

Incident Summary

Lieutenant A responded to assist in the execution of a search warrant. Lieutenant A parked his unmarked police vehicle a short distance from the warrant service location.

After assisting in the search, Lieutenant A proceeded to return to his vehicle, and while walking there encountered a large dog which leaped from the curb directly at him. The dog charged at Lieutenant A, coming within inches of his legs, while showing its teeth, drooling from the mouth and growling. Lieutenant A fired a single round from his pistol into the upper torso of the dog. The dog stopped its aggressive actions, turned, and limped away. A subsequent search for the dog did not locate it.

Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners' Findings

The BOPC reviews each Categorical Use of Force incident based upon the totality of the circumstances, namely all of the facts, evidence, statements and all other pertinent material relating to the particular incident. In every case, the BOPC makes specific findings in three areas: Tactics of the involved officer(s); Drawing/Exhibiting/Holstering of a weapon by any involved officer(s); and the Use of Force by any involved officer(s). All incidents are evaluated to identify areas where involved officers can benefit from a tactical debriefing to improve their response to future tactical situations. This is an effort to ensure that all officers benefit from the critical analysis that is applied to each incident as it is reviewed by various levels within the Department and by the BOPC. Based on the BOPC's review of the instant case, the BOPC made the following findings.

A. Tactics

The BOPC found Lieutenant A's tactics to warrant a Tactical Debrief.

B. Drawing/Exhibiting/Holstering

The BOPC found Lieutenant A's drawing and exhibiting to be in policy.

C. Use of Force

The BOPC found Lieutenant A's Use of Force to be in policy.

Basis for Findings

A. Tactics

In adjudicating this incident, the BOPC identified no tactical considerations.

B. Drawing/Exhibiting

The BOPC evaluated the circumstances relevant to Lieutenant A's drawing and determined that Lieutenant A encountered an aggressive dog which charged him. Lieutenant A drew and exhibited his weapon to protect himself from bodily injury.

In conclusion, the BOPC found that Lieutenant A's Drawing/Exhibiting to be in policy.

C. Lethal Use of Force

During this incident, Lieutenant A was attacked by a large dog, which presented a significant risk of serious bodily injury or death. As such, the BOPC found Lieutenant A's use of lethal force to be objectively reasonable, and, thus, in policy.