

Law Enforcement Officers Killed by Concealed Handgun Permit Holders
May 2007 to the Present

This subset of the total number of people killed by concealed handgun permit holders contains vignettes describing the circumstances for incidents in which individuals with permits to carry concealed handguns killed law enforcement officers. The descriptions include the current, known status of any charges filed against the permit holder as well as noting instances where the perpetrator committed suicide.

The Violence Policy Center welcomes any new information regarding the status of any case (with verifiable source(s)). Use this link to contact the VPC: <http://www.vpc.org/contact.htm>.

Alabama

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Bart Johnson

CONVICTED

Date: December 3, 2009

People Killed: 1

Law Enforcement Officers Killed: 1

Circumstances: On December 3, 2009, Bart Johnson shot and killed Pelham, Alabama, police officer Philip Davis during a routine traffic stop. Officer Davis had stopped Johnson for speeding. According to videotape from the officer's patrol car, Davis and Johnson spoke briefly, and Davis then went to write Johnson a ticket. Upon his return, Johnson told Davis that his brother was a police officer. Officer Davis replied, "Why didn't you tell me that before? Let me have his name and number so I can tell him what happened." Then, "unprovoked and without a word, Johnson fired one shot, striking Davis in the face." Johnson fled the scene, abandoned his Acura, and attempted to break into another vehicle. When he was noticed by someone, Johnson displayed his gun and waved the person away. He was later picked up by his brother and surrendered to authorities. A local pharmacist, Johnson obtained a concealed weapons permit in 2007 and renewed it in 2008 and 2009. He is charged with capital murder.

UPDATE: On May 12, 2011, Bart Johnson was found guilty of capital murder in the death of Officer Davis. He was convicted on two counts, one for the murder of an off-duty police officer and one for causing death by shooting into an occupied vehicle. On June 16, 2011, Johnson was sentenced to death by lethal injection.

Source: "Bart Johnson sentenced to death," *shelbycountyreporter.com*, June 16, 2011; "Bart Johnson guilty, jury recommends death," *www.myfoxal.com*, May 12, 2011; "Pharmacist charged in officer's killing had permit for weapon," *The Birmingham News*, December 8, 2009; "Pelham police officer's slaying baffles investigators," *The Birmingham News*, December 5, 2009.

Florida

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Humberto Delgado, Jr.

PENDING

Date: August 19, 2009

People Killed: 1

Law Enforcement Officers Killed: 1

Circumstances: Humberto Delgado Jr., 34, allegedly shot and killed 11-year Tampa police veteran Corporal Mike Roberts after the officer responded to a suspicious person call. Delgado was pushing a shopping cart which turned out to be filled with military gear, a Kel-Tec assault rifle, a Taurus .45 pistol, and a .22 revolver. He also had a Glock 17 pistol in a backpack. When Corporal Roberts tried to question Delgado, a struggle ensued and Roberts was shot while on his back. Although Corporal Roberts was wearing body armor, a bullet struck him in an unprotected area and entered his chest. Delgado had been a law enforcement officer in the Virgin Islands for four years until 2000 and had served in the U.S. Army. He had a concealed handgun permit issued in North Carolina. Florida has reciprocity with North Carolina. A search of Delgado's storage unit uncovered another firearm, a laser sight, a copy of *Shooter's Bible*, and a certificate for completion of a firearms safety course. Delgado faces charges of premeditated murder and aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer.

Source: "'Not guilty' plea in killing," *tampabay.com*, September 14, 2009; "Documents show Delgado had more weapons, Police: accused killer had 'Shooter's Bible' too," *myfoxtampabay.com*, September 1, 2009; "Tampa officer was on his back when shot dead," *tampabay.com*, August, 31, 2009; "Accused police killer: who is he?," *10connects.com*, August, 21, 2009; North Carolina Statute 14-415.11; North Carolina Department of Justice, Concealed Weapons Reciprocity.

Florida

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** James Wonder

PENDING

Date: August 5, 2008

Total Killed: 1

Law Enforcement Officers Killed: 1

Circumstances: On August 5, 2008, James Wonder allegedly shot and killed U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agent Donald Pettit after a road-rage incident. After the two got into a shouting and finger-pointing match while driving, Wonder pulled into a post office parking lot, Pettit followed and was shot and killed. After the shooting, Wonder sped away to a kidney dialysis appointment where he told a nurse that whomever had killed the agent must have been a “professional.” He then went home, hid the gun, changed his hair color, and rented a car to reportedly hide his involvement in the shooting. Wonder, who had a concealed handgun permit, has been indicted on manslaughter charges.

Source: “Police: Suspect in agent’s killing told nurses of road rage argument: Police: Suspect in federal agent’s killing described a road rage fight,” *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, August 21, 2008; “Man charged in agent’s road rage killing out on bail; A Broward retiree who was charged in the death of a customs agent paid bail and was released from jail on Friday,” *Miami Herald*, August 30, 2008.

Idaho

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Jason Kenneth Hamilton

SUICIDE

Date: May 19, 2007

Total Killed: 4 (including shooter)

Total Wounded: 3

Law Enforcement Officers Killed: 1

Circumstances: On May 19, 2007, Jason Kenneth Hamilton, a member of the white supremacist group Aryan Nation, shot and killed his wife, a police officer, and a church sexton, and wounded three others before turning the gun on himself in a shooting spree in Moscow, Idaho. Hamilton had a concealed handgun permit “despite a [previous] domestic violence conviction that should have barred him from owning guns.” He also possessed a federally registered fully-automatic AK-47 machine gun, one of the guns he used in the shooting spree.

