



Selected Summaries of Officers Assaulted and Injured with Firearms or Knives/Other Cutting Instruments

Note: In 2020, the Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted Program received reports of 71 officers who were injured as a result of assaults with firearms or knives/other cutting instruments. The following are summaries of selected incidents in which officers survived injuries from such assaults.

Midwest

Early one afternoon in the Midwest region, a 37-year-old deputy sheriff was stabbed while helping apprehend a subject for violating the requirements of a court-ordered mental health treatment program. Accompanied by a fellow deputy sheriff and a case worker, the deputy was carrying out a court order by transporting the individual to be hospitalized. The deputy knocked on the door to the subject's residence numerous times with no response, but neighbors informed him they believed the individual was home. The deputy could see movement inside the apartment through the door's peephole. Finally, the individual opened the door slightly, and the deputy again announced who he was and the purpose of the visit. The subject forcefully attempted to reclose the door, but the deputy blocked the door with his foot. Both deputies tried to open the door, but something other than the suspect was keeping the door from opening completely. After a brief struggle, the individual allegedly grabbed a knife with a 4-inch blade, reached through the door opening, and cut the victim deputy in the right forearm, causing a 4-inch laceration. The deputy jumped back, and the suspect slammed the door shut. The deputy, who had 4 years of law enforcement experience, alerted dispatch that he had been stabbed, and both deputies and the case worker retreated from the building. The other deputy applied a tourniquet to the injured deputy's arm. An additional officer arrived and transported the victim deputy to a local hospital. The 36-year-old suspect was arrested later that day with the help of a K-9 Unit and charged with Resist and Obstructing, Resist and Obstructing with Injury, and Assault with Intent to do Great

Bodily Harm. The suspect had a history of assaulting/threatening law enforcement officers. The victim deputy has since returned to duty.

On a spring evening in a midwestern town, a 32-year-old police officer was wounded while checking on the welfare of a citizen. The officer, a 6½ year veteran of law enforcement, was among officers who responded to a caller requesting a check on the welfare of two people in a house where shots had been fired. A caller from the residence reported a man there had fired the shot. The caller said the subject had mental health issues and may be intoxicated. A crisis negotiator, who had also been deployed to the scene, contacted the suspect by telephone. At first, the suspect was compliant with the negotiator's requests, but eventually he emerged from the house with a shotgun and walked into the street, where he saw the officers who had strategically positioned themselves around the perimeter of the residence. The suspect fired three rounds from the 12-gauge pump-action shotgun at officers who were near a neighboring residence. Although using a patrol vehicle for cover, the victim officer was struck in the front of the legs and feet. Other officers returned fire, justifiably killing the 37-year-old suspect. Officers later found a second firearm, which was not used in the incident, in the suspect's waistband. The incident was recorded by multiple officers' body cameras. Investigators later determined the man had committed suicide by cop. He was known to officers as a drug user and had a criminal record that included aggravated assault and domestic violence.

On a summer night in the Midwest, a 22-year-old patrol officer who had 1 year of law enforcement experience was assaulted while assisting another officer to apprehend the subject of a felony warrant. The two officers were surveilling the subject's residence, with one officer watching the front of the residence and the other, the rear. The subject attempted to flee out the back door, away from one officer but toward the 22-year-old officer. When he came upon the officer, the subject drew a firearm and shot six rounds at him from close range. Three of the rounds struck the officer, wounding him in the rear upper torso/back, arms/hands, front upper torso/chest, and shoulder/upper torso area through the armhole or shoulder area of the officer's body armor vest. The officer's flashlight stopped one of the rounds from entering his upper thigh. Upon

hearing shots fired, the other officer ran behind the residence and returned fire with 20 rounds, striking the subject twice and incapacitating him. The assisting officer then took the subject into custody and rendered first aid to the wounded officer until emergency medical personnel arrived. The 37-year-old suspect, who was a known drug dealer and under the influence of amphetamines/methamphetamines at the time of the incident, was charged with Use of Firearm in Furtherance of a Crime and Possession/Distribution of a Controlled Substance.

