Man wanted in officer’s slaying dies in gunbattle

By RICH MCKAY
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

BEVILLE’S CORNER — A man wanted in the killing of a New Jersey police officer last week was slain during a gunfight Easter morning after a chase by Hernando deputies.

Hernando deputies called for backup as they began to pursue Marti and he sped off and shot at them, Bergen County, N.J. prosecutor John L. Molinelli said.

Marti drove northeast on State crossing from Hernando in a county where Suwanee deputies, Caruthers said. The chase covered about 20 miles, Hernando sheriff’s officials said.

When the car stopped about 9:50 a.m., Marti got out with an AK-47 assault rifle and again shot at the deputies, officials said. He was shot several times by deputies, Caruthers said.

Marti was airlifted to a Lakeland hospital where he was pronounced

“Officer Down”
Assault Weapons and the War on Law Enforcement

Rifle attack called officer’s nightmare

The Roanoke Times, Sunday, June 17, 2001

Suspect brandished 9 mm ‘Uzi-style’ weapon, authorities say
Slain officer wanted shift with most action

ACTION FROM 1A
In his application, Cudnik said he wanted to work when all the action was happening.

Hiring processes allowed for this at the Roanoke Times,

Cudnik grew up in the Garfield Heights area and graduated from Parma Senior High School in 1967. He was the divorced father of three sons: Hilary Jr., 23, a Cleveland firefighter, Michael, 21, a student at the University of Dayton and Daniel, 19, with the Coast Guard.

Even though he worked the graveyard shift at night, Cudnik was a frequent presence at the bar, which opened at 6 a.m. to serve bacon and eggs to the no-nonsense working man’s crowd at the nearby LTV Steel Co. mill.

“He was always here,” said
The Violence Policy Center (VPC) is a national non-profit educational organization that conducts research and public education on firearms violence and provides information and analysis to policymakers, journalists, grassroots advocates, and the general public. The Center examines the role of firearms in America, analyzes trends and patterns in firearms violence, and works to develop policies to reduce gun-related death and injury.

This report was authored by VPC Legislative Director Kristen Rand and VPC Policy Analyst Marty Langley. It was edited by VPC Publications Coordinator Aimée Stenzel and VPC Executive Director Josh Sugarmann.

This study was funded in part with the support of The David Bohnett Foundation, The California Wellness Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and The Streisand Foundation. Past studies released by the VPC include:

- “*Just Like Bird Hunting*”—*The Threat to Civil Aviation from 50 Caliber Sniper Rifles* (January 2003)
- *No Deal: The Drop in Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers in America* (September 2002)
- *Sitting Ducks—The Threat to the Chemical and Refinery Industry from 50 Caliber Sniper Rifles* (August 2002)
- *The U.S. Gun Industry and Others Unknown—Evidence Debunking the Gun Industry’s Claim that Osama bin Laden Got His 50 Caliber Sniper Rifles from the U.S. Afghan-Aid Program* (February 2002)
- “*A .22 for Christmas*”—*How the Gun Industry Designs and Markets Firearms for Children and Youth* (December 2001)
- *Kids in the Line of Fire: Children, Handguns, and Homicide* (November 2001)
- *Unintended Consequences: Pro-Handgun Experts Prove That Handguns Are a Dangerous Choice For Self-Defense* (November 2001)
- *Voting from the Rooftops: How the Gun Industry Armed Osama bin Laden, Other Foreign and Domestic Terrorists, and Common Criminals with 50 Caliber Sniper Rifles* (October 2001)
- *Shot Full of Holes: Deconstructing John Ashcroft’s Second Amendment* (July 2001)
- *Hispanics and Firearms Violence* (May 2001)
- *Where’d They Get Their Guns?—An Analysis of the Firearms Used in High-Profile Shootings, 1963 to 2001* (April 2001)
- *Handgun Licensing and Registration: What it Can and Cannot Do* (September 2000)
- *Pocket Rockets: The Gun Industry’s Sale of Increased Killing Power* (July 2000)
- *Guns For Felons: How the NRA Works to Rearm Criminals* (March 2000)
- *One Shot, One Kill: Civilian Sales of Military Sniper Rifles* (May 1999)
- *Cease Fire: A Comprehensive Strategy to Reduce Firearms Violence* (Revised, October 1997)
Introduction

In 1994, Congress passed, and President Clinton signed, a ban on the production of certain semiautomatic assault weapons as well as high-capacity ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds. The law banned specific assault weapons by name and also classified as assault weapons semiautomatic firearms that could accept a detachable ammunition magazine and had two additional assault weapon design characteristics. The law is scheduled to end on September 13, 2004.

