



THE "GORILLA"

Commonly called "The Gorilla in the Room" by the

WOI, awareness or thoughts of the aftermath of being catastrophically wounded in the line of duty are seldom topic of a conversation. The lack of awareness leaves all those affected ill prepared for the life changes brought by catastrophic injury. It is assumed by both the public and law enforcement officers that the officers will be taken care of after being wounded in the line of duty. Sadly this is not always the case. Commonly seen within local media outlets are fundraising events for wounded officers. The purpose of the fundraising ranges from helping pay medical bills incurred as a result of the line-of-duty injury, to helping save wounded officers from losing their home because of a financial crisis due to inadequate compensation for their injury.



Building awareness among the public and within law enforcement is needed to help shed light on the hardships of catastrophically wounded officers and their families, and help minimize these hardships. By creating awareness of the plight of wounded officers, the WOI hopes to effect positive change in the benefits or lack of benefits given to wounded officers, change the way wounded officers are treated, assist wounded officers and their families with mental and physical preparedness for their life change, and most importantly provide them with hope.

The WOI awareness program has and will continue to bring awareness to wounded officers through the use of:

- Social Media such as Facebook, You Tube, Google, Twitter.
- News Media including Television, Radio, Publications.
- Exhibitions, Fund Raising Events, Talking Engagements, Sponsorships.
- WOI Public Service Announcements; Posters, Videos, Training Programs.
- WoundedOfficersInitiative.org.
- Full Length Documentary.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) tracks officer injuries related to criminal acts. The FBI gathers this statistical information through the Uniform Crime Report (UCR). Although great in giving an overall picture on crimes committed against officers, it falls short of providing the more thorough picture and awareness of the aftermath.

In cooperation with municipal, county, state, and federal agencies, the WOI will maintain statistical data of officer injuries occurring in the line of duty. The purpose of this data is three fold; to better educate the public by providing greater information on the dangers of law enforcement; assist law enforcement agencies in identifying areas where officer injuries are common so that training can be developed to reduce those injuries, ultimately reducing workman's compensation cases; and identify areas where manufacturers can develop new and improved equipment to keep officers from being injured.

The statistical data the WOI will report is broken down into three main categories with sub categories illustrated below:

CRIMINAL ACTS	ACCIDENTAL	HEALTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting Weapon • Firearm • Vehicle • Blunt Object • Assault • Explosive • Other (Dogs, Fire, Chemical, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training, DT, Firearms, • Physical Fitness • Vehicle • Firearms • Other Performance of Duty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health • Substance Abuse • Disease • Other Health

Information source regarding FBI statistics:

<https://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/fbi-releases-2014-statistics-on-law-enforcement-officers-killed-and-assaulted>