



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL

Office of Professional Accountability
February 2017 Report

Public Safety Committee Briefing
February 20, 2017





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Selected Excerpts of Officer Commendation Letters

I went on a ride along with **Officer Stanley Stadelman**. I wanted to tell you that I was so impressed with Officer Stadelman and all the officers I met. Officer Stadelman was gracious enough to answer all of my questions and provide a really valuable experience for me. It was such a unique opportunity to see Spokane and our police department in a way I wasn't expecting.

-E. T.

Sergeant Ferguson, I just wanted to let you know that I have been really impressed with **Officer Tyler Fisher** and he should be given kudos for doing such a great job! He has been an invaluable asset in checking jail calls and I was even more impressed that he often checked without us even asking. I have at least one case where he found jail calls between the defendant and the protected party that gave me a solid case. In that case I am likely now going to be able to get a plea on an assault because of his work.

-Cara Lorenzo, Assistant City Prosecutor

Spokane Police Department-- I attended the pro-immigrant/refugee demonstration at the Lincoln statue downtown, and I want to thank you for your work in making a peaceful event. I was delighted to see that our gathering became a march, thanks to your support of the group's First Amendment rights. I'm proud to be a Spokane resident. Thank you again for all the good work you do.

-Nicole Sheers

Sergeant Chris Crane was extremely helpful on 1/17/17 regarding two cases for Crisis Response Services. He was able to assist with identifying an individual whom CRS was trying to assist. He was helpful with information pertaining to safety concerns for CRS staff and collaborated on a response with DMHP's. On a second case, he also collaborated with DMHP as Spokane Police had contact with an individual on Saturday and DMHP's received a referral on Sunday but neither agency knew the other was involved. When the call came in from DMHP's on 1/17/17, Crane assisted with coordinating a response and again was able to provide information that pertained to the safety for the DMHP. His assistance and information demonstrates excellent communication among law enforcement and DMHP's and allowed for all involved to safely collaborate on a response to assist the community.

-Shelby Whitworth, MS, DMHP, Crisis Response, Frontier Behavioral Health

I wanted to write you an email about how impressed I was with **Officer Mylissa Coleman's** work the other day in dealing with the victim that appeared at our office. Without Officer Coleman's intervention a significant injustice would have occurred in allowing a DV suspect to escape the full consequences of his crimes. The recognition of the situation and the willingness to stop everything she was doing and refocus her time to this case will greatly benefit the citizens of this county and the prosecution of this case. Thank you.

-Joe Kuhlman, Spokane County Prosecutors





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Internal Affairs Unit Update

Rate of Complaints, 2013-2016

- 2013: 204 Complaints (87 were inquiries)
- 2014: 169 Complaints (101 were inquiries)
- 2015: 109 Complaints (72 were inquiries)
- 2016: 78 Complaints (20 inquiries as of February 6, 2017)

January 1 through January 31, 2017 Complaints

Complaints Received:

Total: 5
Closed Out as Inquiries: 0 (As of February 6, 2017)

An inquiry is an initial complaint about employee conduct which, even if true, would not qualify as a personnel complaint and may be handled informally by a department supervisor and shall not be considered complaints.

Categories of Complaints**

Allegations associated with **Citizen Complaints** received between January 1 and January 31, 2017.
 **Note: Some investigations involve multiple allegations. Allegations may be for commissioned or civilian employees.

Allegation	Number
Demeanor	3
Inadequate Response	3
Unlawful/Improper Arrest	1

The most common complaints were for allegations of Demeanor and Inadequate Response. In 2016, demeanor complaints made up 30% of allegations and Inadequate Response made up 22% of allegations.





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Source of 2017 Complaints*

*Note: Sometimes a citizen will report a complaint in multiple places; in those cases, the place where the complaint was first reported is noted.

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	Total: 3
Received by the Spokane Police Department	Total: 2
Internally Generated by the SPD	Total: 0

Disposition of Allegations

Note: As of February 6, 2017, all cases are still under investigation.

Use of Force Update

Non-Deadly Use of Force Totals, 2013-2016

- 2013: 147 incidents
- 2014: 114 incidents
- 2015: 117 incidents
- 2016: 105 incidents

Note: In 2016, SPD policies were revised to include new categories of reportable force. Yet, incidents did not increase. Non-deadly Use of Force incidents have decreased by 29% between 2013 and 2016.

Deadly Force Totals, 2013-2016

- 2013: 3 incidents
- 2014: 4 incidents
- 2015: 5 incidents
- 2016: 3 incidents

Deadly force rates have stayed fairly constant; deadly force was used an average of 3.75 each year.

2017 Incidents

From January 1-January 31, there were 7 non-deadly use of force incidents and one deadly force incident.





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Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents Update (through February 6, 2017)

2016 Case Status

F16-039 (With Administrative Review Panel)

Incident 16-151075 took place April 28, 2016 at the intersection of Pacific and State. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office completed their investigation. SPD's administrative investigation is ongoing.

F16-040 (Under SIRR Investigation)

Incident 16-154017 took place May 1, 2016 at the intersection of Division and Main. The case is with the Prosecutor.

