

2019 End of Year Pursuit Analysis

Purpose

The Kent Police Department reviews all vehicle pursuits during the period between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31 of the preceding year. The data used is gathered from Pursuit reports generated by officers and forwarded to the Chief through the chain of command. The reviewed pursuit reports, supervisory pursuit critiques and related case reports are forwarded to the training division for analysis. The training analysis is conducted to determine needs in training, policy updates or revision, or trends in pursuits. The analysis does not determine whether the pursuit reported was within policy or not.

Findings

The total number of vehicle pursuits for the Kent Police Department in 2019 was 118. This number is a very slight decrease from 119 in 2018. Over the last 10 years Kent PD has averaged 59.2 pursuits per year. The number one reason for pursuing a vehicle in 2019 was for "other felony property" with 39. The next highest reason for pursuing a vehicle was for a traffic misdemeanor with 31.

The 53 pursuits for minor traffic offenses consisted of 44.9% of our pursuits. If we add the 5 pursuits for suspicious circumstances and 8 pursuits of other misdemeanors to that total then it accounts for 55.9% of our pursuits being for relatively minor offenses or unknown circumstances. A look at the 10 year average for those same categories shows KPD officers pursuing 68.4% of the time for those same offenses.

Time of Day

The time period of 1800-0000 accounted for the largest number of pursuits with 46. The hours between 0000-0600 had another 41 pursuits. The total of 87 pursuits during that time frame accounted for 73.7% of our total pursuits for the year.

Endings to Pursuits

Out of our total of 118 pursuits for the year, officers used their discretion and discontinued 37, or 31.3% of those pursuits. Supervisors directed the pursuing officer to discontinue on 35 occasions, or 29.6% of the time. Officers were able to end a pursuit 6 (5%) times by executing a PIT maneuver and another 18 (15.2%) pursuits ended in a collision. There was 1 pursuit ended by an intentional strike and there was only 1 effective use of spikes for the year.

Length of Pursuit

The average distance of 2019 pursuits was 2.7 miles. The average pursuit distance over the previous 10 years totaled 2.11. The longest pursuit was 31.75 miles with the next longest totaling 12.05 miles. All other pursuits were less than 12 miles with most around the .5-3 mile mark.

Injuries/Collisions

27 collisions occurred as a result of Kent PD pursuits. This accounts for 22.8% of pursuits resulting in a collision. 18 of these collisions were the primary reason the pursuit ended.

Reviewed: 
Chief Padilla

We had 3 officers injured as a result of a collision. Third parties were injured on 2 pursuits. Suspects were injured as a result of a collision on 5 different occasions.

Analysis

Out of 118 vehicular pursuits for 2019, 55.9% of those were for what appears to be relatively minor offenses or suspicious circumstances. Kent Police Department officers discontinued the pursuits themselves on 31.3% of those pursuits. Kent PD supervisors terminated another 29.6% of pursuits. Overall, Kent PD personnel terminated 61% of all pursuits. It is encouraging that Kent PD officers and supervisors are showing good overall awareness and are terminating pursuits that may pose a danger to the community or to the officers themselves. Kent officers also did a commendable job keeping the average number of vehicles involved in a pursuit to 1.76. This number is up slightly compared to 2018 as well as being above the average of 1.61 vehicles involved over the last 10 years.

When looking at the 27 total collisions in Kent PD pursuits for 2019, this number is higher than the average of 13.5 collisions over the last 10 years. It should be noted however, that if the percentage of collisions in pursuits is looked at over the last 10 years, that number is 20.6% versus 22.8% in 2019 of all pursuits ending in a collision which puts Kent PD slightly higher than the 10 year average.

At first glance, the 55.9% of pursuits for minor offenses or unknown circumstances seems high but it is 12.5% lower than the average from the last 10 years. The 55.9% number is also acceptable as it applies to the Kent Police Department's mission statement of "Aggressively Fight crime". This is made acceptable due to the good judgement by the Sergeants and Officers who terminated 60.9% of all pursuits they were involved in as they weighed the cost and benefit of each incident.

Looking at the endings to pursuits, the officer termination percentage dropped from 48% in 2018 to 31.3% in 2019. This drop may be attributed to the large number of newer/younger officers hired in the last 1-2 years. Conversely, the sergeant termination rate rose from 20% in 2018 to 29.6% in 2019.

Training

Based on the data, it appears that our officers and supervisors are using good judgment in whether to continue or terminate a pursuit.

Based on the collision data this year and previous years it appears that our EVOC Team is continuing to provide high quality training to the agency.

Recommendations

Capture spike deployments and whether they were successful or not (not currently on any form).

Continue EVOC and PIT training as it is along classroom training that addresses policy and pursuit decision making.

Commend our officers and supervisors throughout the agency for exercising good judgment on the 39.1% of pursuits that were continued and by terminating 60.9% of the pursuits they were involved in.

PURSUIT SUMMARY 2019

TOTAL PURSUITS	
	118
REASON	
OSA ASSIST	0
OTHER FELONY PERSONS	9
OTHER FELONY PROPERTY	39
OTHER MISDEMEANOR	8
STOLEN VEHICLE	2
SUSP CIRCS	5
TRAFFIC INFRACTION	22
TRAFFIC MISDEMEANOR	31
TRAFFIC FELONY	2
TIME OF PURSUIT	
0000/0600	41
0600/1200	16
1200/1800	15
1800/0000	46
AVG DISTANCE INVOLVED	
	2.70
AVG POLICE VEHICLES INVOLVED	
	1.76
COLLISIONS	
YES	27
NO	91
END REASON	
COLLISION	18
DIRECTED BY SUPERVISOR	35
DISPLACEMENT	1
FORCIBLE STOP	1
OFFICER DISCONTINUED	37
PERSONAL OR PUBLIC SAFETY	0
PIT	6
SUBJECT GAVE UP	9
OTHER	11
RESOLVED BY	
INTENTIONAL STRIKE	1
PIT	6