

CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE



2018

Internal Affairs Annual Report

Submitted by the Bureau of Professional Standards and Compliance

April 2019



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND COMPLIANCE



Since 1988

2018 Annual Report

Internal Affairs Unit Report

The Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) is the state's primary Executive Branch agency for law enforcement and public safety. As of December 31, 2018, DESPP was comprised of one thousand six hundred forty-five (1,645) employees, including nine hundred twenty (920) sworn members, four hundred seventy-nine (479) full-time civilian members, and one hundred ninety-eight (198) part-time civilian members. DESPP consists of six divisions. They are:

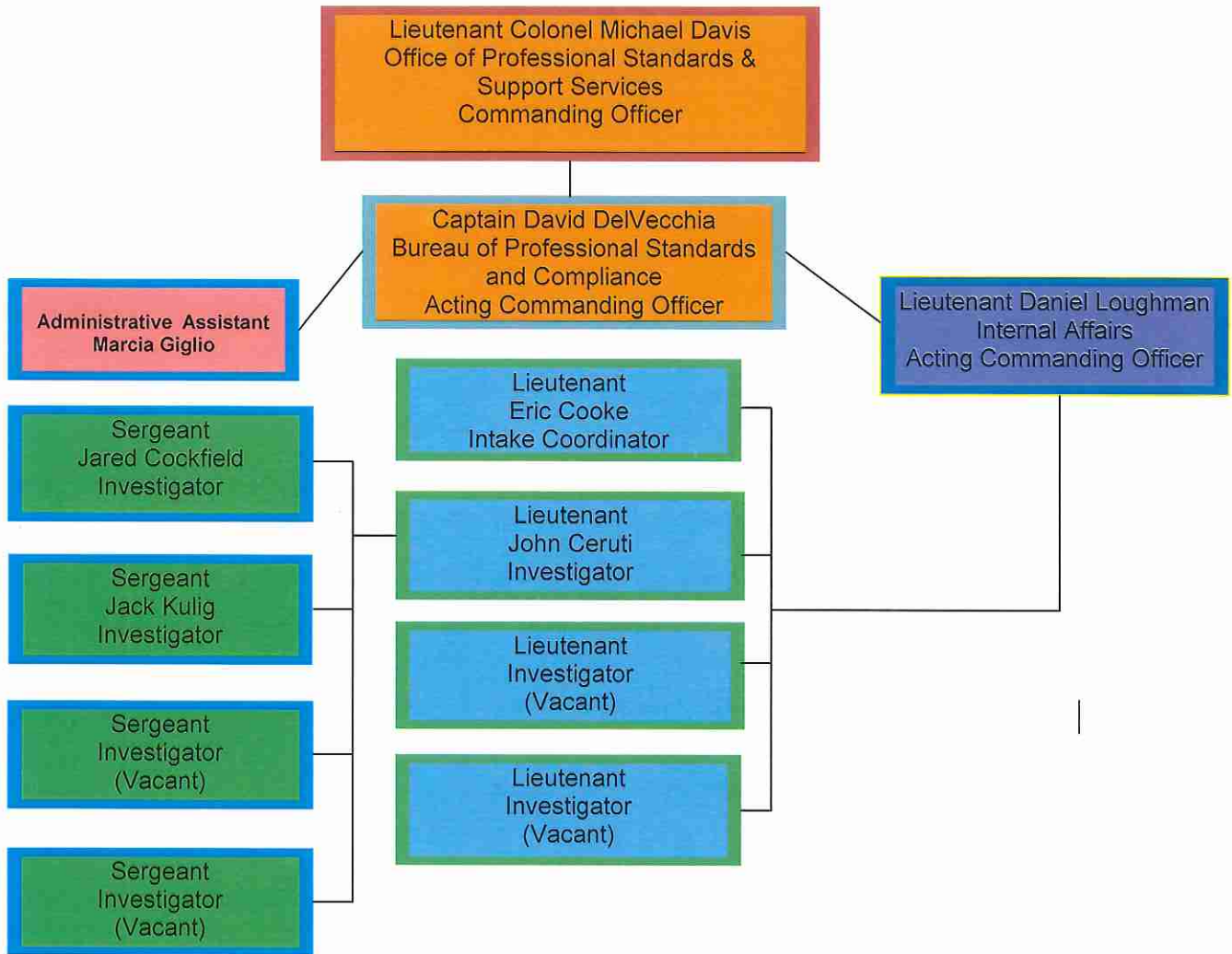
- 1) Division of State Police (CSP), the state's largest law enforcement agency;
- 2) Division of Scientific Services (DSS), also known as the State Forensic Laboratory;
- 3) Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS);
- 4) Division of Police Officer Standards & Training Council (POST);
- 5) Division of Fire Prevention & Control/Connecticut Fire Academy; and
- 6) Division of the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (DSET).