South

Late one night in the southern region, a 41-year-old officer and a 35-year-old police sergeant were off duty but in uniform and acting in an official capacity at a bar when they were both shot. The incident was recorded on the bar's closed-circuit television and on the sergeant's body camera. Subjects outside the bar began fighting. The officer, a veteran officer with more than 17 years on the job, was the first to arrive at the altercation and quickly called the sergeant, a veteran of law enforcement with more than 10 years' experience, for assistance. The sergeant immediately radioed dispatch for backup. Two subjects involved in the incident fled to the parking area and retrieved two 9 mm semiautomatic handguns from their vehicle. Both returned to the fight, and one began firing rounds indiscriminately into the crowd. Two rounds hit the officer in the rear upper torso/back and the front of his legs. The officer's body armor stopped the rounds from penetrating his upper body, however he received broken bones from blunt force trauma along with a wound to the front of his legs. The sergeant, who was also wearing body armor, was struck in his foot. Both wounded officers took cover behind vehicles while the officer and sergeant radioed for additional police and medical assistance. The suspects attempted to leave the area in their vehicle. When responding officers arrived, bar employees pointed out the suspects' vehicle, and officers pursued on foot. An additional officer used his patrol vehicle to block the suspects' fleeing vehicle. Two suspects, ages 29 and 30, were taken into custody without further incident. No weapons were found in the vehicle; however, a search by a K-9 unit found a weapon in a nearby wooded area near the parking lot. Responding officers provided first aid to the wounded officers until emergency medical services arrived and transported them to the

hospital. The victim officer was admitted with critical injuries. At the time of the incident, the 29-year-old suspect was on probation. He was charged with Possession of a Firearm by Felon, Attempted Murder, Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill or Seriously Injure, and Possession with Intent to Manufacture/Distribute/Sell. The 30-year-old suspect, who was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident, was charged with Felony Aggravated Assault.

A 29-year-old officer with a police department in the South was shot while answering a call for service in the early morning hours of a summer day. The officer and another officer had been dispatched to a residential area in response to a 911 call during which a female could be heard crying, and a male could be heard yelling before the call disconnected. As they arrived on scene, the officers observed several people on the sidewalk near the residence. One member of the group identified himself as an off-duty officer and said no one in the group had called 911. Earlier that night, they had attended a small gathering at the residence in question and had seen a couple arguing there. The officers approached the front door, and one of them rang the doorbell. Seconds later, multiple shots were fired through the door from a 5.56 mm semiautomatic rifle, striking the victim officer in the side of the head and the feet. The victim officer, who had 1 year of law enforcement experience, ran from the house and took cover behind a rock wall. The other officer fled, using a parked vehicle as cover. The suspect fired a second volley of shots, striking the parked vehicle that the other officer was using for cover. The officers called for other units to assist at the scene. The suspect emerged from the house, complied with officers' commands, and was arrested. The 29-year-old suspect was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident and was charged with Aggravated Assault. Responding officers located the female inside the residence.

Two officers were injured with a knife on a spring night while attempting to execute an emergency custody order based on a subject's mental health. A 32-year-old officer and a 26-year-old officer arrived outside a residence and observed a verbal dispute. The family member who had obtained the emergency custody order was arguing with another family member about the situation. While the officers were speaking with both parties, the subject of the emergency custody order joined the conversation and loudly

proclaimed he would not leave with the officers. The officers tried to explain that the subject had done nothing wrong, and they were only going to take him for an evaluation. During the quarrel, the subject allegedly assaulted two family members with a knife, then attacked the 32-year-old officer. The 26-year-old officer pulled the subject away, then the subject allegedly attacked him. As the 32-year-old officer radioed for help, she noticed she was bleeding from her head. She deployed her electronic control device, but its only effect was to enrage the subject. The subject allegedly threw an 8-inch knife into the storm drain then re-engaged with the 26-year-old officer. The officer deployed his electronic control device, but it further provoked the subject. Additional officers arrived and found both officers bleeding. One victim officer had lacerations on the front and side of her head, while the other had cuts to the front, rear, and side of his head and on his neck/throat. Both victim officers were wearing body armor. The responding officers drew their duty weapons, and after a brief standoff, the alleged offender was taken into custody without further incident. Both officers and two injured civilians were treated for their injuries at a local hospital. The 39-year-old alleged offender was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident and known to be violent. He was arrested and charged with Malicious Wounding, Malicious Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer, and Malicious Assault.

During the early hours of a spring day, a 46-year-old patrol officer was assaulted while attempting to restrain an individual who had allegedly attempted to burglarize a building. The officer, who had 3 years of law enforcement experience, was performing an unrelated traffic stop in his marked cruiser when a call came in concerning the attempted burglary of a building. A county sheriff's deputy was the first officer on the scene and was soon joined by other members of the police department. The arresting officer instructed the suspect to approach the officer. When the suspect got near the officer, the officer attempted to take him into custody, but the suspect pulled a knife with a 4-inch blade out of his pocket and allegedly stabbed the officer's front lower torso/abdomen. The officer was wearing a body armor vest, but the knife penetrated between its side panels. The wounded officer held the offender at gunpoint while he contacted dispatch. The offender would not comply with the wounded officer's commands, so the deputy used an electronic control device on the offender.

