



RESEARCH BULLETIN

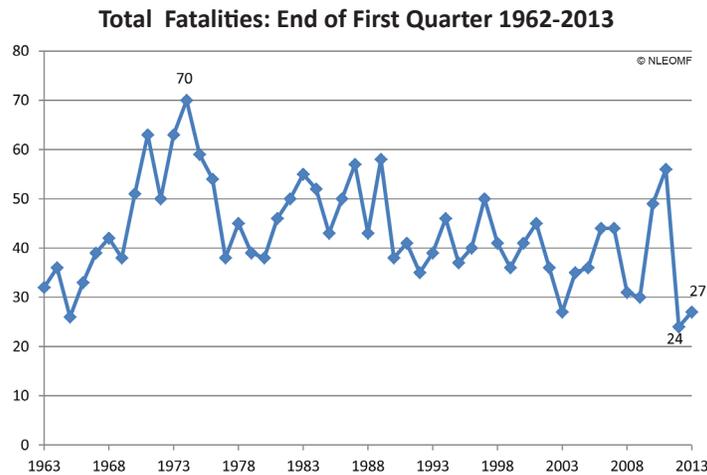
www.LawMemorial.org

info@nlcomf.org

27 Officer Fatalities in the First Quarter of 2013

According to preliminary data from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, law enforcement officer fatalities have increased 13% at the end of the first quarter of 2013, compared to the same time period in 2012.

Twenty-seven law enforcement officers were killed as of March 31, 2013, up from 24 fatalities during the same time period in 2012. The leading cause of officer fatalities thus far in 2013 is firearms-related fatalities. Firearms-related fatalities have increased slightly in 2013, with 12 officer fatalities, up 9% from 11 fatalities during the same time in 2012.



Of the remaining 15 officer fatalities, nine officers were killed in traffic-related incidents, four officers died from job-related illnesses, one officer was stabbed to death, and one officer was killed in a helicopter crash.

California suffered the most fatalities in the first three months of the year, with seven deaths, followed by Arkansas and Virginia which both had three fatalities. Three Territorial officers and two Federal officers also died in the line of duty. Thirty-nine states did not suffer a fatality during the first quarter of 2013.

The average age of the officers killed in the line of duty was 43 years old, and the average length of service was 16 years. Nine officers died on a Tuesday, the most of any day, followed closely by Saturday when five officers died. Of the 27 fallen officers, three were women and 24 were male, and on average, each officer left behind two children.

A Closer Look



Police Officer Patricia Parete
Buffalo (NY) Police Department

Police Officer Parete died as a result of a gunshot wound sustained six years earlier while responding to a disturbance call for an armed suspect fleeing the scene of a fight on December 5, 2006. Officer Parete and her partner were shot several times by the suspect, her partner survived. Officer Parete served as a law enforcement officer for 12 years.

Sergeant Gary Morales



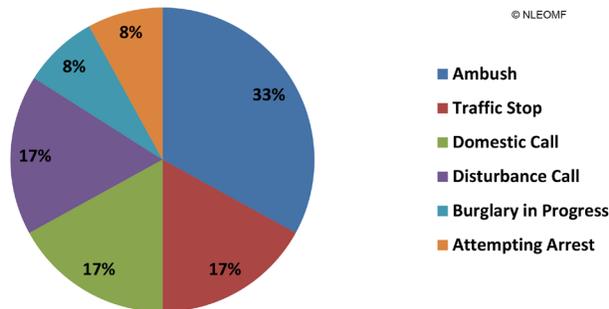
St. Lucie County (FL) Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Morales was shot and killed while conducting a routine traffic stop on February 28, 2013. The suspect exited his vehicle and opened fire, killing Sergeant Morales instantly. Sergeant Morales served as a law enforcement officer for 13 years.



Circumstances of Fatal Shootings: 2013 First Quarter

Circumstances of Fatal Shootings: First Quarter 2013



In the first quarter of 2013, firearms-related fatalities saw a slight increase from 2012 in which eleven fatalities occurred during the first quarter, compared to twelve fatalities in 2013.

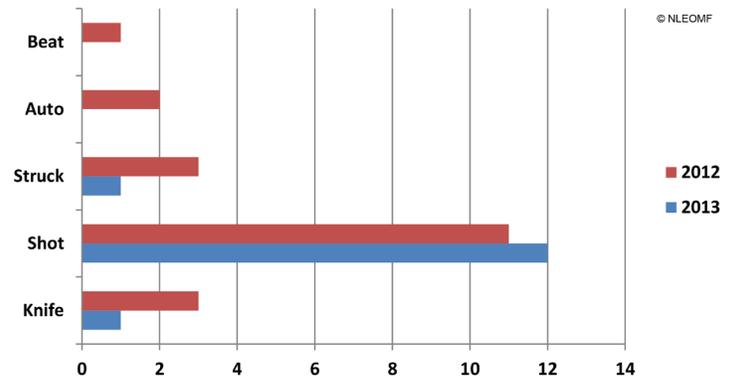
Four officers were shot and killed in ambushes, two officers were fatally shot while conducting a traffic stop, two officers were shot while responding to a domestic violence call, two officers were shot while responding to a disturbance call, one officer was shot during a burglary in progress and one officer was killed while attempting to make an arrest.

Felonious Fatalities: First Quarter 2012 vs. First Quarter 2013

Fourteen officers were feloniously killed in the first quarter of 2013, a 30% decrease from 2012 when twenty officers were feloniously killed during the same time period. Twelve officers were feloniously shot and killed, one officer was stabbed to death and one officer was struck and killed by a drunk driver.

In 2012, eleven officers were shot and killed, three officers were stabbed to death, three officers were struck and killed by a driver, two officers were killed in an automobile crashes by impaired drivers.

Felonious Fatalities: First Quarter 2012 vs. First Quarter 2013



Training Recommendations

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.

It is imperative that officers are aware that ambush attacks are on the rise and were the leading cause of firearms-related deaths in 2012. Officers need to take appropriate precautions when responding to calls for service. Remaining alert and practicing situational awareness when responding to calls will mentally prepare the officer for the unexpected.

Learn more about the VALOR Initiative and find a training session at to attend at www.ValorforBlue.org.