Source: “Shooter Linked to Aryans; Killer also had federal license for automatic weapons,” *Spokesman Review*, May 23, 2007; “Authorities investigate Hamilton’s gun purchase; Mass killer apparently obtained the automatic weapon late in 2004 or early in 2005; Ambush aftermath,” *Lewiston Morning Tribune*, May 24, 2007.

Ohio

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Ashford Thompson

CONVICTED

Date: July 13, 2008

People Killed: 1

Law Enforcement Officers Killed: 1

Circumstances: On July 13, 2008, Ashford Thompson shot a police officer four times in the head after he was pulled over for playing loud music. Thompson used a Kel-Tec P11 “pocket pistol” in the shooting. Thompson, who had a concealed handgun permit issued by Cuyahoga County and had received a certificate for completing a concealed-carry class, pled guilty to aggravated murder.

UPDATE: Thompson’s guilty plea was later tossed out by the Ohio Supreme Court because of a technicality. Thompson was then tried by a jury and entered a plea of not guilty. In June 2010 Thompson was found guilty of aggravated murder and escape, among other charges. He was sentenced to death in June 2010.

Source: “Cop Killer Ashford Thompson Sentenced to Death,” *FOX8.com*, June 23, 2010; “Ashford Thompson found guilty on all counts,” *Twinsburgbulletin.com*, June 3, 2010; “Accused killer of Twinsburg cop goes on trial,” *www.wtam.com*, May 17, 2010; “Man indicted in killing of Twinsburg officer,” *Plain Dealer*, July 22, 2008; “Ashford Thompon’s sentencing hearing set for Oct. 15 in police officer’s murder,” *Plain Dealer*, June 25, 2009; “Thompson Pleads Guilty In Miktarian Death,” *AkronNewsNow.com*, April 13, 2009.

Pennsylvania

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Richard Poplawski

CONVICTED

Date: April 4, 2009

People Killed: 3

Law Enforcement Officers Killed: 3

Circumstances: On April 4, 2009, white supremacist Richard Poplawski shot and killed police officers Stephen Mayhle, Paul Sciullo, and Eric Kelly while injuring another. Among the guns used in the shootout by Poplawski were an AK-47 assault rifle, a pistol, and a shotgun. He had a concealed handgun permit despite a former girlfriend having obtained a protection-from-abuse order against him. Poplawski's mother told police that he had been "stockpiling guns and ammunition...because he believed that as a result of the economic collapse, the police were no longer able to protect society." She additionally stated that "her son 'only liked police when they were not curtailing his constitutional rights, which he was determined to protect.'" Poplawski was charged with three counts of criminal homicide and one count of aggravated assault. He pled not guilty. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

UPDATE: On June 26, 2011, Poplawski was found guilty of three counts of first-degree murder as well as 25 other crimes. He was sentenced to death.

Source: "Poplawski is sentenced to death; police clap for jury," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, June 28, 2011; "Poplawski guilty on all counts," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, June 26, 2011; "Poplawski bought guns through shop in Wilkinsburg," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, April 7, 2009; "Who is Richard Poplawski? Friends, Family Talk About Pittsburgh Suspect in Police Officers' Triple-Killing," *ThePittsburghChannel.com*, April 6, 2009; "Pittsburgh police shooting arraigned by computer," *Associated Press at philly.com*, June 1, 2009

Pennsylvania

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Christina Korbe

CONVICTED

Date: November 19, 2008

Total Killed: 1

Law Enforcement Officers Killed: 1

Circumstances: On November 19, 2008, Christina Korbe shot and killed FBI Special Agent Samuel Hicks. Federal agents, led by Agent Hicks, had entered Korbe's home to serve an arrest warrant on her husband. The gun used by Korbe in the incident was a 38 caliber Taurus Ultra-Lite revolver. In addition to being charged with killing an FBI agent, Korbe, who had a concealed handgun permit, was charged in federal court with firearm offenses.

UPDATE: On January 18, 2011, Christina Korbe pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and committing a crime of violence with a firearm. Korbe was sentenced to 70 months for manslaughter, 120 months for the firearm offense, and was given credit for time already served.

Source: "Pennsylvania woman gets 16 years in FBI killing case," *Reuters*, January 18, 2011; "Korbe Remorseful for Shooting Death of FBI Agent," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, December 10, 2008; Indictment of Christina Marie Korbe, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, January 8, 2009; "More charges filed against accused killer of FBI agent," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, March 19, 2009.

Virginia

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Randy Gilbert Newberry

KILLED BY POLICE

Date: March 13, 2011

Law Enforcement Officers Killed: 2

Circumstances: On March 13, 2011, Randy Gilbert Newberry, 52, opened fire on Virginia sheriff's deputies killing two and critically wounding two others. Newberry used a high-powered rifle in the sniper attack, firing approximately 50 rounds in the assault. He was killed by police when he pointed a handgun at responding officers. Newberry's neighbors were stunned by the lethal outburst by someone with no criminal history. He had renewed his concealed handgun permit three times since 1999, most recently in 2009. Newberry was an avid hunter who liked guns according to neighbors.

Source: "Randy Gilbert Newberry lived quiet life according to neighbors, records," *TriCities.com*, March 15, 2011; "Conley: 'It smelled like it smelled in Vietnam. It's like those shots fill the air and hang there forever,'" *TriCities.com*, March 15, 2011; "Va. Mountain sniper who killed 2 deputies, wounded 2 others made final phone call to his wife," *Associated Press*, March 14, 2011.