



# RESEARCH BULLETIN

www.LawMemorial.org

info@nleomf.org

## Law Enforcement Fatalities Decrease 45% in First Quarter of 2012

According to preliminary data from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 30 officers were killed from January 1, 2012 to March 31, 2012—a 45% decrease from the same time frame in 2011, when 55 officers were killed in the performance of duty.

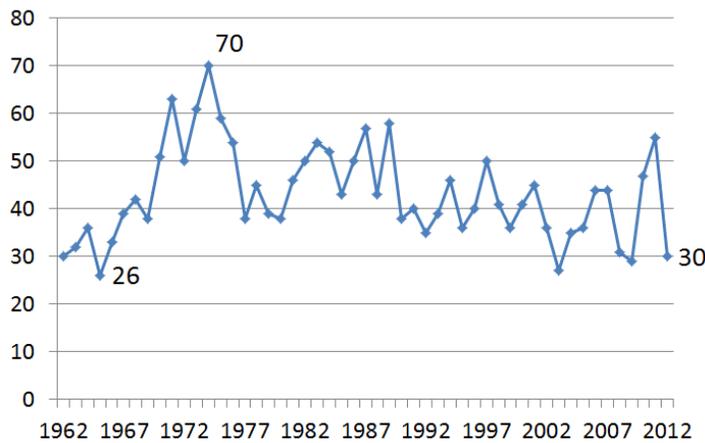
Firearms-related incidents claimed the lives of 10 officers, a 58% decrease from the same time period in 2011, when 24 officers were shot and killed.

Of the 30 officer fatalities, six died from job-related illness including four officers who suffered heart attacks. Three additional officers were stabbed to death.

Florida suffered the most fatalities in the first three months of the year, with three fatalities, followed closely by Alabama, Georgia, and Michigan, which all had two fatalities. Two Federal officers and two Territorial officers died in the line of duty. Twenty-nine states did not suffer a fatality during the first quarter of 2012.

The average age of the officers killed in the line of duty was 44 years old, and the average length of service was 12 years. Eight officers died on a Saturday, the most of any day, followed closely by Wednesday when five officers died. Of the 30 fallen officers, six were women and 24 were male, and on average, each officer left behind two children.

Total Fatalities: 2012 First Quarter



© NLEOMF

### A Closer Look



**Patrol Officer Garret Davis**  
Honolulu (HI) Police Department

Patrol Officer Davis was killed in an

automobile crash while assisting a stranded motorist. Officer Davis' emergency lights were activated as he attempted to assist a stalled vehicle. Before Officer Davis was able to exit his patrol car, his vehicle was rear-ended. Officer Davis' vehicle caught fire, trapping him inside. Officer Davis died at the scene.

**Master Corporal Sandra Rogers**  
Aiken (SC) Department of Public Safety



Master Corporal Roberts was dispatched to a suspicious vehicle call on January 28, 2012. After stepping out of her vehicle, she was shot and killed by the suspect. Master Corporal Roberts served as a law enforcement officer for 28 years.

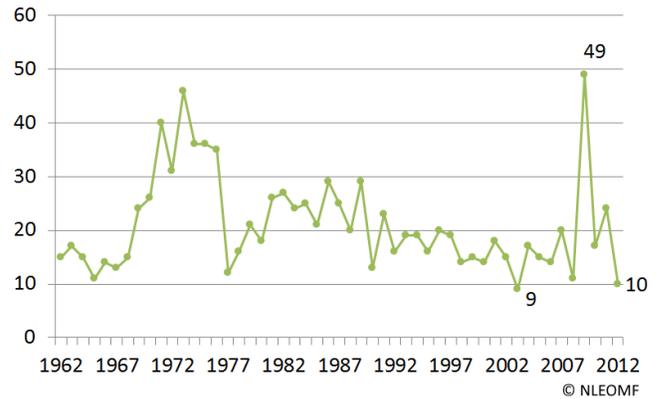


## Firearms-related Fatalities: 2012 First Quarter

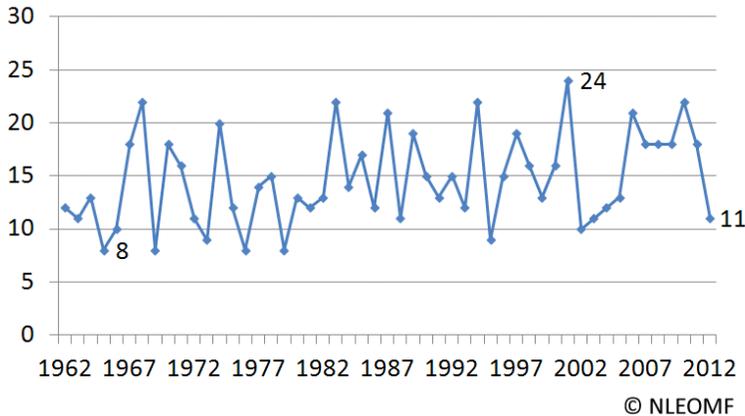
In the first quarter of 2012, firearms-related fatalities decreased 58% from 24 fatalities during the first quarter of 2011 to 10 fatalities.

Three officers were fatally shot trying to conduct a traffic stop, two were shot during burglaries in progress, one was ambushed, one officer was killed attempting arrest, one was killed while investigating suspicious persons or circumstances, one due to drug related matters, and one was shot and killed during a robbery at a gas station.

Firearm-related Fatalities: 2012 First Quarter



## Traffic-related Fatalities: 2012 First Quarter



Traffic-related fatalities accounted for 11 officer deaths in the first quarter of 2012, a 39% decrease from the same time period in 2011. This matches the nine-year low when 11 officers were also killed in 2003.

Of the 11 officers killed, nine were killed in automobile crashes and two were struck and killed.

## Training Recommendations

Utilizing data from the 2011 NLEOMF/VALOR End-of-Year Report and the initial figures from the first quarter of 2012, firearms-related fatalities that occurred while officers were making routine traffic stops appears to be on the increase.

In 2011, six officers were killed on traffic stops, but in the first quarter of this year three officers have already died. Acknowledging these numbers, officer safety training recommendations should reinforce the need for officer vigilance when making routine traffic stops. Officers should employ situational awareness when approaching the vehicle by proactively seeking out signs of driver uneasiness, suspicious behavior on the part of vehicle occupants or access to weapons by all individuals in the car. Proper body positioning by officers during traffic stops, being mentally prepared for a potential deadly encounter and appropriate defensive tactics and weapons training are all crucial elements of officer safety.

Learn more about the VALOR Initiative and find a training session at to attend at [www.ValorforBlue.org](http://www.ValorforBlue.org).

