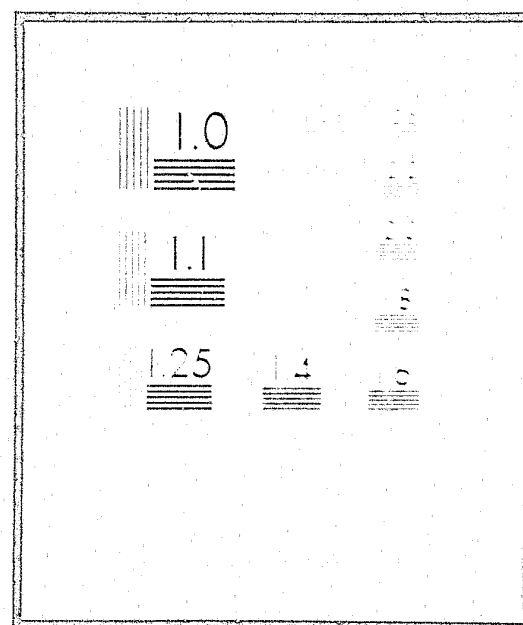


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PEACE OFFICERS KILLED AND ASSAULTED IN CALIFORNIA, 1974

California Department of Justice
Division of Law Enforcement
Bureau of Criminal Statistics
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Sacramento, California 95833

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PEACE OFFICERS KILLED AND ASSAULTED
IN CALIFORNIA, 1974

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3/76 800

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Abstract	v
Introduction	1
Method	1
Peace Officers Killed	3
Peace Officers Assaulted	5
Summary of Peace Officers Killed in 1974	15

TABLES

Number of	
Comparison of General Population and Peace Officer Homicides from 1960 through 1974	2
Number of Peace Officers Assaulted in 1974, by Time of Occurrence during the Week	5
Number of Peace Officers Assaulted in 1974, by Type of Duty and Severity of Injury	9
Number of Peace Officers Assigned Patrol Duty, by Type of Assignment and Shift Allocation	6
Number of Peace Officers Injured by Assaults in 1974, Officer Assigned by County or Sheriff	7
Number of Peace Officers Assaulted in 1974, by Type of Weapon Used and Severity of Officer's Injury	8

TABLES - Continued

		Page
Number		
7	Number of Peace Officers Assaulted, by Type of Firearm and Caliber	9
8	Number of Peace Officers Assaulted in 1974, by Years of Experience and Rank of Officer	10
9	Number of Peace Officers Assaulted in 1974, Race and Sex of Assaulted Officers by Age	11
10	Number of Peace Officers Assaulted in 1974, by Height and Weight of Assaulted Officer	12
11	Number of Peace Officers Assaulted in 1974, by Race and Sex of Offender by Age	13
12	Number of Peace Officers Assaulted in 1974, by Height and Weight of Offender	14

ABSTRACT

1. In California during 1974, nine peace officers were feloniously killed and 3,143 peace officers were injured by assaults.
2. Officers assigned to patrol duty and responding to disturbance calls accounted for most of the reported assaults.
3. Hands and feet were used most often against an officer during an assault.
4. Peace officers were most likely to be assaulted between the hours of 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. on summer-month weekends.
5. Officers working with a partner were assaulted proportionally more often than officers working alone. Conversely, the officers who were killed were most often working alone.
6. White male patrolmen, 27 years old, with less than three years experience typified the officer most frequently assaulted.
7. Offenders were typically white male adults, 23 years of age.

INTRODUCTION

In 1974, the Bureau of Criminal Statistics (BCS) initiated a program to determine the nature and extent of assaults committed on California peace officers. The program was intended to meet the national requirements for reporting to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) incidents of law enforcement officers killed or assaulted, and also to provide more detailed information to users of BCS data.

METHOD

The term peace officer, as used in the assault section of this study, includes only peace officers as defined in Penal Code, Sections 830.1, 830.2, and 830.6. Deaths of peace officers also include those peace officers as defined in Section 830.3 P.C.

