



State of Connecticut
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS and COMPLIANCE



2011 Annual Report
Internal Affairs Unit Report

The Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) consists of approximately 1,130 sworn troopers and approximately 485 civilian personnel. During a statewide initiative to consolidate governmental agencies in July 2011, the Department of Public Safety became DESPP which now, includes the State Police (CSP), Scientific Services (State Forensic Laboratory), Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS), Police Officer Standards & Training Council (POST), Commission on Fire Prevention & Control/Connecticut Fire Academy, and the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET).

With ever-increasing responsibilities, our Troopers and support staff who fall under the Division of State Police continue to rise to the challenge of securing the safety and preserving the quality of life we all enjoy as citizens of the State of Connecticut. We remain steadfast in our commitment to provide the best possible public safety services to our state and citizens.

As a critical component of our commitment to providing the best service possible, the Internal Affairs Unit, under the Bureau of Professional Standards and Compliance, conducts all internal investigations of sworn and most civilian employees of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, as well as Constables under the supervision of our Resident State Trooper program. Feedback from the public is essential if we are to succeed in this goal and to be responsive to the needs of our community. Our implementation and continual monitoring of the DESPP website allows access for citizen input of complaints, inquiries, and complimentary statements. An established Professional Standards complaint hotline reinforces our commitment for citizens input on the actions and performance of our sworn and civilian personnel.

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 Emergency Services and Public Protection 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 conducted by the Internal Affairs Unit is governed by the apparent circumstances of the complaint and may be categorized as a "Complaint" (C#), an "Administrative Inquiry" (AI), or an "Internal Affairs Investigation" (IA) defined as follows:



State of Connecticut
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS and COMPLIANCE



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Complaint (C#) 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 Internal Affairs.

Administrative Inquiry (AI) – defined as a complaint that, if sustained, would result in no more than the first level of discipline that may be imposed which is a Letter of Reprimand.

Internal Affairs Investigations (IA) – defined as an incident that would potentially involve discipline that is more serious. These incidents involve complaints which, if proven, could result in the filing of a criminal charge or the imposition of serious discipline. Also included are any incidents involving 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.

- Additionally, any substantive contact with the Internal Affairs Unit which is not a complaint will be documented by a **Miscellaneous Inquiry (“M” Number.)** A miscellaneous inquiry may be comprised of many different subjects; from a complaint unrelated to CSP and forwarded to the appropriate jurisdiction, to a non-complaint related inquiry forwarded to the appropriate unit within the department.
- Also documented among the inquiries within the Internal Affairs documentation are **“P” numbers (Commendation/Praise)** which represent contacts with the unit pertaining to commendation to a trooper or department employee. Both “M” numbers and “P” numbers are maintained within the Bureau of Professional Standards and Compliance.

During the 2011 calendar year, two-hundred ninety (290) complaints were received involving DESPP personnel. Ninety-one (91) were classified as either Internal Affairs or Administrative Inquiries. This figure reflects investigations of sworn and civilian employees of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection as well as Constables under the supervision of the Resident State Trooper program.

Of the ninety-one (91) Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection internal investigations, fifty-four (54) were classified as “Internal Affairs” (IA) cases and thirty-seven (37) were classified as “Administrative Inquiries” (AI). The number of DESPP internal investigations was up 11 percent from 2010, in which there were eight-two (82) DESPP internal investigations. We attribute this increase in 2011 to our practice of investigating the accidental discharge of a Taser Device as an Administrative Inquiry (AI). This practice, initiated in 2010, was implemented to provide a consistent response to such incidents. It should be noted that the unit investigated twenty-six (26) Accidental Discharges in 2011 compared to just seven (7) in 2010. The 26 incidents resulted in retraining of each individual Trooper or Constable involved, and a department training bulletin on the “Spark Test” procedure was written to help in the reduction of future accidental occurrences.



State of Connecticut
 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS and COMPLIANCE



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Additionally, it is noted that there was a decrease from fourteen (14) cases to four (4) cases involving allegations of criminal behavior leading to the arrests of four (4) personnel. This decrease may be attributed to the areas highlighted in the 2010 Internal Affairs Report which saw our criminal arrests of employees double from 7 to 14 within a year. It was noted that 2011 In-Service and Recruit training would focus on internal affairs and ethical issues as a means to raise awareness of this phenomenon. This year's rapid decrease has been discussed with our Labor Relations Unit which is responsible for oversight of the disciplinary process following a sustained investigation. During 2010 many of the criminal arrests involved Driving While Impaired and Domestic Violence type investigations. The approach and level of discipline sustained may have had a positive effect on our sworn law enforcement personnel. The departmental terminations that were upheld following arbitration hearings may have served as a deterrent. The desired result in 2011 was fewer criminal arrests of law enforcement officials.

