



M.A.L.E.F.I.



In this Issue:

- 1 Off-Duty/Mistaken Identity Shootings**
- 1 NYPD's Firearm Discharge Reports**
- 3 MALEFI Newsletter**
- 4 2010 MALEFI Fall Conference Information**
- 5 2010 Conference Registration Form**

Mistaken-identity shootings. *“Since 1981, some 26 police officers across the United States have been shot and killed by fellow police officers who have mistaken them for dangerous criminals. These fatal shootings are doubly tragic, first because both the shooters and victims in such situations are risking their lives to enforce the law and protect the public, and second because many of these deaths are preventable. The dangers that give rise to these deaths are inherent in policing, but those dangers can be reduced and more deaths prevented.”*

New York State convened a task force on blue-on-blue shootings. On May 27th, 2010, that task force published its report full of interesting information. You can read about the study and download the report here: <http://tinyurl.com/malefi-blue>.

There are obvious implications for in-service and basic academy training. Have you trained and tested your officers in off-duty encounters with responding officers? What about your on-duty officers responding to an out-of-state officer?

NYPD's Firearm Discharge Reports.

NYPD is the nation's largest law enforcement agency with about 34,500 officers. While New York City is not representative of most other agencies, or even most other jurisdictions, instructors from around the country have benefited from studying their SOP-9 publications.

NYPD has resumed publishing its annual Firearm Discharge Reports, and I obtained copies of the 2007 and 2008 reports. This is hardly a comprehensive review of the incidents—instructors should examine these reports for themselves. But I think some lessons can be drawn from the information, and

instructors can examine their own training programs for proper emphasis on key critical skills.

	2007	2008
Number of “adversarial conflicts”	45	49
Number of officers and total rounds fired	148 officers fired 588 rounds	60 officers fired 196 rounds
Suspects shot & suspects killed	19 suspects shot & injured. 10 suspects shot & killed.	18 suspects shot & injured. 12 suspects shot & killed.
Officers injured & Officers murdered	7 officers shot & injured. 3 officers murdered.	3 officers shot & injured. No officers murdered.
Injured officers’ ability to return fire	All injured officers were fired upon first. 3 injured officers returned fire; only one possibly hit the suspect.	1 injured officer returned fire.
Day of week	Over half the incidents took place between Friday night and Sunday morning.	47% occurred on a Friday or Saturday
Time of day	62% between 10:00pm and 6:00am	43% between 10:00pm and 6:00am
Indoors vs Outdoors	82% occurred outdoors	¾ took place outdoors
Number of shots fired by officers	68% of officers fired five or fewer times. 20% only fired once.	84% of officers fired five or fewer times. 45% fired once. Only two officers fired more than 10 rounds.
Protracted gun battles?	One incident skewed the statistics: five officers fired 136 rounds at a subject who engaged in multiple violent felonies and then engaged the police in a shootout.	No protracted gun battles.
Use of cover	61% of officers were able to use cover.	Only ¼ were able to use cover
Gripping the pistol	76% gripped gun with 2 hands	64% gripped with 2 hands.
Use of sights	45% used their sights	32% used their sights
Suspect gender and age	All identified suspects were male. 60% were 17-27 years old.	All identified subjects were male. 69% were 17-27 years old.
Suspect criminal record	More than 60% had multiple prior arrests...but 10 had no prior releasable arrest record.	95% had prior arrests, and 84% had multiple prior arrests.
Weapon of choice	9mm handguns were the most common weapons used by offenders.	
Malfunctions	2 stovepipes by officers	1 stovepipe by officers

Some of the data merely confirms what has been widely taught by the FBI. For example, all of the identified suspects were males, and most of them were between 17-27 years old. Almost all of them had prior arrests, and most of them had multiple prior arrests.

More interesting are the questions raised by the report. For example, why were one-third of the injured officers able to stay in the fight and shoot back at their assailants? Why were two-thirds of the officers unable to do this? As instructors, are we doing everything possible to train our officers to stay in the fight?

Many of the incidents took place outdoors at night. How much of our training is conducted in low light? Is our low-light training held only once per year, or do we consistently train officers in the same conditions they are expected to fight in? If we usually train in daylight, is it simply for our own convenience?

Many of the incidents took place on a Friday or Saturday. But many did not. As instructors, do we point out that half the incidents took place during the day, and half the incidents take place during the work week?

Are we training officers to seek cover as soon as their gut tells them something's wrong? Are officers wearing their vests? A level IIA vest will stop a 9mm round, as long as the vest is worn.

How are these statistics affected by NYPD's unique environment? Although many of NYPD's lessons may transfer to a rural deputy on solo patrol, the deputy will likely encounter unique situations not reflected in a heavily urban setting. Does our training prepare

our officers for the unique environment they will fight in?

For more related information, check out these FBI publications:

- [FBI: Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted](#) (annual)
- [In the Line of Fire: Violence Against Law Enforcement—A Study of Felonious Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers](#) (1997)

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MALEFI Newsletter

This newsletter is being e-mailed to all MALEFI members. Printing and mailing the newsletter costs a lot of money—money that can be better spent bringing excellent training to all our members.

To ensure you receive future newsletters, subscribe to MALEFI's newsletter service. Send an e-mail to malefi-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

You will receive an email whenever the next newsletter comes out. (You do *not* need to be a member of MALEFI to subscribe!)

DO IT NOW! DO IT BEFORE YOU FORGET! ☺

Fall Conference Registration

Registration is open for MALEFI's 2010 Fall Conference, being held in Princeton on September 7-9. This will be a 3-day intensive practical handgun course that expounds upon the shooting techniques taught at the 2006 MALEFI Conference. Techniques taught at this year's conference will include:

- firing while moving
- multiple advanced shooting positions
- discretionary shooting

- weapon retention
- immediate action drills
- close quarter battle
- concealed modes of carry
- firing from a moving vehicle
- reloading while driving
- and many others

Complete conference and registration information is available here:

<http://www.malefi.org/conference.htm>.

Contact your area MALEFI Representative for more information about MALEFI:

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Minnesota Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors



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