Assault and battery crimes are defined by Sections 240 and 242 P.C. Punishment for assaults on peace officers are defined by Sections 241 and 243 P.C. The various degrees of assault could include battery without injury on an officer or one which results in the death of an officer. For this study, assaults were limited to those instances in which the officer was injured at least to the extent that first aid or medical treatment was required. The only exception was assaults in which an officer was shot at but was not hit. All other reported assaults which did not meet these criteria were excluded from this study.

Most California law enforcement agencies participated in the program, with the exception of a single large agency and a few others. The volume of data collected does permit generalizations to be made that are highly representative of statewide experience. The data provided include information on the assaulted officer's height and weight, years of law enforcement experience and, when known, similar data on the offender. In addition to these data, the circumstances of the assault incident were collected.

PEACE OFFICERS KILLED

In 1974, there were nine California peace officers feloniously killed in eight separate incidents. This is eight less than the 17 killings recorded in 1973. Four of the killings occurred during disturbance calls, one of these involving a mentally disturbed person; two occurred during the commission of a crime and one during a vehicle stop. The reasons for two of the killings are still unknown; one was an execution-style killing and the other, a sniper slaying.

The weapons used in these nine slayings included one rifle, one shotgun, and seven handguns. Three of the officers were killed with their own weapons (handguns).

Officers Killed Since 1960

Table 1 shows the number of peace officers feloniously killed from 1960 through 1974 with the total number of willful homicides reported for each year. It also shows that there is much greater

TABLE 1
COMPARISON OF GENERAL POPULATION
AND PEACE OFFICER HOMICIDES
FROM 1960 THROUGH 1974

Year	Total homicides		Peace officer homicides	
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population	Number	Rate per 100,000 sworn officers
1960	620	3.9	7	30.7
1961	609	3.7	8	32.6
1962	671	3.9	3	11.8
1963	656	3.7	7	26.2
1964	758	4.2	5	17.9
1965	892	4.8	5	17.3
1966	897	4.7	4	13.6
1967	1,051	5.4	12	39.5
1968	1,171	6.0	8	24.5
1969	1,376	6.9	7	20.2
1970	1,355	6.8	20	54.1
1971	1,633	8.1	14	31.9
1972	1,789	8.7	6	13.5
1973	1,862	9.0	17	37.3
1974	1,970	9.4	9	19.2

Source: Rates for general population are based on population estimates from Department of Finance. Rates for peace officers are based on annual BCS survey of law enforcement personnel.

variance from year to year in homicide rates for peace officers than is true for the general population. The homicide rate for peace officers is much higher for all years.

There were as many officers killed in the first five years of this decade as were killed in the entire decade of the 1960s. The highest number of killings occurred in 1970 when twenty officers were slain.

Killings of peace officers have occurred primarily in two general locations, the Los Angeles and San Francisco metropolitan areas. Because of the large population residing in these two areas, the volume would naturally be higher.

Officers Killed Nationwide

According to the FBI study *Law Enforcement Officers Killed - Summary 1974*, a total of 132 officers were reported killed throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. This is two less than the number reported in 1973. Approximately 43 percent of the 1974 killings occurred in the Southern states and 15 percent in the Western states. Illinois and Michigan had the highest number of peace officers killed with eleven each while California, Florida, and Texas each had nine.

Nationwide, the majority of officers killed were assigned to one-man vehicles and were responding to disturbance calls. These incidents occurred most frequently on Saturdays in July from 1-2 a.m. Slightly less than one-half of the officers killed by firearms nationwide were killed by shots to the head.

The FBI's nationwide profile of 167 known homicide offenders showed that 97 percent were male, 50 percent were between 20 and 30 years of age, 52 percent were white, 47 percent were Negro, 75 percent had prior arrest histories, 19 percent were on probation or parole at the time of the killing, and 26 percent had prior arrests for weapon violations.