This study reveals the gun industry’s efforts to evade the 1994 ban and documents the significant threat assault weapons still pose to law enforcement. These facts make clear the need to not only renew, but also strengthen, the ban before it expires next year. Legislation will soon be introduced in the U.S. Congress to accomplish this goal. Without action this Congress, the 1994 law will expire in 2004.

Both President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft have expressed support for the assault weapons ban. President Bush’s support for the ban has been longstanding. In October 2000, Bush campaign spokesperson Ray Sullivan told Salon magazine that he would expect then-candidate Bush to reauthorize the ban.¹ That position was reiterated by Attorney General John Ashcroft during his confirmation hearings on January 17, 2001, when he stated, “It is my understanding that the president-elect of the United States has indicated his clear support for extending the assault weapon ban, and I would be pleased to move forward that position, and to support that as a policy of this president, and as a policy of the Justice Department.”² Most recently, in April of this year, White House spokesperson Scott McClellan told Knight Ridder news service, “The President supports the current law, and he supports reauthorization of the current law.”³

This study contains three sections. Section One: Assault Weapons, the Gun Industry, and Law Enforcement reveals how the firearms industry has evaded the current ban, and how assault weapons continue to pose a stark threat to America’s law enforcement personnel. Section Two: Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty by Assault Weapons, 1998 Through 2001 is a chart listing the known incidents of police officers killed by assault weapons, including year, state, manufacturer, model of assault weapon, and caliber. Section Three: Selected Incidents of Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty by Assault Weapons, 1998 Through

---


section one: assault weapons, the gun industry, and law enforcement

assault weapons: a clear threat to law enforcement

a primary stimulus for the 1994 law was the severe threat that assault weapons pose to law enforcement officers. police and other law enforcement personnel were some of the first victims of the assault weapon trend that emerged in the 1980s. for example, in october 1984, a san jose, california, police officer was gunned down with an uzi carbine. in a high-profile shootout in april 1986, two agents from the federal bureau of investigation (fbi) were killed by robbery suspects wielding a ruger mini-14 assault rifle. five other agents were wounded in the gun battle. as high-capacity assault weapons became more commonplace, police routinely complained that they were being outgunned by suspects. as a result, major law enforcement organizations supported passage of the 1994 federal assault weapons ban.

in 1995, the first full year in which the ban was implemented, police continued to be victims of assault weapons. approximately one in 10 of the 74 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 1995 was slain with a banned assault weapon.4

the gun industry evades the law

immediately after the 1994 law was enacted, the gun industry moved quickly to make slight, cosmetic design changes in their “post-ban” guns to evade the law, a tactic the industry dubbed “sporterization.” of the nine assault weapon brand/types listed by manufacturer in the law,5 six of the brand/types have been re-marketed in new,

4 cop killers: assault weapon attacks on america’s police, violence policy center, september 1995.
5 the law states, “the term `semiautomatic assault weapon’ means—(a) any of the firearms, or copies or duplicates of the firearms in any caliber, known as—(i) norinco, mitchell, and poly technologies avtomat kalashnikovs (all models); (ii) action arms israeli military industries uzi and galil; (iii) beretta ar70 (sc-70); (iv) colt ar-15; (v) fabrique national fn/fal, fn/lar, and
“sporterized” configurations. In fact, gunmakers openly boast of their ability to circumvent the assault weapons ban. Their success is described in an August 2001 Gun World magazine article about the new Vepr II assault rifle, a “sporterized” version of the AK-47:

In spite of assault rifle bans, bans on high capacity magazines, the rantings of the anti-gun media and the rifle’s innate political incorrectness, the Kalashnikov [AK-47], in various forms and guises, has flourished. Today there are probably more models, accessories and parts to choose from than ever before.

Equally blunt was an article in the May 2003 issue of Gun World reviewing the LE Tactical Carbine, a post-ban, “sporterized” AR-15 clone:

Strange as it seems, despite the hit U.S. citizens took with the passage of the onerous crime bill of 1994 [which contained the federal assault weapons ban], ARs are far from dead. Stunned momentarily, they sprang back with a vengeance and seem better than ever. Purveyors abound producing post-ban ARs for civilians and pre-ban models for government and law enforcement agencies, and new companies are joining the fray.

