



Barnegat Township Police Department  
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## *2009 Professional Standards Unit Summary Report*

In 2009, the Barnegat Township Police Department received twenty seven officer complaints that were filed with the Professional Standards Unit. These complaints were lodged either by citizens or other police officers concerned by the actions of their colleagues.

Of those twenty seven complaints, five related to the officer's attitude and demeanor, four were for alleged excessive use of force, and two claimed alleged officer harassment. The remaining sixteen complaints were supervisory in nature. Supervisory investigations pertain to officer conduct which can result in department discipline. Violations of department rules and regulations can range in punishment from a negative performance notice to dismissal from the agency.

In each case, the Professional Standards Unit initiated an internal investigation to determine whether the complaint was valid. Investigations were completed for all of the reported complaints. The alleged excessive use of force complaints were all not sustained based on the fact that the investigations failed to disclose sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegation.

Of the five attitude and demeanor complaints, two were not sustained and three were sustained. The sustained complaints resulted in departmental discipline in accordance with agency policy.

The harassment complaints were not sustained.

All of the supervisory complaints resulted in the finding of violations of departmental rules and regulations with punishments ranging from negative performance notices to written reprimands.

The department also received ten compliments in 2009 from citizens and police supervisors who were pleased with officer performance. These compliments included assisting a motorist with changing a flat tire, saving lives performing CPR, and the successful apprehension of burglary suspects.

Figure 1 below shows a year over year comparison of complaint types for 2007-2009.

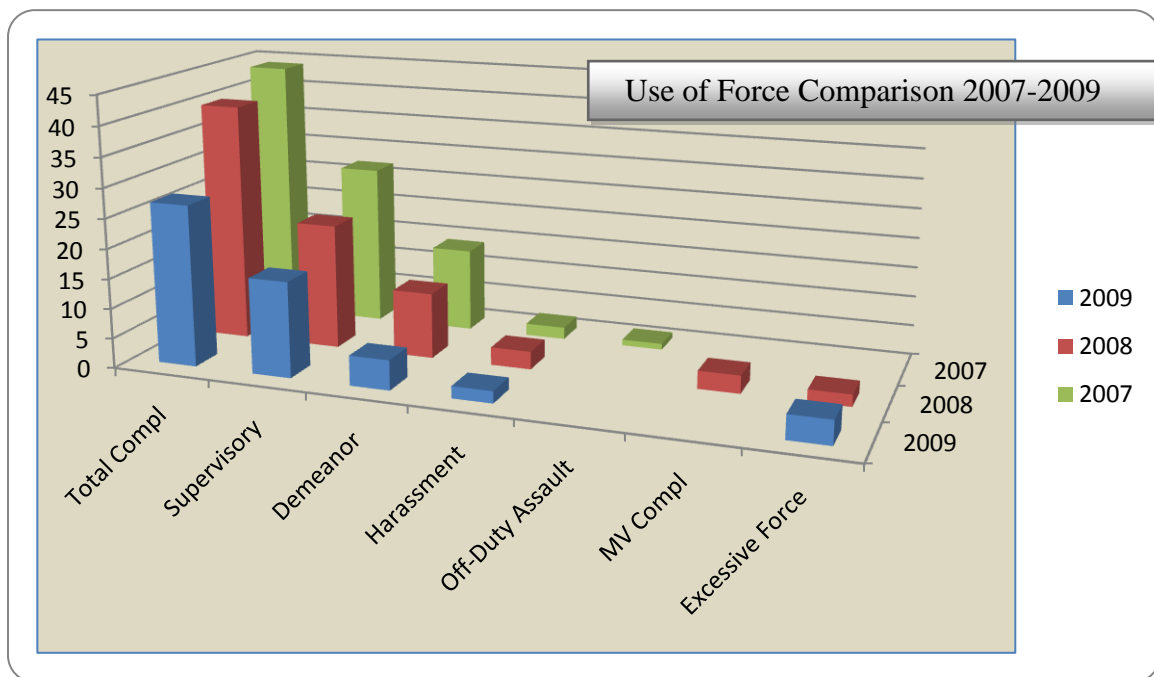


Figure 1

*Captain Richard Dugan*  
*Commander, Operations Division*  
*Professional Standards Unit*