Due to the unique and varied nature of the agency, the Internal Affairs Unit (IA) within the Bureau of Professional Standards and Compliance is responsible for the receipt, categorization, and tracking of all complaints concerning misconduct by any of the department's employees including volunteers, interns and auxiliary troopers. The Internal Affairs Unit investigates both criminal and non-criminal complaints implicating sworn personnel as well as criminal complaints against civilian staff. Per department policy, the Labor Relations Unit investigates complaints specifically alleging non-criminal misconduct by civilian employees. Where it is determined that an employee is culpable, IA forwards the investigative file to the Labor Relations Unit for review to determine discipline. In sum, the Internal Affairs Unit is the standard flag bearer in protecting the integrity of the agency by means of its impartial and thorough investigations. In addition to investigations outlined above, the Internal Affairs Unit will conduct Internal Affairs investigations for outside police agencies. This is done only after a formal request is made by the Chief of Police of the outside agency and approval from the Commissioner of DESPP.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Davis is currently the Commanding Officer of the Office of Professional Standards and Support Services. Captain David DelVecchia is currently the Acting Commanding Officer of the Bureau of Professional Standards & Compliance. As provided in the agency's A&O Manual, a Lieutenant Colonel heads the office, reports operationally to the Colonel, and regularly briefs the DESPP commissioner. The organizational chart for the Internal Affairs Unit follows immediately.



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The Internal Affairs Unit strives to provide the best service possible. IA accomplishes this through detailed investigations incorporating and respecting the importance of due process, constitutional protections, and employee rights as provided through collective bargaining. The public image and integrity of DESPP depends upon it. The Internal Affairs Unit responds to all allegations of misconduct and conducts thorough, thoughtful, and impartial investigations based on objective and quantifiable facts. In addition to the responsibility of verifying and documenting allegations when warranted, the Internal Affairs Unit is also responsible for the protection of employees from false allegations, a charge that all of the members of the unit take seriously. The Internal Affairs Unit prides itself on its contributions to the agency and our field, holding ourselves to the highest professional standards, policing ourselves to ensure all staff's conduct is exemplary both on and off duty.

In addition to the investigation of allegations of employee misconduct, the Internal Affairs Unit conducts investigations at the request of local authorities including



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constables or/police officers under the supervision of CSP's Resident State Trooper program.

Feedback from the public is essential to our success and the public's satisfaction. The Internal Affairs Unit maintains a web-based email system affording the public opportunity to convey their concerns, complaints, and compliments about members of the workforce online at <https://portal.ct.gov/DESPP/Division-of-State-Police/old/Citizens-Guide-to-Making-Commendations-and-Complaints>, to inquire about department operations and offer their opinions and suggestions. The unit's Intake Coordinator has direct and immediate access to these emails, and can respond remotely to emergencies and any other situations in need of immediate attention.

The Office of Professional Standards also operates a complaint hotline at 877-746-1922 as another means by which the public can convey its concerns.

Complaint Classifications:

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection assigns its internal administrative investigations to one of three categories: (1) *Complaint (C#)*; (2) *Administrative Inquiry (AI)*; and (3) *Internal Affairs Investigation (IA)*.

The Internal Affairs Unit handles two other types of administrative contacts. They are: (1) *Miscellaneous Inquiries (M#)* and (2) *Commendations/Praise (P#)*.

It is possible that the focus of an initial contact changes over time, in which case the investigation can be escalated to a higher classification.

(1) COMPLAINT (C#)

The initial category assigned to an internal investigation is determined by the apparent circumstances of the complaint and is tracked by its Complaint Number (C#). Complaints of a less serious nature that do not rise to the level of an AI or IA usually remain at the "C#" level subject to the determination of the commanding officer of Internal Affairs.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE INQUIRY (AI)

An Administrative Inquiry (AI) is a complaint that, if sustained, would result in no more than the first level of discipline permitted, which is a Letter of Reprimand.

