

OpTac International News Bulletin

Law Enforcement Officers Shot in March 2016

OpTac International, Inc. conducts research in areas most affecting law enforcement officers and their agencies. From the creation of organizational conditions to increase the likelihood of successful outcomes on SWAT operations and critical incidents, to causality and line of duty deaths, our research attempts to improve the effectiveness and safety of policing.

Data on January and February line of duty deaths resulting from gunfire over the past two decades along with corresponding analysis were presented in a recent **OpTac International News Bulletin**. This **News Bulletin** presents data on the number and geographic locations for law enforcement officers shot in March 2016.

Current data for incidents involving law enforcement officers who were shot is almost non-existent. **OpTac International** conducted a meticulous search of news reports to offer a glimpse into this vitally important issue. The number of incidents, number of officers shot in each incident, corresponding dates, and geographic locations for March 2016 are detailed in the following table:

Incidents	Officers Shot	Location of Occurrence	Date
1.	1	Euless, TX	March 1, 2016
2. *LEO	1	Brooklyn, NY	March 8, 2016
3.	1	Jacksonville, FL	March 9, 2016
4.	1	Jackson, MS	March 9, 2016
5.	4	Kawerau, New Zealand	March 9, 2016
6.	1	Chester, PA	March 12, 2016
7. *LEO	1	Landover, MD	March 13, 2016
8.	3	Chicago, IL	March 14, 2016
9.	1	Woodruff, SC	March 14, 2016
10.	1	Fort Worth, TX	March 15, 2016
11.	1	Greenville, SC	March 18, 2016
12.	1	Park Forest, IL	March 19, 2016
13.	2	Russiaville, IN	March 20, 2016
14.	1	Chicago, IL	March 21, 2016
15.	1	Durham, NC	March 21, 2016
16.	1	Thornton, CO	March 23, 2016
17.	1	Laguna, NM	March 24, 2016
18.	1	Tampa, FL	March 26, 2016
19.	1	Charlotte, NC	March 26, 2016
20.	1	Ringgold, GA	March 27, 2016
21.	1	Richmond, VA	March 31, 2016

22. (Police K-9) 1 Las Vegas, NV March 31, 2016

Near Misses

1. Suspect's round barely missed the officer's head 1 Battle Creek, MI March 5, 2016

2. Suspect's rounds struck a police cruiser, but missed the 3 officers near it 3 San Jose, CA March 12, 2016

*LEO - Shot By Law Enforcement Officer

There were 22 separate incidents in which 28 law enforcement officers (including one K-9) were shot in March 2016. Three incidents involved more than one officer and 50 percent of the incidents occurred on the east coast. Additionally, two plainclothes officers were shot in separate incidents by fellow law enforcement officers; one unintentionally and one intentionally due to suspect misidentification. The table also contains two near misses in which four officers were almost shot. They were included solely for general informational purposes even though these types of occurrences were not researched as part of this study.

Conclusions: While making a direct correlation from one month's data is difficult, the shooting of 28 law enforcement officers in a single month is alarming. Calls for immediate government action would be resonating throughout the media if politicians, doctors, judges, lawyers, or teachers, instead of law enforcement officers, were the victims of 28 shootings in a month. This number would be even higher if the suspects involved in the near misses had been more accurate firing their weapons. Additionally, our data reflects a minimum number of occurrences since the possibility exists that under-reported incidents may have been unintentionally excluded.

Safety is paramount for law enforcement officers. The mentality that accepts officer shootings as "part of the job" permeates law enforcement and society in general, thereby creating a false normalcy. Attitudes toward policing, and policing itself, must radically change in order to protect the protectors of society while improving this vital community service.