



NATIONAL TACTICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 797, Doylestown, PA 18901

Ph. 800.279.9127 Fax 215.230.7552 www.ntoa.org

July 5, 2012

Dear Law Enforcement Officers,

The following document is the 2012 update of the Police Training Fatality Report with information included through 2011. The first section lists the officers who died during training exercises in 2011. The remaining sections of the report are arranged chronologically by type of incident.

In 2011, fourteen officers did not return home after training exercises – three more than the previous year, and eight more than the year before that. One officer died from a gunshot wound, one officer drowned, and one officer died in a rappelling exercise. Eleven officers suffered medical-related conditions including heart attacks, heat stroke, pulmonary embolism and stroke.

This report was initiated in 2005 at the suggestion of an officer concerned about lax training standards. It is by no means a definitive listing of officer training deaths; only those located on the internet by searching individual agency and association memorial pages, online newspaper articles and “The Officer Down Memorial Pages.” In a few cases, information was provided by individuals who contacted the Resource Library. When more than one source was located, information was compared for consistency and where possible, combined to form a more complete description of the incident. Unfortunately in some cases, detailed information could not be located.

Anyone willing to provide additional information on incidents both past or present, or to alert me to any inaccuracies in this report, please contact me at resourcelibrary@ntoa.org. I would greatly appreciate hearing from you.

Please use this report as an awareness and prevention tool, and to justify increasing the safety measures in your agency’s training program.

Be safe.

Elaine Crunkleton
NTOA Library Specialist

2011 Police Training Fatalities

January 13, 2011

Davies Police Department, Florida

Officer Rogerio Morales

On January 10, 2011, Officer Rogerio Morales, age 27, collapsed about fifteen minutes into a physical agility test at Markham Park in Sunrise while trying out for the agency's SWAT team. He was scaling a rope when stricken. The 911 call was sent out as stomach pains but when Sunrise firefighters arrived ten minutes later, the officer was in cardiac arrest. Officer Morales remained in a coma and died at a local hospital three days later. Officer Morales passed a physical examination prior to the tryout. An autopsy revealed the cause of death to be heatstroke. A two-year veteran of the agency, Officer Morales was survived by his wife.

February 16, 2011

Volusia County Beach Patrol, Florida

Captain John Irwin (Jay) McDonough

Captain McDonough, age 52, was participating in a training event when he was stricken with a heart attack at about noon while jogging on the beach. Captain McDonough, just recently promoted, was transported to Halifax Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. Captain McDonough had been with the agency for 13 years and was survived by his wife and son.

March 3, 2011

Nebraska State Patrol, Omaha

Trooper Parnell Matthews

Trooper Matthews, age 35, suffered a stroke while participating in a training exercise in Grand Island. He was flown to Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha where he remained in a coma until he passed away eight days later. Trooper Matthews was an 8-year veteran of the Nebraska State Patrol and served in the Traffic Services Division Troop-A Omaha. He was survived by his four sons.

March 4, 2011

Alexandria Police Department, Kentucky

Officer James Philip Sticklen

Officer Sticklen, age 58, was kicked in the leg while restraining a juvenile during a crisis intervention training exercise in Corbin. Later, as he prepared for another exercise, a blood clot worked free from the injured leg resulting in a pulmonary embolism. Officer Sticklen was pronounced dead at Baptist Regional Medical Center. He had an extensive career in law enforcement having served in both Brooksville and Maysville Police Departments and nineteen years in the Alexandria agency. Officer Sticklen was survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

April 7, 2011

United States Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Prisons, Leavenworth, Kansas

Senior Officer Specialist Christopher Cooper

Senior Officer Cooper, age 38, was participating in a Special Operations Response Team training exercise at USP Leavenworth when he collapsed from a heart attack. He was stricken during the obstacle course portion of the event. The efforts of other officers to resuscitate him by performing CPR were unsuccessful. Senior Officer Cooper was survived by his wife and two sons.

May 1, 2011

St. Clair County Sheriff's Office, Port Huron, Michigan

Assistant Dive Chief John Makuch

Assistant Dive Chief Makuch, age 56, died of a heart attack while participating in training exercises with the all volunteer dive team at the Port Huron YMCA. Dive team members who are trained paramedics could not revive him and he died at a nearby hospital. Assistant Dive Chief Makuch had served for over 20 years on the dive team which is a branch of the Sheriff's Office Marine Division. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

May 12, 2011

Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Beeville, Texas

Corrections Officer IV Craig Allan Orrell

Corrections Officer Craig Orrell, age 50, was participating in a four day training program at the Edmundo Mireles Academy in Beeville when he collapsed from a fatal heart attack. Officer Orrell was the high rider for the Connally Unit Field Force in Kenedy and was survived by his daughter and son.

June 14, 2011

South Pasadena Police Department, California

Officer Kevin Alexis Sandoval

Officer Kevin Sandoval, age 23, was participating in a multi-agency training scenario exercise at the Burro Canyon Shooting Park in Azusa when he collapsed in cardiac arrest. Paramedic-trained officers who were at the scene tried diligently to revive him. Officer Sandoval was flown by the sheriff department's helicopter to Foothill Presbyterian Hospital in Glendora where despite an intensive effort by the medical staff, he was pronounced dead soon after. County officials later reported coronary heart disease to be the cause of death. Officer Sandoval had been with the agency for two years and was survived by his parents and sister.

July 5, 2011

Sanford Police Department, North Carolina

Officer Elieser "Eli" Colonroche

Officer Elieser Colonroche, age 55, was training for an upcoming rappelling demonstration with fellow officers at the Emergency Services Training Center at Central Carolina Community College when something went wrong during a descent. On the way down the four-story tower, he slammed into a third-story window. Officer Colonroche was able to complete the descent and although he seemed fine except for a cut on his elbow, other officers urged him to be checked out at the local hospital. When the medical staff observed signs of internal bleeding, Officer Colonroche was flown to UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill where he passed away less than nine hours after the morning rappelling incident. Officer Colonroche, a nine-year veteran of the agency and a former U.S. Army MP for 22 years, was survived by his wife and three sons.

July 30, 2011

Buena Park Police Department, California

Officer Daniel Ryan Ackerman

On July 29th, Officer Ackerman had just completed the SWAT team's required semi-annual strength and endurance test when he became unresponsive. A physician who was on-duty at the training site attended to him and quickly determined the officer needed hospitalization. Officer Ackerman was transported to St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton where for a while, he was conscious and responding to family members but the officer's condition suddenly deteriorated with evidence of internal bleeding. Officer Ackerman, age 31, passed away before dawn the next day. He was survived by his two-year old daughter.

August 18, 2011

United States Department of Defense, Fort Huachuca Police Department, Arizona

Officer Bart Child

Officer Child, age 29, was participating in a required 1.5 mile run in preparation for attending the Department of the Army Police Academy when he suddenly collapsed. The civilian officer of four years and a member of the Directorate of Emergency Services team was transported to nearby Sierra Vista Regional Health Center where he was pronounced dead two hours later. The cause of his death was reported to be a heart attack. Officer Child was survived by his wife and three children.

August 31, 2011

Georgia Department of Corrections, Jackson, Georgia

Probation Officer Tiffany Danielle Bishop

Probation Officer Bishop, age 24, was shot while attending training at the Diagnostic and Classification Prison in Jackson. According to news reports, the incident occurred in a classroom setting when a firearms instructor who was on a break and sitting in on the class took part in a demonstration. During the demonstration, he drew and pointed his firearm at Officer Bishop and pulled the trigger. Unfortunately, he had not undergone a proper safety check when he returned from lunch. Officer Bishop, who had been with the agency six months and worked at the Rome Probation Office, died on the way to the hospital. The instructor pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 90 days in jail with 10 years probation and was required to surrender his law enforcement certifications. Probation Officer Bishop was survived by her parents.

September 12, 2011

New York City Police Department, New York

Officer Sherman Abrams

Officer Sherman Abrams, age 28, had just completed a downtown Manhattan training run with his academy class when he became ill and collapsed from a heart attack. His fellow officers administered CPR immediately however Officer Sherman was pronounced dead soon after being transported to Beth Israel Hospital. Officer Sherman had begun his career four years earlier as an officer with the New York City Department of Corrections before being hired as a New York City Police Department officer. He was survived by his five-year old daughter.

December 20, 2011

Chesapeake Police Department, Virginia

Officer Specialist Timothy Brian Schock

Officer Timothy Schock, age 41, drowned during a dive team training exercise at Oak Grove Lake Park. The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry's investigation concluded that several lapses in safety measures had contributed to his death. It was determined that two pieces of equipment failed. First, a piece fell off his vest's buoyancy compensator rendering it useless and then a ripcord malfunctioned that should have released weights. Officer Schock's diving partner was unable to rescue him and back-up help was too far away to get to them in time. The report advised the following procedures needed to be implemented: an on-scene boat, paramedics and a "ready" diver present for all dive exercises; a proper buddy-check system; regular testing and servicing of all equipment; replacement of all equipment past manufacturers' stated lifespan; and proper storage of all equipment. In addition, the report stated that if any piece of equipment failed during an exercise, an agency is responsible for aborting the dive immediately. Officer Specialist Schock had been with the agency for sixteen years and a member of the dive team for six years. He was survived by a child and his fiancée.



NATIONAL TACTICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 797, Doylestown, PA 18901

Ph. 800.279.9127 Fax 215.230.7552 www.ntoa.org

July 5, 2012

Dear Law Enforcement Officers,

The following document is the 2012 update of the Police Training Fatality Report with information included through 2011. The first section lists the officers who died during training exercises in 2011. The remaining sections of the report are arranged chronologically by type of incident.

In 2011, fourteen officers did not return home after training exercises – three more than the previous year, and eight more than the year before that. One officer died from a gunshot wound, one officer drowned, and one officer died in a rappelling exercise. Eleven officers suffered medical-related conditions including heart attacks, heat stroke, pulmonary embolism and stroke.

This report was initiated in 2005 at the suggestion of an officer concerned about lax training standards. It is by no means a definitive listing of officer training deaths; only those located on the internet by searching individual agency and association memorial pages, online newspaper articles and “The Officer Down Memorial Pages.” In a few cases, information was provided by individuals who contacted the Resource Library. When more than one source was located, information was compared for consistency and where possible, combined to form a more complete description of the incident. Unfortunately in some cases, detailed information could not be located.

Anyone willing to provide additional information on incidents both past or present, or to alert me to any inaccuracies in this report, please contact me at resourcelibrary@ntoa.org. I would greatly appreciate hearing from you.

Please use this report as an awareness and prevention tool, and to justify increasing the safety measures in your agency’s training program.

Be safe.

Elaine Crunkleton
NTOA Library Specialist

2011 Police Training Fatalities

January 13, 2011

Davies Police Department, Florida

Officer Rogerio Morales

On January 10, 2011, Officer Rogerio Morales, age 27, collapsed about fifteen minutes into a physical agility test at Markham Park in Sunrise while trying out for the agency's SWAT team. He was scaling a rope when stricken. The 911 call was sent out as stomach pains but when Sunrise firefighters arrived ten minutes later, the officer was in cardiac arrest. Officer Morales remained in a coma and died at a local hospital three days later. Officer Morales passed a physical examination prior to the tryout. An autopsy revealed the cause of death to be heatstroke. A two-year veteran of the agency, Officer Morales was survived by his wife.

February 16, 2011

Volusia County Beach Patrol, Florida

Captain John Irwin (Jay) McDonough

Captain McDonough, age 52, was participating in a training event when he was stricken with a heart attack at about noon while jogging on the beach. Captain McDonough, just recently promoted, was transported to Halifax Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. Captain McDonough had been with the agency for 13 years and was survived by his wife and son.

March 3, 2011

Nebraska State Patrol, Omaha

Trooper Parnell Matthews

Trooper Matthews, age 35, suffered a stroke while participating in a training exercise in Grand Island. He was flown to Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha where he remained in a coma until he passed away eight days later. Trooper Matthews was an 8-year veteran of the Nebraska State Patrol and served in the Traffic Services Division Troop-A Omaha. He was survived by his four sons.

March 4, 2011

Alexandria Police Department, Kentucky

Officer James Philip Sticklen

Officer Sticklen, age 58, was kicked in the leg while restraining a juvenile during a crisis intervention training exercise in Corbin. Later, as he prepared for another exercise, a blood clot worked free from the injured leg resulting in a pulmonary embolism. Officer Sticklen was pronounced dead at Baptist Regional Medical Center. He had an extensive career in law enforcement having served in both Brooksville and Maysville Police Departments and nineteen years in the Alexandria agency. Officer Sticklen was survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

April 7, 2011

United States Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Prisons, Leavenworth, Kansas

Senior Officer Specialist Christopher Cooper

Senior Officer Cooper, age 38, was participating in a Special Operations Response Team training exercise at USP Leavenworth when he collapsed from a heart attack. He was stricken during the obstacle course portion of the event. The efforts of other officers to resuscitate him by performing CPR were unsuccessful. Senior Officer Cooper was survived by his wife and two sons.

May 1, 2011

St. Clair County Sheriff's Office, Port Huron, Michigan

Assistant Dive Chief John Makuch

Assistant Dive Chief Makuch, age 56, died of a heart attack while participating in training exercises with the all volunteer dive team at the Port Huron YMCA. Dive team members who are trained paramedics could not revive him and he died at a nearby hospital. Assistant Dive Chief Makuch had served for over 20 years on the dive team which is a branch of the Sheriff's Office Marine Division. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

May 12, 2011

Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Beeville, Texas

Corrections Officer IV Craig Allan Orrell

Corrections Officer Craig Orrell, age 50, was participating in a four day training program at the Edmundo Mireles Academy in Beeville when he collapsed from a fatal heart attack. Officer Orrell was the high rider for the Connally Unit Field Force in Kenedy and was survived by his daughter and son.

June 14, 2011

South Pasadena Police Department, California

Officer Kevin Alexis Sandoval

Officer Kevin Sandoval, age 23, was participating in a multi-agency training scenario exercise at the Burro Canyon Shooting Park in Azusa when he collapsed in cardiac arrest. Paramedic-trained officers who were at the scene tried diligently to revive him. Officer Sandoval was flown by the sheriff department's helicopter to Foothill Presbyterian Hospital in Glendora where despite an intensive effort by the medical staff, he was pronounced dead soon after. County officials later reported coronary heart disease to be the cause of death. Officer Sandoval had been with the agency for two years and was survived by his parents and sister.

July 5, 2011

Sanford Police Department, North Carolina

Officer Elieser "Eli" Colonroche

Officer Elieser Colonroche, age 55, was training for an upcoming rappelling demonstration with fellow officers at the Emergency Services Training Center at Central Carolina Community College when something went wrong during a descent. On the way down the four-story tower, he slammed into a third-story window. Officer Colonroche was able to complete the descent and although he seemed fine except for a cut on his elbow, other officers urged him to be checked out at the local hospital. When the medical staff observed signs of internal bleeding, Officer Colonroche was flown to UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill where he passed away less than nine hours after the morning rappelling incident. Officer Colonroche, a nine-year veteran of the agency and a former U.S. Army MP for 22 years, was survived by his wife and three sons.

July 30, 2011

Buena Park Police Department, California

Officer Daniel Ryan Ackerman

On July 29th, Officer Ackerman had just completed the SWAT team's required semi-annual strength and endurance test when he became unresponsive. A physician who was on-duty at the training site attended to him and quickly determined the officer needed hospitalization. Officer Ackerman was transported to St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton where for a while, he was conscious and responding to family members but the officer's condition suddenly deteriorated with evidence of internal bleeding. Officer Ackerman, age 31, passed away before dawn the next day. He was survived by his two-year old daughter.

August 18, 2011

United States Department of Defense, Fort Huachuca Police Department, Arizona

Officer Bart Child

Officer Child, age 29, was participating in a required 1.5 mile run in preparation for attending the Department of the Army Police Academy when he suddenly collapsed. The civilian officer of four years and a member of the Directorate of Emergency Services team was transported to nearby Sierra Vista Regional Health Center where he was pronounced dead two hours later. The cause of his death was reported to be a heart attack. Officer Child was survived by his wife and three children.

August 31, 2011

Georgia Department of Corrections, Jackson, Georgia

Probation Officer Tiffany Danielle Bishop

Probation Officer Bishop, age 24, was shot while attending training at the Diagnostic and Classification Prison in Jackson. According to news reports, the incident occurred in a classroom setting when a firearms instructor who was on a break and sitting in on the class took part in a demonstration. During the demonstration, he drew and pointed his firearm at Officer Bishop and pulled the trigger. Unfortunately, he had not undergone a proper safety check when he returned from lunch. Officer Bishop, who had been with the agency six months and worked at the Rome Probation Office, died on the way to the hospital. The instructor pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 90 days in jail with 10 years probation and was required to surrender his law enforcement certifications. Probation Officer Bishop was survived by her parents.

September 12, 2011

New York City Police Department, New York

Officer Sherman Abrams

Officer Sherman Abrams, age 28, had just completed a downtown Manhattan training run with his academy class when he became ill and collapsed from a heart attack. His fellow officers administered CPR immediately however Officer Sherman was pronounced dead soon after being transported to Beth Israel Hospital. Officer Sherman had begun his career four years earlier as an officer with the New York City Department of Corrections before being hired as a New York City Police Department officer. He was survived by his five-year old daughter.

December 20, 2011

Chesapeake Police Department, Virginia

Officer Specialist Timothy Brian Schock

Officer Timothy Schock, age 41, drowned during a dive team training exercise at Oak Grove Lake Park. The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry's investigation concluded that several lapses in safety measures had contributed to his death. It was determined that two pieces of equipment failed. First, a piece fell off his vest's buoyancy compensator rendering it useless and then a ripcord malfunctioned that should have released weights. Officer Schock's diving partner was unable to rescue him and back-up help was too far away to get to them in time. The report advised the following procedures needed to be implemented: an on-scene boat, paramedics and a "ready" diver present for all dive exercises; a proper buddy-check system; regular testing and servicing of all equipment; replacement of all equipment past manufacturers' stated lifespan; and proper storage of all equipment. In addition, the report stated that if any piece of equipment failed during an exercise, an agency is responsible for aborting the dive immediately. Officer Specialist Schock had been with the agency for sixteen years and a member of the dive team for six years. He was survived by a child and his fiancée.

Police Training Fatalities by Gunshot

Entries with asterisks () indicate entry is new to report.*

*Entries with double asterisks (**) indicate new information added to existing entry.*

March 5, 1913

Spokane Police Department, Washington

Officer Frederick E. Goddard

Officer Goddard was accidentally shot during a training exercise and died. He was the first black member of his agency to die in the line of duty. Officer Goddard had served in law enforcement for five years and was survived by his wife, four children and his brother.

February 12, 1939

Spokane Police Department, Washington

Officer John H. Miller

Officer Miller was accidentally shot and killed while attending an FBI training school in Washington, DC. The incident occurred as a result of practicing “quick draws” with another attendee. The other officer forgot he had reloaded his weapon when Officer Miller requested to run through the exercise one last time before dinner. The shot struck him in the head.

June 24, 1971

Wilmington Police Department, North Carolina

Officer Clarence A. Davis

Officer Davis, age 37, was accidentally shot at the police station by another officer practicing his quick-draw. Officer Davis, who had been with the agency for seven years, was survived by his wife and son.

December 3, 1971

Naples Police Department, Florida

Officer Louie C. Collins

Officer Louie Collins, age 29, died while attending a “proowler and disturbance calls” training course at the South West Florida Police Academy. A .38-calibre revolver had been left unattended on a desk by an officer from another agency. When the attendees returned from the break, the desk was accidentally bumped and the weapon fell to the floor. The hammer struck the floor, discharging the weapon and a bullet struck Officer Collins in the abdomen. Officer Louie Collins, who had previously served in the Navy, had been with the agency for just over one year. He was survived by his parents, two brothers and a sister.

June 18, 1973

Camden Police Department, Arkansas

Patrolman Grady Van Wilson

Patrolman Wilson was accidentally shot while attending a training course at the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy in East Camden. Following a day of training, he and his roommate returned to their dorm room. While practicing their techniques, the roommate pointed his revolver at Patrolman Wilson and thinking it was not loaded pulled the trigger, shooting him in the abdomen. Patrolman Wilson died at the hospital.

April 21, 1977

Oklahoma City Police Department, Oklahoma

Sergeant Terry Glen Lawson

Sergeant Lawson, a 13-year veteran of the agency, was accidentally shot at point blank range with a blank cartridge during a training exercise. He and other veteran officers were training rookies in felony traffic stops. Sergeant Lawson died a short time after being admitted to the hospital.

August 9, 1977

Hickory Police Department, North Carolina

Officer Jerald Wayne Maynor

Officer Maynor was accidentally shot when another officer dropped her weapon during a weapon maintenance class. The other officer was in the process of reloading and securing the weapon when it fell. The round struck Officer Maynor in the heart, killing him instantly.

May 2, 1979

Arkansas Department of Corrections, Arkansas

Correctional Officer Ronald Opie McPherson

Accidentally shot and killed during a SWAT training exercise, Officer McPherson was the first known SWAT team officer to die in the line of duty.

August 17, 1979

Farmington Police Department, New Mexico

Lt. Owen A. Landdeck

Lt. Landdeck was accidentally shot and killed in an academy training exercise as he was playing the role of a deranged husband in a simulated domestic violence event. The scenario called for him to draw his weapon and point it at a cadet who had assumed the role of the officer. The cadet's gun was loaded with live round instead of blanks. Lt. Landdeck had 20 years law enforcement experience and is survived by his wife, daughter and son.

July 5, 1981

Fredericton Police Department, New Brunswick, Canada

Constable Perley S. Calhoun

Constable Calhoun was accidentally shot while participating in a training exercise.

July 18, 1982

Lawrence County Sheriff's Department, Lawrence County, TN

Deputy Sheriff James A. Lovelace

Deputy Sheriff Lovelace was accidentally shot in the chest and fatally wounded during a department training exercise. He and a fellow deputy were practicing a disarming technique when the weapon discharged.

September 16, 1983

Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas

Captain Robert R. Jones

Captain Jones was accidentally shot and killed by a fellow officer who was demonstrating weapon-handling technique. The officer drew his fully-loaded Magnum .357 which discharged, hitting Captain Jones in the chest. Captain Jones had 34 years of law enforcement experience.

November 9, 1983

Apache Junction, Arizona

Officer Russell Lowell Duncan

Officer Duncan was accidentally shot and killed during a felony stop and arrest training exercise. Officer Duncan was posing as the suspect. The 'arresting' officer was using his duty weapon which had not been properly cleared.

August 24, 1984

U.S. Capitol Police, Washington, D.C.

Sergeant Christopher S. Eney

Sergeant Eney was accidentally shot and killed by another SWAT officer during a training exercise that was being conducted at a vacant building on Capitol Hill. After the actual training event was completed, the two chose to run through the exercise one additional time. A live round hit Sergeant Eney in the lower back and he died in the hospital approximately one hour later. He was survived by his wife and two young daughters.

August 16, 1985

Aurora Police Department, Colorado

Officer Thomas J. Dietzman, Jr.

Officer Dietzman was accidentally shot and killed while qualifying for the SWAT team. Officer Dietzman had already taken the physical fitness test and was the first applicant to take the firearms proficiency test. During the scenario, he was accidentally shot in the back of the head with a Mac-10 submachine gun. Officer Dietzman had five years of law enforcement experience.

February 23, 1986

West Jordan Police Department, Utah

Officer Thomas M. Rees

Officer Rees was accidentally shot and killed with his own service weapon during training exercises. While participating in an exercise that demonstrated techniques for preventing suspects from taking officers' weapons, Officer Rees was shot in the chest when his weapon discharged. He died at a hospital approximately two hours later.