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

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Criminal	8	7	14	4
Excessive Force	1	4	3	3
Civil Rights	3	1	0	0
Rules & Regulations	62	34	51	75
Expectations of Performance	20	11	11	7
Discharge of Firearms	2	1	3	3
	96	58	82	92

In total, the Internal Affairs Unit received and processed six hundred seventy-nine (679) complaints, inquiries, and commendations from the public. The breakdown by category is as follows:

<u>2011</u>		<u>2010</u>	
290	Complaint investigations	322	Complaint investigations
37	Commendations	72	Commendations
352	Miscellaneous Inquiries	212	Miscellaneous Inquiries



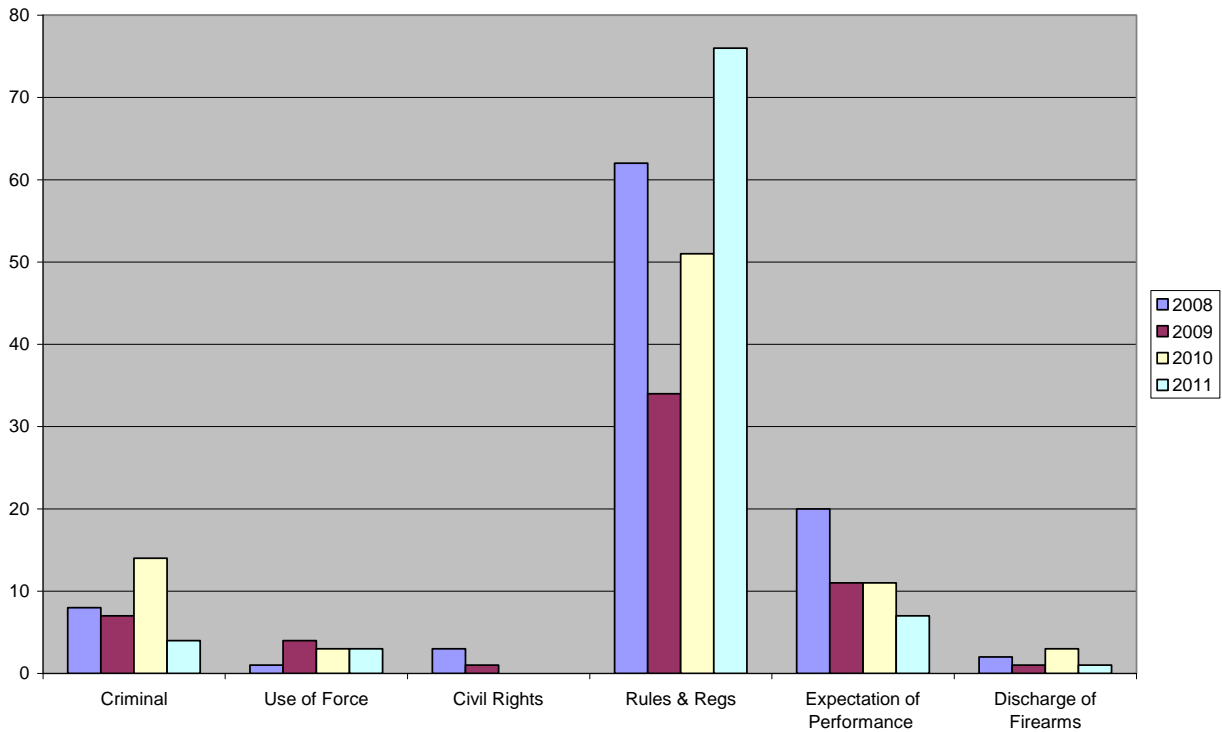
State of Connecticut
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS and COMPLIANCE



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This reflects an increase of 12 percent in these combined areas from 2010 which had a total of 606 contacts. A comparison of the two years reflects that the actual complaints and commendations decreased. The 12 percent overall increase may be attributed to the more detailed documentation by the Internal Affairs Intake Officer who was reassigned to the position in March 2011.

Internal Affairs Investigations





State of Connecticut
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS and COMPLIANCE



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2011 Annual Report
Use of Force Analysis

The Bureau of Professional Standards & Compliance is the final repository for all Response to Resistance/Aggression and Injury/Complaint of Injury to Prisoner Reports. Throughout each year, Internal Affairs Unit personnel review the Use of Force data 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 Emergency Services and Public Protection Administration and Operations Manual and the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies.

During the 2011 reporting period, the Bureau of Professional Standards & Compliance conducted an ongoing audit of the Use of Force reports and statistics. This analysis revealed three (3) cases needing further investigation to determine if “excessive” force had been used. The three cases (1 – canine incident and 2 – Other Force Used incidents) underwent Internal Affairs investigations resulting in two being closed as “Exonerated” and 1 – Other Force Used still under review.

The Use of Force incidents from 2010 to 2011 have remained consistent and within normal ranges with no unusual trends. The nature of the Use of Force Incidents is as follows:

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cap Stun	35	13	23	25
K-9 Bite	21	17	19	19
Other Force	9	10	45	55
Baton	4	1	3	2
Taser	90	36	52	57
Firearm	2	0	1	3
	161	77	143	161



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Response to Aggression/Use of Force¹

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cap Stun	35	13	23	25
K-9 Bite	21	17	19	19
Other Force	9	10	45	55
Baton	4	1	3	2
Taser	90	36	52	57
Firearm	2	0	1	3

¹ The caption of “Complaint of Injury” and “Report of Injury” had been removed from this year’s Annual Report because that information had been captured in categories as appropriate.