

GRAY OPS FIREARMS SPECIALTY TRAINING, INC.

TACTICAL FIREARMS TRAINING

Handgun – Carbine – Shotgun - Precision Rifle

POLICE OFFICER DEATH'S ON THE RISE

Police Officer Death's in the line of duty are on the rise. Although currently the numbers for the first quarter of 2012 are down in all categories, the rise has been steady over the last three years. God Bless all those walking the "[Thin Blue Line](#)" stay strong,

Statistics:

2011 – Total 166

Aircraft accident: 1

Animal related: 1

Assault: 5

Automobile accident: 34

Drowned: 4

Duty related illness: 7

Explosion: 1

Gunfire: 67

Gunfire (Accidental): 5

Heart attack: 11

Heat exhaustion: 1

Motorcycle accident: 5

Stabbed: 2

Struck by vehicle: 4

Training accident: 1

Vehicle pursuit: 4

Vehicular assault: 12

Weather/Natural disaster: 1

2010 – Total 163

9/11 related illness: 2

Accidental: 1

Aircraft accident: 2

Assault: 5

Automobile accident: 43

Boating accident: 1

Drowned: 1

Fall: 2

Gunfire: 59

Gunfire (Accidental): 2

Heart attack: 14

Heat exhaustion: 1

Motorcycle accident: 5

Struck by vehicle: 7

Training accident: 1

Vehicle pursuit: 4

Vehicular assault: 13

2009 – Total 138

9/11 related illness: 11

Accidental: 1

Aircraft accident: 4

Assault: 1

Automobile accident: 34

Duty related illness: 4

Fall: 1

Gunfire: 47

Gunfire (Accidental): 2

Heart attack: 10

Motorcycle accident: 3

Struck by vehicle: 8

Vehicle pursuit: 3

Vehicular assault: 9

Not only are the numbers of death increasing but the number of officer's being assaulted with firearms, along with firearm related deaths are on the rise. Over previous year's Traffic Accidents used to be the number 1 cause of deaths. Through education and mandated driver training these are on the decrease.

What is the cause of the current trend of increased violent assaults on our beloved law enforcement officers? Is it the economy? Based on the reduced numbers of officer's who are out there? Is it society as a whole? Is the lack of training our fine officers are not receiving after the academy? *"The military trains and trains and trains and rarely fights, whereas police officers fight and fight and fight, but rarely train."* Or is it officer complicity?

Complacency affects all of us at some point in our careers, sometimes sooner than later, but it does manage to invade our mindset and performance eventually and we must be cognizant of it. Once aware of complacency we must take steps to overcome its impact and return to a state of vigilance, being constantly mindful of our surroundings and those in proximity to us.

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Deadly Errors:

Here is a list of deadly errors that has not changed over my 30+ years of service and I don't see them changing:

1. *Failure to Maintain Proficiency and Care of Weapon, Vehicle, and Equipment*

If you have learned to shoot, will your gun fire when you pull the trigger? Will your car respond when you need it?

2. *Improper Search and Use of Handcuffs*

Many police fatalities here.

3. *Sleepy or Asleep*

How well can you react when you are?

4. *Relaxing too Soon*

Usually at those "phony" silent alarms calls.

5. *Missing the Danger Signs*

Miss or don't recognize them; they can be fatal either way.

6. *Taking a Bad Position*

Write a citation or an FI card with your back turned to the subject. Or, while confronting the barricaded gunman, be casual or curious from your place of concealment rather than careful and cautious from a place of cover.

7. *Failure to Watch Their Hands*

Where else can the subject hold a gun, or a knife, or a club?

8. *Tombstone Courage*

Why wait for a backup?

9. *Preoccupation*

Worrying about personal problems while on duty may be the hard way to solve the problem.

10. *Apathy*

A deadly disease for the cynical veteran police officer.

How many of these deadly errors have you committed thus far in your career as a law enforcement officer? Be honest. There is a little luck necessary for most police officers but it can be stretched pretty thin. Staying alert – always, and mixing good judgment and common sense with a little bit of good luck will go a long way toward insuring survival in the street.