F16-041 (Status: Pending Deadly Force Review Board -DFRB)

Incident 16-155667 took place May 2, 2016 at 2701 W. Sunset Avenue. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office completed their investigation. SPD has completed the internal investigation; the next step is the Deadly Force Review Board.

2017 Case Status

F17-004 (Under SIRR Investigation)

Incident 2017-20008511 took place January 16, 2017 in the area of 5th and Maple. The incident is currently under investigation.

K9 Unit Annual Statistics

The K9 Unit deployed K9s 1000 times in 2016, including 189 captures and 13 contacts. The unit amassed 2,195.25 training hours (an average 26.13 per handler per month) and gave 59 public demonstrations.





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Explosive Disposal Unit (EDU) Annual Statistics

The Spokane Explosives Disposal Unit is a cooperative effort between the Spokane Police Department and the Spokane County Sheriff's Office. The EDU mission is to respond to and safely resolve explosives related incidents within its designated response area. The unit serves a large geographical area encompassing 20 counties throughout Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. The team responded to over 120 explosives related incidents in 2016, making it the most frequently utilized specialty team in the department.

Responses

In 2016 the EDU logged 121 responses. This represents an above average year in comparison to the previous 8 years' response numbers. A typical callout involves an initial two technician response to determine the nature and extent of the incident. The initial responding technicians then consult with a supervisor to determine the resources and personnel needed to safely resolve the incident. Responses outside of the county and those involving a render safe operation require a minimum compliment of two technicians and a supervisor in order to maintain safety.

- In 2016 the most common type of EDU response involved non-IED explosive recoveries. These responses include commercial explosives (such as dynamite, blasting caps, etc.), military ordnance, pyrotechnics, home-made explosives, or other bomb making materials.
- The team also responded to a large number of suspicious packages. These incidents involve items that were found to be suspicious by the complainant. The EDU only responds to these types of incidents after the initial responding officer finds circumstances that corroborate the suspicious nature of the item, or when they are unable to safely rule out an explosive hazard using conventional means (by locating the owner of the item, etc.).
- The team completed numerous protective sweeps for special events and a higher than usual number of dignitary protection details due to the presidential election.
- The next most common response involved Improvised Explosive Device calls. These responses involve assembled actual or hoax devices.
- The remainder of the team's responses involved bomb threats, investigation of post-blast scenes where an explosion had already occurred, assistance to area tactical teams including robotic and explosive breaching support, and technical consultation to agencies requesting information or recommendations on whether an EDU response was required in a particular situation.





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EDU K9

During the first three quarters of 2016 (prior to the transition of the K9 from EDU to the K9 unit) the city's Explosive Detection K9 (Ryker) was deployed on 42 incidents.

- The majority of the deployments were for special events and venue sweeps. These deployments consist of conducting preventative sweeps of sensitive areas for explosives prior to an event. Examples of special events where the K9 was utilized in 2016 include the MLK Unity March, Bloomsday, Lilac parade, Hoopfest, Iron Man, NCAA sporting events, and concert venues. This category also includes sweeps conducted prior to high profile dignitary visits (Presidential campaign visits).
- Searches for ballistic evidence (firearms, ammunition, shell casings, etc.) were conducted at several crime scenes at the request of patrol and investigative units from various agencies and the K9 was also utilized during the service of search warrants for explosives, firearms, and ammunition for various agencies.
- The remaining deployments were in conjunction with a bomb squad response. During these incidents the K9 was used to locate unknown explosive hazards (including following bomb threat incidents), check for secondary devices, or search for remaining explosive hazards following a render safe procedure.

EDU Training

- Team members train in excess of 350 hours per year. The technical nature of the material requires members to complete extensive refresher training on key topics on their own time to maintain skill in areas such as digital x-ray imaging, hook and line rigging, CBRNE detection, HazMat, robotics, demolition procedures and disposal techniques, and explosive breaching calculations. In addition to the team training that is scheduled 3 times monthly, the unit's members attend specialized outside training to expand their knowledge base and skill sets. When a member attends outside training it is common for them to bring back the new material for presentation to the rest of the team.
- In 2016 the entire team attended a two day SWAT/EDU integration course with county bomb techs and members of the SPD SWAT team. This course focused on the integration of bomb techs with tactical teams in environments where they are likely to encounter explosive hazards (active shooters, etc.) The team also completed a 40 hour hand entry and manual techniques course that covered diagnostics, IED circuitry, and manual render safe procedures.
- In addition to training received by team members, the unit also provided training to several other specialty units, outside agencies, and community groups. The breaching team provided training in explosive breaching to students of the SPD K9 unit's advanced handler's school as well as to the SPD and SCSO SWAT teams. Team members provided explosives related training to numerous





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groups in 2016 including: the SPD SWAT team, Regional Health Care Coalition, Idaho Department of Emergency Management, Geiger Corrections, SPD patrol (Field In-service Training), CJTC BLEA students, Washington State Department of Ecology, SPD Reserve Academy students, and the WSU Intercollegiate Preparedness Workgroup. The team also provided demonstrations of EDU capabilities and equipment to community groups including the District 81, Lakeside, and Central Valley School Districts as well as participating in the annual Night Out Against Crime, Boy Scouts of America open house, and the SPD SWAT open house.

