

## INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

October 8, 2015  
14.2

**TO:** The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

**FROM:** Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** CRIME CLASSIFICATION AUDIT (AD NO. 15-040)

### RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Board of Police Commissioners REVIEW and APPROVE the attached Crime Classification Audit.

### DISCUSSION

Pursuant to the Department's Annual Audit Plan, Audit Division conducted a Crime Classification Audit. This audit is intended to provide an analysis of how the Department is complying with federal standards when reporting assault offenses according to the United States Department of Justice, Uniform Crime Reporting Program, Summary Reporting System User Manual (2013).

If you have any questions, please contact Arif Alikhan, Director, Office of Constitutional Policing and Policy, at (213) 486-8730.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Beck', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CHARLIE BECK  
Chief of Police

Attachment

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

*CRIME CLASSIFICATION AUDIT*

(AD NO. 15-040)



Conducted by  
AUDIT DIVISION

CHARLIE BECK  
Chief of Police

*October 2015*

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
CRIME CLASSIFICATION AUDIT**

**Conducted by  
Audit Division  
Fiscal Year 2014/15**

**PURPOSE**

In accordance with the Los Angeles Police Department (Department) Annual Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2014/15, Audit Division (AD) conducted a Crime Classification Audit of assault crimes. The purpose of the audit was to provide a baseline understanding of the Department's classification of assault crimes under the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's Summary Reporting System (SRS) User Manual for each geographic bureau during calendar year 2014.

Audit Division conducted this audit under the guidance of Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, specifically pertaining to performing the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on the audit objectives. Audit Division has determined that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for the findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

**BACKGROUND**

Audit Division has conducted several audits of the Department's classification of assault crimes under the UCR system over the past ten years. In most cases, at least 90 percent of assault crimes were classified consistent with UCR guidelines. At the end of 2014, the Department increased its efforts to train, coordinate, and review the classification of crimes using the UCR system. These efforts included the creation of the Data Integrity Unit (DIU), COMPSTAT Division, in October 2014 (see Additional Information section), additional training materials and guides, and increased inspections at the divisional and bureau levels. The Department requested that AD conduct an audit of the classification of assault crimes that encompassed every month for each geographic bureau during calendar year 2014. These results are intended to provide a baseline to compare the results of future audits and determine, to the extent possible, whether efforts to further improve the classification of assault crimes have been effective.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

The Department did well with classifying crime with both Aggravated Assaults and Simple Assaults, as follows:

- Objective No. 1 - Evaluation of Aggravated Assault Reports (94%)
- Objective No. 2 - Evaluation of Simple Assault Reports (92%)

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of the 1,024 reports in the audit sample, 94 percent of Aggravated Assault reports sampled and 92 percent of Simple Assault reports sampled met the criteria set forth in the SRS User Manual. Conversely, six percent of Aggravated Assault reports (28 reports) and eight percent of Simple Assault reports (42 reports) did not.

If the audit results were extrapolated to the total population of 47,357 assaults in CCAD for 2014, approximately 616 reports may have not met the criteria of an Aggravated Assault, and approximately 2968 may have not met the criteria of a Simple Assault. If those assault reports were reclassified according to the SRS User Manual criteria, purportedly the total number of Aggravated Assaults would increase by 19 percent, and Simple Assaults would decrease by seven percent when compared to the population of Aggravated Assault reports and population of Simple Assault reports, respectively, in CCAD for 2014.<sup>1</sup>

## **Year-to-Year Crime Rate**

The results of this audit do not necessarily reflect a change in the previously reported year-to-year increases or decreases in crime.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

None.

## **ACTIONS TAKEN**

The audit results were provided to each of the effected geographic Area commanding officers for appropriate reclassification.

The audit results were presented to the DIU and the Assistant to the Director, Office of Operations, and discussed with the Director, Office of Administrative Services.

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<sup>1</sup>Extrapolating the results of an audit sample to a larger population is subject to a statistical error rate of two percent.

