

At-A-Glance Suicide by Cop

In light of recent events on college campuses in the U.S., it is worth mentioning the phenomena of “Suicide by Cop” as a means of possible suicidal behavior.

- The phenomena “Suicide by Cop” or “Office Assisted Suicide” occurs when a person intentionally decides to end his or her life by provoking police into using deadly force
- At least 10% of police deadly force incidents involve suicide by cop scenarios
- Those who provoke officers into using deadly force may do so intentionally, knowing that officers are required to shoot under certain circumstances
- Second guessing is extremely common when an officer learns that a person has manipulated him or her into shooting

Officers who fatally shoot at person express mixed reactions when they discover that the death was a provoked suicide. Some express anger toward the victim for using them as an instrument of death, thereby causing *unnecessary trauma* for the unwitting officer.

Source:

Spencer-Thomas, S. (2007). Suicide by Cop. Newsletter for Nicoletti-Flater Associates, <http://www.n-fa.com>