



State of Connecticut
Department of Public Safety
CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS & COMPLIANCE



2010 Internal Affairs Unit Annual Report

The Connecticut Department of Public Safety (DPS) consists of approximately 1,130 sworn troopers and approximately 485 civilian personnel. The agency is comprised of three separate divisions, inclusive of the Division of State Police; the Division of Fire, Emergency & Building Services; and the Division of Scientific Services.

With ever-increasing responsibilities, our Troopers and support staff have risen to the challenge of securing the safety and preserving the quality of life we all enjoy as citizens of this great State and we remain steadfast in our commitment to provide the best possible public safety services to the State of Connecticut.

As articulated in our Department mission statement, as an internationally accredited agency, “The Connecticut Department of Public Safety is committed to protecting and improving the quality of life for all by providing enforcement, regulatory, and scientific services through prevention, education, and innovative use of technology. In striving to accomplish our mission, we embody our core values with great PRIDE ... Professionalism through an elite and diverse team of trained men and women; Respect for ourselves and others through our words and actions; Integrity through adherence to standards and values that foster public trust; Dedication to service; and Equality through fair and unprejudiced application of the law”.

As a critical component of our commitment to providing the best service possible, the Internal Affairs Unit, under the Bureau of Professional Standards & Compliance conducts investigations of sworn and civilian employees of the Department of Public Safety, as well as constables under the supervision of Resident State Troopers, based upon complaints and inquiries. Feedback from the public is essential if we are to succeed in this goal, and in order to be responsive to the needs of our community, we encourage citizen input.

The internal affairs function is an important element for the maintenance of professional conduct in any law enforcement agency. The integrity of the Department of Public Safety depends on the personal integrity and self-discipline of each employee. The public image of this agency is determined by the quality of the internal affairs function in responding to allegations of misconduct by the agency or its employees. For these reasons internal administrative investigations are divided into three possible formats.

The initial level of any internal investigation is assigned by the Internal Affairs Unit, is governed by the apparent circumstances of the complaint, and may be categorized as a “Complaint”, an “Administrative Inquiry” (AI) or an “Internal Affairs Investigation” (IA) defined as follows:

- (1) “Complaint” tracking numbers are assigned by the Internal Affairs Unit upon receipt of any complaint. It should be noted that complaints that do not rise to the level of an AI or IA may remain at the “Complaint” level at the discretion of the Commanding Officer of the Bureau of Professional Standards & Compliance.
- (2) An “Administrative Inquiry” (AI) is defined as a complaint that would result in no more than the first level of discipline that may be imposed, which is a Letter of Reprimand.



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(3) Incidents that would potentially involve discipline that is more serious require an “Internal Affairs Investigation” (IA) format. These incidents are defined as complaints, which if proven, could result in the filing of a criminal charge or the imposition of serious discipline of greater than a Letter of Reprimand. Also included are any incidents involving the discharge of a firearm, unless otherwise provided for; bias allegations; sexual harassment claims; civil rights violations; and employee actions that result in death or serious physical injury.

During the 2010 calendar year, three-hundred twenty-two (322) complaints were received involving DPS personnel. Eighty-one (81) were classified as either Internal Affairs or Administrative Inquiries. This figure reflects investigations of sworn and civilian employees of the Department of Public Safety as well as Constables under the supervision of the Resident State Trooper program and includes an internal affairs investigation for one (1) municipal police department.

Of the eighty-one (81) Department of Public Safety internal investigations conducted in 2010, sixty-one (61) were classified as “Internal Affairs” (IA) cases and twenty (20) were classified as “Administrative Inquiries” (AI). The number of DPS internal investigations increased from 2009, which had fifty-eight (58) DPS internal investigations. This increase is attributable, at least in part, to the reclassification of accidental TASER discharges, once investigated under a “C” number format, as Administrative Inquiries. Six (6) such cases were included for calendar year 2010. Additionally, certain recruit and in-service professional standards training that was offered in 2008 may have contributed to this lessened number of investigations in 2009.

Additionally, it is noted that there was an increase from seven (7) to fourteen (14) cases involving allegations of criminal behavior leading to the arrests of thirteen (13) department personnel. One case was ruled unfounded as the complainant admittedly fabricated the complaint; however, personnel were arrested due to DWI, larceny, and domestic violence charges at a higher rate than previously recorded. This phenomenon has been discussed and it is hoped that this area is highlighted in upcoming in-service training and that internal affairs and/or ethics training is included in the curriculum for the upcoming year. The phenomenon was discussed at recent recruit training (121st Training Troop).

The nature of the Internal Affairs Unit investigations is as follows:

	2008	2009	2010
Criminal	8	7	14
Excessive Force	1	4	3
Civil Rights	3	1	0
Rules & Regulations	62	34	51 *
Expectations of Performance	20	11	11
Discharge of Firearms	2	1	3 **
	96	58	81 ***

*Includes accidental TASER discharges.