## **CRIME CLASSIFICATION AUDIT**

**Conducted by  
Audit Division  
Fiscal Year 2014/15**

### **PURPOSE**

In accordance with the Los Angeles Police Department (Department) Annual Audit Plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014/15, Audit Division (AD) conducted a Crime Classification Audit of assault crimes. The purpose of the audit was to provide a baseline understanding of the Department's classification of assault reports under the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's Summary Reporting System (SRS) User Manual for each geographic bureau during calendar year 2014.

Audit Division conducted this audit under the guidance of Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, specifically pertaining to performing the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on the audit objectives. Audit Division has determined that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for the findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

### **BACKGROUND**

Audit Division has conducted several audits of the Department's classification of assault crimes under the UCR system over the past ten years. In most cases, at least 90 percent of assault reports were classified consistent with UCR guidelines. At the end of 2014, the Department increased its efforts to train, coordinate, and review the classification of reports using the UCR system. These efforts included the creation of the Data Integrity Unit (DIU), COMPSTAT Division, in October 2014 (see Additional Information section), additional training materials and guides, and increased inspections at the divisional and bureau levels. The Department requested that AD conduct an audit of the classification of assault reports that encompassed every month for each geographic bureau during calendar year 2014. These results are intended to provide a baseline to compare to future audits and determine, to the extent possible, whether efforts to further improve the classification of assault reports have been effective.

### **METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE**

In determining the population for the audit, AD utilized the data from the Consolidated Crime Analysis Database (CCAD), which was provided by Application Development and Support Division. The population of "Aggravated Assault" reports totaled 10,262, and 37,095 "Simple Assault" reports for calendar year 2014.<sup>1</sup> Audit Division selected statistically valid, stratified random samples of 501 reports classified as Aggravated Assaults and 523 reports classified as Simple Assaults.<sup>2</sup> The period selected was January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014.

<sup>1</sup>Both the terms "Aggravated Assault" and "Simple Assault" are defined in the UCR Program, SRS User Manual and do not correspond directly with the numerous assault-type crimes in the California Penal Code and other State statutes. Persons in California are arrested and charged based on specific violations of state law, not under the definitions set forth in the UCR guidelines. This audit did not examine whether a crime was properly classified under applicable California law.

<sup>2</sup>The sample size was calculated by using a one-tail test with a 95 percent confidence level and two percent error rate for both Aggravated Assault and Simple Assault reports; stratification was done by geographic Area and by month.



The audit comprised of the following two objectives:

- Objective No. 1 – Evaluation of Aggravated Assault Reports
- Objective No. 2 – Evaluation of Simple Assault Reports

This audit measured the crime classification process for Aggravated and Simple Assaults by reviewing Investigative Report, Form 03.01.00, Arrest Report, Form 05.02.00, and any relevant Follow-up Investigation Reports, Form 03.14.00.

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Table No. 1 summarizes the findings for each bureau by month for Objective No. 1 - Evaluation of Aggravated Assault Reports.

**Table No. 1 – Findings for the Evaluation of Aggravated Assault Reports**

2014	OCB Compliance Rate		OVB Compliance Rate		OWB Compliance Rate		OSB Compliance Rate		Department Compliance Rate	
Jan	9/9	100%	9/10	90%	5/5	100%	9/9	100%	32/33	97%
Feb	9/9	100%	8/8	100%	6/6	100%	10/10	100%	33/33	100%
Mar	9/10	90%	11/12	92%	6/6	100%	11/11	100%	37/39	95%
Apr	8/9	89%	8/8	100%	6/8	75%	12/13	92%	34/38	89%
May	8/8	100%	13/13	100%	6/7	86%	13/13	100%	40/41	98%
Jun	10/12	83%	12/13	92%	8/8	100%	12/13	92%	42/46	91%
Jul	11/12	92%	12/13	92%	7/7	100%	13/15	87%	43/47	91%
Aug	11/13	85%	12/12	100%	8/8	100%	14/15	93%	45/48	94%
Sep	12/14	86%	11/11	100%	8/8	100%	15/15	100%	46/48	96%
Oct	10/11	91%	10/11	91%	6/7	86%	14/14	100%	40/43	93%
Nov	10/11	91%	12/12	100%	7/8	88%	12/12	100%	41/43	95%
Dec	12/12	100%	9/10	90%	7/7	100%	12/13	92%	40/42	95%
<b>Total Result</b>	<b>119/130</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>126/133</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>80/85</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>147/153</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>473/501</b>	<b>94%</b>

