

Important Career Issues From American Police Beat

Facebook – The Career Killer

No matter how often you tell people that there is no such thing as privacy on the Internet, some people refuse to believe that their Facebook account is not actually “secure” from the prying eyes of bosses, marketers, and almost everyone else. The belief in the myth of cyber-privacy recently cost a cop in Sandy Springs, Georgia his job. Now former **Sgt. O.J. Concepcion** says he wants his job back after he was fired, allegedly for comments he posted on his Facebook page.

Concepcion says he was fired for posting an “anti-backstabbing cartoon” that somehow wound up in the wrong officer’s mailbox.

“My Facebook is set on private and the public cannot read it,” Concepcion told reporters with WSBTV News. When Channel 2 Action News reporter **Mark Winne** asked how many friends can view his Facebook profile, Concepcion ball-parked the number at around 300 “friends.”

The former sergeant admitted to posting a “status update” that said the following: “Orlando J Concepcion is: working with the FBI this week... I smell a million-dollar

drug seizure coming our way soon.”

When reporters asked if he believed such a post might endanger other law enforcement personnel, Concepcion said he didn’t think that was likely and he was just so excited to be working with the feds he wanted to let everyone know.

“I just love what I do. I was so excited just being a part of the FBI task force.”

The terminated officer also acknowledged another Facebook posting another day suggesting authorities would be raiding an area between two specific streets. When reporters asked again if he believed he was endangering anyone by posting sensitive law enforcement information on Facebook, he again said no.

“I want his job back, I want his name cleared, and I don’t want officers to go through this,” said **Mike Puglise**, Concepcion’s lawyer.

Concepcion said he is being singled out and plans to file a complaint to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and possibly a lawsuit. ■



“I was demoted.”

2009 Officer Fatalities In The News

FBI: More Officers Died in the Line of Fire in 2009

Reprinted Courtesy of AOLNews.com Allan Lengel Contributor (May 10, 2009)

From the three Pittsburgh cops gunned down in one day to a U.S. border patrol agent ambushed by Mexican teens, the year 2009 was an especially deadly one for local and federal law enforcement, according to the FBI.

In its preliminary report, the FBI found a 17 percent jump in the number of officers “feloniously killed” in the line of duty in 2009, comparing the toll of 48 with the previous year’s 41. Additionally, 47 officers were accidentally killed in 2009, or 21 fewer than the year before.

Of the officers feloniously or criminally killed last year, 15 died in ambush situations and nine died during an arrest, the report said. On top of that, eight died during traffic stops or pursuits, five died while responding to disturbance calls, four while investigating suspicious activities, one while dealing with a person with mental illness, two while transporting prisoners and four in other situations.

All were shot and killed except three, who were struck by cars. Of those killed with guns, 28 were shot with handguns, 15 with rifles and two with shotguns.

The FBI report said 35 of the law enforcement officers were wearing body armor at the time of their deaths. Twelve fired their weapons and nine attempted to.

Seven of the officers had their weapons stolen. Two were killed with their own weapons. Geographically, the most deaths -- 21 -- occurred in the South. Elsewhere, 13 happened in the West, seven in the Northeast and five in the Midwest. Two were slain in Puerto Rico, the FBI said.

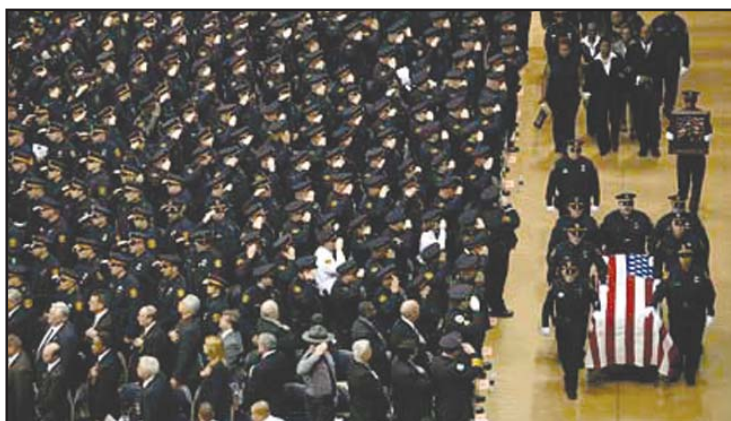
Some of the more egregious incidents in 2009 included the slaying of four Lakewood police officers who were ambushed at a coffee house outside of Tacoma, Wa. in November, and the March deaths of four officers who were

shot and killed in Oakland, Calif. by an ex-felon wanted on a parole violation.

Robert Casey, section chief for the FBI’s Criminal Justice Information Services Division, which compiles the report, said the agency uses the stats to educate law enforcement about the perils of the job.

It also videotapes suspects who are willing to talk after their convictions and their appeals have been exhausted. He said some will say what the officer did wrong or explain that it wouldn’t have mattered, that they weren’t going back to prison, Casey said.

The FBI then shows the instructional videos in law enforcement classes to help officers stay alive, Casey said. “They’re extremely helpful,” he said of the stats and the videos. ■



Colleagues carry the casket of Pittsburgh Police Officer Eric Kelly, who was killed with two fellow officers while responding to a domestic dispute last year. An FBI report found 2009 was an especially deadly year for law enforcement.

Marriage Is Sharing

An old man placed an order for one hamburger, French fries and a drink.

He unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half, placing one half in front of his wife.

He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife.

He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them. As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them were looking over and whispering.

Obviously they were thinking, “That poor old couple – all they can afford is one meal for the two of them.”

As the man began to eat his fries, a young man came to the table and politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said, they were just fine – they were used to sharing everything and one meal was plenty.

People closer to the table noticed the little old lady hadn’t eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink.

Finally, as the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked “If you share everything, why don’t you eat? What is it you’re waiting for?”

She answered, “The teeth!”