(3) INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATIONS (IA)

An Internal Affairs Investigation is a complaint that, if sustained, could result in more severe discipline, up to and including termination. The underlying incident may



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involve conduct, which if proven, could result in the filing of one or more criminal charges. Examples of these incidents include the improper discharge of a firearm, bias allegations, sexual harassment claims, civil rights violations, and employee actions that result in death or serious physical injury.

As noted above, the unit addresses two other types of administrative contacts; Miscellaneous Inquiries (M#) and Commendations or Praise (P#).

(1) MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES (M#)

Miscellaneous Inquiries encompass a variety of lesser concerns not otherwise suitable for treatment within the IA, AI, C# or P# classifications. The Unit documents Miscellaneous Inquiries with an M tracking number. Examples of Miscellaneous Inquiries include complaints unrelated to DESPP that are in turn forwarded to an outside agency, or an inquiry that requires referral to a different unit within the agency.

The miscellaneous designation is also used in instances where a complaint does not fall into any of the three complaint classifications, and in instances where certain minor policy violations are discovered in the course of an IA, AI, or C# investigation.

(2) COMMENDATION/PRAISE (P#)

Commendations and Praise are the contacts that the Internal Affairs Unit receives concerning exemplary behavior or service displayed by a sworn or civilian employee.

ANALYSIS of 2018 DATA

During the 2018 calendar year, the Internal Affairs Unit received 193 complaints concerning both sworn and civilian DESPP personnel and constables/police officers under the supervision of the Resident State Trooper program. Of these complaints, IA determined 70 constituted serious allegations of misconduct and were designated as Internal Affairs Investigations or Administrative Inquiries. The remaining 123 complaints were less serious in nature and as such, were investigated as Complaint Investigations (C#s). The Internal Affairs Unit received two (2) requests from outside police departments to conduct Internal Affairs investigations on their personnel that were approved by the Commissioner of DESPP. The Internal Affairs Unit subsequently conducted two (2) Internal Affairs investigations for outside agencies. The data concerning the Internal Affairs investigations for the outside agencies will not be included in the following data that pertains only to DESPP.



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Of the 70 internal investigations conducted, the Internal Affairs Unit classified 58 as Internal Affairs (IA) cases and 12 classified as Administrative Inquiries (AI). The 70 investigations reflect a decrease from 76 investigations in 2017, an 8% decrease.

Dispositions: Of the 70 serious investigations, both IA and AI, in 2018, 35 cases resulted in disciplinary charges sustained and 4 cases not sustained. The remaining 31 cases are still open and under investigation when this report was prepared.

Of particular note, the number of complaints concerning “Excessive Force” decreased by 5 (83%), from 6 in 2017 to 1 in 2018 and the number of complaints concerning “Criminal” allegations decreased by 4 (57%), from 7 in 2017 to 3 in 2018.

The number of complaints received in 2018 in all other classifications is similar to the numbers reported in 2017. See the tables below for details.

There were 151 “Commendations” received in 2018 compared to 105 received in 2017, representing a 44 percent Increase in the number in “Commendations” received.

The Internal Affairs Unit takes every opportunity to be aggressive in educating agency personnel through annual in-service training, newly promoted Sergeant training, as well as new recruit training. Additionally, the Internal Affairs Unit also promotes policies that are transparent, clear, and unambiguous. In the rare instance that certain rules of conduct may be unclear or ambiguous, the Internal Affairs Unit provides recommendations through the chain of command to remedy this by offering language for the agency’s A&O manual that are clear and concise, and consistent with industry best practices.

The nature of the Internal Affairs Unit IA/AI investigations for 2018 is as follows:

