

"Killed in the Line of Duty"

Three year FBI study of the deaths of 54 law enforcement officers, integrating the examination of the *officer*, the *offender* and their *confrontation* by Greg Conner, Associate Professor, University of Illinois, Police Training Institute.

FOCUS ON THE CONFRONTATION	
Scene Circumstances	
39%	arrest situations/crimes in progress
22%	traffic pursuit/stops
13%	disturbance calls
11%	handling, transporting, custody of prisoners
Time of Day	
30%	12:01am – 6am
28%	12:01pm – 6pm
28%	6:01pm – midnight
Weapon Used	
72%	handgun
13%	rifle
9%	shotgun
Cartridge Used	
41%	.38 Smith & Wesson Special
15%	.357 Remington Magnum
10%	.32 Smith & Wesson
10%	9mm Luger-Parabellum
Geographical Variance	
49%	South
12%	Northeast
19%	Midwest
19%	West
FOCUS ON THE OFFENDER	
Demographics	
96%	were male
26	years of age
60%	were white
5 feet 9	inches
176	pounds
45%	married, 32% divorced
34%	no degree, 60% high school degree
Criminal History	
74%	regularly carried a handgun
80%	described themselves as "instinct" shooters
72%	had previous arrests for drug offenses
76%	were engaged in drug or alcohol activity just prior to the incident
41%	were involved with alcohol or drugs at the time of the incident

Psychological Evaluation

56% were diagnosed as antisocial personality type, including such traits as:

- Disregard or social obligations
- Enter only advantageous relationships
- High levels of aggression
- Low tolerance for frustration
- Not readily modifiable by experience

48% had murdered or attested to murder prior to the incident

36% had been shot at prior the incident

54% had practiced with their weapons within a month of the encounter

74% had practiced informally

FOCUS ON THE OFFICER

Demographics

98% were male

34 years of age

93% were white

5 feet 10 inches

188 pounds

81% married, 2% divorced

83% high school degree, 9% college degree

Agency Affiliation

46% municipal police

26% sheriff's police

15% state police

4% federal officers

Duty Assignment

70% assigned to one officer vehicle

9% assigned to two-officer vehicle

9% assigned to detective or special assignment

6% off duty

57% of the attacks were at night

Behavioral Descriptors

Friendly and well-liked by community and department

Uses less force than other officers in similar situations

Perceives self as more public relations than law enforcer

Uses force only as last resort

Only 8% of partner officers returned fire

85% failed to fire their weapon

Doesn't follow all the rules, especially in regard to:

- Arrests
- Traffic stops

- Does not call for or wait for back up

Tends to look for the “good” in others

“Laid back” and “easy going”

57% of the offenders characterized the victim officer as unprepared

Only 15% were wearing body armor

FOCUS ON PROCEDURES

Errors

Failed to call for backup

Initiated contact prior to backup arrival

Incomplete searches

Improper or non-use of handcuffs

Improper positioning of police vehicle

Conflicts

Suspect placement in front seat of squad during contact

Prohibitions on drawing and/or directing service revolver

Absence

Lacked skills for “drawn weapon” confrontations

Lacked skills in confronting multiple subjects

Lacked skills in team arrest tactics

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Checklist of Challenges

Development of functional perception skills

Improved identification options during off duty/raid assignments

Tactical approaches for armed suspect(s)

Improving adherence to establish police protocols

Correlation and integration of survival techniques at all stages of confrontational

Contact and Control

Encouragement of wearing body armor from recruit class to retirement

Increased emphasis on searching frequency and intensity

Enhance constant vigilance toward risk assessment

Increase instruction in areas of potential medical contingencies during violent

Confrontations

Adopt and adapt a holistic approach to system and self strategies for safety