Just such a post-ban AR, the Bushmaster XM15 M4 A3 assault rifle, was used by the Washington, DC-area snipers to kill 10 and injure three in October 2002. The Bushmaster is the poster child for the industry’s success at evading the ban. The snipers’ Bushmaster is even marketed as a “Post-Ban Carbine.” [Please see page four for catalog copy.]

The industry’s efforts have been aided by the fact that not all assault weapons are covered by the 1994 ban. For example, assault weapons with more conventional designs, such as the Ruger Mini-14, were not covered by the 1994 law—although gun experts define them as assault weapons. Furthermore, any gun that was legally possessed as of the date the 1994 law took effect may still be legally possessed and

---

6 Assault weapons that have not been reintroduced are the Beretta AR70, Street Sweeper and Striker 12 assault shotguns (the latter two guns were re-classified by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) as subject to the strict regulations of the National Firearms Act of 1934), and Steyr AUG, although Steyr has begun marketing a new assault weapon—the Vector—that, like the AUG, is of a bullpup design.

The Bushmaster XM15 used by the Washington, DC-area snipers to kill 10 and wound three in October 2002 is the poster child for the gun industry's cynical efforts to circumvent the federal assault weapons ban. Maine-based Bushmaster even advertises the gun—based on the banned Colt AR-15 assault rifle—as a “Post-Ban Carbine.”
transferred without restriction. With respect to high-capacity ammunition magazines, manufacturers stockpiled thousands, or perhaps hundreds of thousands, of magazines before the ban took effect. Those magazines—some of which can hold up to 75 rounds of ammunition—are still widely available.

Still a Threat to Police—One in Five Law Enforcement Officers Slain in the Line of Duty is Killed With an Assault Weapon

The gun industry’s evasion of the 1994 ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines continues to put law enforcement officers at extreme risk. Using data obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Violence Policy Center has determined that at least 41 of the 211 law enforcement officers slain in the line of duty between January 1, 1998, and December 31, 2001, were killed with assault weapons. Using these figures, one in five law enforcement officers slain in the line of duty was killed with an assault weapon.

While no comprehensive information is yet available for the years 2002 and 2003, it is clear that law enforcement personnel continue to be killed by assault weapons. For example, on February 20, 2003, in Alexandria, Louisiana, two police officers were killed in an ambush with an AK-47-type assault rifle. Anthony Molette, age 25, had a long criminal history, including a charge of attempted first-degree murder. The day before the murders, Molette opened fire on an officer in his patrol car. The officer was not hurt, but 18 to 20 rounds were fired into the vehicle. Molette bragged to his friends about the shooting, prompting Alexandria police to search for him. When officers arrived at Molette’s residence to serve a warrant, Molette opened fire, fatally wounding Officers Charles Ezernack, age 26, and Jeremy “Jay” Carruth, age 29. Molette was shot and killed as he charged two other police officers.

The fact that from 1998 through 2001 one in five law enforcement officers slain in the line of duty was killed with an assault weapon indicates that the ban in its current form is inadequate to protect police and the public from the hazards presented by assault weapons.

---

8 The Federal Bureau of Investigation data does not identify the firearm used in some instances, in those cases the type of firearm is listed as “unknown.” Therefore, the number of law enforcement officers killed with assault weapons may actually be higher. (This figure does not include the 72 law enforcement deaths that resulted from the events of September 11, 2001. The foreword of the FBI’s Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 2001 states, “Because a catastrophe such as the September 11 attacks falls far outside the normal course of police experience, the FBI has not included those fatalities in the 2001 rate, trend, or disposition tables for to do so would skew the data and render analyses meaningless.”) The year 2001 is the most recent year for which complete information is available from the FBI.

According to the Urban Institute’s 1997 study of the effects of the 1994 ban, \(^{10}\) “the relatively high use of assault weapons in murders of police suggests that police gun murders should be more sensitive to the effects of the ban than gun murders of civilians.” The stark reality that murders of law enforcement personnel committed with assault weapons have not abated demonstrates the need to not only renew, but significantly strengthen, the current ban.

