TO: IACP United States Membership  
FROM: Chief Paul Cell, IACP President  
SUBJECT: Support for Participation in the National Use-of-Force Data Collection  
DATE: March 4, 2019  

OVERVIEW

For U.S. law enforcement agencies, January 1, 2019, marked the official start of the FBI’s National Use-of-Force Data Collection. The FBI established a National Use-of-Force Data Collection at the behest of local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement partners and major law enforcement organizations, including the IACP. This voluntary program gathers data on law enforcement use-of-force incidents, specifically those

- resulting in the death,
- resulting in serious bodily injury of a person¹, or
- involving discharge of a firearm at or in the direction of a person.

The goal of the resulting statistics is to provide an aggregate view of the incidents reported and the circumstances, subjects, and officers involved. Up to this point, major news outlets have been the only source of national use of force statistics, having compiled and analyzed their own version of this data since 2015. This national data collection is an opportunity for the law enforcement community to take the lead and fill a void in use-of-force reporting.

IACP INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT

The interests of IACP’s membership have been well represented since the collection’s inception through IACP participation on the FBI’s Criminal Justice Information Services Advisory Policy Board and the National Use-of-Force Collection Task Force.

Pursuant to IACP Resolution CRC. 11.t16 supporting use of force reporting, IACP strongly encourages agencies to participate in the National Use-of-Force Data Collection. This effort will foster more informed conversations around use-of-force incidents and demonstrate law enforcement’s commitment to transparency, fair and impartial policing, and community trust.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Agencies may report to the FBI only through the FBI’s Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP). To apply for a LEEP account, a chief or officer should go to www.cjis.gov and click on “Apply for an Account.” Once the LEEP account is authorized, users may register for the “National Use-of-Force Data Collection.” Use of this portal requires no financial investment and allows agencies and state programs to manage all aspects of their use-of-force data. NOTE: Police leaders should not wait for a use-of-force incident to enroll; “zero reports” are equally important and should be filed for each month where no qualifying uses of force occur.

MORE INFORMATION

A checklist is attached to assist chiefs with this issue. See www.fbi.gov/useofforce for additional information. The Use-of-Force Help Desk may be reached via telephone 304-625-9998 or email useofforce@fbi.gov.

¹ “Serious bodily injury” means “bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, unconsciousness, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.” This definition is based, in part, upon Title 18, United States Code, Section 2246 (4)