PEACE OFFICERS ASSAULTED

The 3,143 peace officer injury assaults reported to BCS during 1974 are shown in two-hour time periods by day of the week in Table 2. The smallest number of assaults occurred between 6-8 a.m. The frequency of assaults began increasing at this time and peaked between midnight and 2 a.m. with 582 assaults. This peak time period for assaults may be associated with the closing of most bars at or before 2 a.m. daily or private parties winding down. Over one-third of the assaults (36.1 percent) occurred during the four-hour period from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The highest number of assaults occurred on Saturday and Sunday. The highest frequency of assaults on peace officers occurred on weekends particularly during the summer months.

TABLE 2
NUMBER OF PEACE OFFICERS ASSAULTED IN 1974
By Time of Occurrence and Day of Week

Hour of day	Total	Day of week						
		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Total	3,143	639	362	378	315	378	484	587
Midnight - 2 a.m.	582	161	50	54	66	57	56	138
2 - 4 a.m.	369	84	33	26	39	46	49	92
4 - 6 a.m.	114	30	11	13	6	13	14	27
6 - 8 a.m.	45	8	13	1	5	7	0	11
8 - 10 a.m.	83	10	20	13	9	9	12	10
10 a.m. - 12 noon	137	24	7	39	16	7	24	20
12 noon - 2 p.m.	110	16	17	20	10	16	20	11
2 - 4 p.m.	164	23	25	24	20	26	25	21
4 - 6 p.m.	249	38	42	37	28	27	32	45
6 - 8 p.m.	316	68	50	39	26	40	43	50
8 - 10 p.m.	404	67	43	47	52	66	77	52
10 - 12 midnight	554	108	48	64	37	63	130	104
Unknown	16	2	3	1	1	1	2	6

Type of Assignment

Table 3 describes the officer's type of duty and type of assignment at the time of the assault. As might be expected, the majority of the assaults (82.3 percent) involved officers assigned to patrol duty. These officers have the highest exposure to situations which may escalate into a physical confrontation. Of the 2,587 officers assaulted while on patrol duty, 1,287 (49.7 percent) were assigned to two-man vehicles when the assaults occurred. Officers working jail duty were next with 236 or 7.5 percent of the total assaults.

TABLE 3
NUMBER OF PEACE OFFICERS ASSAULTED IN 1974
By Type of Duty and Assignment

Type of duty	Total	Type of assignment				
		One-man vehicle	Two-man vehicle	Foot patrol	Motorcycle	Other
Total	3,143	1,179	1,378	119	40	427
Patrol	2,587	1,133	1,287	76	18	73
Jail	236	2	4	2	0	228
Plain clothes	97	19	42	11	0	25
Off duty	65	7	8	0	0	50
Selective enforcement	38	2	2	13	0	21
Other	120	16	35	17	22	30

Table 4 shows the allocation of patrol units by shift for California law enforcement agencies. Los Angeles Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Westminster Police Department, and Brisbane Police Department are not included. Of those California agencies which reported, 8,911 were assigned to field units, 6,559 (73.6 percent) were assigned to one-man vehicles, and 1,190 (13.4 percent) were assigned to two-man vehicles. Two-man vehicles ranged from 4.3 percent for the day shift to 20.6 percent for the night shift. Examination of Tables 3 and 4 shows that two-man vehicles made up only 13.4 percent of the field units, but were involved in 43.8 percent of the assaults.

TABLE 4
NUMBER OF PEACE OFFICERS ASSIGNED PATROL DUTY
By Type of Assignment and Shift Allocation

Type of assignment	Total	Shift				
		Day	Evening	Night	Other	Percent
Total	8,911	3,055	3,029	2,208	619	100.0
One-man vehicle	6,559	2,277	2,207	1,662	413	73.6
Two-man vehicle	1,190	130	505	454	101	13.4
One-man foot patrol	225	103	71	39	12	2.5
Two-man foot patrol	41	18	15	7	1	0.4
All other	896	527	231	92	92	10.1

Source: Bureau of Criminal Statistics annual survey on peace officer manpower allocations taken October 1, 1974. Survey excludes Los Angeles Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Westminster Police Department, Brisbane Police Department.

