



# City of New Bern

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New Bern, North Carolina

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**FRANK PALOMBO**  
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## Three Centuries of North Carolina Heritage

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

**FROM:** David K. Pelletier, Internal Affairs Sergeant

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

**DATE:** February 24, 2006

**Subject:** Analysis of Use of Force Report for 2005

Re: CALEA standard 1.3.13

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 2005 a total of **81 use of force reports** were filed by the officers. This represents a **13.6% increase** in the total number of use of force reports filed in 2004. When compared to the total number of calls for service (48,306) in 2005, **force was a factor in 1.7 %** of the total calls for service during 2005. When you compare the total number of use of force reports (81) to the total number of arrest (2,685) **force was a factor in 3.0% of the total number of arrest in 2005.**

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

<i><u>Type</u></i>	<i><u>Number</u></i>	<i><u>Percentage of Total</u></i>
OC Spray	11	13.6 %
Impact Weapons	3	3.7 %
Physical Control	45	55.5 %
Pointed Firearm	22	27.2 %
Takedown	0	0.0 %
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 departments policies and philosophy concerning use of force response options. This is evidenced by the fact that 55.5 % of reported incidents were resolved by physical control (soft hand) and another 13.6 % by the use of OC. Both of these options are at the lower end of the use of force continuum. Further only 3.7 % required escalation to impact weapons.

**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.