- In October the EDU had the opportunity to host the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators Region 1 Training Conference. This week long event included presentations by vendors, classes on various explosives related topics, case studies of explosives incidents, and an explosive breaching class and demonstration. Members of the team presented case studies, handled conference logistics, and facilitated the explosive breaching portion of the conference.

Training Updates

Implicit Bias Training

Officer Winston Brooks is leading Implicit Bias training for SPD In-Service this spring. Officer Brooks instructs on Implicit Bias for recruits in the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) and has trained other department instructors to assist him at In-Service. Implicit bias refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner (unlike explicit biases). Implicit biases, both favorable and unfavorable assessments, are activated involuntarily and without an individual's awareness or intentional control.

The curriculum emphasizes that everyone has implicit biases; the brain is wired to categorize and label, and fill in the blanks as a survival skill. Humans use past experience and pattern-map to help deal with all the incoming data. We are shaped by our upbringing, environment, use of media, etc. in ways we might not even know, so it's important to identify sources of potential bias. It's crucial that people become aware of their implicit biases in order to manage them.

The training will focus on awareness of implicit bias, understanding how it can impact behavior, and learning to combat the biases. The class also includes a portion on emotional intelligence and cultural intelligence.

Having several instructors trained to teach Implicit Bias is especially helpful as the department can provide ongoing training to officers, as well as train new hires and SPD volunteers.





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Outreach Update

SPD Academy Community Outreach Events

The SPD Academy hosted multiple events such as the Citizens Academy, Media Academy, Community Academy, use of force demonstrations, and Enhancing the Survival Mindset (ESM) classes. ESM is also presented to community members with “road show” presentations held at youth shelters, schools, universities, businesses, community groups, and service agencies. In 2016, 62 sessions of ESM courses were offered to approximately 2300 community members.

Outreach to Refugee Communities

Sergeant Glenn Bartlett has been meeting with people at agencies such as World Relief and Refugee Connections Spokane due to community members’ worries about immigrants, refugees, and law enforcement. Sergeant Bartlett explains the SPD immigration policy. The immigration status of individuals alone is generally not a matter for police action. Officers are required to provide equal enforcement of the law and equal service to the public regardless of immigration status. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has primary jurisdiction for enforcement of the provisions of Title 8, United States Code (U.S.C.) dealing with illegal entry. This policy, and the entire policy manual, can be found at this link: <https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/police/accountability/police-policy-manual-2016-02-09.pdf>

Police & Indian Forum at the NATIVE Project

The Community Outreach Unit is working with Toni Lodge, CEO of the NATIVE Project to organize a forum there to focus on Native American/American Indian issues. The forum will likely take place in March. More information will be shared as it is finalized.

Police & Community Forum -- February 23, 2017, 6-9 pm

The next Police & Community Forum is at the Salvation Army, 222 E. Indiana Avenue. The evening will begin with panel discussion. Then participants will break up into small groups for an hour of small-group discussion facilitated by members of the Faith Alliance/Forum Planning Committee. After the breakout, the groups will come together and have a question and answer session.

Scheduled panelists include the following individuals, although there are many more panelists being scheduled for future forums and there are occasionally some last-minute changes.





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- Levi Horn, Native youth programs
- Hussam Al-Khalidy, Spokane Public Schools, Iraqi community representative to the Police Advisory Committee
- Bart Logue, Police Ombudsman
- Lieutenant Mark Griffiths, SPD Training Director
- Jim Andrews, American Iron Works, Antigang Steering Committee
- Shaun T. Greer, Spokane County Bar Association- LGBTQ section
- Leon Covington, Deaconess Hospital, African-American community
- Officer Stephen Anderson, Spokane Police Department

Youth & Police Initiative (YPI)

SPD recently completed another successful YPI session at North Central High School. In February, a session is taking place at the Salvation Army.





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Noteworthy News

KXLY highlighted the great work our agency is doing every day in this community with a story about **Officer Chris Kirn** responding to a man who was in cardiac arrest. In addition to helping save his life, Officer Kirn was very helpful to the man's wife. KXLY filmed their reunion.

<http://www.kxly.com/news/local-news/spokane-man-meets-officer-who-helped-save-his-life/294989203>

The Spokesman Review highlighted **Officer Winston Brooks** at the Youth and Justice Forum: "Youth and Justice Forum introduces students who might not know a cop or a lawyer to both."

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2016/dec/09/youth-and-justice-forum-introduces-students-who-mi/>

KHQ created an informative piece on avoiding car prowlings and thefts, interviewing Officer Shane Phillips. <http://www.khq.com/story/34415785/spd-unlocks-secret-to-keeping-your-car-safe>

KHQ highlighted **Officer Bob Collins** for his compassionate treatment of a citizen who was dealing with a death of a loved one.

<http://www.khq.com/story/34424878/officer-recognized-for-consoling-citizen-after-loss-of-beloved-wife>

