a 37% **decrease** in the total number of use of force reports filed in 2008. When compared to the total number of calls for service (21,514) in 2008, force was a factor in .20 % of the total calls for service during 2008. When you compare the total number of use of force reports (42) to the total number of arrest (3373) force was a factor in 1.25% of the total number of arrest in 2008.

The following table shows the number of incidents reported by type of force.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
OC Spray	9	21.4 %
Impact Weapons	0	0.0 %
Physical Control	18	43.0 %
Pointed Firearm	4	9.5 %
Takedown	11	26.1 %
Other	0	0.0 %
Shooting	0	0.0 %

**Assessment:**

The low percentage of reported incidents in comparison to the total number of arrest and calls for service indicate that the officers are relying on their training and communication skills rather than an application of force to resolve encounters. Statistical analysis of the use of force reports shows that officers are generally making sound decisions with respect to the department's policies and philosophy concerning use of force response options.

**Recommendations:**

This assessment did not reveal any significant areas of concern for the department in the area of use of force or our current training outline as it pertains to the use of force. As long as the training section continues to provide the quality of in service training in the area of use of force and firearms then we should not expect to see an increase in this area.