



## Highlights:

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Up 300 Percent

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with Heroin

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Webinar: Airborne Law  
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# The InfoGram

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## Ambush-Style Officer Deaths Up 300 Percent

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) released the “[2016 Mid-Year Law Enforcement Officer Fatalities Report](#)” this week, and the numbers show that last year’s trends are unfortunately continuing.

In the first six months of 2016, there were 67 federal, state, and local law enforcement line of duty deaths, five more than the same period last year. Worse, there was a 78 percent spike in firearm-related officer fatalities with ambush-style killings up more than 300 percent.

Other numbers improved with decreases in both traffic-related fatalities and job-related illness fatalities. Texas had the most officers killed (13), followed by Louisiana (seven), and six states that lost three officers each.

The increase in targeted ambush-style killings of law enforcement officers is of great concern because they are unpredictable and there is little one can do to prepare for them or defend against them. It increases the sense of being in a warzone at a time when law enforcement agencies are struggling to improve community relations.

All first responders should intentionally work to be alert to their surroundings. If responding to a call that sounds off, odd, or otherwise gives you a strange feeling, pay attention to that reaction. [Before getting out of your car](#), take a good look around for anything or anyone unusual and mentally catalog places that would provide good cover if it becomes necessary. Always maintain good situational awareness for you and your fellow officers; it may save your lives.

(Source: [NLEOMF](#))

## Elephant Tranquilizers Mixed with Heroin

If mixing the pain killer fentanyl into heroin wasn’t enough for public safety officers to worry about, now there is a new trend to add to the problem. [Elephant tranquilizers](#) are now also being added to heroin and are responsible for a number of fatal overdoses in Ohio, Kentucky, and Florida. Authorities say Narcan may not be enough to save people overdosing on this drug.

[Carfentanil](#), the drug in the tranquilizers, is extremely potent at 10,000 times more powerful than morphine and 100 times more powerful than fentanyl. Zoo veterinarians who handle it use eye protection, long sleeves, and gloves to protect themselves. Like fentanyl, it can be absorbed through the skin and a small amount is

deadly, so this is definitely something first responders need to be aware of.

Authorities believe it is coming into the country from China, and while it is only in a few states now, that will change as this strain is trafficked across the country. Like the recent warning on fentanyl-laced heroin, first responders are encouraged to take heroin seizures straight to a lab instead of field testing, use proper personal protective equipment (PPE) when dealing with drugs, and maintain good communications with other local agencies to determine if and when Carfentanil makes it to their region.

(Source: [NIH](#))

## Florida Confirms Locally-Acquired Zika Cases

Areas of south Florida, specifically Miami-Dade County, confirmed the first group of local infections in the continental United States occurred in July. Up to then all cases of Zika had been imported, meaning people were infected in other countries and brought the virus home with them. The number of confirmed locally-acquired cases in Florida right now is 15.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that [mosquito control efforts have not been as effective as hoped](#). The virus is currently limited to one small area of Miami (13 cases) and Broward County (two cases). Mosquitoes have a very small area they can travel during their life, limiting the amount of exposure and damage it can do. People travel much more, though, which increases exposure.

Miami, like many communities around the country, are currently [working to manage this threat and minimize the spread](#). The CDC recommends several things to prevent the spread, both things for individuals and communities to do:

- Remove any standing water to limit the breeding grounds for mosquitoes;
- Use insect repellent, wear protective clothing, repair holes in window and door screens;
- Educate yourself about Zika and the methods of exposure before traveling.

The CDC's [Zika Virus](#) site offers updated information and statistics on the virus, its spread, symptoms, and testing. [Healthcare providers](#) can find clinical guidance, patient counseling material, and a [pregnancy registry](#) to track infected pregnant women.

(Source: [CDC](#))

## Webinar: Airborne Law Enforcement Tactics

The military and border control agencies have used drones equipped with cameras and sensors for years to improve situational awareness and provide real-time tactical intelligence. Thanks to the commercialization of these devices, law enforcement agencies can now afford drones/unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

For those law enforcement professionals interested in learning how agencies can deploy UAVs on active missions or to increase situational awareness during events, American Military University is offering the no-cost webinar "[Airborne Law Enforcement Tactics](#)" on August 11, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.

See AMU's [Law Enforcement Webinar Series website](#) to register for this webinar and for more information on other topics. AMU requests registrants use their agency email address when registering.

(Source: [AMU](#))

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