



October 14, 2008

FBI Releases 2007 Statistics on Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted

Washington—The FBI reported today that 57 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty last year; 83 officers died in accidents while performing their official duties; and 59,201 officers suffered assaults while on duty. The 2007 edition of *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* released today provides comprehensive tabular data about these incidents and brief narratives describing the fatal felonious attacks.

Felonious Deaths

The 57 felonious line-of-duty deaths took place during 51 separate incidents. The deaths occurred in 25 states and Puerto Rico. The number of officers feloniously killed in 2007 increased by 9 compared with the 2006 figure (48 officers). A 5-year comparison shows an increase of 5 line-of-duty deaths compared with data for 2003 (52 officers), and a decrease of 4 deaths compared with data for 1998 (61 officers).

Officer Profile: Among the officers who were feloniously killed, the average age was 37 years. The victim officers had served in law enforcement for an average of 10 years at the time of the fatal incidents. All of the slain officers were male; 47 officers were white.

Circumstances: Of the 57 officers feloniously killed, 16 of the slain officers were involved in arrest situations, 16 were ambushed, 11 were performing traffic stops, 5 were answering disturbance calls, and 4 were investigating suspicious persons or circumstances. Of the remaining 5 officers who were feloniously killed in the line of duty, 3 were in tactical situations (e.g., high-risk entry); 1 was performing investigative duties; and 1 had custody of a prisoner for transport.

Weapons: Offenders used firearms to kill 55 of the 57 victim officers. Of these 55 officers, 38 were slain with handguns, 8 with rifles, and 8 with shotguns. The type of firearm was not reported for 1 officer's death. Two officers were killed with vehicles that were used as weapons.

Region: An analysis of the data by region showed that 31 of the felonious deaths occurred in the South, 9 in the West, 7 in the Northeast, and 9 in the Midwest. One of the deaths took place in Puerto Rico.

Suspects: Law enforcement agencies identified 62 alleged assailants in connection with the 57 felonious line-of-duty deaths. Fifty-eight of the assailants had prior criminal records, and 19 of them were under judicial supervision at the time of the felonious incidents.

Accidental Deaths

Eighty-three law enforcement officers were killed in accidents while performing their duties in 2007. Automobile accidents claimed the highest number (49) of accidental line-of-duty deaths.

Assaults

The Nation's law enforcement agencies reported to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program that 59,201 officers were assaulted while performing their duties. The largest percentage of victim officers (31.7 percent) were assaulted while responding to disturbance calls (family quarrels, bar fights, etc.). Assaultants used personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) in 80.2 percent of the incidents, firearms in 3.7 percent of the incidents, and knives or other cutting instruments in 1.7 percent of the incidents. In 14.4 percent of the assaults, other types of weapons were used.

***Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 2007*, is available exclusively on the FBI's Web site at <www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>. Printed copies of this publication are no longer available.**