July 9, 1986

Clayton County Sheriff's Department, Georgia

Lieutenant Robert Gerald Bridges

During a SWAT training exercise, Lieutenant Bridges was accidentally shot and killed by a fellow officer with a .38 caliber revolver. Live ammunition had been unintentionally mixed into the training rounds.

December 10, 1987

Fort Wayne Police Department, Indiana

Officer Omega Graham

Officer Graham, age 25, was accidentally shot and killed while participating in training exercises at the police academy. Officer Graham and several other officers were role-playing in a landlord-tenant dispute when he was shot in the chest with a .38 caliber handgun that was supposed to have been emptied prior to the training. Officer Graham leaves a daughter, mother, three sisters and four brothers.

December 15, 1987

Florida Department of Corrections

Correctional Officer Hoyt L. Ergle

On July 19, 1958 Officer Ergle was accidently shot while on the Avon Park Correctional Institution's firing range. The bullet struck him in the neck and severed his spinal cord, leaving him a paraplegic for life. He died 29 years later as a result of the wound. He was survived by his wife, four children and eight grandchildren.

April 11, 1990

Cedar Hill Police Department, Texas

Patrolman Grady Morris Lamb

Officer Lamb, age 24, was accidentally shot in the chest by a fellow officer during a tactical training exercise. He was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital but died a short time later. Officer Lamb, who had been with the agency for two years, had a wife and one son.

August 12, 1991

United States Air Force Security Police, Fort Dix, NJ

Security Policeman Sean Elms

Airman Sean Elms was shot with an M-16 rifle on a live firing range during combat training exercises for air base ground defense. Smoke grenades were implemented in the exercise and one member of the fire team unknowingly fell behind the others due to lack of visibility. There was no one monitoring the fire team to make sure the group remained in formation. As a result of the investigation following the fatality, several serious violations of safety procedures were cited and the sergeant found responsible for the negligence was court-martialed.

October 12, 1992

North Charleston Police Department, South Carolina

Officer James Simmons

Officer Simmons, with the agency for only six months, was accidentally shot and killed by a fellow officer at a seminar they were attending in Louisville, Kentucky. He was 29 years old and was survived by his sons.

February 6, 1993

Niagara Regional Police, Ontario, Canada

Constable Jeffrey Paolozzi

An advocate of officer street survival, Constable Paolozzi surprised another officer with a baseball bat at a scheduled training event in an attempt to evaluate the officer's defensive response. The startled officer accidentally shot and killed him. Constable Paolozzi was a member of the Emergency Task Unit.

March 30, 1993

Brookfield Police Department, Wisconsin

Corporal Jeffrey Gusinda

Corporal Gusinda, age 32, was accidentally shot and killed by a rookie officer during handgun training. He was survived by his parents and a sister.

October 20, 1993

Rock Island Police Department, Illinois

Auxiliary Officer Todd Johnson

Auxiliary Officer Johnson, age 24, was accidentally shot during the demonstration of a disarming technique. The officer who disarmed him was unaware Officer Johnson had reloaded his weapon when he thought the training exercises had concluded. The other officer took the weapon from him, pointed it and fired, killing Officer Johnson instantly. He was survived by his parents and a brother.

October 24, 1993 (four days later)

Same department as above

Auxiliary Captain Richard Shurtz

Auxiliary Captain Shurtz accidentally shot himself in the abdomen while showing another officer how Auxiliary Officer Johnson was shot and killed three days earlier. Captain Shurtz had removed the magazine from his weapon but forgot to remove the chambered round. Captain Shurtz died the following day.

December 25, 1993

Orange County Sheriff's Department, California

Deputy Darryn L. Robins

Deputy Robins, age 30, was accidentally shot and killed on Christmas Day by a fellow deputy during an impromptu re-enactment of an earlier traffic stop. Deputy Robins was playing the part of the suspect while the other deputy was posing as the arresting officer. The other deputy, a training officer, had neglected to completely empty his weapon prior to the exercise. Deputy Robins was shot in the face. He was survived by his wife and one year-old daughter.

May 15, 1994

Palo Alto Police Department, California

Reserve Officer Theodore Herman Brassinga

Reserve Officer Brassinga, age 33, was accidentally shot and killed on an Amtrak train during a multi-jurisdictional training session in preparation for the 1994 World Cup Soccer Tournament. The training exercise, held at the Gilroy train station, was based on a scenario of a terrorist hostage-taking event, and Brassinger played the role of a terrorist. He was shot in the side of the abdomen by an officer whose handgun contained at least one live bullet despite safety checks. The existing safety procedures called for two range masters to inspect all weapons prior to starting each session. During the weapons check, one range master's gun was found to contain live rounds, leading to a discussion that diverted the officers' attention from carefully checking the 9mm automatic handgun belonging to the second range master. It was the second range master who fired the fatal shot. Officer Brassinger was survived by his wife and their 14-month old son.

August 26, 1996

Louisiana Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Probation Officer David Glen Seymour

Probation Officer Seymour was accidentally shot and killed during training at the state police academy. The training exercise, a simulation of a high-risk traffic stop, was interrupted by rain and resumed about an hour later. There were 36 officers from various agencies participating in the exercise. One, a state trooper who was an instructor at the state police training facility, fired his .45-caliber semiautomatic handgun and hit Officer Seymour in the upper left chest. Probation Officer Seymour, age 28, died a short time later at the hospital, leaving behind his wife and their 5-year old son.

March 4, 1999

Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska

Trooper Mark Paul Wagner

State Trooper Wagner was shot and killed by a fellow officer during a defensive tactics training exercise at the State Patrol Headquarters in North Platte. A Glock .45- caliber handgun discharged and struck him in the chest. It was later found that the weapon had been reloaded during a break because the other officer was unaware it would be used later. Trooper Wagner, age 37 and an 11 year veteran, was survived by his wife and three daughters.

September 12, 2000

Sarasota County Fire Department, Florida

Firefighter Paramedic Michael Yahraus

On September 11, Firefighter Paramedic Michael Yahraus was attending the Sarasota County Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Academy in preparation for becoming a law enforcement officer and medic with the Sarasota PD SWAT team. Firefighter Paramedic Yahraus was the driver of one of the vehicles used in a simulated high-risk traffic stop exercise. He was standing on the driver's side of his vehicle after the stop had been performed when another officer, playing the suspect, exited his vehicle, turned and fired a single shot at the "arresting" officers. The weapon used was a .38-caliber pistol loaded with blanks. The firing of the blank dislodged a lead plug that was installed in the barrel of the training weapon. The lead plug broke the windshield, ricocheted off the window post and struck the firefighter paramedic in the left eye area. Despite all efforts, he died the following day. An investigation revealed that blank cartridges should not have been used in the training weapon. Gas expelled by the blank when fired and debris such as the wadding which is in the blank can create enough pressure to force the lead plug out of the gun. It was determined that the proper cartridge for use in the training weapon would have been a primer round. Firefighter Paramedic Yahraus, age 32, leaves his wife and three children, ages 6, 2, and 5 months.

September 12, 2000

Clackamas County Sheriff's Department, Oregon

Deputy Sheriff William Douglas Bowman

While training with his fellow SWAT team members at Camp Rilea, Deputy Bowman was accidentally shot in the head and killed. He and ten other officers were practicing entry techniques in a mock building when a live round discharged from a teammate's weapon. It was later determined that prior to the accident, the marksman who fired the shot had been in the SWAT transport van with his teammates reloading their weapons after a lunch break. The marksman was having difficulties loading a magazine into his rifle and grabbed another magazine from a drawer in the van. This drawer however, was always stocked with live ammunition for SWAT callouts. No safety check was done before training resumed. Deputy Sheriff Bowman, age 36, leaves behind two children.

June 7, 2001

Arlington Police Department, Texas

Corporal Joseph Cushman

Corporal Cushman, age 26, was accidentally shot and killed while conducting training exercises for response to active shooter situations at Ousley Junior High School. All the officers were wearing helmets and vests and all bullets used were supposed to be rubber. Corporal Cushman, the department's 1998 Rookie of the Year, and a second instructor were demonstrating a drill to the group of about 15 SWAT trainees when the other instructor's 9mm Glock discharged striking Corporal Cushman in the head with a live round. He was pronounced dead at a Fort Worth hospital about three hours later. It was later disclosed that instructors had been allowed to bring loaded weapons to the exercise.

October 17, 2001

Calgary Police Service, Alberta, Canada

Constable Darren L. Beatty

Constable Beatty was accidentally shot and killed during a training exercise when a live round discharged. The tragedy occurred when another constable returned from the parking lot without unloading his weapon prior to taking part in scenario training in which Beatty was the quarry.

December 27, 2001

East Providence Police Department, Rhode Island

Major Alister C. McGregor

Major McGregor, at the time a captain, was accidentally shot and killed during training exercises for school bus hostage rescues. The 12-man SWAT team was on a break in the training when the incident occurred. The team's long rifle marksman was standing on the roof of a bus 75 feet away. He was looking through the scope of his rifle when the weapon suddenly discharged. The single live round hit the team commander in the head. The rifle, which was not used in the training exercises that day, was brought in during the break and had not been properly cleared for admittance into the training area. Captain McGregor, who was survived by his wife and five children, was promoted posthumously to Major.

January 14, 2004

Prattville Police Department, Alabama

Officer Clinton Earl Walker

Several law enforcement agencies were participating in training exercises which were being held at the old site of the Wetumpka Post Office. Officers had been supplied with mock weapons which were of the same weight and size of their own weapons. One participant, a shift supervisor of Officer Walker, resumed possession of his own service weapon at the end of the training session and forgetting which weapon he was carrying, accidentally shot Officer Walker in the abdomen. Officer Walker, age 26, was survived by his wife.

March 25, 2005

Easton Police Department, Pennsylvania

Officer Jesse Sollman

Officer Sollman was shot and killed at the conclusion of SWAT training exercises as he and two other officers cleaned weapons in a secondary gun cleaning room at police headquarters. One officer's weapon, an H & K 40 caliber semiautomatic pistol, discharged striking Officer Sollman in the back. He died at the scene. Officer Sollman was survived by his wife, daughter and son.

****September 13, 2005**

Kennesaw Police Department, Georgia

Officer Tara Drummond

Officer Drummond, age 23 and a member of the Kennesaw Police Department for only four months, died while attending a training session at the North Central Georgia Law Enforcement Academy. Practical firearms drills were being conducted in a classroom setting prior to the live fire range later in the week. That day, the lead firearms instructor conducted magazine reload drills with the assistance of two co-instructors. The students and co-instructors were uncomfortable with the format the lead instructor presented which required the students to form two separate lines facing each other. After each participant was given three dummy rounds, they were told that as they performed each reload, to aim at a fellow student and pull the trigger. The students later told investigators they were unable to do that and instead aimed at the walls. However, the lead instructor, who participated in the drill with his 9mm Smith & Wesson, aimed his second magazine at Officer Drummond and shot her in the chest. Officer Drummond was transported to Cobb Hospital where she died. It was determined in the investigation the lead instructor violated several academy and POST policies as well as basic firearms safety and also confirmed that he failed to properly check his weapon and that none of the dummy rounds had been checked prior to distribution in the class.

November 22, 2005

Mexia School District Police Department, Texas

Sergeant Scott Neal

Sergeant Neal, age 31, was accidentally shot in the head while he and six other officers participated in a SWAT training exercise. The incident occurred around noon in an abandoned fire department building. All the weapons used in the exercise were thought to have been checked and it was not known how a live round could have remained in the one weapon. Sergeant Neal, who had been on the force for three years, was survived by his wife and four-year-old daughter.

December 6, 2006

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bowling Green, Virginia

Supervisory Special Agent Gregory Rahoi

S.S.A. Gregory Rahoi, age 38, was shot in a live-fire training exercise conducted at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia. At the time of the accident, he was wearing both ballistic body armor and a helmet. He was flown to Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg, Virginia but the wound proved fatal. S.S.A. Rahoi had been with the agency for nine years and had been a member of the Hostage Rescue Team for the past six years. S.S.A. Rahoi was honored posthumously with two awards, the FBI Medal of Valor for his recent service in Iraq with the Hostage Rescue Team, and the FBI Memorial Star Medal. The medals were presented to his parents and fiancée at his memorial service.

September 29, 2007

Gary Police Department, Indiana

Auxiliary Officer Kevin Weaver

Officer Weaver, age 49, was training with several other Gary reserve police officers when he was accidentally shot. Officer Weaver, who was already qualified, was helping the other officers train at an indoor facility for their semi-annual firearms qualifications. One of the officers was in the process of turning and was attempting to clear his Glock when Officer Weaver accidentally bumped into him, causing the weapon to discharge. The .45-caliber round struck Officer Weaver in the arm and then continued into his chest. He died a short time later at St. Margaret Mercy Hospital in Hammond. Officer Weaver had been a reservist since 1990, volunteering along with Gary's other 91 reservists. He was survived by his wife, four children and several grandchildren.

December 19, 2007

Port of Corpus Christi Police Department, Texas

Officer James Saavedra

Officer Saavedra, age 40, and a fellow Port Police officer were sighting in a rifle at the port's outdoor firing range when he was accidentally shot in the chest. Although Officer Saavedra was wearing a bulletproof vest, he was standing only two feet away when the round from the other officer's personal rifle discharged. Officer Saavedra died about an hour later at Spohn Memorial Hospital while undergoing surgery. Both officers, who were on duty at the time of the accident, were qualified range masters and experienced firearms instructors. Officer Saavedra, who had more than 20 years of law enforcement experience, had been with the Port Police for 4 years. He was survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

***April 6, 2009**

Municipal Police of San Juan, Puerto Rico

Sergeant Carlos Lozada Vergara

On April 1, 2009, Sergeant Lozada Vergara played the role of an arrested non-Spanish speaking suspect in an agency training exercise conducted without any certified instructors. The initial officer in charge of the training bypassed the normal procedure to clear all attendees' weapons in addition to foregoing the use of bulletproof vests. The training was intended to be conducted without firearms. As Sergeant Lozada Vergara was subdued motionless and face down on the ground, the agency's training supervisor, a lieutenant who was also not a certified instructor, entered without having his weapon cleared and declared the training was not being done properly. He then took charge of the training session, assumed the position of the officer holding the passive "suspect" down, pulled out his weapon and shot the sergeant point-blank in the back. The bullet passed completely through the sergeant's chest. Sergeant Lozada Vergara died in the hospital five days later, leaving his wife and two young sons.

September 15, 2010

St. Joseph Police Department, Missouri

Officer Dan De Kraai

Officer De Kraai, who had served with the agency for five years, died as the result of a tragic error during training exercises. Upon returning from a break during training, Officer De Kraai told a fellow officer he wished to experience what it felt like to be shot with Simunitions and asked the other officer to assist. Both officers forgot they had switched back to their service weapons. Officer De Kraai was shot in the back with a live round and he died at Heartland Hospital. Officer De Kraai, age 35, was survived by his wife and daughter.

Police Training Fatalities

Heart Attacks and Other Medical-Related Causes

Entries with asterisks () indicate entry is new to report.*

*Entries with double asterisks (**) indicate new information added to existing entry.*

October 20, 1973

Ventura County Sheriff's Office, California

Lieutenant Harvey "Hank" Varat

On October 16, 1973, Lieutenant Varat was leading a search and rescue training exercise with a team of deputies in the Santa Susanna Mountains. During the training which involved climbing and rappelling, he was bitten by a tick infected with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The disease went undetected and Lieutenant Varat, age 35, died four days later. A 14-year veteran of the agency, he was closely involved with development of the S.W.A.T., Deep-Sea Diving, and Search and Rescue teams. He was survived by his wife and son.

April 17, 1980

Washington County Sheriff's Office, Oregon

Deputy Sheriff Marc Bump

While attending training exercises at the police academy, Deputy Bump died from a brain aneurysm. He was survived by his wife and children.

May 23, 1982

La Grande Police Department, Oregon

Corporal Gary L. Byassee

Corporal Byassee died two months after receiving a leg injury in a training class in California. After returning home, blood clots formed near the site of the injury and moved to his lungs. Despite receiving medical treatment, he died. Corporal Byassee, age 30, had been with his agency for six years and left behind his wife and two daughters.

November 3, 1982

Piqua Police Department, Ohio

Detective Robert C. Taylor

On November 2, 1982, Detective Taylor was participating in department training exercises. The exercise was strenuous, involving running and shooting multiple firearms while being timed. Within a minute of completing the course, Detective Taylor had a heart attack. His fellow officers performed CPR but Detective Taylor died a few hours later. Detective Taylor had been with the agency for 26 years and was survived by his wife and three children.

February 28, 1984

New Iberia Police Department, Louisiana

Officer Warren Narcisse, Jr.

Officer Narcisse was participating in a building and search class at the police academy. Just as the exercise was near completion, he came in contact with an electrical line and died as a result. Officer Narcisse had been with the agency for one month.

April 3, 1985

Miami Beach Police Department

Officer Robert E. Fitzpatrick

Officer Fitzpatrick died when a blood clot moved from his knee to his heart. The knee injury occurred during training exercises. He was survived by his wife and a son.

July 15, 1986

Johnson County Sheriff's Department, Tennessee

Investigator John Ralph Cunningham

Investigator Cunningham, age 53 and with the agency for one year, had a heart attack while attending the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy. He had participated in a required physical training exercise and was stricken in the locker room shortly after. He was survived by his wife and four children.

February 13, 1987

Spokane Police Department, Washington

Sergeant Robbin B. Best

Sergeant Best was training with the SWAT team at Spokane Community College when he suffered a heart attack. He was transported to a local hospital where he died shortly after.

February 5, 1988

North Carolina Highway Patrol

Cadet W. E. Bayless III

Cadet Bayless, age 23, died from a heart attack while participating in a required boxing drill at the Highway Patrol Training Center in Raleigh. Cadet Bayless had been with the Highway Patrol for six months and would have graduated from the Training Center the following week. He was survived by his son.

August 11, 1988

United States Department of the Interior, United States Park Police

Sergeant Ricardo M. Preston

Sergeant Preston, age 37, succumbed to a heart attack while participating in SWAT training exercises in Washington, DC. Sergeant Preston had been with the Park Police for 14 years. In 2002, a portion of the Anacostia Operations Facility was dedicated in memory of his service.

***August 11, 1988**

United States Department of Justice, United States Marshal Service, Omaha, Nebraska

Deputy Marshal Emil Richard Wehrli

Deputy Marshal Wehrli, age 46, was participating in the Marshal Service's mandatory semi-annual fitness test when he suffered a fatal heart attack. After finishing a 1.5 mile run at the Peter Kiewit Middle School, he felt ill and collapsed during a cool down lap. Despite quick response at the scene with CPR, Deputy Marshal Wehrli could not be revived. He was pronounced dead shortly after at a nearby hospital. Deputy Marshal Wehrli had served with the Marshal Service almost 18 years and was survived by two children.

September 15, 1988

Florida Department of Corrections, Florida

Lieutenant Charles Andrew Cooper

Lieutenant Cooper, assigned to the Cross City Correctional Institution, had a heart attack while participating in first responder training exercises at the Forehand Training Center.

November 2, 1988

Pittsfield Police Department, Massachusetts

Officer Timothy Shepard

On September 19, 1988, Officer Shepard, age 25, collapsed from heat stroke and dehydration while in training at the police academy. In the following days, 15 other cadets were hospitalized along with him at the Bay State Medical Center for exhaustion and dehydration as an investigation began to determine if excessively harsh training practices was the cause. Several cadets underwent kidney dialysis treatment. Participants reported they were forced to undergo long hours of running and other strenuous exercises while given insufficient amounts of water. Officer Shepard was later transported to Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh for a liver transplant on September 26 but died on November 2nd from complications. Officer Shepard, who had been with the agency for five months, was survived by his wife and unborn child. The executive director of the training facility later resigned.

June 27, 1989

Rossville Police Department, Tennessee

Patrolman Orville Franklin Evans

Patrolman Evans, age 50, collapsed from a heart attack while taking a required training course at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Center. He was stricken during a physical stress test. Patrolman Evans had been with the agency for 6 years and was survived by his wife and one child.

September 17, 1989

Derry Police Department, New Hampshire

Sergeant Thomas Christopher Kelly

Sergeant Kelly, age 35, died in his sleep from a duty-related illness. Sergeant Kelly was a 10-year veteran with the agency and served as the training sergeant. He suffered acute respiratory failure after being exposed to lead and associated gases daily for two straight weeks on the firing range. Sergeant Kelly was survived by his pregnant wife and 21-month old son.

April 10, 1992

Livonia Police Department, Michigan

Officer James Thomas Kelley

Officer Kelley died from a heart attack while training with the agency's SWAT team.

June 12, 1992

Indian River County Sheriff's Department

Corrections Officer Gerald Paulo

Corrections Officer Paulo, age 41, was participating in a one-on-one self defense drill when he had a fatal heart attack.

May 24, 1993

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Conservation Warden Patrick Douglas Warner

Warden Warner had just completed training drills for self defense during arrests when he was stricken by a cerebral hemorrhage and died.

December 7, 1993

Gloucester County Sheriff's Office, Virginia

Lieutenant Terry Lee Singleton

Lieutenant Singleton, age 44, died from massive heart failure during training exercises with the Special Operations Unit. He was Team Leader for the unit and had been with the agency eight years. Lt. Singleton was survived by his wife, two daughters and one step-daughter.

May 23, 1995

Brea Police Department, California

Detective Danny Valenzuela

Detective Valenzuela, age 39, suffered a heart attack during routine bicycle training exercises with officers from several local law enforcement agencies. He collapsed en route from the Westminster to the Fountain Valley police firing range. CPR was administered and he was transported to the Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. He was a 14-year veteran with the agency. Detective Valenzuela was survived by his wife and four children.

August 24, 1997

Ravalli County Sheriff's Department, Montana

Deputy Sheriff William Wolfe

Deputy Wolfe, age 50, suffered a heart attack while participating in a required training run at the academy.

December 1, 1998

Norman Police Department, Oklahoma

Sergeant Dale E. DeBerry

Sergeant DeBerry, age 41, collapsed from a heart attack during physical fitness training with his department. He was stricken while going through the obstacle course. Despite on-scene CPR, Sergeant DeBerry, a 14-year veteran of the agency, was pronounced dead at a local hospital. He is survived by his wife and two children.

January 29, 1999

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, SCI Greensburg

Correctional Officer Matthew Goodwin

Correctional Officer Goodwin, age 37, suffered a massive heart attack during C.E.R.T. team physical training.

February 11, 1999

Porter County Sheriff's Department, Indiana

Officer Timothy L. Hecht

Officer Hecht, age 31, suffered a massive heart attack while on a training exercise for the newly formed SWAT team. He was participating in a mile-long run at the time of his collapse. Fellow officers began CPR within seconds but he died at Porter Memorial Hospital without ever regaining consciousness. Officer Hecht had been with the agency for eight years and was survived by his fiancée.

April 5, 1999

U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General, Texas

Special Agent Abdon Cabello

Special Agent Cabello was participating in a required training exercise when he had a heart attack and died. He collapsed during a 1.5 mile run and was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital. Special Agent Cabello was survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

July 27, 1999

Adams County Sheriff's Department, Colorado

Deputy Sheriff Robert Bishop Pollock

Deputy Pollock, age 57, died after being overcome by heat during training exercises. He and five other deputies were learning how to conduct building searches when Deputy Pollock collapsed, stopped breathing and had no pulse. Although CPR was administered immediately by the other deputies and he was flown to a local hospital, he was pronounced dead upon arrival. At the time, most of the nation had been experiencing a severe heat wave for several weeks. Deputy Sheriff Pollock had been with the agency for three years.

