Attacks and assaults on law enforcement

Unusual Assaults
October was one of the deadliest months for law enforcement this year. Attacks and assaults on law enforcement officers appear to be happening with more frequency, often without provocation. Two recent attacks involving subjects who used bladed weapons, such as hatchets and axes, are causes for concern for our officers nationwide. Incidents such as these should raise officers’ awareness and remind them to be observant as they go about their daily tours of duty. The purpose of this flyer is to provide an awareness of some of the recent incidents which are highlighted below.

Causes of officer deaths for October 2014

- Gunfire—4
- Traffic-related—5
- Duty-related heart attacks—3

NYPD officer attacked with a hatchet in Queens

- October 23: A New York police officer is in critical condition and another officer is in stable condition after being attacked by a man wielding a hatchet on a Queens’ street. Two officers fired on the subject, stopping the attack. The assailant was pronounced dead at the scene.

Washington, DC, police officer attacked with an ax

- October 31: An officer was sitting in a marked police car in the 1200 block of Quincy Street, NE, shortly after 3:00 a.m. on Friday, when a man swung an ax and shattered the driver’s side window. The officer got out of the car and struggled with the attacker, who fled on foot without the ax. The officer was injured in the scuffle and suffered a dislocated shoulder. The subject escaped and fled the scene.

New York Police Department

- November 3, 2014: A 25-year-old man jumped into the rear passenger side of a New York City police vehicle while it was stopped at a red light. The subject then struggled with a sergeant in the passenger seat over the officer’s gun, which discharging in the chaos. The subject managed to get the gun away from the officer and fled the vehicle, where he was stopped by an officer on foot and two other officers in a patrol car. Police officers ordered the man to drop the weapon. Three officers then exchanged gunfire with the suspect, who was hit multiple times in the legs and torso before being taken into custody.