A number of factors may be considered as reasons for this large number of assaults on officers assigned to two-man vehicles. These units are often assigned to the more hazardous beats where assaults are likely to occur. In addition, many departments field only two-man units during the night shift when most assaults customarily occur. Finally two-man units are usually dispatched to disturbance calls where confrontations are expected to occur.

Table 5 shows that in 1,509 cases or 48.0 percent of the incidents, the assaulted officer was accompanied by a partner. In 936 cases or 29.8 percent of the assaults, a group of officers were present, suggesting a major disturbance. The most dangerous single activity with assault potential was answering disturbance calls. These represented 34.0 percent of all activity. This was true whether the officer was alone, with a partner, or with a group of officers. Next, were assaults

TABLE 5
NUMBER OF PEACE OFFICERS INJURED
BY ASSAULTS IN 1974
Officer Activity by Officer Status

Officer activity at time of assault	Total	Officer status			
		Alone	With a partner	With a group of officers	Other
Total	3,143	676	1,509	936	22
Responding to					
Robbery call	35	6	20	9	0
Burglary call	58	7	31	20	0
Disturbance call	1,068	202	493	367	6
Riot call	131	2	19	109	1
Vehicle stop or traffic pursuit	412	126	210	71	5
Bringing prisoner into custody	525	103	229	191	2
Investigating suspicious circumstances	137	49	71	16	1
Report of mentally disturbed person	52	12	16	21	3
Ambushed - no warning	15	8	6	1	0
Making an arrest	533	111	312	109	1
Investigating sex offenses	5	1	4	0	0
Investigating a murder	8	2	3	3	0
Other	164	47	95	19	3

incidental to making arrests (17.0 percent) followed by handling custody prisoners (16.7 percent) and during vehicle stops (13.1 percent). During 1974, there were 1,488,070 persons arrested in California, and 1,470 officers were reported injured in assaults while making these arrests. Based on 1974 arrests, one officer was injured by assault for every 1,012 arrests made.

Weapon Used

Table 6 shows severity of the injury by type of weapon used in the assault. Hands and feet were used in most of the assaults and dominated the moderate and minor injury categories. Items such as bottles, rocks, etc., were used as weapons in the "other" category. These weapons were used most frequently in riot or major disturbance situations.

TABLE 6
NUMBER OF PEACE OFFICERS ASSAULTED IN 1974
By Type of Weapon Used and Severity
of Officer's Injury

Type of weapon used	Total	Severity of injury ^a			
		Fatal	Severe	Moderate	Minor
Total	3,143	9	88	1,107	1,939
Knife	60	0	4	19	37
Club	70	0	5	37	28
Hands - feet	2,354	0	38	820	1,496
Teeth	148	0	4	85	59
Firearm	121	9	18	21	73
Vehicle	98	0	9	28	61
Other	267	0	10	86	171
Unknown	25	0	0	11	14

^aFatal - Injury resulted in death
Severe - Required hospitalization
Moderate - Required doctor's treatment
Minor - Required first-aid treatment

There were 120 assaults in which firearms were used and in which the officer was injured. Nine of these assaults resulted in fatal injuries. The fatal assault cases are described in greater detail at the end of the report. In some cases, especially in the minor or moderate injury category, the firearm was used as a club and was never actually fired.

The weapon used in an assault belonged to the offender in 86 or 71.7 percent of the incidents. Conversely, in 17.5 percent of the cases, the officer's own gun was used by suspects in committing the assault. This figure is much higher than might be expected and indicates the necessity for police planners to review such cases carefully to determine methods for curtailing such incidents.