---


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Caliber</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Colt</td>
<td>AR-15</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Iver Johnson</td>
<td>M1 Carbine</td>
<td>.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Norinco</td>
<td>SKS¹¹</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>MAC-11</td>
<td>9mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>California</td>
<td>Armalite</td>
<td>M151A</td>
<td>.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Colt</td>
<td>AR-15</td>
<td>.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Colt</td>
<td>AR-15</td>
<td>.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>DPMS, Inc.</td>
<td>AR-15</td>
<td>.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>SKS</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>SKS</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>AR-15</td>
<td>.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>AR-15</td>
<td>.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>MAK 90</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>California</td>
<td>Ruger</td>
<td>Mini-14</td>
<td>.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>Norinco</td>
<td>SKS</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>Ferunio/Hungarian Arms</td>
<td>SA85</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>Norinco</td>
<td>SKS</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹¹ The SKS is not banned by name under the 1994 federal assault weapons ban. Only SKS rifles that were modified to be defined as an assault weapon under Section (B) of the law were affected by the ban. Section (B) defines a “semiautomatic assault weapon” as “a semiautomatic rifle that has an ability to accept a detachable ammunition magazine and has at least 2 of—(i) a folding or telescoping stock; (ii) a pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon; (iii) a bayonet mount; (iv) a flash suppressor or threaded barrel designed to accommodate a flash suppressor; and (v) a grenade launcher....” Legislation to be introduced this Congress would explicitly ban any SKS able to accept a detachable ammunition magazine. Unless otherwise stated, the exact configuration of SKS weapons used in police shootings cited in this study cannot be determined.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Caliber</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Intratec</td>
<td>TEC-9</td>
<td>9mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>AK-47</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>California</td>
<td>Norinco</td>
<td>MAK 90</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>Colt</td>
<td>AR-15 H-BAR</td>
<td>.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Norinco</td>
<td>MAK 90 Sporter</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Norinco</td>
<td>MAK 90</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Norinco</td>
<td>MAK 90</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Norinco</td>
<td>MAK 90</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Norinco</td>
<td>MAK 90</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2000 North Carolina</td>
<td>Maadi</td>
<td>ARM</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Ruger</td>
<td>AR-15(^{12})</td>
<td>.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>California</td>
<td>Colt</td>
<td>CAR-15</td>
<td>.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Ruger</td>
<td>Mini-14</td>
<td>.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Intratec</td>
<td>TEC-9</td>
<td>9mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>M1 Carbine</td>
<td>.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>AR-15</td>
<td>.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>SWD, Inc.</td>
<td>M-11</td>
<td>9mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>AK-47</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Underwood</td>
<td>M1 Carbine</td>
<td>.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Underwood</td>
<td>M1 Carbine</td>
<td>.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>SKS</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>Maadi</td>
<td>MAK 90</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>M-11</td>
<td>9mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Norinco</td>
<td>SKS</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>Norinco</td>
<td>SKS</td>
<td>7.62mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{12}\) Inconsistency between manufacturer and weapon type from FBI data.
Section Three: Selected Incidents of Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty by Assault Weapons,\textsuperscript{13} 1998 Through 2001

\textsuperscript{13} Each weapon shown is representative of the brand or model of assault weapon and is not a picture of the specific weapon used in the shooting described in the narrative.
On January 27, 1998, one police officer was killed and two were wounded with a Norinco SKS 7.62mm rifle. The officers, working on a drug investigation in Portland, entered the home of Steven Douglas Dons and were met with gunfire. Colleen Waibel, a six-year veteran, was hit with multiple gunshots, becoming the first female officer killed in the line of duty in Portland. Kim Keist, a 15-year veteran, was wounded in the chest and arm despite wearing a bullet-proof vest. A third officer was treated for a gunshot wound to the hand. A neighbor reported that Dons was known to have a large arsenal of weapons and that police had been called to the house weeks before on a complaint of weapons being fired. Dons committed suicide while awaiting trial.

On April 25, 1998, one police officer was killed with an Armalite M151A .223 rifle. Officer David Chetcuti responded to another officer’s call for help in a traffic stop on the Millbrae Avenue off-ramp of U.S. 101. Officer Seann Graham had pulled over Marvin Patrick Sullivan for not having a current registration sticker for his vehicle. Sullivan, who was heavily armed and had bombs strapped to his body, opened fire, wounding Officer Chetcuti. Chetcuti returned fire hitting the suspect once in the side before being killed by two shots to the head from close range. Several of the bullets penetrated Chetcuti’s bullet-proof vest, and more than 40 bullet casings were recovered at the scene. Officer Graham escaped harm by diving into a drainage ditch. Sullivan was arrested after leading several police cars in a chase across the San Mateo Bridge. Sullivan has been repeatedly declared incompetent to stand trial, and sent to a California state mental hospital.

