Use of Force Incidents ~ 2012

The University of New Hampshire Police Department recognizes and respects the value and special integrity of each human life. In vesting police officers with the lawful authority to use force to protect the public welfare, a careful balancing of all human interests is required. Therefore, it is the policy of this department that police officers shall use only that force that is reasonably necessary to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the lives of the officer or another.

During the 2012 calendar year, the University of New Hampshire Police Department had reported ten (10) use-of-force incidents by its personnel. A total of ten (10) different Officers were identified as having applied force during the course of their duties. Of those ten (10) reported instances whereby force was used, the application of said force was reviewed both by certified use-of-force instructors as well as the executive management of the University of New Hampshire Police Department to make certain the deployment of force was done within the strictest and most reasonable parameters of law, administrative rule and department standard operating procedures.

The University of New Hampshire Police Department holds its personnel to the standards set forth in NH RSA 625:5 titled Physical Force in Law Enforcement, and it is this objective standard against which all instances of the use-of-force are gauged.

Of the ten (10) times personnel deployed force to effect an arrest and/or bring an incident under control, all were deemed an appropriate and judicious use-of-force. None of the results resulted in findings whereby fault could be assigned to an Officer or Officer(s).

It should be noted, during the 2012 calendar year, the University of New Hampshire Police Department made 460 arrests. Of those 460 arrests, University of New Hampshire Police Department personnel used force ten (10) times meaning force was utilized during approximately two-percent of the interactions.