

Law enforcement deaths up by 28 percent

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- Statistics released Thursday show that 2007 has been the deadliest year since 1989 for law enforcement officers in the United States. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund reported that 186 officers have been killed so far this year, a 28 percent increase over 2006. Officers killed by gunfire and traffic-related events rose. Traffic deaths reached a record high of 81. Handguns were used in the deaths of 51 officers. Rifles killed nine officers and shotguns eight. "In 2007, our nation's law enforcement officers were confronted with more brazen, heavily armed and cold-blooded criminals than they have faced in many years," said Craig W. Floyd, chairman and CEO of the organization.

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