September 30, 1999

Brick Township Police Department, New Jersey

Officer John J. Lesemann

Officer Lesemann, age 21, died after completing a training run on his sixth day of training at the New Jersey State Police Academy. It was later discovered Officer Lesemann's death was the result of taking ephedra, a then-popular natural supplement, which caused his fatal cardiac arrhythmia. His parents filed a lawsuit against the Canadian company that made the product and were awarded \$2.5 million dollars. Ephedra has been linked to at least 155 deaths, including a major league baseball pitcher and continues to be very controversial. The FDA banned its use on December 31, 2003, but the ban was lifted by a federal court judge soon after. On August 17, 2006, the FDA reinstated the ban.

October 9, 1999

Bent County Sheriff's Department, Colorado

Undersheriff Gary Caponera

Undersheriff Caponera was conducting training when he had a massive heart attack. He was pronounced dead at the hospital. He was survived by his wife and two children.

May 13, 2000

Florida Department of Corrections

Officer Michael J. McCarthy

Officer McCarthy was assigned to the Union Correctional Institution in Raiford and was attending basic recruit training when he died of a heart attack.

June 9, 2001

Forest Park Police Department, Ohio

Officer Charles Leon McDonald

On June 8th, having just passed the test to qualify for the Hamilton County SWAT team, Officer McDonald collapsed from chest-pains and over-exertion. Within hours, his kidneys failed and he died the next day. Officer McDonald, age 35, had been with his agency for six years. He was survived by his son and fiancée.

October 1, 2001

Alabama Department of Corrections, Selma, Alabama

Correctional Officer Teresia Wheeler

Officer Wheeler, who had been hired to work at the Bullock Correctional Facility just two months previously, had a heart attack during a mandatory 1.5 mile training run at the Alabama Corrections Academy in Selma. She was 21 years old and was following her mother's footsteps in making a career as a corrections officer.

October 2, 2001

Chicago Police Department, Illinois

Sergeant Hector A. Silva

Sergeant Silva, age 36, died after developing a blood clot in his brain during a training exercise. He had just completed strenuous physical activities with the Special Operations gas team training when he began to feel dizzy. Sergeant Silva was transported to the hospital where he underwent emergency surgery. He died the following day. Sergeant Silva had been with the agency 11 years and is survived by his wife and two children.

October 3, 2001

Gibson County Sheriff's Department, Illinois

Deputy Sheriff Jerry Alan (Jed) Fisher

Deputy Sheriff Fisher was attending a week-long training exercise at the Evansville Fraternal Order of Police Training Grounds with his recently assigned canine partner. On the third morning of training, after completing a series of tracking exercises, Deputy Fisher felt ill but continued working with the K-9 performing article searches. While doing those exercises, Deputy Fisher collapsed. Officers at the scene performed CPR but despite all efforts, Deputy Fisher was pronounced dead a short time later at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville. He had served with the department for a total of 7 years and was survived by his wife, two daughters and two granddaughters.

December 5, 2002

Pima County Sheriff's Department, Arizona

Corrections Sergeant Shannon Russell

Corrections Sgt. Russell, age 43, suffered a heart attack while participating in training exercises with the Corrections Bureau Tactical Assistance Group. He had just completed the new obstacle course at the Arizona H.I.D.T.A. Regional Training Center. Other officers on the scene began CPR immediately but he was pronounced dead at Kino Hospital. Sergeant Russell had been a corrections officer for 12 years and was promoted to sergeant posthumously.

July 16, 2003

Portland Air Base Police Department, Oregon

Resource Protection Officer Steven Vance Caddy

Officer Caddy, age 49, collapsed during a scenario training exercise with the Oregon Air National Guard 142nd Security Forces Squadron. He had just handcuffed an “intruder” and was about to search him when he was stricken with a heart attack. Despite all efforts to revive him, Officer Caddy was pronounced dead at Woodland Park Hospital. Officer Caddy had been in law enforcement for 27 years, serving in several agencies. He had been with the Portland Air Base Police for 6 months. Officer Caddy had three children.

November 8, 2003

U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, I.C.E. Office of Detention and Removal Operations

Enforcement Agent Lorenzo Roberto Gomez

On November 7, 2003, Agent Lorenzo Gomez, age 38, was conducting training exercises with his agency’s Special Response Team when he experienced dizziness, headache and nausea. Agent Gomez was transported by ambulance to the emergency room of a nearby hospital where he was admitted and treated for dehydration. Soon after, Agent Gomez was transferred to a general ward. He was found unresponsive the next morning and was pronounced dead shortly after. Agent Gomez, an Army veteran, was survived by his wife and five children.

March 10, 2004

Harris County Sheriff’s Office, Texas

Jailer Thomas Flores Douglas

Jailer Douglas collapsed after running about a quarter of a mile during training exercises. He was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. Jailer Douglas was 42 and had served with the agency for five years. He was survived by his wife and two children.

May 4, 2004

Escambia County Sheriff’s Office, Florida

Lieutenant George Hura, Jr.

Lieutenant Hura, age 56, had a heart attack during critical incident training. An exercise using scenarios and simunitions had just completed when Lieutenant Hura fell ill. He was pronounced dead at the hospital. A 27-year veteran of the agency, Lieutenant Hura was survived by his wife and five children.

July 9, 2004

Georgia Department of Corrections

Probation Officer Eugene T. Groover, Jr.

Officer Groover, age 44, had a fatal heart attack during a defensive tactics training exercise held in Reidsville. Officer Groover worked at Probation Office in Hinesville and had been with the Department of Corrections for 22 years. He was survived by his wife, who is also a probation officer, three sons and a daughter.

January 10, 2005

York County Sheriff's Office, Pennsylvania

Deputy Sheriff Edward "Skip" Schroeder, Jr.

Deputy Schroeder, age 47, was attending the Deputy Sheriff's Training Academy in State College and was in the final lap of a mandatory twelve-lap training run when he collapsed. He received immediate medical attention at the scene but despite all efforts, he could not be revived. He was buried on January 14, 2005 at Mount Zion Cemetery in York. Deputy Schroeder, a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, had been with the York County Sheriff's Office for 16 months. He was survived by his wife and mother.

August 11, 2005

Washington, D.C. Police Department

Officer James McBride

Officer McBride, age 25, was taking part in a five-day bicycle training course when he became ill on the second day of the course. During a 12-mile training ride, Officer McBride drank as much as three gallons of water, resulting in sodium deficiency. Officer McBride, a two-year veteran with his agency, died the following day.

January 23, 2006

Key West Police Department, Florida

Detective John Michael Piskator

Detective Piskator, promoted just the week before, collapsed while jogging with the Special Response Team. Despite CPR efforts at the scene, he died from the heart attack. A former Army Airborne Ranger and intelligence officer, he won the Leadership Award before graduating from the local police academy in 2004. Detective Piskator was a popular bicycle officer on the Key West Police Department and well-known as a local athlete. In 2005, he placed second overall in an area kayaking-running-biking triathlon. Detective Piskator was 41 years old and was survived by his 12 year-old son.

February 24, 2006

Pasadena Police Department, California

Officer Kyle Ballard

Officer Ballard collapsed in the morning at the Rose Bowl after completing two laps the stadium with other officers during a training session for an annual law enforcement relay race. At only 30 years old, he had participated in the race several times. Fellow officers and paramedics tried their best to revive him but he passed away from the heart attack at the hospital approximately one hour later. Officer Ballard had worked for eight years in the agency, both in patrol as well as special operations. He was survived by his wife and three young sons, ages 3, 2 and 6 months.

April 7, 2006

Saraland Police Department, Alabama

Corporal Anthony Maurice Andrews

On March 31st, Corporal Andrews, a member of the SWAT team and bicycle unit collapsed during routine fitness exercises. He was jogging at the time and although a fellow officer and paramedics performed CPR, Corporal Andrews never regained consciousness and died in the hospital one week later on April 7th. Corporal Andrews had also served in the Army National Guard and spent two years in Iraq where he survived a roadside bomb attack in 2004. Corporal Andrews had a wife and three children.

May 1, 2006

San Francisco Police Department, California

Sergeant Darryl Tsujimoto

Sergeant Tsujimoto, age 41, had just run approximately a half-mile while participating in K-9 training exercises when he collapsed from a heart attack and was pronounced dead shortly after at the hospital. Sergeant Tsujimoto was well-known for his expertise in training K-9's and many agencies sent officers to train with him. A 15-year veteran of the agency, he lead their award-winning Tactical Company Canine Unit and also trained and donated many K-9's over the years. Upon his death, the two K-9's Sergeant Tsujimoto owned and handled were retired and returned to his fiancée.

June 16, 2006

Wilmington Police Department, North Carolina

Officer Christopher Fitzgerald Williams

Early in 2003, Officer Christopher Williams suffered a severe back injury while participating in a training exercise reported to be a form of defensive tactics. Officer Williams experienced chronic pain thereafter and as a result of the second surgical procedure to alleviate the pain, Officer Williams developed a complication that took his life. Officer Williams had been with the Wilmington Police Department for seven years and was survived by his wife and mother.

November 7, 2006

Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office, Virginia

Deputy Sheriff William Tiedeman

Deputy Sheriff Tiedeman, age 54, had a heart attack and collapsed during defensive tactics training at the Virginia Beach Law Enforcement Training Center and was pronounced dead at the hospital despite intensive life-saving efforts by a fellow deputy. A 12-year veteran of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office, Deputy Sheriff Tiedeman also had a 23-year career in the Navy where he had been a helicopter mechanic and a search-and-rescue swimmer. He was also a current member of the Kempsville Rescue Squad and taught CPR and first aid at a nearby community college. He is survived by his wife, son (also a deputy with the same agency) and his 3-year old grandson.

November 10, 2006

Colorado State Patrol, Colorado

Cadet Timothy Pudder

Only four weeks from completing the rigorous 22-week course, Cadet Pudder, age 40, collapsed during survival training at Camp George West. The former prison guard was playing the role of a trooper being attacked and was wearing a suit with heavy padding. Upon completing the first phase of the exercise, attending paramedics became aware he was overly exhausted and while they were monitoring his vital signs, he went into full cardiac arrest and was pronounced dead shortly after at Lutheran Hospital in Denver. All applicants are required to have extensive medical evaluations and pass a physical exam prior to being accepted. Cadet Pudder is survived by his wife and four children, ages 18, 16, 5 and 3.

September 18, 2007

U.S. Department of Justice, United States Marshall Service, Glynco, Georgia

Deputy U.S. Marshal Bucky Eugene Burke

Deputy U.S. Marshal Burke, age 36, suffered a heart attack during Criminal Investigator training at the U.S. Marshal Service Training Academy. He had just completed an arrest technique scenario and was participating in a class run when he collapsed. Classmates and medical personnel managed to revive him through CPR efforts and Deputy U.S. Marshal Burke was then transported to the Southeast Regional Medical Center in Brunswick where his condition deteriorated and a short while later, he passed away. Deputy U.S. Marshal Burke served in the Army and on the police force of the Department of Veteran Affairs, as well as Chief of the Loyall, Kentucky Police Department. He had been with the U.S. Marshal Service for 4 years. He was survived by his 11-year old son, his mother and stepfather.

September 23, 2007

Vigo County Sheriff's Department, Indiana

Deputy Sheriff Enrico Aquino Garcia, Jr.

Deputy Garcia, age 44, was conducting a tactical training exercise with Task Force 7, a multi-jurisdictional team of first responders, when he was stricken by a heart attack. He was wearing full body armor and had become overheated when he collapsed at the scene. Although he received immediate medical attention and was rushed to the hospital, he did not survive. Deputy Garcia had been with the Vigo County Sheriff's Office for five years but had been involved in public safety for twenty years. Deputy Garcia was survived by his wife, three sons, his parents and nine siblings.

January 17, 2008

Ventura County Police and Sheriff's Reserve Officer Academy, Camarillo, California

Reserve Officer Trainee Gregory Chastang

Gregory Chastang, age 43, had attended approximately one week of the academy's five month program when he collapsed during a training run. Despite attempts to revive him on-scene, he was pronounced dead shortly after being rushed to St John's Regional Medical Center in Oxnard. An autopsy revealed undiagnosed heart disease. Reserve Officer Trainee Chastang, who worked for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, was active all his life as a runner and coached a youth running club. He also enjoyed bike riding and bowling. Unlike cadets attending the regular law enforcement academy, reserve cadets are not required to undergo a medical examination prior to entering the academy. Reserve Officer Trainee Chastang was survived by his mother.

August 26, 2008

Columbus Division of Police, Ohio

Officer Timothy A. Haley

Officer Haley, age 42, was participating in a rigorous SWAT training exercise when he experienced a sudden, severe headache and soon fell unconscious. Officer Haley was rushed to the hospital where it was determined he had suffered a brain hemorrhage. Officer Haley was kept on life support five days to enable his organs to be donated. A 21-year veteran of the agency, Officer Haley was active in his community as a soccer coach and also with the Boy Scouts. He was survived by his wife, three sons and his mother.

***October 10, 2008**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Law Enforcement Division

Texas Game Warden George Whatley

Texas Game Warden Whatley, age 45, was participating along with a group of wardens at the Fort Stockton High School in a mandatory fitness evaluation when he became ill. They had performed in various activities including push-ups, sit-ups, bench presses, an agility test and a sprint when he advised others he was not feeling well. He sat down in the shade to rest but was found slumped over a short while later. Despite being tended by a paramedic on-scene, he succumbed to the heart attack at a hospital an hour later. Game Warden Whatley was stationed in Van Horn and had served with the agency for just one year. He was survived by his wife and two sons.

March 10, 2009

Goodhue County Sheriff's Department, Minnesota

Jailer Thomas Carroll

While attending CPR training with other jailers, Jailer Thomas Carroll was stricken with a heart attack. Despite all the necessary equipment being right at hand and the valiant efforts by staff members and paramedics, Jailer Carroll, age 51, was pronounced dead at Fairview Red Wing Medical Center. Jailer Carroll, a former Navy SEAL, was survived by his wife.

May 1, 2009

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol, New Mexico

Border Patrol Agent Intern Nathaniel A. Afolayan

Border Patrol Agent Intern Nathaniel Afolayan collapsed shortly after completing a 1-1/2 mile run at the Border Patrol Academy in Artesia, New Mexico. BPA Intern Afolayan had been sworn in as an agent in February and assigned to a station in San Diego and was participating in the ten-week training program at the academy. The run was part of the final exam. BPA Intern Afolayan was transported to the Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas where he died the following day. The cause of death was attributed to heat-related illness. Border Patrol Agent Intern Afolayan, age 29, was survived by his wife, two daughters, parents and three siblings.

August 20, 2009

Georgia Department of Corrections

Correctional Officer Jack Wesley Cannon

Correctional Officer Jack Cannon, age 39, was participating in a training exercise with the other members of the Valdosta State Prison's Emergency Response Team when he suffered a heart attack. He was stricken at almost noon while running on the prison's track. Correctional Officer Cannon was transported to nearby South Georgia Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. Correctional Officer Cannon had served with the Georgia Department of Corrections for four years and was survived by his wife and three children.

October 7, 2009

Victoria County Sheriff's Office, Texas

Sergeant Timothy Olsovsky

Sergeant Timothy Olsovsky suffered a heart attack during night firearms training at his agency's range. During his second relay, Sergeant Olsovsky told other deputies he was not feeling well and went to his truck to rest. He returned shortly, stating he was feeling better but a little while later became unresponsive. Sergeant Olsovsky was treated by paramedics and transported to Citizens Medical Center in Victoria but could not be resuscitated. Sergeant Olsovsky, age 51, had been with the agency since 1996. Prior to that, he had served with the Hallettsville Police Department for eleven years. He was survived by his wife and daughter.

October 16, 2009

Walton County Sheriff's Office, Georgia

Detention Officer Mike Adcock

Detention Officer Mike Adcock was participating in a defensive tactic training exercise at DeKalb County Technical College Law Enforcement Academy when he collapsed from a heart attack. As part of the scenario, Detention Officer Adcock was trying to subdue a suspect resisting arrest when he was stricken. Despite CPR being administered by instructors and quick response by paramedics, he could not be revived. Detention Officer Adcock, age 54, had been with the agency for one year and was survived by his wife, a daughter and two grandchildren.

October 23, 2009

Harris County Sheriff's Department, Texas

Detention Officer Dionicio Camacho

On October 21st, Detention Officer Dionicio Camacho, age 51, was in week 3 of a month-long state-certified training program when stricken with a heart attack while participating in physical scenarios. Detention Officer Camacho had just completed a 5 minute run and was in a defensive training exercise with an instructor when he experienced dizziness and collapsed. Academy employees used a defibrillator and performed CPR until paramedics arrived and transported the unconscious officer to a nearby hospital in Humble. He died two days later after being removed from life support. Detention Officer Camacho had been with the agency 4 months and was survived by his wife and son.

May 11, 2010

U.S. Department of Defense – Marine Corps Base Hawaii Police Department

Officer Tauveve Vivao

Officer Vivao, age 42, collapsed on one of the base's tracks, having suffered a heart attack while running during a training exercise. He was transported to Castle Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Officer Vivao served over 20 years in the U.S. Army and was a member of the Hawaii Army National Guard. Officer Vivao had served as a civilian officer at the base for two years when stricken. He was survived by his wife and eight children.

July 28, 2010

North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles License and Theft Bureau, Edneyville

Inspector Timothy Charles Barnes

On the final day of a nine-week DMV inspector training course, Inspector Timothy Charles Barnes, age 38, collapsed while participating in a strength and endurance exercise at the North Carolina Justice Academy in Edneyville. He was transported to Mission Hospital in Asheville where he was conscious and talking prior to experiencing a rapid deterioration in his condition. Inspector Barnes died the following day. The medical examiner listed the cause of death as heat stroke, leading to kidney failure and cardiac arrest. Inspector Barnes previously served with the Nash County Sheriff's Office for ten years and was survived by his fiancée and two children.

September 8, 2010

U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, Otay Mesa Port of Entry

Officer John Richard Zykas

Officer John Richard Zykas, age 62, suffered a heart attack on September 2nd while participating in a training exercise which included baton training. He was transported to a local hospital where after undergoing major surgery he was unable to recover. Officer Zykas was removed from life support and he passed away on September 8th. He had served with the Office of Field Operations for fifteen years and was survived by his wife and two sons.

November 3, 2010

California Highway Patrol Academy, West Sacramento

Cadet Randy Atchison

Cadet Randy Atchison, age 24, was in his first week of a 27-week program when he collapsed during a fitness session on October 29th. The session included a half hour of floor exercises, 20 minutes of dynamic stretching with a short break before the final segment, a 1.8-mile run. Cadet Atchison completed the entire session but felt unwell enough to be transported to the hospital. Initially, the cadet's condition did not appear overly serious and he was even out of bed for awhile before his condition deteriorated rapidly. He was transferred to another hospital the following day however on November 3rd Cadet Atchison died. He had been diagnosed with rhabdomyolysis and severe dehydration. Cadet Atchison was survived by his fiancé and 1-month old daughter.

November 16, 2010

Maine Department of Corrections, Windham

Senior Corrections Officer John H. Paskewicz

Senior Corrections Officer John "Packy" Paskewicz, age 58, was participating in a training exercise at the Maine Correctional Center in Windham when he suffered a heart attack. He had just completed a scenario which involved defensive training against edged weapon attacks. As he stood talking with other officers, including his son, Senior Corrections Officer Paskewicz suddenly collapsed. The officers performed CPR until the paramedics arrived. He was then transported to Maine Medical Center in Portland where he died. Senior Corrections Officer Paskewicz had served with the Maine Department of Corrections for 20 years and was survived by his fiancé and three children.

Police Training Fatalities Involving Transportation Airplane/Train/Motor Vehicle/Bicycle

May 15, 1917

Detroit Police Department, Michigan

Lieutenant Samuel C. Marquardt

Lieutenant Marquardt, age 32, was struck and killed by a train while conducting a training exercise for other officers.

September 5, 1924

Augusta Police Department, Georgia

Sergeant Edward Hezekiah Quarles

Sergeant Quarles died of injuries from a motorcycle accident during a training exercise at the Augusta Fair Grounds.

September 29, 1926

Charlotte Police Department, North Carolina

Chief of Detectives Joseph Eckels Orr

On September 28, 1926, seven members of the Charlotte Police Department were responding to a mock riot as part of a state-wide training exercise. While en route to High Point, their vehicle was involved in an accident in China Grove which claimed the lives of Chief of Detectives Joseph Eckels Orr and Detective John North Byers. Chief Orr died the following day and Detective Byers passed away two days after the crash. Chief Orr, a 15 year veteran of the agency in addition to a total of 7 years serving in other agencies was survived by his wife and six children.

September 30, 1926

Charlotte Police Department, North Carolina

Detective John North Byers

On September 28, 1926, seven members of the Charlotte Police Department were responding to a mock riot as part of a state-wide training exercise. While en route to High Point, their vehicle was involved in an accident in China Grove which claimed the lives of Detective John North Byers and Chief of Detectives Joseph Eckels Orr. Chief Orr died the following day and Detective Byers passed away two days after the crash. Detective Byers, age 32, had been with the agency for two and a half years and was survived by his wife and five children.

November 10, 1951

Milwaukee Police Department, Wisconsin

Officer Vernon V. White

Officer Vernon White, who had been with the agency for ten years, died in a motorcycle accident while participating in a civil defense drill. Officer Vernon's motorcycle was positioned as the second of three. As the three motorcycles entered the intersection of East State Street and North Edison with their red lights and sirens activated, Officer White was forced to swerve to avoid colliding with a vehicle. In doing so, Officer White, age 38, was thrown off his motorcycle and run over by a truck.

September 1, 1967

Seattle Police Department, Washington

Officer David P. Richards

Officer Richards died in the line of duty on the last day of his motorcycle training. He was traveling on I-5 along with other motorcycle officers when his motorcycle left the lane and hit a guardrail. A witness to the tragedy saw the rear tire of the motorcycle wobbling just before the accident occurred. Officer Richards died at the scene. He had been with the agency for less than one year and was survived by his wife and two daughters.

January 10, 1969

Kansas City Police Department, Missouri

Officer James W. Glenn

Officer Glenn, age 36, was practicing maneuvers with the department helicopter, a Hughes 300-269B. The tail rotor failed and fuselage began to spin as it crashed at the Kansas City Timing Association drag strip. Officer Glenn had been with the agency for nine years and was survived by his wife and two children.

May 29, 1974

Los Angeles Police Department, California

Commander Paul Gillen

Commander Gillen died when his helicopter, a Bell 206B, crashed during SWAT training. To date, Commander Gillen is the highest-ranking member of the LAPD to die in the line of duty.

June 11, 1976

Los Angeles Police Department, California

Officer Jeffrey B. Lindenberg

Officer Lindenberg, age 30, a member of the Air Support Division, died when the Bell 47-G5 helicopter he was training in lost power and crashed during landing. He had been practicing pinnacle landings near the Los Angeles Zoo in the hills overlooking Hollywood. On short final approach, the engine lost power and came four inches short of the pad, exploding into a ball of flames as it rolled 162 feet down the hill. The other officer in the helicopter survived but was badly injured. Officer Lindenberg had been with the agency for seven years and was survived by his wife and infant daughter.

January 13, 1986

Avoyelles Parish Sheriff's Department, Louisiana

Deputy Sheriff Darvin LaPrairie

Deputy LaPrairie, age 41, died in an airplane crash during training. He had been with the agency for two years. Deputy LaPrairie was survived by his wife, daughter and granddaughter.