** Two accidental firearm discharges; one intentional discharge.

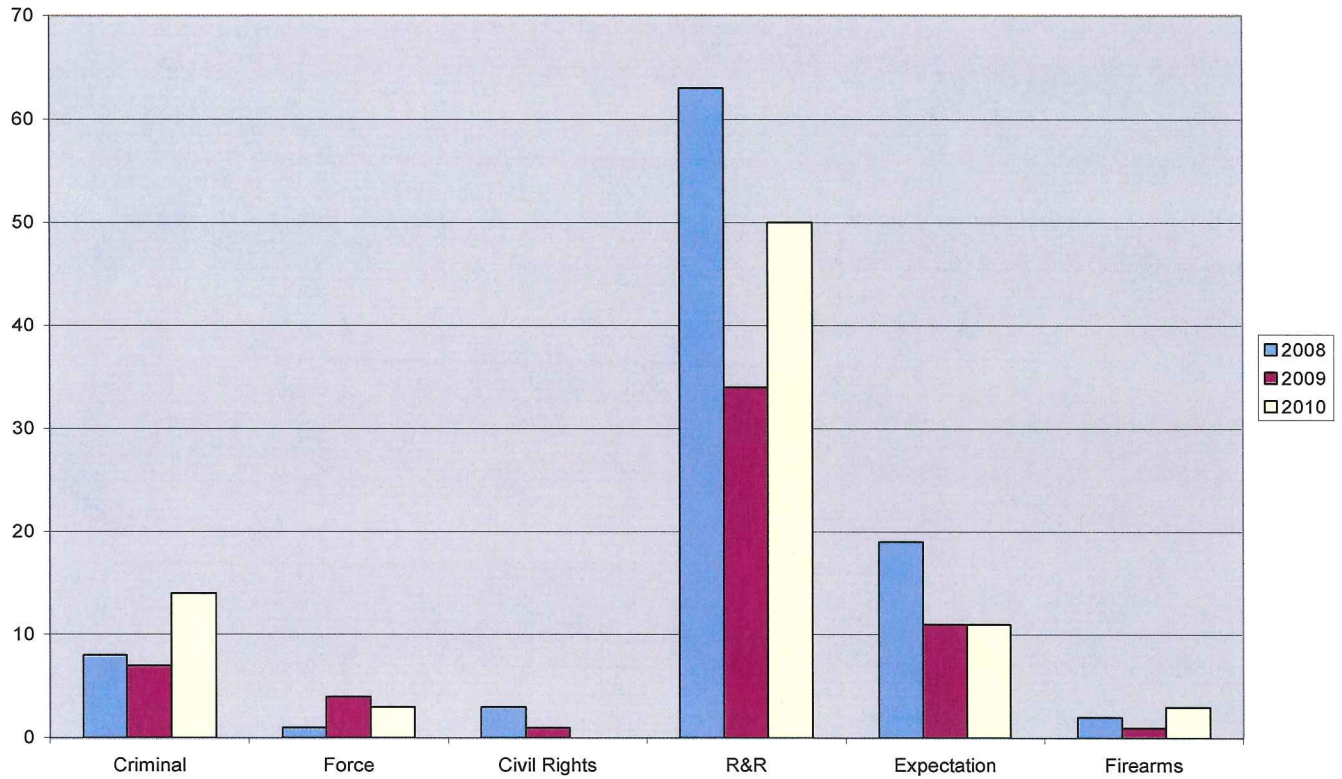
*** IA Case 10-075 has two subjects with differing classifications (one criminal and one rules and regulations).



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Internal Affairs Investigations



In total, the Internal Affairs Unit received and processed 606 complaints, inquiries, and commendations from the public. The breakdown by category is as follows:

- 322 Complaint investigations
- 72 Commendations
- 212 Miscellaneous Inquiries

This reflects a decrease of 14.4% percent in these combined areas from 2009 which had a total of 708 contacts.



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Use of Force

The Bureau of Professional Standards & Compliance is the final repository for all Response to Resistance/Aggression and Injury/Complaint of Injury to Prisoner Reports. [Use of Force] Throughout each year, Internal Affairs Unit personnel review the reports for accuracy and the data is entered into the agency Use of Force database. In February of each year, the Bureau of Professional Standards & Compliance compiles statistics from the database for preparation of the annual report in compliance with the Department of Public Safety Administration and Operations Manual and the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies.

At the close of the 2009 reporting period, the Bureau of Professional Standards & Compliance in conjunction with members of the Academy Staff conducted an audit of the Use of Force reports and statistics. The review included analysis of the incidents from a response to aggression point of view, going beyond the traditional statistical analysis. This was done in order to detect trends and determine whether in-service training conducted in 2009 had an effect on troopers’ decision making related to use of force and whether modifications are necessary for future training and policy.

For Calendar Year 2010 it was established that quarterly reviews with Use of Force instructors at the Training Academy would take place to identify trends that would lead to effective training and administration of the department’s use of force. In August 2010, a new “Use of Force” report form was approved and adopted in the field to more accurately capture troopers’ response to aggression and document prisoner injury. The report form allowed for a more accurate and comprehensive collection of data.¹ The total number of Use of Force events was one-hundred forty eight (148) resulting in one-hundred eighty four (184) incidents.

Use of Force – Incidents

	2008	2009	2010
Cap Stun	35	13	23
Comp’t of Injury	24	12	23
K-9 Bite	21	17	19
Other Force Used	9	10	45
Expandable Baton	4	1	3
Report of Injury	20	16	18
Taser	90	36	52
Firearm	2	0	1*

*One intentional discharge of a firearm striking an individual.

¹ Example: A trooper deployed and used his Taser against a noncompliant person that resulted in the two prongs embedded in their skin causing an injury. The captured data for one event resulted in two separate incidents. Note: 2008 and 2009 did not capture and separate the aforementioned data.



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Use of Force