Table 7 shows the type and caliber of firearm used in the assault. Handguns were used almost twice as often as were other firearms.

TABLE 7
NUMBER OF PEACE OFFICERS ASSAULTED
By Type of Firearm and Caliber

Type of firearm	Number	Percent
Total	120	100.0
Handguns	69	57.5
Revolver	58	48.3
.38	28	23.3
.357	11	9.2
.25	7	5.8
.22	7	5.8
All other	5	4.2
Pistol	11	9.2
9 MM	4	3.3
.45	3	2.5
All other	4	3.3
Shotgun	18	15.0
12 gauge	13	10.8
20 gauge	4	3.3
All other	1	0.8
Rifle	18	15.0
.22	10	8.3
30-30	5	4.2
All other	3	2.5
Unknown	15	12.5

Characteristics of Assaulted Officers

As shown in Table 8, patrolmen were assaulted most frequently during their first three years on the job. This table shows that as time on the job increases, assaults decrease.

TABLE 8
NUMBER OF PEACE OFFICERS ASSAULTED IN 1974
By Years of Experience and Rank of Officer

Years of experience	Total	Rank of officer				
		Patrolman	Supervisor	Detective	Reserve	Other
Total	3,143	2,811	222	52	34	24
Less than one	39	36	0	0	3	0
1	395	376	1	1	15	2
2	518	509	2	1	5	1
3	477	468	4	3	1	1
4	369	358	3	5	2	1
5	291	267	16	4	2	2
6	203	180	15	8	0	0
7	139	110	22	6	1	0
8	117	93	18	3	1	2
9	80	53	22	5	0	0
10	80	54	18	5	0	3
11	33	12	15	3	1	2
12	31	15	13	2	0	1
13	21	8	11	1	0	1
14	19	11	7	0	0	1
15	17	7	9	1	0	0
16	11	3	6	1	0	1
17	12	7	5	0	0	0
18	16	7	9	0	0	0
19	8	5	2	1	0	0
20	7	3	4	0	0	0
Over 20	45	27	14	1	0	3
Unknown	215	202	6	1	3	3

Table 9 shows the sex, age, and race of officers assaulted. Statewide there were 46,925 sworn law enforcement personnel reported on October 31, 1974; male officers accounted for 45,377 and females accounted for 1,548. The most frequent age for an officer to be assaulted was 27 years. About one of every 15 male officers and one of every 23 female officers were assaulted during the year. The majority of the females assigned duties other than patrol would account, in part, for their lower assault rate.

TABLE 9
NUMBER OF PEACE OFFICERS ASSAULTED IN 1974
Race and Sex of Assaulted Officers by Age

Age	Total ^a	Race				Sex	
		White	Mexican-American	Negro	Other	Male	Female
Total	3,143	2,926	98	63	56	3,077	66
20 and under ..	13	13	0	0	0	13	0
21	43	37	2	2	2	41	2
22	95	88	3	3	1	93	2
23	159	151	4	4	0	154	5
24	236	212	15	8	1	230	6
25	226	203	15	6	2	224	2
26	303	283	13	1	6	300	3
27	323	307	7	6	3	318	5
28	256	241	5	5	5	252	4
29	227	209	6	7	5	225	2
30-34	731	694	14	10	13	717	14
35-39	272	251	9	10	2	259	13
40-44	105	99	3	0	3	101	4
45-49	57	54	2	0	1	56	1
50-54	31	30	0	0	1	30	1
55-59	8	8	0	0	0	8	0
60 and over ...	3	3	0	0	0	3	0
Unknown	55	43	0	1	11	53	2

^a Age, race, and/or sex were not reported for 55 peace officers.

White officers were attacked most frequently. Since the proportion of total peace officers by race and the assault exposure potential of each race are unknown, it is not possible to determine whether a relationship exists between race of officer and extent of assault exposure.