April 19, 1986

United States Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Investigation

Special Agent James K. McAllister

Special Agent McAllister, a member of the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team, died after falling from a helicopter during a training exercise at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Special Agent McAllister was an original member of the 50-member anti-terrorist unit which became operational in September 1983. He was 35 years old when the accident occurred.

July 24, 1986

Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, Arkansas

Deputy Sheriff James A. Avant

Deputy Avant, age 37, died in a helicopter crash in Mt. Ida, Arkansas. He was participating in a Drug Enforcement Administration Marijuana Eradication Spotter School when the helicopter crashed shortly after take-off, bursting into flames. Two other participants also died in the crash. In addition, the pilot and a Special Agent with the DEA were critically injured. Deputy Avant had been a narcotics detective with his agency for a year and had previously served with the Camden, Arkansas Police Department and the Arkansas State Police. He was survived by his wife and three children.

July 24, 1986

Arkansas State Police, Arkansas

Criminal Investigator Charles Bassing

Investigator Bassing, age 33, died in a helicopter crash in Mt. Ida, Arkansas. He was participating in a Drug Enforcement Administration Marijuana Eradication Spotter School when the helicopter crashed shortly after take-off, bursting into flames. Two other participants also died in the crash. In addition, the pilot and a Special Agent with the DEA were critically injured. Investigator Bassing had been with the State Police for nine months, assigned to the narcotics division. He was survived by his parents, son and daughter.

July 24, 1986

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Arkansas

Criminal Investigator Kevin L. Brosch

Investigator Brosch, age 34, died in a helicopter crash in Mt. Ida, Arkansas. He was participating in a Drug Enforcement Administration Marijuana Eradication Spotter School when the helicopter crashed shortly after take-off, bursting into flames. Two others also died in the crash. In addition, the pilot and a Special Agent with the DEA were critically injured. Investigator Brosch had been with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office for six years and had previously served with the Pine Bluff, Arkansas Police Department. He was survived by his wife and two children.

August 16, 1986

Kern County Sheriff's Department, California

Deputy Sheriff Ray Delton Bockman

Deputy Bockman died in an aircraft accident while on a training mission east of Bakersfield. Doug Moonen, a volunteer pilot with over 12,000 hours of flight time, clipped the wing of his Cessna 182 on some wires resulting in the crash that killed him, Sergeant Kline, Deputy Bockman and the deputy's search and rescue dog, Kelly. A monument now stands at the crash site, 200 yards west of the entrance of Hart Park. Deputy Bockman had been with the agency for 11 years.

August 16, 1986

Kern County Sheriff's Department, California

Sergeant Marvin Ray Kline

Sergeant Kline died in an aircraft accident while on a training mission east of Bakersfield. Doug Moonen, a volunteer pilot with over 12,000 hours of flight time, clipped the wing of his Cessna 182 on some wires resulting in the crash that killed him, Sergeant Kline, Deputy Bockman and the deputy's search and rescue dog, Kelly. A monument now stands at the crash site, 200 yards west of the entrance of Hart Park. Sergeant Kline had been with the agency for 18 years.

May 10, 1988

United States Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Investigation

Special Agent Scott K. Carey

On May 9, 1988, Special Agent Carey, an instructor assigned to the driver training program, was involved in an automobile accident while on duty. He had been instructing a defensive driving school at the Special Operations Center in New Paltz, New York. Special Agent Carey, age 35, was rushed to a Middletown hospital where he died the following day.

September 10, 1994

Paterson Police Department, New Jersey

Sergeant Timothy F. O'Brien

Sergeant O'Brien, age 43, was killed while attending training exercises. His cruiser struck a wall during a class designed to enhance driving skills. He was survived by his wife and three daughters.

April 4, 1996

West Virginia State Police, West Virginia

Lieutenant Charles Matthew Turner

Lieutenant Turner, age 41, died in a helicopter crash which occurred during training exercises in Charleston. The crash also took the life of Lieutenant Wayne Childress, retired from the agency. Many witnesses observed the helicopter, a Bell 206L-1, breaking up in flight at about 300-500 feet and crashing into a residential hillside. The tail section was found a few hundred feet away. The ensuing investigation revealed fatigue cracks in the tail section. Lieutenant Turner had been with the agency 17 years.

September 17, 1997

Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, Texas

Lieutenant George Maurice Hendrix

Lieutenant Hendrix, age 51, died when he and Deputy Thomas Jay Smith were involved in a helicopter crash near Newark, Texas. The two were participating in a narcotics training mission when the helicopter, a Bell OH-58A donated by the military and piloted by the lieutenant, crashed shortly after taking off from Meacham International Airport. Lieutenant Hendrix had been with the agency for 18 years.

September 17, 1997

Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, Texas

Deputy Investigator Thomas Jay Smith

Deputy Investigator Smith, age 45, died when he and Lieutenant George Maurice Hendrix were involved in a helicopter crash near Newark, Texas. The two were participating in a narcotics training mission when the helicopter, a Bell OH-58A donated by the military and piloted by the lieutenant, crashed shortly after taking off from Meacham International Airport. Deputy Smith had been with the agency for 12 years.

October 30, 1997

Illinois State Police, Illinois

Trooper Erin Sweeney Hehl

Trooper Hehl, age 34, died in a helicopter crash during a training exercise which also took the life of George Kurelic, the civilian pilot. The accident occurred as they were practicing touch-and-go landings. A skid on the Eurocopter AS350 encountered mud, causing it to flip. Trooper Hehl had been with the State Police for 11 years, serving first in the Marine Patrol as a diver, later reassigned to road duties and then in 1995, she became the first woman to work in the department's aviation unit. Trooper Hehl was the first female trooper to have served in all three areas. Trooper Hehl, promoted to Sergeant posthumously, was survived by her husband, son and stepson.

September 1, 1999

United States Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Investigations

Special Agent Paul Andrew LeVeille

Special Agent LeVeille, a licensed FBI pilot, died in a plane crash while attending the FBI Mountain Flying Training Course near Colorado Springs, Colorado. Chuck Burns, a private instructor who was contracted by the FBI, also died in the crash. SA LeVeille was at the controls of the Piper Archer and was executing a box canyon turn when the plane crashed into the mountainside. SA LeVeille had been with the FBI for three years, assigned to the El Paso office. He was a skilled pilot who had previously flown with the New Mexico Air National Guard. Special Agent LeVeille, age 39, was survived by his wife and six children.

June 10, 2000

Morgantown Police Department, West Virginia

Private First Class Frank M. Fidazzo

PFC Fidazzo, age 44, died one day after he was in a bicycle accident while training with other bike officers in a one-week multi-agency training event. The group was riding on the Rail Trail path in a city park when PFC Fidazzo's bike hit a hump, throwing him over the handlebars. He was rushed to the hospital but he succumbed to his head injuries. PFC Fidazzo had been with the agency for 11 years, three of those in the Bike Unit. Three years after his death, part of the city's Rail Trail was named in his honor. PFC Fidazzo was survived by his wife and two children.

August 15, 2000

Royal Canadian Mounted Police, British Columbia

Staff Sergeant Edward Mobley

Sergeant Mobley, age 49, died when the 1986 Cessna Ce208 Caravan I he was piloting crashed into Teslin Lake, in northern British Columbia. Sergeant Mobley and Special Constable Tim Nicholson, the flight engineer, had been transporting seventeen local ERT members from Prince Rupert to the remote lake location, 378 miles north. The task required two trips and was completed after dark. The plane, equipped with amphibious floats, was being maneuvered for take-off and became grounded on a hidden sand bar. The ERT members and Special Constable Nicholson helped to free the aircraft. By then it was near midnight however, Sergeant Mobley elected to continue with the departure. The plane climbed to about 1,000 feet and suddenly plummeted in a near vertical descent within sight of the ERT members, who rushed to the scene in a boat. The fuselage sank before they could arrive and was later recovered at a depth of 66 feet with the two bodies still in the cockpit. Sergeant Mobley had been with the RCMP for 25 years, the last 6 years were with the Air Division. He was survived by his wife and daughter.

August 15, 2000

Royal Canadian Mounted Police, British Columbia

Special Constable Timothy Nicholson

Special Constable Nicholson, age 48, was killed in the crash of the Cessna Ce208 Caravan I in northern British Columbia which also took the life of Staff Sergeant Edward Mobley. Special Constable Nicholson had been on assignment at Prince Rupert, filling in for the regular flight engineer who was on vacation. He had been with the RCMP Air Division for 7 years and was survived by his wife and two daughters.

June 28, 2001

Fairfax County Police Department, Virginia

Captain Tommy F. Bernal

Captain Bernal, age 51, was participating in a multi-agency motorcycle training exercise near Front Royal, Virginia when a trainee ahead of him lost control of his motorcycle rounding a turn. An oncoming sports utility vehicle managed to avoid the trainee's motorcycle but in doing so, struck and killed the 29-year veteran of the department. Captain Bernal was survived by his wife and three sons.

October 19, 2001

New Mexico State Police, New Mexico

Patrolman Ramon Robert Solis

Officer Solis, age 30, died along with Officer Damon Talbott while participating in training exercises in a medivac helicopter. Officer Jennifer Schurman and the medical pilot were seriously injured but both survived the crash, which was thought to be caused by mechanical failure. The officers had just finished training in a hospital-owned helicopter, learning how to set up landing zones for traffic accidents in remote areas. The crash occurred west of Roswell. Officer Solis graduated from the same class at the academy as Officer Talbot. Both had been with the agency for 10 months. Officer Solis was survived by his parents.

October 19, 2001

New Mexico State Police, New Mexico

Patrolman Damon Talbott

Officer Talbott, age 21, died along with Officer Ramon Solis while participating in training exercises in a medivac helicopter. Officer Jennifer Schurman and the medical pilot were seriously injured but both survived the crash, which was thought to be caused by mechanical failure. The officers had just finished training in a hospital-owned helicopter, learning how to set up landing zones for traffic accidents in remote areas. The crash occurred west of Roswell. Officer Talbott graduated from the same class at the academy as Officer Solis. Both had been with the agency for 10 months. Officer Talbott was survived by his parents and sister.

November 13, 2002

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

Corrections Officer David Hiram Bowser, Jr.

Officer David Bowser, age 32, was participating in a training run at the State Correctional Institution with other members of the Emergency Response Team when he was struck and killed by a vehicle driven by another prison employee. Officer Bowser was pronounced dead at Green County Memorial Hospital a short while later.

September 24, 2007

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Texas

Agent Julio E. Baray

Agent Baray was in training to be an Air Interdiction Agent when he died during flight training. He was practicing take-offs and landings in a Cessna 210 at Moriarty Airport, near Albuquerque with the instructor pilot, Air Interdiction Agent Daniel J. Houting. According to an eyewitness, the plane was preparing to land when the engine apparently stalled. The plane's left wing and nose hit the ground and the aircraft then left the runway, catching fire in a field. Air Interdiction Agent Houting managed to escape with injuries but Agent Baray died in the crash. Agent Baray, age 39, worked out of the El Paso office and had been with the agency for nine years. He was survived by his wife and two children, ages 5 and 9.

August 18, 2010

Cedar Park Police Department, Texas

Officer Leonard Allen Reed

Officer Leonard Allen Reed, age 41, was training to obtain his motorcycle certification when his motorcycle hit the curb, became airborne and crashed into a utility pole. The training officer who accompanied him performed CPR until paramedics arrived on the scene. Officer Reed, who had served four years with the Cedar Park Police Department, died from internal injuries at Saint David's Round Rock Medical Center. Officer Reed is survived by his wife and two sons.

September 30, 2010

Greenfield Police Department, Indiana

Officer William Edward Phillips III

Officer William "Will" Phillips was participating in a late-night bike patrol training exercise with two fellow officers when he was struck by a vehicle and died at the scene. The driver never stopped on the four-lane state highway but turned herself in three days later. All three officers were wearing helmets and reflective vests and their department-issued bicycles were equipped with lights. Officer Phillips, age 32 and a four-year veteran of the agency, is survived by his wife and two young sons.

Police Training Fatalities by Fall/Trauma

August 13, 1982

U.S. General Services Administration – Federal Protective Service

Officer Michael Doyle

Officer Doyle fell to his death while rappelling in a SORT-Team training exercise in Coronado, CA. He was survived by his wife, a son, and a daughter.

August 30, 1983

Chicago Police Department, Illinois

Officer Anthony Creed

Officer Creed died as a result of a fall from his horse in a training exercise with the Mounted Unit.

November 4, 1987

Washington Township Police Department, Gloucester County, New Jersey

Officer Patricia E. Quinn

Officer Quinn died of injuries she received from boxing exercises at the Academy on October 21, 1987. She had been with the agency for two months.

March 29, 1991

United States Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Prisons

Senior Officer Specialist Daniel J. Bryer

Senior Officer Bryer was attending Special Operations Response Team training at the Otisville Federal Correctional Institute in New York State. He died after falling off the back of a truck during a training exercise. He was survived by his wife.

May 4, 1992

Juneau Police Department, Alaska

Officer Karl William Reishus

Officer Reishus, age 29, died one day after falling from a 41-foot tower during a one-day mountain rescue course. He and five other attendees were performing rotations of the various roles: casualty, medical attendant, brakeman, “lower” chief, and observer. Conditions were typical of a rescue situation with moderate to heavy rain and 25 mph winds. Officer Reishus was acting as the “vertical lower” chief in the third rotation. He was given the all clear, however when he ordered the 400 pound-litter over the ledge, it plunged to the pavement below, taking him, the mock casualty and litter attendant along. The two other trainees suffered serious foot, ankle and leg injuries. Officer Reishus died as a result of severe head injuries. The cause of the accident was determined to be a failure of the rope braking system procedure. Officer Reishus was survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

June 16, 1992

South Centre Township Police Department, Pennsylvania

Chief of Police Derle Edward Shoemaker

Chief Shoemaker was accidentally struck in the head which caused him to fall from a second floor balcony while conducting training exercises. A warrant search was being demonstrated when the tragedy occurred. Chief Shoemaker died after lingering in a coma for seventeen days.

August 15, 1994

Colorado Department of Corrections, Colorado

Sergeant Marc A Perse

Sergeant Perse, age 26, died as a result of a 90-foot fall from a rappelling tower during training exercises for the Special Operations Response Team. He was survived by his wife.

March 29, 1996

Reno Police Department, Nevada

Officer Keith Tadashi Hashimoto

Officer Hashimoto, age 36, and other members of his department were on a joint training exercise at Fallon Naval Air Station with a team of Navy SEALs. Officer Hashimoto died when his parachute failed to open during a jump. Officer Hashimoto had served with the Reno Police Department for 7 years. He was survived by his wife and two daughters.

March 24, 1998

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Nevada

Officer Russell L. Peterson

Officer Peterson, who had been with the agency eight years, was training volunteers for the Search and Rescue Unit. They were conducting ice rescue exercises in the Mount Charlestown Range just north of the city. While Officer Peterson was demonstrating rescue techniques, a large ice block broke away above him and sent him off the mountain to his death. He was survived by his wife.

May 1, 1999

Kamloops Sheriff's Service, British Columbia, Canada

Deputy Sheriff James Cole Askew

Deputy Sheriff Askew, age 51, was participating in a routine training exercise on April 30, 1999. As one of several sheriffs practicing cell extraction techniques, Deputy Sheriff Askew fell and struck his head, missing the floor mat. He never regained consciousness and died the following day. Deputy Sheriff Askew was a 21-year veteran of the department and had also served 9 years previously with the RCMP.

March 17, 2000

Los Angeles Police Department, California

Police Officer III Louis Villalobos, Jr.

Officer Villalobos fell from a 10-foot catwalk while performing an advanced SWAT training exercise at the United States Marine Corps base at Camp Pendleton, CA. He sustained severe head injuries and died the next day. Officer Villalobos had been with LAPD for 29 years and had been a SWAT team member for 17 years. At age 52, he was survived by his four children.

March 13, 2002

Seattle Police Department, Washington

Detective Gary R. Lindell

On May 4, 1999, Detective Lindell, a member of the Mounted Patrol Unit, fell from his horse, striking his head on a rock while participating in a training exercise. He remained in critical condition for three weeks and although he survived the accident, he was never able to return to his regular duties due to severe after-effects from the injury. At the time of the accident, he had been with the force for 32 years and on the mounted patrol for 2 years. He retired from the force but later returned to work in a civilian capacity. He died while on the job, nearly three years after the accident. The cause of death was related to his head injury. Detective Lindell, 55 at the time of his death, was survived by his wife, three children and two granddaughters.

May 26, 2005

Texas Department of Public Safety – Texas Highway Patrol, Austin, Texas

Trooper Jimmy Ray Carty Jr.

Trooper Carty, age 30, sustained a severe head injury on May 19, 2005 while participating in a Survival and Control Tactics full-contact boxing drill with another trainee at the academy in Austin. He was taken to the hospital immediately but died a week later from the head trauma. In the aftermath of this tragedy, boxing drills were discontinued in the training program. Trooper Carty had been with the agency only a few months, having previously served 7 years as a deputy with the Smith County Sheriff's Department. He was survived by his wife and three children.

June 2, 2005

United States Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Investigation

Special Agent Robert Russell Hardesty

Special Agent Hardesty, age 40, died eight days after a training exercise at the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia. Agent Hardesty was standing on the wing of an airplane during an FBI tactical training exercise for aircraft entry techniques when he slipped and fell 20 feet. The injuries to his neck and spine left him paralyzed and his death was due to complications of the paralysis. Agent Hardesty had been with the FBI for 3-1/2 years, assigned to a Resident Office in Bloomington, Illinois. Prior to that, he had served as an officer with the Indiana State Excise Police and later as a deputy with the Porter County Sheriff's Office. Agent Hardesty was survived by his wife and two daughters.

October 25, 2007

Casa Grande Police Department, Arizona

Sergeant Tate Lynch

Sergeant Lynch, age 36, was participating in afternoon SWAT training exercises with the Pinal County SWAT team at the Pinal County Detention Center in Florence. At approximately 2:00 PM, Sergeant Lynch was rappelling down the two-story wall of the inmate exercise yard when he suddenly fell in full view of several officers and suffered a severe head injury. Medical personnel at the jail provided immediate assistance but Sergeant Lynch died about five hours later at Scottsdale Healthcare Trauma Center. A report issued after an investigation by the Arizona Department of Public Safety determined the training exercise involved several safety violations. A seven year veteran of the agency, Sergeant Lynch was survived by his wife and three children.

December 18, 2010

Norfolk Police Academy, Virginia

Police Recruit John Kohn

Norfolk Police Academy Recruit John Kohn, age 40, suffered multiple head traumas during training exercises between December 7th and 9th. During that time, Recruit Kohn was participating in the week-long defensive training portion of the academy program. The first injury occurred during blocking drills when an instructor delivered a blow to the face, causing the recruit to reel backwards. Although when instructors asked, he claimed to feel okay but he later mentioned having a headache to other recruits. Later that day during knee-strike practice with another recruit, he was hit in the face with a pad he had been holding in front of him. This aggravated the headache and he felt nauseous. At one point, he did express concern about these symptoms to other recruits. Despite his discomfort, Recruit Kohn did not want to risk failure and so continued in the training. On December 9th, he collided in a doorway with another recruit. The force was great enough that the other recruit needed to sit out for some time to recover. With a pounding head and lack of mental focus, Recruit Kohn carried on. Eleven minutes later during a ground-fighting drill, Recruit Kohn was rendered temporarily unconscious after the instructor delivered four blows to the recruit's head. Upon regaining partial consciousness, Recruit Kohn was clearly disoriented and his breathing became extremely labored. Medics were then summoned and upon their arrival, he was rushed to the hospital. Police Recruit Kohn died on December 18th after being in a coma for nine days. Police Recruit Kohn is survived by his wife and a daughter who was born after his death.

Police Training Fatalities by Drowning

July 15, 1960

Kansas City, Police Department, Missouri

Sergeant Kieffer C. Burris

In preparation for the formation of an underwater recovery unit, Sergeant Burris and Officer Herbert Bybee were practicing scuba diving techniques on Lake Lotawana. At 4:30 p.m., the two divers were observed by a local resident and all appeared normal. However, at approximately 5:30 p.m., another resident saw Sergeant Burris floating face down in the water. Officer Bybee's lifeless body was located a short time later. Officer Bybee's tank was empty but the tank Sergeant Burris was using still had air pressure. The cause of this incident remains unknown. Department policy at that time called for someone to be stationed to watch for problems but no one was there to help. Sergeant Burris, age 46, had been with the agency for ten years and was survived by his wife and daughter.

July 15, 1960

Kansas City, Police Department, Missouri

Officer Herbert E. Bybee

In preparation for the formation of an underwater recovery unit, Officer Herbert Bybee and Sergeant Burris were practicing scuba diving techniques on Lake Lotawana. At 4:30 p.m., the two divers were observed by a local resident and all appeared normal. However, at approximately 5:30 p.m., another resident saw Sergeant Burris floating face down in the water. Officer Bybee's lifeless body was located a short time later. Officer Bybee's tank was empty but the tank Sergeant Burris was using still had air pressure. The cause of this incident remains unknown. Department policy at that time called for someone to be stationed to watch for problems but no one was there to help. Officer Bybee, age 31, had been with the agency two years and was survived by his wife and four children.

July 28, 1961

Arvada Police Department, Colorado

Officer Robert G. Beghtol

Officer Beghtol, age 26, was participating in a training exercise with members of the Scuba Diving Unit. The site of the dive, near 60th and Tennyson, was the location of an old gravel pit. Officer Beghtol began to experience cramping from the cold water but was unable to surface when his gear became tangled in debris and he drowned. He had been with the agency for two years after serving in the United States Army. Twenty years prior to this tragic event, Officer Beghtol's grandfather became Arvada's first uniformed police officer.

December 19, 1968

Virginia Beach Police Department, Virginia

Officer Roger Lee McClung, Jr.

Officer McClung and Detective Robert Ray Monette were dive team trainees participating in training exercises at Lake Wesley. Both drowned saving the life of another trainee. Officer McClung, age 32, had been with the agency for 1 year.

December 19, 1968

Virginia Beach Police Department, Virginia

Detective Robert Ray Monette

Detective Monette and Officer Roger Lee McClung, Jr. were dive team trainees participating in training exercises at Lake Wesley. Both drowned saving the life of another trainee. Detective Monette, age 25, left behind a wife, a 6 month-old daughter and a 2 year-old son. A Vietnam veteran, he had been with the agency for 2 years and had just been promoted to Detective three days prior to his death.

June 7, 1973

Kenosha Police Department, Wisconsin

Officer Gary W. Fraid

Officer Fraid drowned in Lake Michigan while participating in a practice dive with his agency's scuba team. Officer Fraid, age 33, had been with the agency for six years and was survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

August 18, 1983

Louisville Police Department, Kentucky

Officer Ricky A. LaFollette

Officer LaFollette, age 30, drowned while training with the Department Scuba Team. The team was holding a training exercise at Dale Hollow Lake. The exercise was being held in total darkness using new underwater communications equipment. Officer LaFollette failed to surface when his air supply depleted and he did not respond to radio communications. His body was recovered at a depth of 100 feet. It is believed that he was disoriented in the dark and went down deeper in the lake rather than up.

November 24, 1984

Chelan County Sheriff's Department, Washington

Deputy Sheriff Winfield Scott Edie

Deputy Edie, age 29 and with the agency for five years, was participating in a diving exercise at Lake Chelan. He called out for help but was not located in time to save him. Deputy Edie drowned in 15 feet of water. The cause of his drowning remains unknown. Deputy Edie was survived by his wife and daughter.