On May 29, 1998, one police officer was killed and two were wounded with an SKS 7.62mm rifle. Officer Dale Claxton stopped a truck that had been reported stolen the day before. As Officer Claxton was checking the stolen truck’s license plate, a passenger in the truck fired approximately 40 rounds through the front of Claxton’s police cruiser. Montezuma County Sheriff’s Deputy Jason Bishop responded to the radio call of an officer being shot, and was wounded as his cruiser was hit with approximately 40 more rounds from the SKS. Minutes later, Deputy Todd Martin was wounded in the left arm and right leg. The three suspects, described by authorities as “anti-government, end-of-the-world-fearing survivalists,” escaped into Colorado. Two of the suspects were later found dead, while the third, Jason Wayne McVean, is still at large.

Date: July 7, 1998
Location: San Benito, Texas
Assault Weapon: AR-15 .223 rifle

On July 7, 1998, two U.S. Border Patrol agents were killed with an AR-15 .223 rifle. Ernie Moore, reportedly enraged over a broken love affair, shot and wounded Dan Morin, who had been dating Moore’s former girlfriend, and killed Morin’s mother and sister. Two hours later, a shootout ensued between Moore and police officers resulting in the death of two Border Patrol agents before Moore was fatally wounded. In addition to a cocaine habit, Moore had a history of emotional problems and displayed Nazi posters and photos of Adolf Hitler in his bedroom.

On November 29, 1998, Los Angeles Police Department training officer Brian Brown was killed with a Ruger Mini-14 .223 rifle. Brown and his partner witnessed a drive-by shooting in Culver City and attempted to stop the suspects. The gunmen fired multiple rounds from the Mini-14, killing Officer Brown. Police shot and killed one of the suspects near the scene while the other managed to commandeer a taxi, leading police on a five-mile chase before also being fatally wounded.

Date: January 10, 1999
Location: Oakland, California
Assault Weapon: MAK-90 or SA85 7.62mm rifle

On January 10, 1999, Officer James Williams was killed with a MAK-90 or SA85 7.62mm rifle. Officer Williams was among a group of officers who were searching for a rifle that had been discarded by the occupants of a vehicle that was involved in a chase with police. While they were searching for the rifle, a gunman opened fire from a nearby overpass, killing Officer Williams. Chad Rhodes was arrested and charged with special-circumstances murder, attempted murder, three counts of firing an assault weapon, and possessing an assault weapon. Rhodes pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

On April 8, 1999, Officer Joyce Carnegie was killed with a TEC-9 9mm pistol. Condell Woodson pleaded guilty to felony murder in the death of Officer Carnegie. Woodson claimed that his gun accidentally went off, shooting Carnegie in the head and abdomen as she was attempting to arrest Woodson for armed robbery. Woodson also pleaded guilty to robbery and weapons offenses. Carnegie was the second policewoman killed in the line of duty in New Jersey history.

On June 12, 1999, Sheriff’s Deputy Brad Riches was killed with a MAK-90 or SA85 7.62mm rifle. Deputy Riches was sitting in his patrol car outside a 7-Eleven when his police cruiser was riddled with assault weapon fire. The 7-Eleven clerk said that a customer told him he was carrying an AK-47-style assault rifle to shoot a police officer. Maurice Steksal was convicted on November 19, 2002 of the first-degree murder of Deputy Riches.

On January 27, 2000, Sheriff’s Deputy Todd Cook was killed with a Maadi 7.62mm rifle. Deputy Cook was serving a warrant at the home of Christopher Lee Cooper who had been accused of trespassing and was also wanted by Lexington police for questioning about a statutory rape. Deputy Cook was shot at least five times from behind. After the shooting, Cooper led police on a car chase that ended when he crashed through a roadblock. Officers found Cooper dead in the car from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

On August 3, 2000, State Trooper Randall Vetter was killed with a Ruger Mini-14 .223 rifle. Trooper Vetter stopped 72-year-old Melvin Hale for not wearing his seat belt. Hale got out of his car and aimed his rifle at Vetter because he believed the traffic stop violated his constitutional rights. Vetter raised his pistol and ordered him to put down his gun. Hale fired at least twice, hitting Vetter in the head as he sat in his patrol car. Six months earlier, another San Marcos trooper had written a letter warning Hays County law enforcement officers to exercise caution around Hale. The trooper said Hale had threatened him with a rifle when he stopped at Hale’s ranch to ask about deer hunting on the 125-acre property. Hale pleaded guilty to the shooting and was sentenced to life in prison.