Table 10 shows the height and weight of the assaulted officers. The average height and weight for assaulted officers was 5 feet 11 inches and 182 pounds. The height and weight most common to those officers assaulted was 6 feet and 170-190 pounds, respectively.

TABLE 10
NUMBER OF PEACE OFFICERS ASSAULTED IN 1974
By Height and Weight of Assaulted Officer

Height	Total ^a	Weight											Unknown
		Less than 120	120-129	130-139	140-149	150-159	160-169	170-179	180-189	190-199	200-219	Greater than 220	
Total	3,143	8	19	15	51	216	472	612	595	389	383	151	232
Under 5'6" ..	35	4	12	0	4	1	3	3	2	1	5	0	0
5'6"	15	0	2	3	1	5	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
5'7"	57	4	3	3	7	10	15	6	6	2	0	1	0
5'8"	208	0	1	4	19	41	56	50	20	9	5	3	0
5'9"	398	0	0	1	9	60	110	117	69	21	9	2	0
5'10"	463	0	0	2	5	42	119	111	95	48	34	7	0
5'11"	469	0	1	0	4	32	78	102	130	71	37	13	1
6'	539	0	0	0	1	16	44	133	133	101	90	17	4
6'1"	300	0	0	2	1	8	33	48	78	61	54	15	0
6'2"	221	0	0	0	0	1	4	28	36	44	72	36	0
6'3"	118	0	0	0	0	0	7	8	17	21	44	21	0
Over 6'3" ...	89	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	10	32	36	0
Unknown ...	231	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	227

^aHeight and/or weight were not reported for 236 peace officers.

Characteristics of the Offender

As shown in Table 11, there were 2,902 known offenders; 86.7 percent male and 13.3 percent female. The average age of offenders was 25.9 years. Race distribution for offenders was 54.0 percent white; 16.4 percent, Mexican-American; 27.0 percent, Negro; and 2.6 percent, all other.

TABLE 11
NUMBER OF PEACE OFFICERS ASSAULTED IN 1974
Race and Sex of Offender by Age

Age	Total known ^a	Race				Sex	
		White	Mexican-American	Negro	Other	Male	Female
Total	2,902	1,566	476	784	76	2,516	386
15 and under ..	72	22	14	33	3	48	25
16	108	47	22	37	2	79	28
17	124	66	40	17	1	114	12
18	167	93	34	38	2	142	26
19	193	92	35	61	5	168	25
20	176	106	30	34	6	164	12
21	174	101	23	47	3	150	24
22	174	92	31	49	2	159	15
23	227	116	37	68	6	192	37
24	140	68	26	44	2	126	14
25-29	529	298	78	148	5	478	52
30-34	280	167	35	76	2	243	37
35-39	183	109	22	40	12	163	20
40-44	108	63	14	30	1	92	16
45-49	105	58	14	27	6	83	23
50-54	42	21	6	15	0	35	7
55 and over ...	43	31	3	9	0	40	3
Unknown	57	16	12	11	18	40	10

^aAge, race, and/or sex were not reported for 164 offenders.

Table 12 shows that the average height and weight of offenders was 5 feet 9 inches and 164 pounds. About 13 percent were under 5 feet 6 inches. The distribution of height and weight and the average height and weight of the offenders show much lower averages than for the assaulted officers.

TABLE 12
NUMBER OF PEACE OFFICERS ASSAULTED IN 1974
By Height and Weight of Offender