February 11, 1989

Williams County Sheriff's Department, North Dakota

Deputy Sheriff Timothy L. Wells

Deputy Wells, age 36, was taking part in a cold water training dive with six other rescue divers in the Missouri River. During the dive, the deputy was photographing fish. Deputy Wells did not surface with the other divers. A search went underway, but he drowned before he could be rescued. It was thought that Deputy Wells may have become disoriented and swam in the wrong direction. His body was found beneath thick ice along the shoreline with his tank empty. Deputy Wells had been with the agency for four years.

June 11, 1991

New York City Police Department, New York

Officer Kenneth M. Hansen

Officer Hansen, age 26 and a highly decorated member of the Department's Harbor Unit, was participating in a simulated rescue training exercise in New York Harbor near the Battery. Officer Hansen was posing as the victim. The exercise called for divers to leap from a helicopter and perform the rescue. Officer Hansen jumped into the water but soon disappeared from sight. The exercise immediately became an actual search and rescue effort but his team mates could not locate him. His body was recovered the next day. An investigation could not determine why Officer Hansen, against agency policy, was in the water without a life jacket. He was survived by his fiancée, his parents, a sister and two brothers. His father and brothers are all in law enforcement.

April 17, 1998

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

First Sergeant Karl E. Kelley

On April 16, 1998, Sergeant Kelley was participating in a fast water rescue exercise with Indiana's river rescue team. The exercise was being held on the White River below Williams Dam. The water was very turbulent from the hydraulic boil created by the action of the water cascading over the dam. Two members of the team were thrown from another boat. Sergeant Kelley and a fellow conservation officer attempted to rescue the two but their boat also capsized. All four were rescued but when Sergeant Kelley was pulled into the boat, he was unconscious. He had been submerged for approximately fifteen minutes. CPR was performed at the scene and he was transported to a hospital in Bedford, then flown by helicopter to University Hospital in Louisville. He was placed on life support but died the next day. Sergeant Kelly had been a conservation officer for 28 years and was survived by his wife and five children.

June 2, 2000

Chicago Police Department, Illinois

Sergeant Alane M. Stoffregen

Sergeant Stoffregen, age 50 and a master diver, was participating in a Marine Unit diving exercise in Lake Michigan. The exercise was being held in about 35 feet of water. Using correct procedures, Sergeant Stoffregen signaled to her partner that she was surfacing. She rose to the surface where the marine diver operating the boat heard her call him by name. When he got to the back of the boat where the call originated, he could see that she was disoriented and in distress. There were two marks on her forehead, thought to be the result of being pushed against the boat from the 3-foot waves that day. The other two divers were unable to get Sergeant Stoffregen into the boat without assistance. Her partner pleaded with Sergeant Stoffregen to keep her regulator in her mouth to prevent swallowing water but she was unresponsive. Her other team mate managed to keep her afloat until additional help arrived. Despite their valiant efforts to save her, Sergeant Stoffregen died. She was a 22-year veteran of the agency and had just recently been assigned to the Marine Unit.

October 21, 2008

Fairfax County Police Department, Virginia

Second Lieutenant Frank J. Stecco

Lieutenant Stecco, age 42, drowned in Pohick Bay while participating in a helicopter water rescue training exercise. Although not a member of the dive team, he had volunteered to play the role of the victim. Lieutenant Stecco had been equipped with a dry suit, but according to a spokesperson, he was not wearing a flotation device or breathing apparatus. The exercise began at approximately 1:30 p.m. and the lieutenant was reported missing at 2:47 p.m. An exhaustive search of the murky bay was conducted. Due to the poor visibility in the water, Lieutenant Stecco's body was not located until four days later, about 100 feet from where he went missing. An investigation revealed lapses in safety and oversight during the exercise. A 19-year member of the agency, Lieutenant Stecco was survived by his wife, three children and his mother.

September 14, 2010

Virginia State Police, Lake Anna, Virginia

Trooper Mark Barrett

Trooper Mark Barrett, age 41, drowned while participating with the State Police Search and Recovery Team in a training dive in Lake Anna. During a 77-foot dive, his dive buddy noticed Trooper Barrett was having difficulties on the return ascent and by the time they were near the surface, he was unresponsive. Team members immediately performed CPR on Trooper Barrett and paramedics continued to treat him en route to Henrico Doctors' Hospital where he died. The medical examiner stated that an underlying heart condition contributed to his drowning. Trooper Barrett, who had served with the agency for 3 years, is survived by his wife and two children.

October 13, 2010

U.S. Coast Guard Office of Law Enforcement

Petty Officer Shaun Michael Lin

Petty Officer Shaun Lin, age 23, drowned during an anti-terrorism training exercise held near Newport News, Virginia. At approximately 9:15 p.m., he fell into the James River while attempting to transfer between a 25-foot Marine Security Response Team vessel and the Coast Guard Cutter Frank Drew. Despite a massive day-long search, his gear-laden body was not located until the following evening. Petty Officer Lin, an Iraq war veteran, had served three years with the Coast Guard and was attached to the Fort Wadsworth Maritime Safety and Security Team based in New York Harbor.

Police Training Fatalities by Explosions

November 18, 1987

Delaware State Police, Delaware

Corporal David Bruce Pulling

Corporal Pulling was attending an FBI training course in Huntsville, Alabama as a prerequisite to becoming a bomb technician for the Delaware State Police.

During a training exercise, an explosive device he was handling accidentally exploded and killed him. Corporal Pulling, age 31, was survived by his wife and two sons.

November 4, 2000

Wichita Police Department, Kansas

Lieutenant John Eugene Galvin

On October 20, 2000, Lieutenant Galvin and the agency's bomb squad were conducting training exercises at the bomb range. Arrangements had been made with a local fireworks company to destroy approximately 1,500 pounds of fireworks. Two large pits were prepared and the first two shots were fired without any problems. Preparations began for the third shot. Lieutenant Galvin was in one pit, emptying the contents of a 30-pound case on the ground within. It is thought that an ember from the previous shot sparked some powder from the case and set off the fireworks. The fireworks shot out of the pit, striking the truck holding another 500 pounds of fireworks. Those also detonated, destroying the truck and seriously burning a sergeant in the second pit. Fortunately, there were no fireworks in the second pit at the time. A Park Department backhoe driver was also injured in the incident. The rest of the bomb squad narrowly avoided injury from the explosions. Lieutenant Galvin was burned over 80% of his body and succumbed to his injuries two weeks later at the Via Christi – St. Francis burn unit in Wichita. Lieutenant Galvin, age 49, had been with the agency for 20 years. He was survived by his wife, daughter and three sons.

February 20, 2002

Scottsdale Police Department, Arizona

Sergeant Thomas Alan Hontz

Sergeant Hontz was killed while conducting a SWAT exercise where he was demonstrating how to introduce tear gas into a room. The "gas ax" he had just loaded into a smoke canister exploded, killing him and injuring fourteen other officers and firefighters. It was later determined that a new product was being used for the first time and was not compatible with the type of canister into which it was inserted. The smoke was not able to vent properly, causing the product to explode and fragment in all directions. Sergeant Hontz, age 45, was survived by his wife and three sons.



NTOA Membership Application

PO Box 797, Doylestown, PA 18901 | p: 800-279-9127, ext. 110 | f: 215-230-7552 | www.ntoa.org

PLEASE CHECK MEMBERSHIP TYPE

INDIVIDUAL

"The Tactical Edge" Membership

- U.S. Membership.....\$40
- Canada Membership.....\$45
- Foreign Membership.....\$45

Do you want to receive the latest training information and updates from NTOA?
Include a team roster and email addresses with your application.

Home/Agency Address or Point of Contact (POC) Change?

Update online anytime at www.ntoa.org; Member Resources > Update Address/Contact

TEAM

"The Tactical Edge" Membership

- U.S./Canada Membership.....\$150
- Foreign Membership.....\$200

THE FOLLOWING ID IS REQUIRED BY ALL APPLICANTS (TEAM MEMBERSHIPS ONLY REQUIRE POINT OF CONTACT ID)

- **Full-time sworn law enforcement officers must provide:**
A photocopy of law enforcement ID or an agency letterhead statement from applicant's direct supervisor verifying applicant's law enforcement status.
- **Correction and non-sworn TEMS officers must provide:**
Current agency letterhead statement from the SRT/tactical team commander verifying applicant's role within the team. Non-sworn members must submit updated verification with renewal payment each year.
- **Foreign (other than Canadian) must provide:**
Foreign applicants must submit their application with a letter from the Consular Officer or Regional Security Officer of the American Embassy verifying that applicant's credentials are true and accurate.

Applications received without proper documentation and/or incorrect payment amount will be returned.

VISIT: WWW.NTOA.ORG TO JOIN ONLINE

INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT

Send my publication to: Home Agency

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____ Rank _____
 Assignment Full Time SWAT Full Time CNT Collateral Duty Patrol SWAT Investigations TEMS Bomb Tech
 Home Address _____ Apartment No. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Email _____ Personal Agency Email _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

TEAM APPLICANT

POC First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____ Rank _____
 Team Name _____ Team Status (check one) Full Time Part Time
 Multi-jurisdictional? No Yes If yes, list other departments on team _____

 No. of Tactical Members _____ No. of Negotiators _____ No. TEMS _____ No. Sworn TEMS _____ No. Bomb Technicians _____ No. of Breachers _____
 Multi-Geographic Area Served _____ Multi-Jurisdictional population served _____ No. Training Hours _____

AGENCY INFORMATION (Individual and team applicants please complete.)

Agency Name _____
 Agency Street Address _____ Suite No. _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Agency Email _____ Agency Phone _____ Agency Fax _____
 Population Served by Agency _____ No. of Sworn Officers in Agency _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION (Please make checks payable to NTOA. Mail application/ID to: NTOA, PO Box 797, Doylestown, PA 18901. If paying by credit card, fax application and ID to: 215-230-7552.)

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard American Express Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
 (For VISA & MC - last 3 digits in signature line _____) (For AMEX: 4 digits in small print on card front _____)
 Signature of Applicant _____
 Check Amount \$ _____ Check or Money Order Number _____ Purchase Order Number _____

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE NTOA? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- NTOA training class NTOA Conference Other training/event (please list) _____ NTOA Store
- The Tactical Edge Other publications (please list) _____ NTOA Resource Library NTOA Email
- NTOA Web site Other Web sites (please list) _____ Friend Other _____

Police Training Fatalities by Gunshot

Entries with asterisks () indicate entry is new to report.*

*Entries with double asterisks (**) indicate new information added to existing entry.*

March 5, 1913

Spokane Police Department, Washington

Officer Frederick E. Goddard

Officer Goddard was accidentally shot during a training exercise and died. He was the first black member of his agency to die in the line of duty. Officer Goddard had served in law enforcement for five years and was survived by his wife, four children and his brother.

February 12, 1939

Spokane Police Department, Washington

Officer John H. Miller

Officer Miller was accidentally shot and killed while attending an FBI training school in Washington, DC. The incident occurred as a result of practicing “quick draws” with another attendee. The other officer forgot he had reloaded his weapon when Officer Miller requested to run through the exercise one last time before dinner. The shot struck him in the head.

June 24, 1971

Wilmington Police Department, North Carolina

Officer Clarence A. Davis

Officer Davis, age 37, was accidentally shot at the police station by another officer practicing his quick-draw. Officer Davis, who had been with the agency for seven years, was survived by his wife and son.

December 3, 1971

Naples Police Department, Florida

Officer Louie C. Collins

Officer Louie Collins, age 29, died while attending a “proowler and disturbance calls” training course at the South West Florida Police Academy. A .38-calibre revolver had been left unattended on a desk by an officer from another agency. When the attendees returned from the break, the desk was accidentally bumped and the weapon fell to the floor. The hammer struck the floor, discharging the weapon and a bullet struck Officer Collins in the abdomen. Officer Louie Collins, who had previously served in the Navy, had been with the agency for just over one year. He was survived by his parents, two brothers and a sister.

June 18, 1973

Camden Police Department, Arkansas

Patrolman Grady Van Wilson

Patrolman Wilson was accidentally shot while attending a training course at the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy in East Camden. Following a day of training, he and his roommate returned to their dorm room. While practicing their techniques, the roommate pointed his revolver at Patrolman Wilson and thinking it was not loaded pulled the trigger, shooting him in the abdomen. Patrolman Wilson died at the hospital.

April 21, 1977

Oklahoma City Police Department, Oklahoma

Sergeant Terry Glen Lawson

Sergeant Lawson, a 13-year veteran of the agency, was accidentally shot at point blank range with a blank cartridge during a training exercise. He and other veteran officers were training rookies in felony traffic stops. Sergeant Lawson died a short time after being admitted to the hospital.

August 9, 1977

Hickory Police Department, North Carolina

Officer Jerald Wayne Maynor

Officer Maynor was accidentally shot when another officer dropped her weapon during a weapon maintenance class. The other officer was in the process of reloading and securing the weapon when it fell. The round struck Officer Maynor in the heart, killing him instantly.

May 2, 1979

Arkansas Department of Corrections, Arkansas

Correctional Officer Ronald Opie McPherson

Accidentally shot and killed during a SWAT training exercise, Officer McPherson was the first known SWAT team officer to die in the line of duty.

August 17, 1979

Farmington Police Department, New Mexico

Lt. Owen A. Landdeck

Lt. Landdeck was accidentally shot and killed in an academy training exercise as he was playing the role of a deranged husband in a simulated domestic violence event. The scenario called for him to draw his weapon and point it at a cadet who had assumed the role of the officer. The cadet's gun was loaded with live round instead of blanks. Lt. Landdeck had 20 years law enforcement experience and is survived by his wife, daughter and son.

July 5, 1981

Fredericton Police Department, New Brunswick, Canada

Constable Perley S. Calhoun

Constable Calhoun was accidentally shot while participating in a training exercise.

July 18, 1982

Lawrence County Sheriff's Department, Lawrence County, TN

Deputy Sheriff James A. Lovelace

Deputy Sheriff Lovelace was accidentally shot in the chest and fatally wounded during a department training exercise. He and a fellow deputy were practicing a disarming technique when the weapon discharged.

September 16, 1983

Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas

Captain Robert R. Jones

Captain Jones was accidentally shot and killed by a fellow officer who was demonstrating weapon-handling technique. The officer drew his fully-loaded Magnum .357 which discharged, hitting Captain Jones in the chest. Captain Jones had 34 years of law enforcement experience.

November 9, 1983

Apache Junction, Arizona

Officer Russell Lowell Duncan

Officer Duncan was accidentally shot and killed during a felony stop and arrest training exercise. Officer Duncan was posing as the suspect. The 'arresting' officer was using his duty weapon which had not been properly cleared.

August 24, 1984

U.S. Capitol Police, Washington, D.C.

Sergeant Christopher S. Eney

Sergeant Eney was accidentally shot and killed by another SWAT officer during a training exercise that was being conducted at a vacant building on Capitol Hill. After the actual training event was completed, the two chose to run through the exercise one additional time. A live round hit Sergeant Eney in the lower back and he died in the hospital approximately one hour later. He was survived by his wife and two young daughters.

August 16, 1985

Aurora Police Department, Colorado

Officer Thomas J. Dietzman, Jr.

Officer Dietzman was accidentally shot and killed while qualifying for the SWAT team. Officer Dietzman had already taken the physical fitness test and was the first applicant to take the firearms proficiency test. During the scenario, he was accidentally shot in the back of the head with a Mac-10 submachine gun. Officer Dietzman had five years of law enforcement experience.

February 23, 1986

West Jordan Police Department, Utah

Officer Thomas M. Rees

Officer Rees was accidentally shot and killed with his own service weapon during training exercises. While participating in an exercise that demonstrated techniques for preventing suspects from taking officers' weapons, Officer Rees was shot in the chest when his weapon discharged. He died at a hospital approximately two hours later.

July 9, 1986

Clayton County Sheriff's Department, Georgia

Lieutenant Robert Gerald Bridges

During a SWAT training exercise, Lieutenant Bridges was accidentally shot and killed by a fellow officer with a .38 caliber revolver. Live ammunition had been unintentionally mixed into the training rounds.

December 10, 1987

Fort Wayne Police Department, Indiana

Officer Omega Graham

Officer Graham, age 25, was accidentally shot and killed while participating in training exercises at the police academy. Officer Graham and several other officers were role-playing in a landlord-tenant dispute when he was shot in the chest with a .38 caliber handgun that was supposed to have been emptied prior to the training. Officer Graham leaves a daughter, mother, three sisters and four brothers.

December 15, 1987

Florida Department of Corrections

Correctional Officer Hoyt L. Ergle

On July 19, 1958 Officer Ergle was accidently shot while on the Avon Park Correctional Institution's firing range. The bullet struck him in the neck and severed his spinal cord, leaving him a paraplegic for life. He died 29 years later as a result of the wound. He was survived by his wife, four children and eight grandchildren.

April 11, 1990

Cedar Hill Police Department, Texas

Patrolman Grady Morris Lamb

Officer Lamb, age 24, was accidentally shot in the chest by a fellow officer during a tactical training exercise. He was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital but died a short time later. Officer Lamb, who had been with the agency for two years, had a wife and one son.

August 12, 1991

United States Air Force Security Police, Fort Dix, NJ

Security Policeman Sean Elms

Airman Sean Elms was shot with an M-16 rifle on a live firing range during combat training exercises for air base ground defense. Smoke grenades were implemented in the exercise and one member of the fire team unknowingly fell behind the others due to lack of visibility. There was no one monitoring the fire team to make sure the group remained in formation. As a result of the investigation following the fatality, several serious violations of safety procedures were cited and the sergeant found responsible for the negligence was court-martialed.

October 12, 1992

North Charleston Police Department, South Carolina

Officer James Simmons

Officer Simmons, with the agency for only six months, was accidentally shot and killed by a fellow officer at a seminar they were attending in Louisville, Kentucky. He was 29 years old and was survived by his sons.

February 6, 1993

Niagara Regional Police, Ontario, Canada

Constable Jeffrey Paolozzi

An advocate of officer street survival, Constable Paolozzi surprised another officer with a baseball bat at a scheduled training event in an attempt to evaluate the officer's defensive response. The startled officer accidentally shot and killed him. Constable Paolozzi was a member of the Emergency Task Unit.

March 30, 1993

Brookfield Police Department, Wisconsin

Corporal Jeffrey Gusinda

Corporal Gusinda, age 32, was accidentally shot and killed by a rookie officer during handgun training. He was survived by his parents and a sister.

October 20, 1993

Rock Island Police Department, Illinois

Auxiliary Officer Todd Johnson

Auxiliary Officer Johnson, age 24, was accidentally shot during the demonstration of a disarming technique. The officer who disarmed him was unaware Officer Johnson had reloaded his weapon when he thought the training exercises had concluded. The other officer took the weapon from him, pointed it and fired, killing Officer Johnson instantly. He was survived by his parents and a brother.

October 24, 1993 (four days later)

Same department as above

Auxiliary Captain Richard Shurtz

Auxiliary Captain Shurtz accidentally shot himself in the abdomen while showing another officer how Auxiliary Officer Johnson was shot and killed three days earlier. Captain Shurtz had removed the magazine from his weapon but forgot to remove the chambered round. Captain Shurtz died the following day.

December 25, 1993

Orange County Sheriff's Department, California

Deputy Darryn L. Robins

Deputy Robins, age 30, was accidentally shot and killed on Christmas Day by a fellow deputy during an impromptu re-enactment of an earlier traffic stop. Deputy Robins was playing the part of the suspect while the other deputy was posing as the arresting officer. The other deputy, a training officer, had neglected to completely empty his weapon prior to the exercise. Deputy Robins was shot in the face. He was survived by his wife and one year-old daughter.

May 15, 1994

Palo Alto Police Department, California

Reserve Officer Theodore Herman Brassinga

Reserve Officer Brassinga, age 33, was accidentally shot and killed on an Amtrak train during a multi-jurisdictional training session in preparation for the 1994 World Cup Soccer Tournament. The training exercise, held at the Gilroy train station, was based on a scenario of a terrorist hostage-taking event, and Brassinger played the role of a terrorist. He was shot in the side of the abdomen by an officer whose handgun contained at least one live bullet despite safety checks. The existing safety procedures called for two range masters to inspect all weapons prior to starting each session. During the weapons check, one range master's gun was found to contain live rounds, leading to a discussion that diverted the officers' attention from carefully checking the 9mm automatic handgun belonging to the second range master. It was the second range master who fired the fatal shot. Officer Brassinger was survived by his wife and their 14-month old son.

August 26, 1996

Louisiana Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Probation Officer David Glen Seymour

Probation Officer Seymour was accidentally shot and killed during training at the state police academy. The training exercise, a simulation of a high-risk traffic stop, was interrupted by rain and resumed about an hour later. There were 36 officers from various agencies participating in the exercise. One, a state trooper who was an instructor at the state police training facility, fired his .45-caliber semiautomatic handgun and hit Officer Seymour in the upper left chest. Probation Officer Seymour, age 28, died a short time later at the hospital, leaving behind his wife and their 5-year old son.

March 4, 1999

Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska

Trooper Mark Paul Wagner

State Trooper Wagner was shot and killed by a fellow officer during a defensive tactics training exercise at the State Patrol Headquarters in North Platte. A Glock .45- caliber handgun discharged and struck him in the chest. It was later found that the weapon had been reloaded during a break because the other officer was unaware it would be used later. Trooper Wagner, age 37 and an 11 year veteran, was survived by his wife and three daughters.

September 12, 2000

Sarasota County Fire Department, Florida

Firefighter Paramedic Michael Yahraus

On September 11, Firefighter Paramedic Michael Yahraus was attending the Sarasota County Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Academy in preparation for becoming a law enforcement officer and medic with the Sarasota PD SWAT team. Firefighter Paramedic Yahraus was the driver of one of the vehicles used in a simulated high-risk traffic stop exercise. He was standing on the driver's side of his vehicle after the stop had been performed when another officer, playing the suspect, exited his vehicle, turned and fired a single shot at the "arresting" officers. The weapon used was a .38-caliber pistol loaded with blanks. The firing of the blank dislodged a lead plug that was installed in the barrel of the training weapon. The lead plug broke the windshield, ricocheted off the window post and struck the firefighter paramedic in the left eye area. Despite all efforts, he died the following day. An investigation revealed that blank cartridges should not have been used in the training weapon. Gas expelled by the blank when fired and debris such as the wadding which is in the blank can create enough pressure to force the lead plug out of the gun. It was determined that the proper cartridge for use in the training weapon would have been a primer round. Firefighter Paramedic Yahraus, age 32, leaves his wife and three children, ages 6, 2, and 5 months.

September 12, 2000

Clackamas County Sheriff's Department, Oregon

Deputy Sheriff William Douglas Bowman

While training with his fellow SWAT team members at Camp Rilea, Deputy Bowman was accidentally shot in the head and killed. He and ten other officers were practicing entry techniques in a mock building when a live round discharged from a teammate's weapon. It was later determined that prior to the accident, the marksman who fired the shot had been in the SWAT transport van with his teammates reloading their weapons after a lunch break. The marksman was having difficulties loading a magazine into his rifle and grabbed another magazine from a drawer in the van. This drawer however, was always stocked with live ammunition for SWAT callouts. No safety check was done before training resumed. Deputy Sheriff Bowman, age 36, leaves behind two children.