Table No. 2 summarizes the findings for each bureau by month for Objective No. 2 - Evaluation of Simple Assault Reports.

**Table No. 2 – Findings for the Evaluation of Simple Assault Reports**

2014	OCB Compliance Rate		OVB Compliance Rate		OWB Compliance Rate		OSB Compliance Rate		Department Compliance Rate	
Jan	8/9	89%	11/11	100%	6/7	86%	9/9	100%	34/36	94%
Feb	7/9	78%	11/12	92%	7/8	88%	8/8	100%	33/37	89%
Mar	8/10	80%	13/14	93%	9/9	100%	8/11	73%	38/44	86%
Apr	8/10	80%	11/11	100%	7/9	78%	11/11	100%	37/41	90%
May	11/12	92%	12/13	92%	10/11	91%	12/12	100%	45/48	94%
Jun	8/10	80%	12/14	86%	11/11	100%	9/11	82%	40/46	87%
Jul	9/11	82%	14/14	100%	10/10	100%	11/12	92%	43/47	91%
Aug	12/12	100%	14/14	100%	9/10	90%	10/11	91%	45/47	96%
Sep	12/12	100%	13/14	93%	9/9	100%	12/12	100%	46/47	98%
Oct	10/11	91%	12/13	92%	10/10	100%	12/12	100%	44/46	96%
Nov	7/10	70%	11/12	92%	10/10	100%	9/11	82%	37/43	86%
Dec	10/10	100%	8/11	73%	7/9	78%	11/11	100%	36/41	88%
<b>Total Result</b>	<b>110/126</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>142/153</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>105/113</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>122/131</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>479/523</b>	<b>92%</b>

## **DETAILED FINDINGS**

### **Objective No. 1 - Evaluation of Aggravated Assault Reports**

#### **Criteria**

Audit Division used the SRS User Manual to define an Aggravated Assault as follows:

*"An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily injury."*

*"The assault is aggravated if the personal injury is serious, for example, there are broken bones, internal injuries, or stitches required."*

In determining whether the assault was aggravated, the following criteria were used.

- Aggravated Assault – Did the assault include a firearm of any type, knife or cutting instrument, or other dangerous weapon? Did the assault involve the use of bodily force such as hands, fists, feet, etc., resulting in serious or aggravated injury?



## **Procedures**

Audit Division reviewed 501 investigative/arrest reports and relevant follow-up investigation reports classified as Aggravated Assaults in CCAD at the time of the audit. These reports were reviewed to determine whether they were classified consistent with the criteria set forth in the SRS User Manual. Reports that met the criteria of an Aggravated Assault also met the standard for this objective.

## **Findings**

Four hundred seventy-three (94%) of the 501 reports met the criteria set forth in the SRS User Manual for an Aggravated Assault. The number of reports that met the standard for each geographic bureau by month is summarized in Table No. 1.

### **Objective No. 2 – Evaluation of Simple Assaults Reports**

#### **Criteria**

Audit Division used the SRS User Manual to define a Simple Assault as follows:

*"Simple, Not Aggravated (4e) includes all assaults which do not involve the use of a firearm, knife, cutting instrument, or other dangerous weapon and in which the victim did not sustain serious or aggravated injuries."*

*"Conversely, the offense is considered simple assault if the injuries are not serious (abrasions, minor lacerations, or contusions) and require no more than usual first-aid treatment."*

## **Procedures**

Audit Division reviewed 523 investigative/arrest reports and relevant follow-up investigation reports classified as Simple Assaults in CCAD at the time of the audit. Any report of an assault that did *not* involve the use of a firearm, knife or cutting instrument, other dangerous weapon, or bodily force resulting in serious/aggravated injury, met the standards for this objective.