Height	Total known ^a	Weight											Unknown
		Less than 120	120-129	130-139	140-149	150-159	160-169	170-179	180-189	190-199	200-219	Greater than 220	
Total	2,902	101	157	256	352	409	425	320	260	134	167	107	214
Under 5'6" ...	405	86	83	73	57	40	28	10	8	4	10	3	3
5'6"	204	4	30	50	48	33	20	6	2	3	7	0	1
5'7"	230	4	17	40	51	52	24	22	10	6	0	3	1
5'8"	294	2	16	35	54	58	45	26	26	9	11	11	1
5'9"	333	1	2	25	52	83	74	36	31	10	13	6	0
5'10"	306	3	6	18	21	60	63	48	44	8	23	12	0
5'11"	272	0	1	6	30	26	73	56	35	16	14	14	1
6'	254	0	0	3	25	28	53	41	39	29	24	10	2
6'1"	174	0	0	1	9	16	20	40	28	21	23	16	0
6'2"	104	0	0	0	2	10	18	18	16	13	13	14	0
6'3"	59	0	1	0	1	2	2	8	12	9	16	8	0
Over 6'3"	44	1	0	1	0	1	2	5	6	5	13	10	0
Unknown	223	0	1	4	2	0	3	4	3	1	0	0	205

^aHeight and/or weight were not reported for 232 offenders.

SUMMARY OF PEACE OFFICERS KILLED IN 1974

California State Police

Unknown person(s) entered a state building after working hours and fatally shot a 26-year-old white male state policeman. He was found lying in front of his desk, shot in the front of his head at close range with a .38 caliber handgun. A male Negro was subsequently arrested and charged.

El Monte Police Department

A 31-year-old male Mexican-American patrolman responded to a robbery call at the request of the Baldwin Park Police Department. A male Mexican robbery suspect was barricaded in a Baldwin Park building. When the suspect tried to flee the location, a gun battle ensued. The officer was killed by a stray bullet during the battle. The suspect was shot and killed by other officers. (Note: This death was not counted by the FBI in their survey of law enforcement officers killed.)

Los Angeles Police Department

An off-duty patrolman was found handcuffed and shot to death, execution-style, in a burned-out apartment building. Unknown person(s) had shot the white male 25-year-old officer in the back of the head and chest with a handgun. Suspects were not identified.

Oakland Police Department

Two Oakland police officers answered a call from high school officials concerning an adult who was causing disturbances on the school grounds. The officers, both white males, aged 24 and 29, apprehended a male Negro and took him to a room for an interview. A struggle ensued. The suspect disarmed one of the officers of his .357 magnum revolver and killed both officers. The suspect barricaded himself in another building, and was wounded when other officers forced their way into his hiding place.

Riverside Sheriff's Department

A 24-year-old white male deputy, while on a disturbance call, was talking to a white male suspect about the disturbance. To avoid arrest, the suspect pulled his gun. He disarmed the deputy, and killed him using the deputy's .357 magnum revolver. The subject subsequently surrendered.

Riverside Police Department

Two Riverside Police Department motorcycle officers, while on a vehicle stop, asked a subject to get out of his vehicle. The subject, a white male, refused to do so. He reached under the front seat, pulled a .38 caliber handgun, and fatally shot the 31-year-old white male officer in the head. The second officer returned fire, killing the suspect.

Sacramento Police Department

A 37-year-old white male detective, while working an auto theft detail with another officer, approached a male Negro auto theft suspect and attempted an arrest. A scuffle ensued wherein the suspect obtained the officer's .38 caliber revolver. The suspect killed one officer and wounded a second. The suspect fled on foot and was subsequently apprehended.

Union City Police Department

The Chief of Police was giving a public speech at a local church. Unknown person(s) fired six .30 caliber rifle rounds through a window from outside the church. The Chief, a white male, 32 years of age, died some time later from the wounds suffered during the assault. No suspects were apprehended at the time.

Yuba County Sheriff's Department

A resident mountain deputy for the Yuba County Sheriff's Department received a call indicating that a man was barricaded on the second floor of a residence threatening to shoot passers-by with a gun. Several officers responded and surrounded the house. A white male officer, 38 years of age, entered the house alone. A gunshot was heard, and the deputy was found dead with a 12 gauge shotgun head wound. A white male suspect was later apprehended.

END

7 cases / 11-11-11