June 7, 2001

Arlington Police Department, Texas

Corporal Joseph Cushman

Corporal Cushman, age 26, was accidentally shot and killed while conducting training exercises for response to active shooter situations at Ousley Junior High School. All the officers were wearing helmets and vests and all bullets used were supposed to be rubber. Corporal Cushman, the department's 1998 Rookie of the Year, and a second instructor were demonstrating a drill to the group of about 15 SWAT trainees when the other instructor's 9mm Glock discharged striking Corporal Cushman in the head with a live round. He was pronounced dead at a Fort Worth hospital about three hours later. It was later disclosed that instructors had been allowed to bring loaded weapons to the exercise.

October 17, 2001

Calgary Police Service, Alberta, Canada

Constable Darren L. Beatty

Constable Beatty was accidentally shot and killed during a training exercise when a live round discharged. The tragedy occurred when another constable returned from the parking lot without unloading his weapon prior to taking part in scenario training in which Beatty was the quarry.

December 27, 2001

East Providence Police Department, Rhode Island

Major Alister C. McGregor

Major McGregor, at the time a captain, was accidentally shot and killed during training exercises for school bus hostage rescues. The 12-man SWAT team was on a break in the training when the incident occurred. The team's long rifle marksman was standing on the roof of a bus 75 feet away. He was looking through the scope of his rifle when the weapon suddenly discharged. The single live round hit the team commander in the head. The rifle, which was not used in the training exercises that day, was brought in during the break and had not been properly cleared for admittance into the training area. Captain McGregor, who was survived by his wife and five children, was promoted posthumously to Major.

January 14, 2004

Prattville Police Department, Alabama

Officer Clinton Earl Walker

Several law enforcement agencies were participating in training exercises which were being held at the old site of the Wetumpka Post Office. Officers had been supplied with mock weapons which were of the same weight and size of their own weapons. One participant, a shift supervisor of Officer Walker, resumed possession of his own service weapon at the end of the training session and forgetting which weapon he was carrying, accidentally shot Officer Walker in the abdomen. Officer Walker, age 26, was survived by his wife.

March 25, 2005

Easton Police Department, Pennsylvania

Officer Jesse Sollman

Officer Sollman was shot and killed at the conclusion of SWAT training exercises as he and two other officers cleaned weapons in a secondary gun cleaning room at police headquarters. One officer's weapon, an H & K 40 caliber semiautomatic pistol, discharged striking Officer Sollman in the back. He died at the scene. Officer Sollman was survived by his wife, daughter and son.

****September 13, 2005**

Kennesaw Police Department, Georgia

Officer Tara Drummond

Officer Drummond, age 23 and a member of the Kennesaw Police Department for only four months, died while attending a training session at the North Central Georgia Law Enforcement Academy. Practical firearms drills were being conducted in a classroom setting prior to the live fire range later in the week. That day, the lead firearms instructor conducted magazine reload drills with the assistance of two co-instructors. The students and co-instructors were uncomfortable with the format the lead instructor presented which required the students to form two separate lines facing each other. After each participant was given three dummy rounds, they were told that as they performed each reload, to aim at a fellow student and pull the trigger. The students later told investigators they were unable to do that and instead aimed at the walls. However, the lead instructor, who participated in the drill with his 9mm Smith & Wesson, aimed his second magazine at Officer Drummond and shot her in the chest. Officer Drummond was transported to Cobb Hospital where she died. It was determined in the investigation the lead instructor violated several academy and POST policies as well as basic firearms safety and also confirmed that he failed to properly check his weapon and that none of the dummy rounds had been checked prior to distribution in the class.

November 22, 2005

Mexia School District Police Department, Texas

Sergeant Scott Neal

Sergeant Neal, age 31, was accidentally shot in the head while he and six other officers participated in a SWAT training exercise. The incident occurred around noon in an abandoned fire department building. All the weapons used in the exercise were thought to have been checked and it was not known how a live round could have remained in the one weapon. Sergeant Neal, who had been on the force for three years, was survived by his wife and four-year-old daughter.

December 6, 2006

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bowling Green, Virginia

Supervisory Special Agent Gregory Rahoi

S.S.A. Gregory Rahoi, age 38, was shot in a live-fire training exercise conducted at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia. At the time of the accident, he was wearing both ballistic body armor and a helmet. He was flown to Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg, Virginia but the wound proved fatal. S.S.A. Rahoi had been with the agency for nine years and had been a member of the Hostage Rescue Team for the past six years. S.S.A. Rahoi was honored posthumously with two awards, the FBI Medal of Valor for his recent service in Iraq with the Hostage Rescue Team, and the FBI Memorial Star Medal. The medals were presented to his parents and fiancée at his memorial service.

September 29, 2007

Gary Police Department, Indiana

Auxiliary Officer Kevin Weaver

Officer Weaver, age 49, was training with several other Gary reserve police officers when he was accidentally shot. Officer Weaver, who was already qualified, was helping the other officers train at an indoor facility for their semi-annual firearms qualifications. One of the officers was in the process of turning and was attempting to clear his Glock when Officer Weaver accidentally bumped into him, causing the weapon to discharge. The .45-caliber round struck Officer Weaver in the arm and then continued into his chest. He died a short time later at St. Margaret Mercy Hospital in Hammond. Officer Weaver had been a reservist since 1990, volunteering along with Gary's other 91 reservists. He was survived by his wife, four children and several grandchildren.

December 19, 2007

Port of Corpus Christi Police Department, Texas

Officer James Saavedra

Officer Saavedra, age 40, and a fellow Port Police officer were sighting in a rifle at the port's outdoor firing range when he was accidentally shot in the chest. Although Officer Saavedra was wearing a bulletproof vest, he was standing only two feet away when the round from the other officer's personal rifle discharged. Officer Saavedra died about an hour later at Spohn Memorial Hospital while undergoing surgery. Both officers, who were on duty at the time of the accident, were qualified range masters and experienced firearms instructors. Officer Saavedra, who had more than 20 years of law enforcement experience, had been with the Port Police for 4 years. He was survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

***April 6, 2009**

Municipal Police of San Juan, Puerto Rico

Sergeant Carlos Lozada Vergara

On April 1, 2009, Sergeant Lozada Vergara played the role of an arrested non-Spanish speaking suspect in an agency training exercise conducted without any certified instructors. The initial officer in charge of the training bypassed the normal procedure to clear all attendees' weapons in addition to foregoing the use of bulletproof vests. The training was intended to be conducted without firearms. As Sergeant Lozada Vergara was subdued motionless and face down on the ground, the agency's training supervisor, a lieutenant who was also not a certified instructor, entered without having his weapon cleared and declared the training was not being done properly. He then took charge of the training session, assumed the position of the officer holding the passive "suspect" down, pulled out his weapon and shot the sergeant point-blank in the back. The bullet passed completely through the sergeant's chest. Sergeant Lozada Vergara died in the hospital five days later, leaving his wife and two young sons.

September 15, 2010

St. Joseph Police Department, Missouri

Officer Dan De Kraai

Officer De Kraai, who had served with the agency for five years, died as the result of a tragic error during training exercises. Upon returning from a break during training, Officer De Kraai told a fellow officer he wished to experience what it felt like to be shot with Simunitions and asked the other officer to assist. Both officers forgot they had switched back to their service weapons. Officer De Kraai was shot in the back with a live round and he died at Heartland Hospital. Officer De Kraai, age 35, was survived by his wife and daughter.

Police Training Fatalities

Heart Attacks and Other Medical-Related Causes

Entries with asterisks () indicate entry is new to report.*

*Entries with double asterisks (**) indicate new information added to existing entry.*

October 20, 1973

Ventura County Sheriff's Office, California

Lieutenant Harvey "Hank" Varat

On October 16, 1973, Lieutenant Varat was leading a search and rescue training exercise with a team of deputies in the Santa Susanna Mountains. During the training which involved climbing and rappelling, he was bitten by a tick infected with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The disease went undetected and Lieutenant Varat, age 35, died four days later. A 14-year veteran of the agency, he was closely involved with development of the S.W.A.T., Deep-Sea Diving, and Search and Rescue teams. He was survived by his wife and son.

April 17, 1980

Washington County Sheriff's Office, Oregon

Deputy Sheriff Marc Bump

While attending training exercises at the police academy, Deputy Bump died from a brain aneurysm. He was survived by his wife and children.

May 23, 1982

La Grande Police Department, Oregon

Corporal Gary L. Byassee

Corporal Byassee died two months after receiving a leg injury in a training class in California. After returning home, blood clots formed near the site of the injury and moved to his lungs. Despite receiving medical treatment, he died. Corporal Byassee, age 30, had been with his agency for six years and left behind his wife and two daughters.

November 3, 1982

Piqua Police Department, Ohio

Detective Robert C. Taylor

On November 2, 1982, Detective Taylor was participating in department training exercises. The exercise was strenuous, involving running and shooting multiple firearms while being timed. Within a minute of completing the course, Detective Taylor had a heart attack. His fellow officers performed CPR but Detective Taylor died a few hours later. Detective Taylor had been with the agency for 26 years and was survived by his wife and three children.

February 28, 1984

New Iberia Police Department, Louisiana

Officer Warren Narcisse, Jr.

Officer Narcisse was participating in a building and search class at the police academy. Just as the exercise was near completion, he came in contact with an electrical line and died as a result. Officer Narcisse had been with the agency for one month.

April 3, 1985

Miami Beach Police Department

Officer Robert E. Fitzpatrick

Officer Fitzpatrick died when a blood clot moved from his knee to his heart. The knee injury occurred during training exercises. He was survived by his wife and a son.

July 15, 1986

Johnson County Sheriff's Department, Tennessee

Investigator John Ralph Cunningham

Investigator Cunningham, age 53 and with the agency for one year, had a heart attack while attending the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy. He had participated in a required physical training exercise and was stricken in the locker room shortly after. He was survived by his wife and four children.

February 13, 1987

Spokane Police Department, Washington

Sergeant Robbin B. Best

Sergeant Best was training with the SWAT team at Spokane Community College when he suffered a heart attack. He was transported to a local hospital where he died shortly after.

February 5, 1988

North Carolina Highway Patrol

Cadet W. E. Bayless III

Cadet Bayless, age 23, died from a heart attack while participating in a required boxing drill at the Highway Patrol Training Center in Raleigh. Cadet Bayless had been with the Highway Patrol for six months and would have graduated from the Training Center the following week. He was survived by his son.

August 11, 1988

United States Department of the Interior, United States Park Police

Sergeant Ricardo M. Preston

Sergeant Preston, age 37, succumbed to a heart attack while participating in SWAT training exercises in Washington, DC. Sergeant Preston had been with the Park Police for 14 years. In 2002, a portion of the Anacostia Operations Facility was dedicated in memory of his service.

***August 11, 1988**

United States Department of Justice, United States Marshal Service, Omaha, Nebraska

Deputy Marshal Emil Richard Wehrli

Deputy Marshal Wehrli, age 46, was participating in the Marshal Service's mandatory semi-annual fitness test when he suffered a fatal heart attack. After finishing a 1.5 mile run at the Peter Kiewit Middle School, he felt ill and collapsed during a cool down lap. Despite quick response at the scene with CPR, Deputy Marshal Wehrli could not be revived. He was pronounced dead shortly after at a nearby hospital. Deputy Marshal Wehrli had served with the Marshal Service almost 18 years and was survived by two children.

September 15, 1988

Florida Department of Corrections, Florida

Lieutenant Charles Andrew Cooper

Lieutenant Cooper, assigned to the Cross City Correctional Institution, had a heart attack while participating in first responder training exercises at the Forehand Training Center.

November 2, 1988

Pittsfield Police Department, Massachusetts

Officer Timothy Shepard

On September 19, 1988, Officer Shepard, age 25, collapsed from heat stroke and dehydration while in training at the police academy. In the following days, 15 other cadets were hospitalized along with him at the Bay State Medical Center for exhaustion and dehydration as an investigation began to determine if excessively harsh training practices was the cause. Several cadets underwent kidney dialysis treatment. Participants reported they were forced to undergo long hours of running and other strenuous exercises while given insufficient amounts of water. Officer Shepard was later transported to Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh for a liver transplant on September 26 but died on November 2nd from complications. Officer Shepard, who had been with the agency for five months, was survived by his wife and unborn child. The executive director of the training facility later resigned.

June 27, 1989

Rossville Police Department, Tennessee

Patrolman Orville Franklin Evans

Patrolman Evans, age 50, collapsed from a heart attack while taking a required training course at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Center. He was stricken during a physical stress test. Patrolman Evans had been with the agency for 6 years and was survived by his wife and one child.

September 17, 1989

Derry Police Department, New Hampshire

Sergeant Thomas Christopher Kelly

Sergeant Kelly, age 35, died in his sleep from a duty-related illness. Sergeant Kelly was a 10-year veteran with the agency and served as the training sergeant. He suffered acute respiratory failure after being exposed to lead and associated gases daily for two straight weeks on the firing range. Sergeant Kelly was survived by his pregnant wife and 21-month old son.

April 10, 1992

Livonia Police Department, Michigan

Officer James Thomas Kelley

Officer Kelley died from a heart attack while training with the agency's SWAT team.

June 12, 1992

Indian River County Sheriff's Department

Corrections Officer Gerald Paulo

Corrections Officer Paulo, age 41, was participating in a one-on-one self defense drill when he had a fatal heart attack.

May 24, 1993

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Conservation Warden Patrick Douglas Warner

Warden Warner had just completed training drills for self defense during arrests when he was stricken by a cerebral hemorrhage and died.

December 7, 1993

Gloucester County Sheriff's Office, Virginia

Lieutenant Terry Lee Singleton

Lieutenant Singleton, age 44, died from massive heart failure during training exercises with the Special Operations Unit. He was Team Leader for the unit and had been with the agency eight years. Lt. Singleton was survived by his wife, two daughters and one step-daughter.

May 23, 1995

Brea Police Department, California

Detective Danny Valenzuela

Detective Valenzuela, age 39, suffered a heart attack during routine bicycle training exercises with officers from several local law enforcement agencies. He collapsed en route from the Westminster to the Fountain Valley police firing range. CPR was administered and he was transported to the Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. He was a 14-year veteran with the agency. Detective Valenzuela was survived by his wife and four children.

August 24, 1997

Ravalli County Sheriff's Department, Montana

Deputy Sheriff William Wolfe

Deputy Wolfe, age 50, suffered a heart attack while participating in a required training run at the academy.

December 1, 1998

Norman Police Department, Oklahoma

Sergeant Dale E. DeBerry

Sergeant DeBerry, age 41, collapsed from a heart attack during physical fitness training with his department. He was stricken while going through the obstacle course. Despite on-scene CPR, Sergeant DeBerry, a 14-year veteran of the agency, was pronounced dead at a local hospital. He is survived by his wife and two children.

January 29, 1999

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, SCI Greensburg

Correctional Officer Matthew Goodwin

Correctional Officer Goodwin, age 37, suffered a massive heart attack during C.E.R.T. team physical training.

February 11, 1999

Porter County Sheriff's Department, Indiana

Officer Timothy L. Hecht

Officer Hecht, age 31, suffered a massive heart attack while on a training exercise for the newly formed SWAT team. He was participating in a mile-long run at the time of his collapse. Fellow officers began CPR within seconds but he died at Porter Memorial Hospital without ever regaining consciousness. Officer Hecht had been with the agency for eight years and was survived by his fiancée.

April 5, 1999

U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General, Texas

Special Agent Abdon Cabello

Special Agent Cabello was participating in a required training exercise when he had a heart attack and died. He collapsed during a 1.5 mile run and was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital. Special Agent Cabello was survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

July 27, 1999

Adams County Sheriff's Department, Colorado

Deputy Sheriff Robert Bishop Pollock

Deputy Pollock, age 57, died after being overcome by heat during training exercises. He and five other deputies were learning how to conduct building searches when Deputy Pollock collapsed, stopped breathing and had no pulse. Although CPR was administered immediately by the other deputies and he was flown to a local hospital, he was pronounced dead upon arrival. At the time, most of the nation had been experiencing a severe heat wave for several weeks. Deputy Sheriff Pollock had been with the agency for three years.

September 30, 1999

Brick Township Police Department, New Jersey

Officer John J. Lesemann

Officer Lesemann, age 21, died after completing a training run on his sixth day of training at the New Jersey State Police Academy. It was later discovered Officer Lesemann's death was the result of taking ephedra, a then-popular natural supplement, which caused his fatal cardiac arrhythmia. His parents filed a lawsuit against the Canadian company that made the product and were awarded \$2.5 million dollars. Ephedra has been linked to at least 155 deaths, including a major league baseball pitcher and continues to be very controversial. The FDA banned its use on December 31, 2003, but the ban was lifted by a federal court judge soon after. On August 17, 2006, the FDA reinstated the ban.

October 9, 1999

Bent County Sheriff's Department, Colorado

Undersheriff Gary Caponera

Undersheriff Caponera was conducting training when he had a massive heart attack. He was pronounced dead at the hospital. He was survived by his wife and two children.

May 13, 2000

Florida Department of Corrections

Officer Michael J. McCarthy

Officer McCarthy was assigned to the Union Correctional Institution in Raiford and was attending basic recruit training when he died of a heart attack.

June 9, 2001

Forest Park Police Department, Ohio

Officer Charles Leon McDonald

On June 8th, having just passed the test to qualify for the Hamilton County SWAT team, Officer McDonald collapsed from chest-pains and over-exertion. Within hours, his kidneys failed and he died the next day. Officer McDonald, age 35, had been with his agency for six years. He was survived by his son and fiancée.

October 1, 2001

Alabama Department of Corrections, Selma, Alabama

Correctional Officer Teresia Wheeler

Officer Wheeler, who had been hired to work at the Bullock Correctional Facility just two months previously, had a heart attack during a mandatory 1.5 mile training run at the Alabama Corrections Academy in Selma. She was 21 years old and was following her mother's footsteps in making a career as a corrections officer.

October 2, 2001

Chicago Police Department, Illinois

Sergeant Hector A. Silva

Sergeant Silva, age 36, died after developing a blood clot in his brain during a training exercise. He had just completed strenuous physical activities with the Special Operations gas team training when he began to feel dizzy. Sergeant Silva was transported to the hospital where he underwent emergency surgery. He died the following day. Sergeant Silva had been with the agency 11 years and is survived by his wife and two children.

October 3, 2001

Gibson County Sheriff's Department, Illinois

Deputy Sheriff Jerry Alan (Jed) Fisher

Deputy Sheriff Fisher was attending a week-long training exercise at the Evansville Fraternal Order of Police Training Grounds with his recently assigned canine partner. On the third morning of training, after completing a series of tracking exercises, Deputy Fisher felt ill but continued working with the K-9 performing article searches. While doing those exercises, Deputy Fisher collapsed. Officers at the scene performed CPR but despite all efforts, Deputy Fisher was pronounced dead a short time later at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville. He had served with the department for a total of 7 years and was survived by his wife, two daughters and two granddaughters.

December 5, 2002

Pima County Sheriff's Department, Arizona

Corrections Sergeant Shannon Russell

Corrections Sgt. Russell, age 43, suffered a heart attack while participating in training exercises with the Corrections Bureau Tactical Assistance Group. He had just completed the new obstacle course at the Arizona H.I.D.T.A. Regional Training Center. Other officers on the scene began CPR immediately but he was pronounced dead at Kino Hospital. Sergeant Russell had been a corrections officer for 12 years and was promoted to sergeant posthumously.

July 16, 2003

Portland Air Base Police Department, Oregon

Resource Protection Officer Steven Vance Caddy

Officer Caddy, age 49, collapsed during a scenario training exercise with the Oregon Air National Guard 142nd Security Forces Squadron. He had just handcuffed an “intruder” and was about to search him when he was stricken with a heart attack. Despite all efforts to revive him, Officer Caddy was pronounced dead at Woodland Park Hospital. Officer Caddy had been in law enforcement for 27 years, serving in several agencies. He had been with the Portland Air Base Police for 6 months. Officer Caddy had three children.

November 8, 2003

U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, I.C.E. Office of Detention and Removal Operations

Enforcement Agent Lorenzo Roberto Gomez

On November 7, 2003, Agent Lorenzo Gomez, age 38, was conducting training exercises with his agency’s Special Response Team when he experienced dizziness, headache and nausea. Agent Gomez was transported by ambulance to the emergency room of a nearby hospital where he was admitted and treated for dehydration. Soon after, Agent Gomez was transferred to a general ward. He was found unresponsive the next morning and was pronounced dead shortly after. Agent Gomez, an Army veteran, was survived by his wife and five children.

March 10, 2004

Harris County Sheriff’s Office, Texas

Jailer Thomas Flores Douglas

Jailer Douglas collapsed after running about a quarter of a mile during training exercises. He was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. Jailer Douglas was 42 and had served with the agency for five years. He was survived by his wife and two children.

May 4, 2004

Escambia County Sheriff’s Office, Florida

Lieutenant George Hura, Jr.

Lieutenant Hura, age 56, had a heart attack during critical incident training. An exercise using scenarios and simunitions had just completed when Lieutenant Hura fell ill. He was pronounced dead at the hospital. A 27-year veteran of the agency, Lieutenant Hura was survived by his wife and five children.

July 9, 2004

Georgia Department of Corrections

Probation Officer Eugene T. Groover, Jr.

Officer Groover, age 44, had a fatal heart attack during a defensive tactics training exercise held in Reidsville. Officer Groover worked at Probation Office in Hinesville and had been with the Department of Corrections for 22 years. He was survived by his wife, who is also a probation officer, three sons and a daughter.

January 10, 2005

York County Sheriff's Office, Pennsylvania

Deputy Sheriff Edward "Skip" Schroeder, Jr.

Deputy Schroeder, age 47, was attending the Deputy Sheriff's Training Academy in State College and was in the final lap of a mandatory twelve-lap training run when he collapsed. He received immediate medical attention at the scene but despite all efforts, he could not be revived. He was buried on January 14, 2005 at Mount Zion Cemetery in York. Deputy Schroeder, a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, had been with the York County Sheriff's Office for 16 months. He was survived by his wife and mother.

August 11, 2005

Washington, D.C. Police Department

Officer James McBride

Officer McBride, age 25, was taking part in a five-day bicycle training course when he became ill on the second day of the course. During a 12-mile training ride, Officer McBride drank as much as three gallons of water, resulting in sodium deficiency. Officer McBride, a two-year veteran with his agency, died the following day.

January 23, 2006

Key West Police Department, Florida

Detective John Michael Piskator

Detective Piskator, promoted just the week before, collapsed while jogging with the Special Response Team. Despite CPR efforts at the scene, he died from the heart attack. A former Army Airborne Ranger and intelligence officer, he won the Leadership Award before graduating from the local police academy in 2004. Detective Piskator was a popular bicycle officer on the Key West Police Department and well-known as a local athlete. In 2005, he placed second overall in an area kayaking-running-biking triathlon. Detective Piskator was 41 years old and was survived by his 12 year-old son.

February 24, 2006

Pasadena Police Department, California

Officer Kyle Ballard

Officer Ballard collapsed in the morning at the Rose Bowl after completing two laps the stadium with other officers during a training session for an annual law enforcement relay race. At only 30 years old, he had participated in the race several times. Fellow officers and paramedics tried their best to revive him but he passed away from the heart attack at the hospital approximately one hour later. Officer Ballard had worked for eight years in the agency, both in patrol as well as special operations. He was survived by his wife and three young sons, ages 3, 2 and 6 months.

April 7, 2006

Saraland Police Department, Alabama

Corporal Anthony Maurice Andrews

On March 31st, Corporal Andrews, a member of the SWAT team and bicycle unit collapsed during routine fitness exercises. He was jogging at the time and although a fellow officer and paramedics performed CPR, Corporal Andrews never regained consciousness and died in the hospital one week later on April 7th. Corporal Andrews had also served in the Army National Guard and spent two years in Iraq where he survived a roadside bomb attack in 2004. Corporal Andrews had a wife and three children.