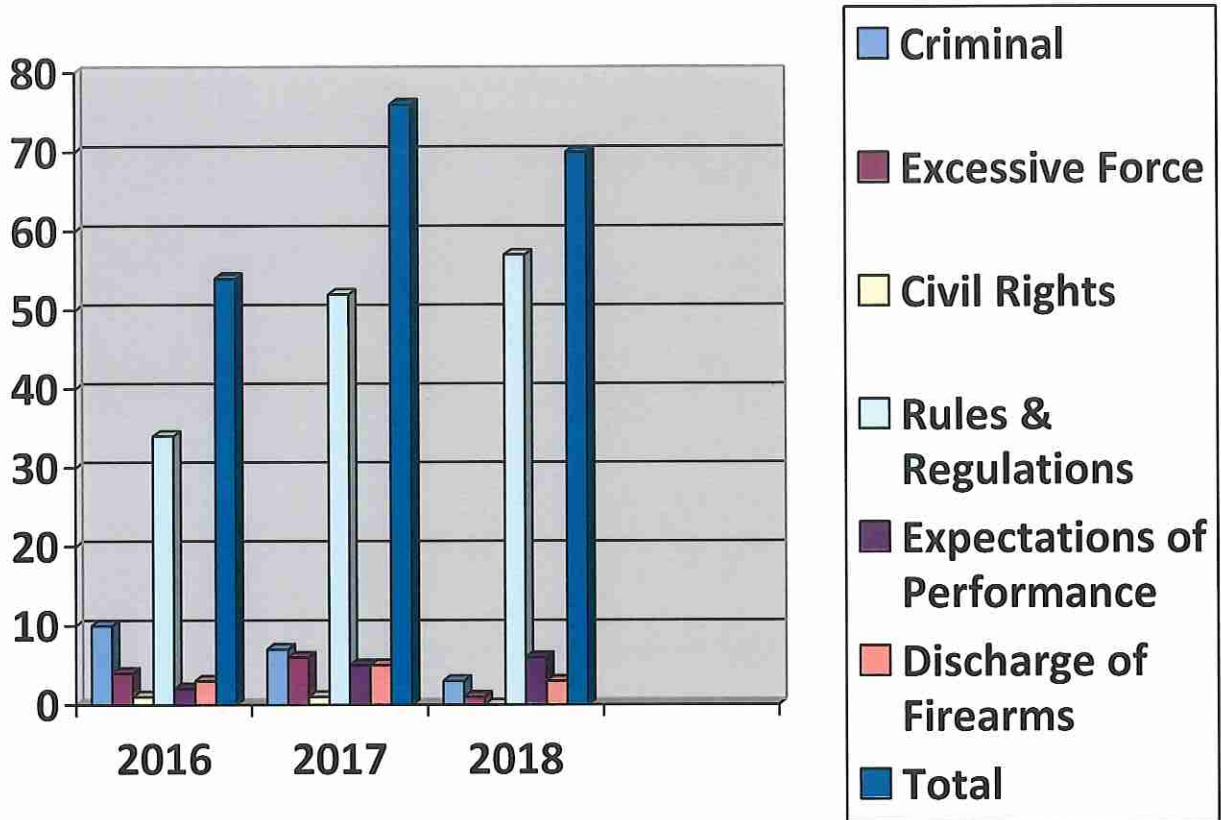
	2016	2017	2018
Criminal	10	7	3
Excessive Force	4	6	1
Civil Rights	1	1	0
Rules & Regulations	34	52	57
Expectations of Performance	2	5	6
Discharge of Firearms	3	5	3
Total	54	76	70



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	2016 Cases			2017 Cases			2018 Cases		
	Total	Sustained	Open	Total	Sustained	Open	Total	Sustained	Open
IA	47	30	0	67	43	6	58	25	31
AI	7	6	0	9	9	0	12	10	0
C#	87	28	0	73	16	0	123	22	5

Summary and Conclusions

In total, the Internal Affairs Unit received and processed a combined total of 614 complaints, miscellaneous inquiries, and commendations from the public in 2018. The breakdown by category is as follows:

2017
149 Complaint investigations
105 Commendations
255 Miscellaneous Inquiries

2018
193 Complaint investigations
151 Commendations
270 Miscellaneous Inquiries

Of the 193 Complaint investigations, the Internal Affairs Unit classified 70 as IA or AI; the remaining 123 are generally less serious in nature and as such, do not



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require the same inquiry as do IA or AI investigations. The employee's Commanding Officer usually investigates these lesser incidents, affording the Commanding Officer opportunity to take remedial measures and arrange for retraining or coaching more quickly. As noted above, there was a slight decrease in the total number of Complaints in the past year as well as in the more serious IA/AI investigations. There were significantly more "commendations" received in 2018 in comparison to the number received in 2017. The 151 "commendations" received is a testament to the excellent work our agency personnel do on a daily basis.

-END-

Approved by:

Captain David DelVecchia
 Commanding Officer
 Bureau of Professional Standards and Compliance

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Davis
 Commanding Officer
 Bureau of Professional Standards &
 Support Services

Colonel Stavros Mellekas
 Commanding Officer
 Connecticut State Police

Commissioner James Rovella
 Commissioner of DESPP