The offender sat on the ground, and officers handcuffed him and took him into custody. Other officers at the scene recovered the knife near the entrance of the building. The incident was captured by the victim officer's body camera and a vehicle-mounted camera. The deputy sheriff and another officer applied a tourniquet to the victim officer's wound but were unable to stop the bleeding. A sergeant at the scene used her patrol vehicle to take the victim officer to a local hospital where he was admitted with critical injuries. The 41-year-old offender was under the influence of amphetamines/methamphetamines at the time of the incident. He was charged with Attempted First-Degree Murder of a Police Officer. The victim officer has returned to full sworn duty.

During early morning hours, a 46-year-old deputy with a sheriff's office in the South was wounded after responding to a call for service concerning an active shooter. Dispatchers advised officers of an altercation and an individual shooting at a residence. While en route to the location, the deputy, who had less than 1 year of law enforcement experience, learned the individual had left the original area and was now perched on a billboard with a rifle. The deputy arrived in his marked patrol vehicle, which was equipped with an in-car dash camera that recorded the incident. Shortly after the deputy arrived, the suspect fired a single round from a semiautomatic rifle, striking the deputy in the arms/hands. The deputy took cover behind his vehicle until other members of the sheriff's department and the local police department arrived. The suspect would not respond or cooperate with officers' verbal commands, and assisting officers returned fire, justifiably killing the 32-year-old suspect. This incident was categorized as suicide by cop due to the suspect's continued violent, erratic behavior. Assisting officers provided medical aid to the victim deputy until emergency personnel arrived and transported him to a local hospital.

A 41-year-old lieutenant was assaulted when he and other officers responded to a domestic violence report involving a shooting. The incident happened on a night in early spring in a small southern city and was captured on an officer's body camera. Upon their arrival at the residence, the officers could hear the victim screaming for help from inside the apartment. They talked to her through the closed door and learned the suspect had

gone to the second floor of the residence. The officers decided to kick in the front door so they could rescue the victim and obtain medical assistance for her. When the lieutenant, a veteran of law enforcement with 16 years' experience, kicked in the door, the suspect opened fire on the officers using a .40-caliber semiautomatic handgun. The lieutenant, who was wearing body armor, was shot by one round in his foot. Once inside the residence, officers encountered the victim lying on the living room floor with gunshot wounds in her leg. Officers tried to convince the suspect to surrender. Meanwhile, an officer advised dispatch that the lieutenant was wounded. When the local fire department arrived on the scene, they treated the injured lieutenant while two other officers held their positions. A third officer moved to the side of the building, where he saw the suspect running out the back door toward the street. Officers chased the suspect for about 100 yards and commanded him to lie down, and he complied. After handcuffing the suspect, the officers turned him over and saw a handgun tucked into the front of his waistband. Officers took control of the weapon. They picked up the suspect and placed him in the back of a patrol vehicle. Officers returned to the apartment to assist the victim and to clear the apartment. An officer transported the prisoner to the city jail. The 29-year-old suspect was charged with Aggravated Assault/Use of a Deadly Weapon and Aggravated Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer. The wounded lieutenant has since returned to duty.

West

On a summer morning in the West, a 41-year-old veteran deputy with 20 years of law enforcement experience was shot while answering a call for service. A citizen called dispatch and reported his vehicle had been stolen. The deputy saw someone operating a motor vehicle that fit the description of the stolen vehicle and attempted a traffic stop. The subject refused to stop and led the deputy on a short pursuit until the vehicle's engine died. Footage from the deputy's body camera showed the subject began to flee on foot, and the deputy followed in his patrol vehicle. As the deputy neared the fleeing subject, the subject allegedly produced a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun and fired rounds into the deputy's vehicle. Two rounds entered the deputy's body armor through the armhole or shoulder area and struck the deputy in the upper torso and

arm. The deputy fired two rounds through the windshield of his patrol vehicle but missed the suspect. The suspect continued running, and after a short distance, turned and again fired multiple rounds at the deputy, who had taken cover behind his patrol vehicle. The subject took cover in a nearby field, and responding officers created a perimeter around the area. Several hours later the subject was still in the field when authorities contacted him on his cell phone. After a brief negotiation, the 21-year-old subject surrendered and was arrested and charged with Aggravated Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer, Aggravated Battery, Robbery, and Felony Eluding/Fleeing. The suspect was under the influence of amphetamines and methamphetamines at the time of the incident, and officers found an additional firearm and a knife concealed in his backpack.