May 1, 2006

San Francisco Police Department, California

Sergeant Darryl Tsujimoto

Sergeant Tsujimoto, age 41, had just run approximately a half-mile while participating in K-9 training exercises when he collapsed from a heart attack and was pronounced dead shortly after at the hospital. Sergeant Tsujimoto was well-known for his expertise in training K-9's and many agencies sent officers to train with him. A 15-year veteran of the agency, he lead their award-winning Tactical Company Canine Unit and also trained and donated many K-9's over the years. Upon his death, the two K-9's Sergeant Tsujimoto owned and handled were retired and returned to his fiancée.

June 16, 2006

Wilmington Police Department, North Carolina

Officer Christopher Fitzgerald Williams

Early in 2003, Officer Christopher Williams suffered a severe back injury while participating in a training exercise reported to be a form of defensive tactics. Officer Williams experienced chronic pain thereafter and as a result of the second surgical procedure to alleviate the pain, Officer Williams developed a complication that took his life. Officer Williams had been with the Wilmington Police Department for seven years and was survived by his wife and mother.

November 7, 2006

Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office, Virginia

Deputy Sheriff William Tiedeman

Deputy Sheriff Tiedeman, age 54, had a heart attack and collapsed during defensive tactics training at the Virginia Beach Law Enforcement Training Center and was pronounced dead at the hospital despite intensive life-saving efforts by a fellow deputy. A 12-year veteran of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office, Deputy Sheriff Tiedeman also had a 23-year career in the Navy where he had been a helicopter mechanic and a search-and-rescue swimmer. He was also a current member of the Kempsville Rescue Squad and taught CPR and first aid at a nearby community college. He is survived by his wife, son (also a deputy with the same agency) and his 3-year old grandson.

November 10, 2006

Colorado State Patrol, Colorado

Cadet Timothy Pudder

Only four weeks from completing the rigorous 22-week course, Cadet Pudder, age 40, collapsed during survival training at Camp George West. The former prison guard was playing the role of a trooper being attacked and was wearing a suit with heavy padding. Upon completing the first phase of the exercise, attending paramedics became aware he was overly exhausted and while they were monitoring his vital signs, he went into full cardiac arrest and was pronounced dead shortly after at Lutheran Hospital in Denver. All applicants are required to have extensive medical evaluations and pass a physical exam prior to being accepted. Cadet Pudder is survived by his wife and four children, ages 18, 16, 5 and 3.

September 18, 2007

U.S. Department of Justice, United States Marshall Service, Glynco, Georgia

Deputy U.S. Marshal Bucky Eugene Burke

Deputy U.S. Marshal Burke, age 36, suffered a heart attack during Criminal Investigator training at the U.S. Marshal Service Training Academy. He had just completed an arrest technique scenario and was participating in a class run when he collapsed. Classmates and medical personnel managed to revive him through CPR efforts and Deputy U.S. Marshal Burke was then transported to the Southeast Regional Medical Center in Brunswick where his condition deteriorated and a short while later, he passed away. Deputy U.S. Marshal Burke served in the Army and on the police force of the Department of Veteran Affairs, as well as Chief of the Loyall, Kentucky Police Department. He had been with the U.S. Marshal Service for 4 years. He was survived by his 11-year old son, his mother and stepfather.

September 23, 2007

Vigo County Sheriff's Department, Indiana

Deputy Sheriff Enrico Aquino Garcia, Jr.

Deputy Garcia, age 44, was conducting a tactical training exercise with Task Force 7, a multi-jurisdictional team of first responders, when he was stricken by a heart attack. He was wearing full body armor and had become overheated when he collapsed at the scene. Although he received immediate medical attention and was rushed to the hospital, he did not survive. Deputy Garcia had been with the Vigo County Sheriff's Office for five years but had been involved in public safety for twenty years. Deputy Garcia was survived by his wife, three sons, his parents and nine siblings.

January 17, 2008

Ventura County Police and Sheriff's Reserve Officer Academy, Camarillo, California

Reserve Officer Trainee Gregory Chastang

Gregory Chastang, age 43, had attended approximately one week of the academy's five month program when he collapsed during a training run. Despite attempts to revive him on-scene, he was pronounced dead shortly after being rushed to St John's Regional Medical Center in Oxnard. An autopsy revealed undiagnosed heart disease. Reserve Officer Trainee Chastang, who worked for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, was active all his life as a runner and coached a youth running club. He also enjoyed bike riding and bowling. Unlike cadets attending the regular law enforcement academy, reserve cadets are not required to undergo a medical examination prior to entering the academy. Reserve Officer Trainee Chastang was survived by his mother.

August 26, 2008

Columbus Division of Police, Ohio

Officer Timothy A. Haley

Officer Haley, age 42, was participating in a rigorous SWAT training exercise when he experienced a sudden, severe headache and soon fell unconscious. Officer Haley was rushed to the hospital where it was determined he had suffered a brain hemorrhage. Officer Haley was kept on life support five days to enable his organs to be donated. A 21-year veteran of the agency, Officer Haley was active in his community as a soccer coach and also with the Boy Scouts. He was survived by his wife, three sons and his mother.

***October 10, 2008**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Law Enforcement Division

Texas Game Warden George Whatley

Texas Game Warden Whatley, age 45, was participating along with a group of wardens at the Fort Stockton High School in a mandatory fitness evaluation when he became ill. They had performed in various activities including push-ups, sit-ups, bench presses, an agility test and a sprint when he advised others he was not feeling well. He sat down in the shade to rest but was found slumped over a short while later. Despite being tended by a paramedic on-scene, he succumbed to the heart attack at a hospital an hour later. Game Warden Whatley was stationed in Van Horn and had served with the agency for just one year. He was survived by his wife and two sons.

March 10, 2009

Goodhue County Sheriff's Department, Minnesota

Jailer Thomas Carroll

While attending CPR training with other jailers, Jailer Thomas Carroll was stricken with a heart attack. Despite all the necessary equipment being right at hand and the valiant efforts by staff members and paramedics, Jailer Carroll, age 51, was pronounced dead at Fairview Red Wing Medical Center. Jailer Carroll, a former Navy SEAL, was survived by his wife.

May 1, 2009

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol, New Mexico

Border Patrol Agent Intern Nathaniel A. Afolayan

Border Patrol Agent Intern Nathaniel Afolayan collapsed shortly after completing a 1-1/2 mile run at the Border Patrol Academy in Artesia, New Mexico. BPA Intern Afolayan had been sworn in as an agent in February and assigned to a station in San Diego and was participating in the ten-week training program at the academy. The run was part of the final exam. BPA Intern Afolayan was transported to the Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas where he died the following day. The cause of death was attributed to heat-related illness. Border Patrol Agent Intern Afolayan, age 29, was survived by his wife, two daughters, parents and three siblings.

August 20, 2009

Georgia Department of Corrections

Correctional Officer Jack Wesley Cannon

Correctional Officer Jack Cannon, age 39, was participating in a training exercise with the other members of the Valdosta State Prison's Emergency Response Team when he suffered a heart attack. He was stricken at almost noon while running on the prison's track. Correctional Officer Cannon was transported to nearby South Georgia Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. Correctional Officer Cannon had served with the Georgia Department of Corrections for four years and was survived by his wife and three children.

October 7, 2009

Victoria County Sheriff's Office, Texas

Sergeant Timothy Olsovsky

Sergeant Timothy Olsovsky suffered a heart attack during night firearms training at his agency's range. During his second relay, Sergeant Olsovsky told other deputies he was not feeling well and went to his truck to rest. He returned shortly, stating he was feeling better but a little while later became unresponsive. Sergeant Olsovsky was treated by paramedics and transported to Citizens Medical Center in Victoria but could not be resuscitated. Sergeant Olsovsky, age 51, had been with the agency since 1996. Prior to that, he had served with the Hallettsville Police Department for eleven years. He was survived by his wife and daughter.

October 16, 2009

Walton County Sheriff's Office, Georgia

Detention Officer Mike Adcock

Detention Officer Mike Adcock was participating in a defensive tactic training exercise at DeKalb County Technical College Law Enforcement Academy when he collapsed from a heart attack. As part of the scenario, Detention Officer Adcock was trying to subdue a suspect resisting arrest when he was stricken. Despite CPR being administered by instructors and quick response by paramedics, he could not be revived. Detention Officer Adcock, age 54, had been with the agency for one year and was survived by his wife, a daughter and two grandchildren.

October 23, 2009

Harris County Sheriff's Department, Texas

Detention Officer Dionicio Camacho

On October 21st, Detention Officer Dionicio Camacho, age 51, was in week 3 of a month-long state-certified training program when stricken with a heart attack while participating in physical scenarios. Detention Officer Camacho had just completed a 5 minute run and was in a defensive training exercise with an instructor when he experienced dizziness and collapsed. Academy employees used a defibrillator and performed CPR until paramedics arrived and transported the unconscious officer to a nearby hospital in Humble. He died two days later after being removed from life support. Detention Officer Camacho had been with the agency 4 months and was survived by his wife and son.

May 11, 2010

U.S. Department of Defense – Marine Corps Base Hawaii Police Department

Officer Tauveve Vivao

Officer Vivao, age 42, collapsed on one of the base's tracks, having suffered a heart attack while running during a training exercise. He was transported to Castle Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Officer Vivao served over 20 years in the U.S. Army and was a member of the Hawaii Army National Guard. Officer Vivao had served as a civilian officer at the base for two years when stricken. He was survived by his wife and eight children.

July 28, 2010

North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles License and Theft Bureau, Edneyville

Inspector Timothy Charles Barnes

On the final day of a nine-week DMV inspector training course, Inspector Timothy Charles Barnes, age 38, collapsed while participating in a strength and endurance exercise at the North Carolina Justice Academy in Edneyville. He was transported to Mission Hospital in Asheville where he was conscious and talking prior to experiencing a rapid deterioration in his condition. Inspector Barnes died the following day. The medical examiner listed the cause of death as heat stroke, leading to kidney failure and cardiac arrest. Inspector Barnes previously served with the Nash County Sheriff's Office for ten years and was survived by his fiancée and two children.

September 8, 2010

U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, Otay Mesa Port of Entry

Officer John Richard Zykas

Officer John Richard Zykas, age 62, suffered a heart attack on September 2nd while participating in a training exercise which included baton training. He was transported to a local hospital where after undergoing major surgery he was unable to recover. Officer Zykas was removed from life support and he passed away on September 8th. He had served with the Office of Field Operations for fifteen years and was survived by his wife and two sons.

November 3, 2010

California Highway Patrol Academy, West Sacramento

Cadet Randy Atchison

Cadet Randy Atchison, age 24, was in his first week of a 27-week program when he collapsed during a fitness session on October 29th. The session included a half hour of floor exercises, 20 minutes of dynamic stretching with a short break before the final segment, a 1.8-mile run. Cadet Atchison completed the entire session but felt unwell enough to be transported to the hospital. Initially, the cadet's condition did not appear overly serious and he was even out of bed for awhile before his condition deteriorated rapidly. He was transferred to another hospital the following day however on November 3rd Cadet Atchison died. He had been diagnosed with rhabdomyolysis and severe dehydration. Cadet Atchison was survived by his fiancé and 1-month old daughter.

November 16, 2010

Maine Department of Corrections, Windham

Senior Corrections Officer John H. Paskewicz

Senior Corrections Officer John "Packy" Paskewicz, age 58, was participating in a training exercise at the Maine Correctional Center in Windham when he suffered a heart attack. He had just completed a scenario which involved defensive training against edged weapon attacks. As he stood talking with other officers, including his son, Senior Corrections Officer Paskewicz suddenly collapsed. The officers performed CPR until the paramedics arrived. He was then transported to Maine Medical Center in Portland where he died. Senior Corrections Officer Paskewicz had served with the Maine Department of Corrections for 20 years and was survived by his fiancé and three children.

Police Training Fatalities Involving Transportation Airplane/Train/Motor Vehicle/Bicycle

May 15, 1917

Detroit Police Department, Michigan

Lieutenant Samuel C. Marquardt

Lieutenant Marquardt, age 32, was struck and killed by a train while conducting a training exercise for other officers.

September 5, 1924

Augusta Police Department, Georgia

Sergeant Edward Hezekiah Quarles

Sergeant Quarles died of injuries from a motorcycle accident during a training exercise at the Augusta Fair Grounds.

September 29, 1926

Charlotte Police Department, North Carolina

Chief of Detectives Joseph Eckels Orr

On September 28, 1926, seven members of the Charlotte Police Department were responding to a mock riot as part of a state-wide training exercise. While en route to High Point, their vehicle was involved in an accident in China Grove which claimed the lives of Chief of Detectives Joseph Eckels Orr and Detective John North Byers. Chief Orr died the following day and Detective Byers passed away two days after the crash. Chief Orr, a 15 year veteran of the agency in addition to a total of 7 years serving in other agencies was survived by his wife and six children.

September 30, 1926

Charlotte Police Department, North Carolina

Detective John North Byers

On September 28, 1926, seven members of the Charlotte Police Department were responding to a mock riot as part of a state-wide training exercise. While en route to High Point, their vehicle was involved in an accident in China Grove which claimed the lives of Detective John North Byers and Chief of Detectives Joseph Eckels Orr. Chief Orr died the following day and Detective Byers passed away two days after the crash. Detective Byers, age 32, had been with the agency for two and a half years and was survived by his wife and five children.

November 10, 1951

Milwaukee Police Department, Wisconsin

Officer Vernon V. White

Officer Vernon White, who had been with the agency for ten years, died in a motorcycle accident while participating in a civil defense drill. Officer Vernon's motorcycle was positioned as the second of three. As the three motorcycles entered the intersection of East State Street and North Edison with their red lights and sirens activated, Officer White was forced to swerve to avoid colliding with a vehicle. In doing so, Officer White, age 38, was thrown off his motorcycle and run over by a truck.

September 1, 1967

Seattle Police Department, Washington

Officer David P. Richards

Officer Richards died in the line of duty on the last day of his motorcycle training. He was traveling on I-5 along with other motorcycle officers when his motorcycle left the lane and hit a guardrail. A witness to the tragedy saw the rear tire of the motorcycle wobbling just before the accident occurred. Officer Richards died at the scene. He had been with the agency for less than one year and was survived by his wife and two daughters.

January 10, 1969

Kansas City Police Department, Missouri

Officer James W. Glenn

Officer Glenn, age 36, was practicing maneuvers with the department helicopter, a Hughes 300-269B. The tail rotor failed and fuselage began to spin as it crashed at the Kansas City Timing Association drag strip. Officer Glenn had been with the agency for nine years and was survived by his wife and two children.

May 29, 1974

Los Angeles Police Department, California

Commander Paul Gillen

Commander Gillen died when his helicopter, a Bell 206B, crashed during SWAT training. To date, Commander Gillen is the highest-ranking member of the LAPD to die in the line of duty.

June 11, 1976

Los Angeles Police Department, California

Officer Jeffrey B. Lindenberg

Officer Lindenberg, age 30, a member of the Air Support Division, died when the Bell 47-G5 helicopter he was training in lost power and crashed during landing. He had been practicing pinnacle landings near the Los Angeles Zoo in the hills overlooking Hollywood. On short final approach, the engine lost power and came four inches short of the pad, exploding into a ball of flames as it rolled 162 feet down the hill. The other officer in the helicopter survived but was badly injured. Officer Lindenberg had been with the agency for seven years and was survived by his wife and infant daughter.

January 13, 1986

Avoyelles Parish Sheriff's Department, Louisiana

Deputy Sheriff Darvin LaPrairie

Deputy LaPrairie, age 41, died in an airplane crash during training. He had been with the agency for two years. Deputy LaPrairie was survived by his wife, daughter and granddaughter.

April 19, 1986

United States Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Investigation

Special Agent James K. McAllister

Special Agent McAllister, a member of the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team, died after falling from a helicopter during a training exercise at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Special Agent McAllister was an original member of the 50-member anti-terrorist unit which became operational in September 1983. He was 35 years old when the accident occurred.

July 24, 1986

Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, Arkansas

Deputy Sheriff James A. Avant

Deputy Avant, age 37, died in a helicopter crash in Mt. Ida, Arkansas. He was participating in a Drug Enforcement Administration Marijuana Eradication Spotter School when the helicopter crashed shortly after take-off, bursting into flames. Two other participants also died in the crash. In addition, the pilot and a Special Agent with the DEA were critically injured. Deputy Avant had been a narcotics detective with his agency for a year and had previously served with the Camden, Arkansas Police Department and the Arkansas State Police. He was survived by his wife and three children.

July 24, 1986

Arkansas State Police, Arkansas

Criminal Investigator Charles Bassing

Investigator Bassing, age 33, died in a helicopter crash in Mt. Ida, Arkansas. He was participating in a Drug Enforcement Administration Marijuana Eradication Spotter School when the helicopter crashed shortly after take-off, bursting into flames. Two other participants also died in the crash. In addition, the pilot and a Special Agent with the DEA were critically injured. Investigator Bassing had been with the State Police for nine months, assigned to the narcotics division. He was survived by his parents, son and daughter.

July 24, 1986

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Arkansas

Criminal Investigator Kevin L. Brosch

Investigator Brosch, age 34, died in a helicopter crash in Mt. Ida, Arkansas. He was participating in a Drug Enforcement Administration Marijuana Eradication Spotter School when the helicopter crashed shortly after take-off, bursting into flames. Two others also died in the crash. In addition, the pilot and a Special Agent with the DEA were critically injured. Investigator Brosch had been with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office for six years and had previously served with the Pine Bluff, Arkansas Police Department. He was survived by his wife and two children.

August 16, 1986

Kern County Sheriff's Department, California

Deputy Sheriff Ray Delton Bockman

Deputy Bockman died in an aircraft accident while on a training mission east of Bakersfield. Doug Moonen, a volunteer pilot with over 12,000 hours of flight time, clipped the wing of his Cessna 182 on some wires resulting in the crash that killed him, Sergeant Kline, Deputy Bockman and the deputy's search and rescue dog, Kelly. A monument now stands at the crash site, 200 yards west of the entrance of Hart Park. Deputy Bockman had been with the agency for 11 years.

August 16, 1986

Kern County Sheriff's Department, California

Sergeant Marvin Ray Kline

Sergeant Kline died in an aircraft accident while on a training mission east of Bakersfield. Doug Moonen, a volunteer pilot with over 12,000 hours of flight time, clipped the wing of his Cessna 182 on some wires resulting in the crash that killed him, Sergeant Kline, Deputy Bockman and the deputy's search and rescue dog, Kelly. A monument now stands at the crash site, 200 yards west of the entrance of Hart Park. Sergeant Kline had been with the agency for 18 years.

May 10, 1988

United States Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Investigation

Special Agent Scott K. Carey

On May 9, 1988, Special Agent Carey, an instructor assigned to the driver training program, was involved in an automobile accident while on duty. He had been instructing a defensive driving school at the Special Operations Center in New Paltz, New York. Special Agent Carey, age 35, was rushed to a Middletown hospital where he died the following day.

September 10, 1994

Paterson Police Department, New Jersey

Sergeant Timothy F. O'Brien

Sergeant O'Brien, age 43, was killed while attending training exercises. His cruiser struck a wall during a class designed to enhance driving skills. He was survived by his wife and three daughters.

April 4, 1996

West Virginia State Police, West Virginia

Lieutenant Charles Matthew Turner

Lieutenant Turner, age 41, died in a helicopter crash which occurred during training exercises in Charleston. The crash also took the life of Lieutenant Wayne Childress, retired from the agency. Many witnesses observed the helicopter, a Bell 206L-1, breaking up in flight at about 300-500 feet and crashing into a residential hillside. The tail section was found a few hundred feet away. The ensuing investigation revealed fatigue cracks in the tail section. Lieutenant Turner had been with the agency 17 years.

September 17, 1997

Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, Texas

Lieutenant George Maurice Hendrix

Lieutenant Hendrix, age 51, died when he and Deputy Thomas Jay Smith were involved in a helicopter crash near Newark, Texas. The two were participating in a narcotics training mission when the helicopter, a Bell OH-58A donated by the military and piloted by the lieutenant, crashed shortly after taking off from Meacham International Airport. Lieutenant Hendrix had been with the agency for 18 years.

September 17, 1997

Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, Texas

Deputy Investigator Thomas Jay Smith

Deputy Investigator Smith, age 45, died when he and Lieutenant George Maurice Hendrix were involved in a helicopter crash near Newark, Texas. The two were participating in a narcotics training mission when the helicopter, a Bell OH-58A donated by the military and piloted by the lieutenant, crashed shortly after taking off from Meacham International Airport. Deputy Smith had been with the agency for 12 years.

October 30, 1997

Illinois State Police, Illinois

Trooper Erin Sweeney Hehl

Trooper Hehl, age 34, died in a helicopter crash during a training exercise which also took the life of George Kurelic, the civilian pilot. The accident occurred as they were practicing touch-and-go landings. A skid on the Eurocopter AS350 encountered mud, causing it to flip. Trooper Hehl had been with the State Police for 11 years, serving first in the Marine Patrol as a diver, later reassigned to road duties and then in 1995, she became the first woman to work in the department's aviation unit. Trooper Hehl was the first female trooper to have served in all three areas. Trooper Hehl, promoted to Sergeant posthumously, was survived by her husband, son and stepson.

September 1, 1999

United States Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Investigations

Special Agent Paul Andrew LeVeille

Special Agent LeVeille, a licensed FBI pilot, died in a plane crash while attending the FBI Mountain Flying Training Course near Colorado Springs, Colorado. Chuck Burns, a private instructor who was contracted by the FBI, also died in the crash. SA LeVeille was at the controls of the Piper Archer and was executing a box canyon turn when the plane crashed into the mountainside. SA LeVeille had been with the FBI for three years, assigned to the El Paso office. He was a skilled pilot who had previously flown with the New Mexico Air National Guard. Special Agent LeVeille, age 39, was survived by his wife and six children.

June 10, 2000

Morgantown Police Department, West Virginia

Private First Class Frank M. Fidazzo

PFC Fidazzo, age 44, died one day after he was in a bicycle accident while training with other bike officers in a one-week multi-agency training event. The group was riding on the Rail Trail path in a city park when PFC Fidazzo's bike hit a hump, throwing him over the handlebars. He was rushed to the hospital but he succumbed to his head injuries. PFC Fidazzo had been with the agency for 11 years, three of those in the Bike Unit. Three years after his death, part of the city's Rail Trail was named in his honor. PFC Fidazzo was survived by his wife and two children.

August 15, 2000

Royal Canadian Mounted Police, British Columbia

Staff Sergeant Edward Mobley

Sergeant Mobley, age 49, died when the 1986 Cessna Ce208 Caravan I he was piloting crashed into Teslin Lake, in northern British Columbia. Sergeant Mobley and Special Constable Tim Nicholson, the flight engineer, had been transporting seventeen local ERT members from Prince Rupert to the remote lake location, 378 miles north. The task required two trips and was completed after dark. The plane, equipped with amphibious floats, was being maneuvered for take-off and became grounded on a hidden sand bar. The ERT members and Special Constable Nicholson helped to free the aircraft. By then it was near midnight however, Sergeant Mobley elected to continue with the departure. The plane climbed to about 1,000 feet and suddenly plummeted in a near vertical descent within sight of the ERT members, who rushed to the scene in a boat. The fuselage sank before they could arrive and was later recovered at a depth of 66 feet with the two bodies still in the cockpit. Sergeant Mobley had been with the RCMP for 25 years, the last 6 years were with the Air Division. He was survived by his wife and daughter.

