



Channel Islands

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF BUSINESS & FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

University Police Department



CSU Channel Islands Police Department Annual Pursuit Analysis January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

Overview

At the request of Chief Drake Massey, I conducted an analysis of Vehicle Pursuits involving Police Officers (Officers) with the CSU Channel Islands Police Department (UPD) between the period of January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021. The purpose of the analysis is to identify patterns or trends which may indicate a need for training, equipment, or policy modifications.

In 2021, Officers were involved in five (5) vehicle pursuits. Following careful review of the facts and information surrounding each of the reported vehicle pursuits, it was determined that the pursuits were justified under applicable Department Policy, as well as applicable California State Laws (See Lexipol Policy 308; California Vehicle Code § 17004.7(d), 21055, 21056 and California Penal Code §13519.8).

Definitions

By policy (Lexipol 308.1.1), a vehicle pursuit is defined as: “an event involving one or more law enforcement officers attempting to apprehend a suspect, who is attempting to avoid arrest while operating a motor vehicle by using high-speed driving or other evasive tactics, such as driving off a highway, turning suddenly, or driving in a legal manner but willfully failing to yield to an officer’s signal to stop.”

Policy

It is the policy of this department (Lexipol 308.2) to balance the importance of apprehending suspects who unlawfully flee from law enforcement against the risks associated with vehicle pursuits.

Pursuit Reporting and Review

At the conclusion of each vehicle pursuit, the initiating officer and shift supervisor are required to document the facts and circumstances surrounding the vehicle pursuit. The Chief of Police, or designee is responsible for completing a post-pursuit review of all reports, logs, or other pertinent information. The purpose of each review is to identify policy, procedure, training or equipment issues that may require further attention.

Number of Pursuits

During 2021, UPD police officers engaged in five (5) pursuits.

Pursuits by Month, Shift, Time, and Day

Pursuit #	Case #	Date of Incident	Day of Week	Time of Day
1	21-0053	02/09/2021	Tuesday	1:40pm
2	21-0214	05/17/2021	Sunday	7:54pm
3	21-0238	06/03/2021	Wednesday	12:19am
4	21-0627	11/15/2021	Sunday	3:44pm
5	21-0698	12/12/2021	Saturday	9:58am

In 2021, there were three pursuits on Sunday and one each on Tuesday and Wednesday. Three pursuits occurred on the 7:00am – 7:00pm work shift and two occurred on the 7:00pm – 7:00am work shift. Pursuit Incident #4 included a Use of Force report.

Information on Involved Suspects

Pursuit #	Age	Affiliation	Gender	Ethnicity	Race	Under Influence
1	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
2	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
3	22	None	M	Non-Hispanic	W	No
4	32	None	M	Non-Hispanic	W	No
5	38	None	M	Non-Hispanic	W	No

Information on Involved Officers

Pursuit #	Experience	Gender	Ethnicity	Race
1	2 years	M	Hispanic or Latino	W
2	5 years	M	Hispanic or Latino	W
3	2 years	M	Hispanic or Latino	W
4a	11 years	M	Not Hispanic or Latino	W
4b	2 years	M	Hispanic or Latino	W
4c	Less than 1 year	M	Hispanic or Latino	W
5	Less than 1 year	M	Hispanic or Latino	W

Personnel Summary

An analysis of the 5 incidents indicate that four different Officers initiated vehicle pursuits. One officer initiated two pursuits and was a back-up officer in a third. One officer that initiated a pursuit was also a back-up in a second. Careful review was given to the background of each pursuit and in summary, no personnel concerns were identified relative to the distributed initiation of pursuits by all Officers involved.

Pursuits by Original Violation, # of Involved Units, Collision Occurred and Forcible Stop Attempted

Pursuit #	Original Violation	# of Involved Units	Collision	Forcible Stop
1	Infraction	1	No	No
2	Infraction	1	No	No
3	Misdemeanor	1	No	No
4	Felony	5	No	No
5	Infraction	1	No	No

Of the five (5) pursuits in 2020, the original violation observed by the officer initiating the pursuit was a Felony in one case, a misdemeanor in one case and an infraction in three. In all but one pursuit only one unit was involved. Forcible stopping tactics were not attempted.

Pursuits by Concluded, Injuries, Apprehended, and Concluding Event

Pursuit #	Concluded Pursuit	Injuries	Apprehended	Concluding Event
1	Yes	No	No	Pursuit aborted by Supervisor
2	Yes	No	No	Pursuit aborted by Officer
3	Yes	No	Yes	Vehicle voluntarily stopped
4	Yes	No	Yes	Vehicle voluntarily stopped
5	Yes	No	No	Pursuit aborted by Supervisor

Background

Pursuit #1, Case # 21-0053

Officer was parked on University Drive at Lewis Road when he observed a vehicle travelling southbound on Lewis Road at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed speed to be 70mph. Officer attempted to stop the vehicle, but it failed to yield, and Officer initiated a pursuit. Shift Supervisor cancelled pursuit due to nature of offense and continued danger to public.

Pursuit #2, Case #21-0214

Officer observed vehicle travelling east on Hueneme Road at an estimated speed of 100mph. Officer attempted to stop the vehicle, but it failed to yield, and Officer initiated a pursuit. Officer self-cancelled the pursuit due to nature of offense and continued danger to public.

Pursuit #3, Case # 21-0238

Officer observed two vehicles travelling north on Lewis Road at an estimated speed of 70 mph. Vehicles appeared to be street racing. Radar confirmed speeds of vehicles to be in excess of 80mph. Officer attempted to stop the vehicles, but they failed to yield. Officer initiated a pursuit of one of the vehicles that terminated at apartment complex in Camarillo. Driver arrested.

Pursuit #4, Case # 21-0627

UPD received several 911 calls regarding a person in the area of Potrero Road and Hueneme Road pointing a rifle at passing vehicles. Officer attempted contact with the suspect, but they fled the area in a vehicle. Officer initiated a pursuit, with two other Officers assisting. After a lengthy pursuit the suspect was apprehended when they voluntarily stopped their vehicle.

Pursuit #5, Case # 21-0698

Officer observed a vehicle on Potrero Road cross a double yellow line to pass another vehicle. Officer attempted to stop the vehicle, but it failed to yield, and Officer initiated a pursuit. Shift Supervisor cancelled pursuit due to nature of offense and continued danger to public.

Administrative Review

UPD Command Staff reviewed the 2021 vehicle pursuit incidents. All agreed that these incidents were justified, and in compliance with all UPD policies/practices and applicable state statutes.

Impact of Findings on Policy and Practice

- As part of the administrative review process, Chief Massey issued CSUCI Police Procedure 405, Vehicle Pursuits on June 11, 2021 to offer additional expectations related to vehicle pursuits in accordance with current policy. This procedure is intended to supplement the current vehicle pursuit policy.

Impact of Findings on Training and Equipment

- Pursuant to CSUCI Police Procedure 405, pursuits related to traffic infractions are no longer allowed. Additionally, pursuits related to misdemeanor offenses not involving violence and/or risk of serious harm to public safety are in most all cases discouraged.
- Consistent format for verbally notifying the Dispatcher, other Officers, and the Supervisor when an Officer initiates a Pursuit.
- Review specific factors, strategies, and tactics for conducting traffic enforcement on Lewis Road where the potential for high speed violations is high.

Administrative Review

Analysis completed by Lt. Christopher Jetton
03/03/2022

Signature  _____

Analysis reviewed and accepted by Chief of Police:
Interim Police Chief Drake Massey

Signature  _____

Date: March 15, 2022