On March 29, 2001, San Antonio Police Officer Hector Garza, age 48, was shot and killed while responding to a domestic disturbance report. Jessica Garcia, age 21, had called police to ask for an officer’s protection while she moved out of her home. When Garcia’s husband, Frank, learned of her plans, he drove home and killed both Jessica and Officer Garza—a 25-year police veteran—by shooting them both in the head with an M-11 assault pistol. Frank Garcia, 28, was arrested at the scene and charged with two counts of capital murder and three counts of attempted murder. Garcia was convicted of the murders in February 2002.

Date: April 4, 2001
Location: Detroit, Michigan
Assault Weapon: SKS assault rifle

On April 4, 2001, Detroit Police Officer Neil Wells, age 41, was fatally shot during a drug raid at an abandoned apartment house. While on patrol, Wells and his partner received a complaint of drug sales at the building. When the officers arrived, the gunman was waiting in ambush behind a door. Wells was shot twice at close range with an SKS assault rifle. Lamont Smith, age 21, was charged with murder and felony firearm violations. Smith was convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to 60 to 90 years in prison.

Date: September 6, 2001
Location: Hamilton County, Tennessee
Assault Weapon: MAK 90 assault rifle

On September 6, 2001, Hamilton County Sheriff’s Deputy Donald Bond, age 35, was shot and killed when he stopped at a fruit and vegetable stand to check on a suspicious vehicle. When Deputy Bond did not respond to a 2:18 AM call from his dispatcher, an alert was sent out to locate him. A fellow deputy found Bond dead beside his patrol car, shot multiple times with an MAK 90 assault rifle. Later that morning, acting on a tip, a SWAT team evacuated the suspect’s street and waited for a chance to make an arrest. After observing Marlon Duane Kiser, age 31, throw out a front panel of body armor and Deputy Bond’s service weapon, police arrested Kiser and charged him with first-degree murder. Kiser is awaiting trial in the case.

On September 17, 2001, Marion County Sheriff’s Deputy Jason Baker, age 24, was killed during a car chase and gun battle. On his way to a report of a domestic dispute, Deputy Baker tried to make a traffic stop. The driver refused to stop and a chase ensued. Allen Dumperth, a convicted felon, and Michael Shannon, both age 20, fired at Baker from their fleeing car. When Baker’s fellow officers found him, he was dead from a gunshot wound to the head. The front and rear windows of his patrol car were shot out. After crashing his car, Dumperth was shot and killed by members of the police SWAT team. Shannon later pleaded guilty in court to shooting Deputy Baker.

Jessamine County Sheriff’s Deputies Billy Ray Walls, age 28, and Chuck Morgan, age 51, were shot and killed, and another deputy was wounded, when they tried to serve a warrant for misdemeanor terroristic-threatening to Phillip Walker, age 75, on his drydocked houseboat. Walker had threatened to kill a family member with a gun. While in the houseboat with the deputies, Walker fired 11 shots from a 30-caliber M1 Carbine, killing Deputy Walls and fatally injuring Deputy Morgan. Walker was killed in the gun battle.

About the Violence Policy Center

The Violence Policy Center (VPC) is a national nonprofit educational organization working to reduce death and injury from firearms. As America’s premier think tank on gun policy, the VPC studies current firearms issues and provides information to policymakers, journalists, public health professionals, and grassroots activists.

The virtually unrestricted distribution of firearms is more than a crime problem; it is a national health crisis. Unlike every other consumer product, firearms are exempt from federal health and safety laws. Guns—especially handguns and assault weapons—are inherently dangerous products, and the failure to regulate them like all other products costs thousands of lives and billions of dollars every year. By conducting research on key issues in firearms policy, the VPC counters the gun lobby’s distortions and brings hard facts to the debate over firearms death and injury.