August 15, 2000

Royal Canadian Mounted Police, British Columbia

Special Constable Timothy Nicholson

Special Constable Nicholson, age 48, was killed in the crash of the Cessna Ce208 Caravan I in northern British Columbia which also took the life of Staff Sergeant Edward Mobley. Special Constable Nicholson had been on assignment at Prince Rupert, filling in for the regular flight engineer who was on vacation. He had been with the RCMP Air Division for 7 years and was survived by his wife and two daughters.

June 28, 2001

Fairfax County Police Department, Virginia

Captain Tommy F. Bernal

Captain Bernal, age 51, was participating in a multi-agency motorcycle training exercise near Front Royal, Virginia when a trainee ahead of him lost control of his motorcycle rounding a turn. An oncoming sports utility vehicle managed to avoid the trainee's motorcycle but in doing so, struck and killed the 29-year veteran of the department. Captain Bernal was survived by his wife and three sons.

October 19, 2001

New Mexico State Police, New Mexico

Patrolman Ramon Robert Solis

Officer Solis, age 30, died along with Officer Damon Talbott while participating in training exercises in a medivac helicopter. Officer Jennifer Schurman and the medical pilot were seriously injured but both survived the crash, which was thought to be caused by mechanical failure. The officers had just finished training in a hospital-owned helicopter, learning how to set up landing zones for traffic accidents in remote areas. The crash occurred west of Roswell. Officer Solis graduated from the same class at the academy as Officer Talbot. Both had been with the agency for 10 months. Officer Solis was survived by his parents.

October 19, 2001

New Mexico State Police, New Mexico

Patrolman Damon Talbott

Officer Talbott, age 21, died along with Officer Ramon Solis while participating in training exercises in a medivac helicopter. Officer Jennifer Schurman and the medical pilot were seriously injured but both survived the crash, which was thought to be caused by mechanical failure. The officers had just finished training in a hospital-owned helicopter, learning how to set up landing zones for traffic accidents in remote areas. The crash occurred west of Roswell. Officer Talbott graduated from the same class at the academy as Officer Solis. Both had been with the agency for 10 months. Officer Talbott was survived by his parents and sister.

November 13, 2002

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

Corrections Officer David Hiram Bowser, Jr.

Officer David Bowser, age 32, was participating in a training run at the State Correctional Institution with other members of the Emergency Response Team when he was struck and killed by a vehicle driven by another prison employee. Officer Bowser was pronounced dead at Green County Memorial Hospital a short while later.

September 24, 2007

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Texas

Agent Julio E. Baray

Agent Baray was in training to be an Air Interdiction Agent when he died during flight training. He was practicing take-offs and landings in a Cessna 210 at Moriarty Airport, near Albuquerque with the instructor pilot, Air Interdiction Agent Daniel J. Houting. According to an eyewitness, the plane was preparing to land when the engine apparently stalled. The plane's left wing and nose hit the ground and the aircraft then left the runway, catching fire in a field. Air Interdiction Agent Houting managed to escape with injuries but Agent Baray died in the crash. Agent Baray, age 39, worked out of the El Paso office and had been with the agency for nine years. He was survived by his wife and two children, ages 5 and 9.

August 18, 2010

Cedar Park Police Department, Texas

Officer Leonard Allen Reed

Officer Leonard Allen Reed, age 41, was training to obtain his motorcycle certification when his motorcycle hit the curb, became airborne and crashed into a utility pole. The training officer who accompanied him performed CPR until paramedics arrived on the scene. Officer Reed, who had served four years with the Cedar Park Police Department, died from internal injuries at Saint David's Round Rock Medical Center. Officer Reed is survived by his wife and two sons.

September 30, 2010

Greenfield Police Department, Indiana

Officer William Edward Phillips III

Officer William "Will" Phillips was participating in a late-night bike patrol training exercise with two fellow officers when he was struck by a vehicle and died at the scene. The driver never stopped on the four-lane state highway but turned herself in three days later. All three officers were wearing helmets and reflective vests and their department-issued bicycles were equipped with lights. Officer Phillips, age 32 and a four-year veteran of the agency, is survived by his wife and two young sons.

Police Training Fatalities by Fall/Trauma

August 13, 1982

U.S. General Services Administration – Federal Protective Service

Officer Michael Doyle

Officer Doyle fell to his death while rappelling in a SORT-Team training exercise in Coronado, CA. He was survived by his wife, a son, and a daughter.

August 30, 1983

Chicago Police Department, Illinois

Officer Anthony Creed

Officer Creed died as a result of a fall from his horse in a training exercise with the Mounted Unit.

November 4, 1987

Washington Township Police Department, Gloucester County, New Jersey

Officer Patricia E. Quinn

Officer Quinn died of injuries she received from boxing exercises at the Academy on October 21, 1987. She had been with the agency for two months.

March 29, 1991

United States Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Prisons

Senior Officer Specialist Daniel J. Bryer

Senior Officer Bryer was attending Special Operations Response Team training at the Otisville Federal Correctional Institute in New York State. He died after falling off the back of a truck during a training exercise. He was survived by his wife.

May 4, 1992

Juneau Police Department, Alaska

Officer Karl William Reishus

Officer Reishus, age 29, died one day after falling from a 41-foot tower during a one-day mountain rescue course. He and five other attendees were performing rotations of the various roles: casualty, medical attendant, brakeman, “lower” chief, and observer. Conditions were typical of a rescue situation with moderate to heavy rain and 25 mph winds. Officer Reishus was acting as the “vertical lower” chief in the third rotation. He was given the all clear, however when he ordered the 400 pound-litter over the ledge, it plunged to the pavement below, taking him, the mock casualty and litter attendant along. The two other trainees suffered serious foot, ankle and leg injuries. Officer Reishus died as a result of severe head injuries. The cause of the accident was determined to be a failure of the rope braking system procedure. Officer Reishus was survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

June 16, 1992

South Centre Township Police Department, Pennsylvania

Chief of Police Derle Edward Shoemaker

Chief Shoemaker was accidentally struck in the head which caused him to fall from a second floor balcony while conducting training exercises. A warrant search was being demonstrated when the tragedy occurred. Chief Shoemaker died after lingering in a coma for seventeen days.

August 15, 1994

Colorado Department of Corrections, Colorado

Sergeant Marc A Perse

Sergeant Perse, age 26, died as a result of a 90-foot fall from a rappelling tower during training exercises for the Special Operations Response Team. He was survived by his wife.

March 29, 1996

Reno Police Department, Nevada

Officer Keith Tadashi Hashimoto

Officer Hashimoto, age 36, and other members of his department were on a joint training exercise at Fallon Naval Air Station with a team of Navy SEALs. Officer Hashimoto died when his parachute failed to open during a jump. Officer Hashimoto had served with the Reno Police Department for 7 years. He was survived by his wife and two daughters.

March 24, 1998

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Nevada

Officer Russell L. Peterson

Officer Peterson, who had been with the agency eight years, was training volunteers for the Search and Rescue Unit. They were conducting ice rescue exercises in the Mount Charlestown Range just north of the city. While Officer Peterson was demonstrating rescue techniques, a large ice block broke away above him and sent him off the mountain to his death. He was survived by his wife.

May 1, 1999

Kamloops Sheriff's Service, British Columbia, Canada

Deputy Sheriff James Cole Askew

Deputy Sheriff Askew, age 51, was participating in a routine training exercise on April 30, 1999. As one of several sheriffs practicing cell extraction techniques, Deputy Sheriff Askew fell and struck his head, missing the floor mat. He never regained consciousness and died the following day. Deputy Sheriff Askew was a 21-year veteran of the department and had also served 9 years previously with the RCMP.

March 17, 2000

Los Angeles Police Department, California

Police Officer III Louis Villalobos, Jr.

Officer Villalobos fell from a 10-foot catwalk while performing an advanced SWAT training exercise at the United States Marine Corps base at Camp Pendleton, CA. He sustained severe head injuries and died the next day. Officer Villalobos had been with LAPD for 29 years and had been a SWAT team member for 17 years. At age 52, he was survived by his four children.

March 13, 2002

Seattle Police Department, Washington

Detective Gary R. Lindell

On May 4, 1999, Detective Lindell, a member of the Mounted Patrol Unit, fell from his horse, striking his head on a rock while participating in a training exercise. He remained in critical condition for three weeks and although he survived the accident, he was never able to return to his regular duties due to severe after-effects from the injury. At the time of the accident, he had been with the force for 32 years and on the mounted patrol for 2 years. He retired from the force but later returned to work in a civilian capacity. He died while on the job, nearly three years after the accident. The cause of death was related to his head injury. Detective Lindell, 55 at the time of his death, was survived by his wife, three children and two granddaughters.

May 26, 2005

Texas Department of Public Safety – Texas Highway Patrol, Austin, Texas

Trooper Jimmy Ray Carty Jr.

Trooper Carty, age 30, sustained a severe head injury on May 19, 2005 while participating in a Survival and Control Tactics full-contact boxing drill with another trainee at the academy in Austin. He was taken to the hospital immediately but died a week later from the head trauma. In the aftermath of this tragedy, boxing drills were discontinued in the training program. Trooper Carty had been with the agency only a few months, having previously served 7 years as a deputy with the Smith County Sheriff's Department. He was survived by his wife and three children.

June 2, 2005

United States Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Investigation

Special Agent Robert Russell Hardesty

Special Agent Hardesty, age 40, died eight days after a training exercise at the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia. Agent Hardesty was standing on the wing of an airplane during an FBI tactical training exercise for aircraft entry techniques when he slipped and fell 20 feet. The injuries to his neck and spine left him paralyzed and his death was due to complications of the paralysis. Agent Hardesty had been with the FBI for 3-1/2 years, assigned to a Resident Office in Bloomington, Illinois. Prior to that, he had served as an officer with the Indiana State Excise Police and later as a deputy with the Porter County Sheriff's Office. Agent Hardesty was survived by his wife and two daughters.

October 25, 2007

Casa Grande Police Department, Arizona

Sergeant Tate Lynch

Sergeant Lynch, age 36, was participating in afternoon SWAT training exercises with the Pinal County SWAT team at the Pinal County Detention Center in Florence. At approximately 2:00 PM, Sergeant Lynch was rappelling down the two-story wall of the inmate exercise yard when he suddenly fell in full view of several officers and suffered a severe head injury. Medical personnel at the jail provided immediate assistance but Sergeant Lynch died about five hours later at Scottsdale Healthcare Trauma Center. A report issued after an investigation by the Arizona Department of Public Safety determined the training exercise involved several safety violations. A seven year veteran of the agency, Sergeant Lynch was survived by his wife and three children.

December 18, 2010

Norfolk Police Academy, Virginia

Police Recruit John Kohn

Norfolk Police Academy Recruit John Kohn, age 40, suffered multiple head traumas during training exercises between December 7th and 9th. During that time, Recruit Kohn was participating in the week-long defensive training portion of the academy program. The first injury occurred during blocking drills when an instructor delivered a blow to the face, causing the recruit to reel backwards. Although when instructors asked, he claimed to feel okay but he later mentioned having a headache to other recruits. Later that day during knee-strike practice with another recruit, he was hit in the face with a pad he had been holding in front of him. This aggravated the headache and he felt nauseous. At one point, he did express concern about these symptoms to other recruits. Despite his discomfort, Recruit Kohn did not want to risk failure and so continued in the training. On December 9th, he collided in a doorway with another recruit. The force was great enough that the other recruit needed to sit out for some time to recover. With a pounding head and lack of mental focus, Recruit Kohn carried on. Eleven minutes later during a ground-fighting drill, Recruit Kohn was rendered temporarily unconscious after the instructor delivered four blows to the recruit's head. Upon regaining partial consciousness, Recruit Kohn was clearly disoriented and his breathing became extremely labored. Medics were then summoned and upon their arrival, he was rushed to the hospital. Police Recruit Kohn died on December 18th after being in a coma for nine days. Police Recruit Kohn is survived by his wife and a daughter who was born after his death.

November 20, 2013

New York State Trooper – Special Operations Response Team (SORT)

Trooper Ross M. Riley

New York State Trooper Ross M. Riley, age 44, 17 year veteran and decorated officer, died of critical injuries to his head following a 30 foot fall into Wolf Creek. Trooper Riley, with two fellow SORT Troopers, was rappelling down the 70 foot gorge to a ledge. The three troopers were training for a high-angle rescue by attempting to lift a stretcher with a life-size mannequin when Riley became untethered and fell 30 feet. There is an on-going investigation as to why Riley became untethered and fell. Riley was a U.S. Marine and Persian Gulf War veteran,

paramedic and received a commendation for his service at Ground Zero in Manhattan. He became a member of the SORT in 2000. He is survived by his wife and three daughters, ages 10, 8 and 3. (Source: *The Buffalo News*, N.Y.)

Police Training Fatalities by Drowning

July 15, 1960

Kansas City, Police Department, Missouri

Sergeant Kieffer C. Burris

In preparation for the formation of an underwater recovery unit, Sergeant Burris and Officer Herbert Bybee were practicing scuba diving techniques on Lake Lotawana. At 4:30 p.m., the two divers were observed by a local resident and all appeared normal. However, at approximately 5:30 p.m., another resident saw Sergeant Burris floating face down in the water. Officer Bybee's lifeless body was located a short time later. Officer Bybee's tank was empty but the tank Sergeant Burris was using still had air pressure. The cause of this incident remains unknown. Department policy at that time called for someone to be stationed to watch for problems but no one was there to help. Sergeant Burris, age 46, had been with the agency for ten years and was survived by his wife and daughter.

July 15, 1960

Kansas City, Police Department, Missouri

Officer Herbert E. Bybee

In preparation for the formation of an underwater recovery unit, Officer Herbert Bybee and Sergeant Burris were practicing scuba diving techniques on Lake Lotawana. At 4:30 p.m., the two divers were observed by a local resident and all appeared normal. However, at approximately 5:30 p.m., another resident saw Sergeant Burris floating face down in the water. Officer Bybee's lifeless body was located a short time later. Officer Bybee's tank was empty but the tank Sergeant Burris was using still had air pressure. The cause of this incident remains unknown. Department policy at that time called for someone to be stationed to watch for problems but no one was there to help. Officer Bybee, age 31, had been with the agency two years and was survived by his wife and four children.

July 28, 1961

Arvada Police Department, Colorado

Officer Robert G. Beghtol

Officer Beghtol, age 26, was participating in a training exercise with members of the Scuba Diving Unit. The site of the dive, near 60th and Tennyson, was the location of an old gravel pit. Officer Beghtol began to experience cramping from the cold water but was unable to surface when his gear became tangled in debris and he drowned. He had been with the agency for two years after serving in the United States Army. Twenty years prior to this tragic event, Officer Beghtol's grandfather became Arvada's first uniformed police officer.

December 19, 1968

Virginia Beach Police Department, Virginia

Officer Roger Lee McClung, Jr.

Officer McClung and Detective Robert Ray Monette were dive team trainees participating in training exercises at Lake Wesley. Both drowned saving the life of another trainee. Officer McClung, age 32, had been with the agency for 1 year.

December 19, 1968

Virginia Beach Police Department, Virginia

Detective Robert Ray Monette

Detective Monette and Officer Roger Lee McClung, Jr. were dive team trainees participating in training exercises at Lake Wesley. Both drowned saving the life of another trainee. Detective Monette, age 25, left behind a wife, a 6 month-old daughter and a 2 year-old son. A Vietnam veteran, he had been with the agency for 2 years and had just been promoted to Detective three days prior to his death.

June 7, 1973

Kenosha Police Department, Wisconsin

Officer Gary W. Fraid

Officer Fraid drowned in Lake Michigan while participating in a practice dive with his agency's scuba team. Officer Fraid, age 33, had been with the agency for six years and was survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

August 18, 1983

Louisville Police Department, Kentucky

Officer Ricky A. LaFollette

Officer LaFollette, age 30, drowned while training with the Department Scuba Team. The team was holding a training exercise at Dale Hollow Lake. The exercise was being held in total darkness using new underwater communications equipment. Officer LaFollette failed to surface when his air supply depleted and he did not respond to radio communications. His body was recovered at a depth of 100 feet. It is believed that he was disoriented in the dark and went down deeper in the lake rather than up.

November 24, 1984

Chelan County Sheriff's Department, Washington

Deputy Sheriff Winfield Scott Edie

Deputy Edie, age 29 and with the agency for five years, was participating in a diving exercise at Lake Chelan. He called out for help but was not located in time to save him. Deputy Edie drowned in 15 feet of water. The cause of his drowning remains unknown. Deputy Edie was survived by his wife and daughter.

February 11, 1989

Williams County Sheriff's Department, North Dakota

Deputy Sheriff Timothy L. Wells

Deputy Wells, age 36, was taking part in a cold water training dive with six other rescue divers in the Missouri River. During the dive, the deputy was photographing fish. Deputy Wells did not surface with the other divers. A search went underway, but he drowned before he could be rescued. It was thought that Deputy Wells may have become disoriented and swam in the wrong direction. His body was found beneath thick ice along the shoreline with his tank empty. Deputy Wells had been with the agency for four years.

June 11, 1991

New York City Police Department, New York

Officer Kenneth M. Hansen

Officer Hansen, age 26 and a highly decorated member of the Department's Harbor Unit, was participating in a simulated rescue training exercise in New York Harbor near the Battery. Officer Hansen was posing as the victim. The exercise called for divers to leap from a helicopter and perform the rescue. Officer Hansen jumped into the water but soon disappeared from sight. The exercise immediately became an actual search and rescue effort but his team mates could not locate him. His body was recovered the next day. An investigation could not determine why Officer Hansen, against agency policy, was in the water without a life jacket. He was survived by his fiancée, his parents, a sister and two brothers. His father and brothers are all in law enforcement.

April 17, 1998

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

First Sergeant Karl E. Kelley

On April 16, 1998, Sergeant Kelley was participating in a fast water rescue exercise with Indiana's river rescue team. The exercise was being held on the White River below Williams Dam. The water was very turbulent from the hydraulic boil created by the action of the water cascading over the dam. Two members of the team were thrown from another boat. Sergeant Kelley and a fellow conservation officer attempted to rescue the two but their boat also capsized. All four were rescued but when Sergeant Kelley was pulled into the boat, he was unconscious. He had been submerged for approximately fifteen minutes. CPR was performed at the scene and he was transported to a hospital in Bedford, then flown by helicopter to University Hospital in Louisville. He was placed on life support but died the next day. Sergeant Kelly had been a conservation officer for 28 years and was survived by his wife and five children.

June 2, 2000

Chicago Police Department, Illinois

Sergeant Alane M. Stoffregen

Sergeant Stoffregen, age 50 and a master diver, was participating in a Marine Unit diving exercise in Lake Michigan. The exercise was being held in about 35 feet of water. Using correct procedures, Sergeant Stoffregen signaled to her partner that she was surfacing. She rose to the surface where the marine diver operating the boat heard her call him by name. When he got to the back of the boat where the call originated, he could see that she was disoriented and in distress. There were two marks on her forehead, thought to be the result of being pushed against the boat from the 3-foot waves that day. The other two divers were unable to get Sergeant Stoffregen into the boat without assistance. Her partner pleaded with Sergeant Stoffregen to keep her regulator in her mouth to prevent swallowing water but she was unresponsive. Her other team mate managed to keep her afloat until additional help arrived. Despite their valiant efforts to save her, Sergeant Stoffregen died. She was a 22-year veteran of the agency and had just recently been assigned to the Marine Unit.

October 21, 2008

Fairfax County Police Department, Virginia

Second Lieutenant Frank J. Stecco

Lieutenant Stecco, age 42, drowned in Pohick Bay while participating in a helicopter water rescue training exercise. Although not a member of the dive team, he had volunteered to play the role of the victim. Lieutenant Stecco had been equipped with a dry suit, but according to a spokesperson, he was not wearing a flotation device or breathing apparatus. The exercise began at approximately 1:30 p.m. and the lieutenant was reported missing at 2:47 p.m. An exhaustive search of the murky bay was conducted. Due to the poor visibility in the water, Lieutenant Stecco's body was not located until four days later, about 100 feet from where he went missing. An investigation revealed lapses in safety and oversight during the exercise. A 19-year member of the agency, Lieutenant Stecco was survived by his wife, three children and his mother.

September 14, 2010

Virginia State Police, Lake Anna, Virginia

Trooper Mark Barrett

Trooper Mark Barrett, age 41, drowned while participating with the State Police Search and Recovery Team in a training dive in Lake Anna. During a 77-foot dive, his dive buddy noticed Trooper Barrett was having difficulties on the return ascent and by the time they were near the surface, he was unresponsive. Team members immediately performed CPR on Trooper Barrett and paramedics continued to treat him en route to Henrico Doctors' Hospital where he died. The medical examiner stated that an underlying heart condition contributed to his drowning. Trooper Barrett, who had served with the agency for 3 years, is survived by his wife and two children.

October 13, 2010

U.S. Coast Guard Office of Law Enforcement

Petty Officer Shaun Michael Lin

Petty Officer Shaun Lin, age 23, drowned during an anti-terrorism training exercise held near Newport News, Virginia. At approximately 9:15 p.m., he fell into the James River while attempting to transfer between a 25-foot Marine Security Response Team vessel and the Coast Guard Cutter Frank Drew. Despite a massive day-long search, his gear-laden body was not located until the following evening. Petty Officer Lin, an Iraq war veteran, had served three years with the Coast Guard and was attached to the Fort Wadsworth Maritime Safety and Security Team based in New York Harbor.

Police Training Fatalities by Explosions

November 18, 1987

Delaware State Police, Delaware

Corporal David Bruce Pulling

Corporal Pulling was attending an FBI training course in Huntsville, Alabama as a prerequisite to becoming a bomb technician for the Delaware State Police.

During a training exercise, an explosive device he was handling accidentally exploded and killed him. Corporal Pulling, age 31, was survived by his wife and two sons.

November 4, 2000

Wichita Police Department, Kansas

Lieutenant John Eugene Galvin

On October 20, 2000, Lieutenant Galvin and the agency's bomb squad were conducting training exercises at the bomb range. Arrangements had been made with a local fireworks company to destroy approximately 1,500 pounds of fireworks. Two large pits were prepared and the first two shots were fired without any problems. Preparations began for the third shot. Lieutenant Galvin was in one pit, emptying the contents of a 30-pound case on the ground within. It is thought that an ember from the previous shot sparked some powder from the case and set off the fireworks. The fireworks shot out of the pit, striking the truck holding another 500 pounds of fireworks. Those also detonated, destroying the truck and seriously burning a sergeant in the second pit. Fortunately, there were no fireworks in the second pit at the time. A Park Department backhoe driver was also injured in the incident. The rest of the bomb squad narrowly avoided injury from the explosions. Lieutenant Galvin was burned over 80% of his body and succumbed to his injuries two weeks later at the Via Christi – St. Francis burn unit in Wichita. Lieutenant Galvin, age 49, had been with the agency for 20 years. He was survived by his wife, daughter and three sons.

February 20, 2002

Scottsdale Police Department, Arizona

Sergeant Thomas Alan Hontz

Sergeant Hontz was killed while conducting a SWAT exercise where he was demonstrating how to introduce tear gas into a room. The "gas ax" he had just loaded into a smoke canister exploded, killing him and injuring fourteen other officers and firefighters. It was later determined that a new product was being used for the first time and was not compatible with the type of canister into which it was inserted. The smoke was not able to vent properly, causing the product to explode and fragment in all directions. Sergeant Hontz, age 45, was survived by his wife and three sons.