ARMED ENCOUNTERS
PROJECT

Presentation to the Quality of Life Council
Nova Southeastern University
September 14th, 2010

Tammy Kushner, Psy.D., Principal Investigator
Marguerite Bryan, Ph.D.
Kelly Armstrong, Doctoral Student/Research Assistant
Center for Psychological Studies, NSU

Zachary Scott, Training Instructor, ICJS
Leslie Taylor, Ph.D.
Broward Sheriff’s Office
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

• Hired research assistant – Kelly Armstrong (CPS doctoral student)
• Advertised and created a selection committee reviewing all 11 applicants.

STATISTICIAN

• Secured a statistician/ from the Statistical Consulting Center of NSU. Dr. Gabriel Suciu from HPD.

• Went beyond statistical methodology and is assisting with data collection by creating a database utilized by the CDC.
• Assisting with the methodology

• Assisting with sampling and interpretation of the data (data analysis)
GRANT IMPLEMENTATION

DATA GATHERING

• Established point of contacts with 19 law enforcement agencies including BSO which accounts for another 14 districts.

• Began data collection with these departments.
DISSEMINATION

- Panel discussion on Sept 29th at 3:15pm at the Southern Criminal Justice Association Conference in Clearwater, FL. Discuss preliminary data.

- Future Research and Outreach Activities:
  Incorporate findings into the ongoing training curriculum of the Institute for Criminal Justice Studies (ICJS) Regional Training Center of The BSO.

  Presentation to the NSU community (QOL Award Committee & NSU/BSO Advisory Board); Broward Chiefs of Police Association, Institute of Public Safety (Broward College); Broward Police Department’s Training units
Future Research and Outreach Activities:

- Manuscripts for publication will be submitted in peer-reviewed journals such as *Justice Quarterly*, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, *American Journal of Police*, *Journal of Criminal Justice Education* and *Public Administration Review*.

- The work will be disseminated at the Broward Sheriff’s Office Institute for Criminal Justice Studies as a set of training recommendations for inclusion in their recruitment and in-service curricula.
COMMUNITY IMPACT

• A significant impact of the study will be to influence practice and provide police trainers with new insights into armed encounters and appropriately adjust training methods.

• The community benefits because better training for officers leads to less dangerous encounters with suspects and increases officer safety and officer and suspect survival.
EXTERNAL FUNDING/SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

• The current project is a pilot study in Broward County to investigate the factors associated with outcomes of officer armed encounters.

• The goal is to conduct a larger and more in-depth records analysis of law enforcement armed encounters through a records analysis of armed encounters kept by law enforcement agencies across the state of Florida.
Funding for the current study in Broward County will provide a base from which researchers can expand the research to the state of Florida and attract funding from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and other private funding sources.
CURRENT RESEARCH DATABASE AND SURVEY

• 139 cases of discharged weapons from over 8900 in the sample
  Officer killed, felonious – 3.6%, Officer Assaulted, Serious Injury – 5%, Officer Assaulted, Minor Injury – 15.8%, Officer Assaulted, No Injury – 71.9%, Unknown – 3.6%

• Most weapons were discharged when officers responded to disturbance (12.9%) and traffic stops (12.9%)
CURRENT RESEARCH DATABASE AND SURVEY

- 57.6% of officers were wearing body armor
- Majority of officers (40.3%) were not aware that offenders had a weapon
- Majority of discharges occurred 2 feet or less (33.1%)
- 92.8% of discharges were made by male officers and majority were Whites (80.6%)
- Majority of offenders (67.6%) are males
- 38.8% of offenders who discharged their weapons were Blacks and 35.3% were Whites