

# Articles of Interest From American Police Beat

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## Suicide By Cop Study A Shocker

By Jose Torres

“Suicide by Cop” (SBC) is a phenomenon that many police officers are familiar with. It is a suicide method in which someone creates a seemingly dangerous or threatening situation, often directly threatening another civilian or a police officer, in order to get themselves killed by a law enforcement officer.

A recent study published in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* looked at a large sample of officer-involved shootings to determine the frequency of this phenomenon.

Their studies showed that suicide by cop occurs in over a third of officer-involved shootings, with 36 percent of all shootings being categorized as SBC. Suicide by cop cases were significantly more likely to result in the death or injury of the subjects.

Kris Mohandie, Ph.D., led the study. Mohandie is a noted police and forensic psychologist with over 19 years experience in the assessment and management of violent behavior. Dr. Mohandie assisted police with the O.J. Simpson barricade as well as the L.A. County District Attorney’s prosecution of Steven Spielberg’s stalker. He is widely recognized in the news media, with appearances on CNN and MSNBC as well as on the Discovery Channel, A&E, and the History Channel.

The researchers in the study examined 707 cases of officer-involved shootings which occurred between 1998 and 2006. They reviewed police reports, witness statements, criminal histories, photographs, videotapes, and external review reports.

Suicide by cop was found to account for a much larger portion of officer-involved shootings than had been previously believed, underscoring the significance of suicidal impulses among those who become involved in violent and dangerous encounters with police officers.

The study also verified what many law enforcement personnel have seen first-hand — suicidal individuals threaten, injure, and kill innocent people in their quest to commit suicide. The odds of another person being injured during an SBC incident were high — such an injury occurred in one out of every three cases in the study.

“It is clear from our research that SBC is a common occurrence among officer involved shootings and must be considered as an issue during post-event investigations,” the authors said.

*Reprinted courtesy of American Police Beat, April 2009* ■

### BOLO: FREE BBQ Grills

As every grilling chef knows, come summer it will be time to get ready for that all-important cooking technique...outdoor grilling! Great for those weekends at the lake!

There are several stores where people are picking up “FREE” BBQ grills! In these hard economic times, a lot of people are very excited about it

They have been getting their free BBQ grills from any of the following stores:

A&P  
Albertsons  
Bi-Lo  
Costco  
Food Lion  
Fry’s  
HEB  
Home Depot  
Ingles  
Big Lots  
Bloom  
Brookshire’s  
Lowe’s  
Publix  
Sam’s Club  
Target  
Vons  
Trader Joe’s  
Wal-Mart and  
Winn-Dixie, to name a few.

They are looking especially for those with the higher rack...which can be used for keeping things warm! And look at those bread warmers...how handy is that!?!?

If they get a plastic one to start, they’ll without fail be back for a metal one...the plastic ones don’t last so well.



If you find one of these grills, please look nearby for the rubber wheels that they came with before returning to the store.

## Letter To PBA

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** *The Florida PBA attorneys handle over a hundred cases a year, both formally and informally, before the CJSTC and with its staff. Keep up the good work, PBA Legal Staff!*

~David Murrell

May 18, 2009


BCPBA  
Attention: Pat Hanrahan  
2650 N SR 84  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312

To the Legal and Support Staff of the PBA:

I would like to take a moment to thank all of you for your time and effort. In particular Barbara Duffy and Hal Johnson, who in a combined effort, helped me maintain my police certification after my retirement.

Hal had FDLE review the facts of my case prior to a scheduled probable cause hearing. That review resulted in the cancellation of the hearing determining that no further action would be taken.

My sincere thanks,

  
Raymond Shackoor  
Retired  
PBA Member

Cc: Barbara Duffy  
Hal Johnson