## **Findings**

Four hundred seventy-nine (92%) of the 523 Simple Assault reports met the standard for this objective. The number of reports that met the standards for this objective for each geographic bureau by month is summarized in Table No. 2.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of the 1,024 reports in the audit sample, 94 percent of Aggravated Assault reports sampled and 92 percent of Simple Assault reports sampled met the criteria set forth in the SRS User Manual. Conversely, six percent of Aggravated Assault reports (28 reports) and eight percent of Simple Assault reports (42 reports) did not.

If the audit results were extrapolated to the total population of 47,357 assaults in CCAD for 2014, approximately 616 reports may have not met the criteria of an Aggravated Assault, and approximately 2968 may have not met the criteria of a Simple Assault. If those assault reports were reclassified according to the SRS User Manual criteria, purportedly the total number of Aggravated Assaults would increase by 19 percent, and Simple Assaults would decrease by seven percent when compared to the population of Aggravated Assault reports and population of Simple Assault reports, respectively, in CCAD for 2014.<sup>3</sup>

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

In October 2014, the DIU, COMPSTAT Division, was established to ensure the Department's classification of reports adhere to the standards set forth by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's UCR Program. The DIU is staffed with six detectives, one police officer, and a civilian crime analyst, to provide training, conduct inspections, and provide support to Department personnel.

### **Training**

Since its establishment, the DIU has conducted over 30 UCR Program courses and provided over 4,700 instructional hours. The five-hour UCR Program course is currently being expanded to an eight-hour course certified by POST. Incorporated into the training are one-page Decision Trees based on the criteria set forth in the SRS User Manual for reports of Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Theft and Motor Vehicle Theft. The Decision Tree for Aggravated Assaults also includes the criteria necessary to determine whether a report should be classified as a Simple Assault. The LAPD UCR Decision Trees are being utilized by all Department personnel involved in the coding process, in an effort to ensure compliance with SRS User Manual criteria when classifying crime reports.

### **Inspections**

The DIU and designated Bureau Coordinators have conducted multiple inspections of crime reports to identify and correct reports that do not comply with the SRS User Manual criteria. For example, between January and February 2015, the DIU inspected over 5,000 Robbery, Aggravated Assault, and Burglary reports, and over 300 Crimes Against Children/Sex Acts reports. The DIU and Bureau Coordinators continue to inspect reports and ensure that non-compliant reports are reclassified consistent with the UCR program's criteria. In addition, the DIU conducts a weekly analysis of reports that have been reclassified for all 21 geographic

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<sup>3</sup>Extrapolating the results of an audit sample to a larger population is subject to a statistical error rate of two percent.

Areas to ensure that reclassifications initiated at the area level are consistent with the SRS User Manual criteria.

### **Support**

In a continued effort to provide support to Department personnel, the DIU staff attend meetings with Area supervisors, Area Records Unit supervisors, and Detective Bureau, to provide updates and receive feedback on any UCR issues, manages the UCR section on the COMPSTAT-Crime Analysis Unit webpage with updated Decision Trees, UCR Manual and definitions, Special Orders, and Frequently Asked Questions. The DIU also established a UCR help desk (UCR\_helpdesk@lapd.lacity.org) for immediate support when necessary, and sends e-mail blasts with updates to employees who are on the mailing list.

### **Year-to-Year Crime Rate**

The results of this audit do not necessarily reflect a change in the previously reported year-to-year increases or decreases in crime.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

None.

### **ACTIONS TAKEN**

The audit results were provided to each of the affected geographic Area Commanding Officers for appropriate reclassification.

The audit results were presented to the DIU and the Assistant to the Director, Office of Operations, and discussed with the Director, Office of Administrative Services.