

FOURTH REPORT TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND
UNDER PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE § 3-507
Fiscal Year 2013 SWAT Team Deployment Data Analysis

Maryland Statistical Analysis Center,
Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

Revised December 1, 2014

INTRODUCTION

On May 19, 2009, Governor O'Malley signed into law Senate Bill 447/ House Bill 1267, which was subsequently enacted under the *Annotated Code of Maryland, Public Safety Article § 3-507*. This law requires law enforcement agencies that *maintain* a SWAT Team,¹ as a part of its regular deployment and operation, to report specific activation and deployment information to the Maryland Statistical Analysis Center (MSAC) located in the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP), under Executive Order 01.01.2007.04. MSAC and the Police Training Commission worked with law enforcement and legal representatives to develop a standardized, efficient, user-friendly format to record and report data required under this law.

METHODOLOGY

The 2013 SWAT report represents eligible SWAT Team deployments that were reported to MSAC during Fiscal Year 2013 (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013); data were submitted biannually. The first data set were submitted by January 15, 2013 which included data from July 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. The second six months of data were submitted by July 15, 2013 and included SWAT deployment data from January 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013. Both data sets were then combined, merged, standardized, and analyzed using IBM SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) Statistics version 21.0 to formulate this report. IBM SPSS Statistics version 21.0 is a system package widely accepted and used by researchers and social scientists.

An eligible SWAT deployment occurred when a Team took SWAT-related tactical police action; however, SWAT-related police action did not include: manpower security, executive protection, or general law enforcement duties. Law enforcement agencies were required to electronically submit verification to MSAC regardless of SWAT deployment. MSAC received 100% compliance from law enforcement agencies that were required to report. Every law enforcement agency that maintains a SWAT Team reported:

- The number of times the SWAT Team was “activated and deployed;”
- The location where the SWAT Team was deployed (e.g., zip code);
- The legal authority for each activation and deployment (i.e., Arrest Warrant, Search Warrant, Barricade, Exigent Circumstances, or Other);
- The reason for each activation and deployment (i.e., Part I Crime, Part II Crime, Emergency Petition, Suicidal, or Other); and
- The result or outcome of each deployment (i.e., whether forcible entry was used; whether property or contraband was seized; whether a weapon was discharged by a SWAT Team

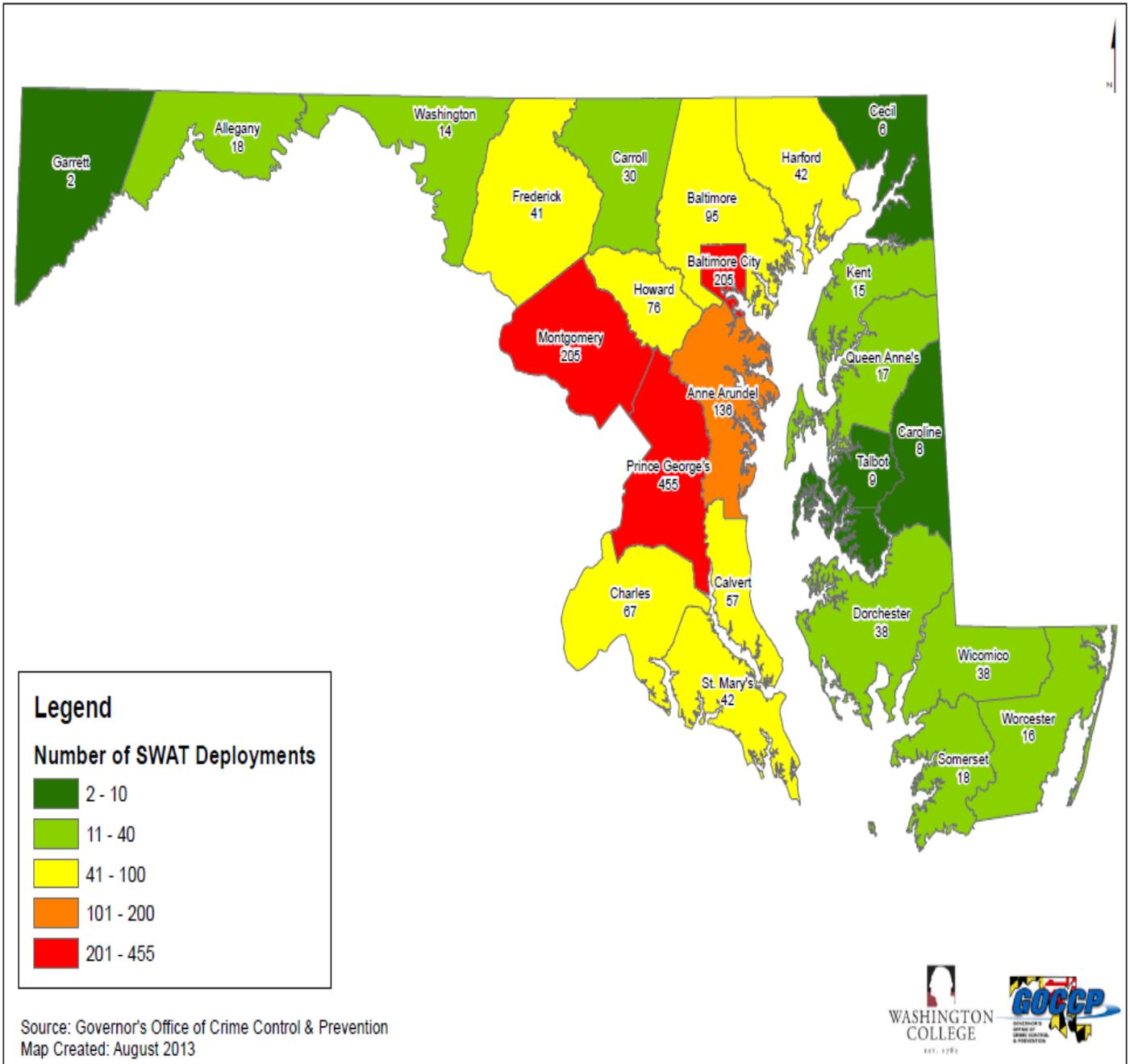
¹ According to the *Annotated Code of Maryland, Public Safety Article, § 3-507 (A)(2)*, a SWAT Team is defined as a special unit composed of two or more law enforcement officers within a law enforcement agency trained to deal with unusually dangerous or violent situations and having special equipment and weapons, such as rifles more powerful than those carried by regular police officers.

member; the number of arrests made; whether any person or domestic animal was injured or killed by a SWAT Team member; and whether there were any injuries of a SWAT Officer).

RESULTS

During Fiscal Year 2013, a total of 1,650 SWAT deployments were activated throughout the State. This total resembles a decrease of 1 SWAT deployment, compared to Fiscal Year 2012 (n = 1,651). SWAT deployments took place in all 24 of Maryland's jurisdictions as depicted on the map below.

SWAT Deployments by County Fiscal Year 2013



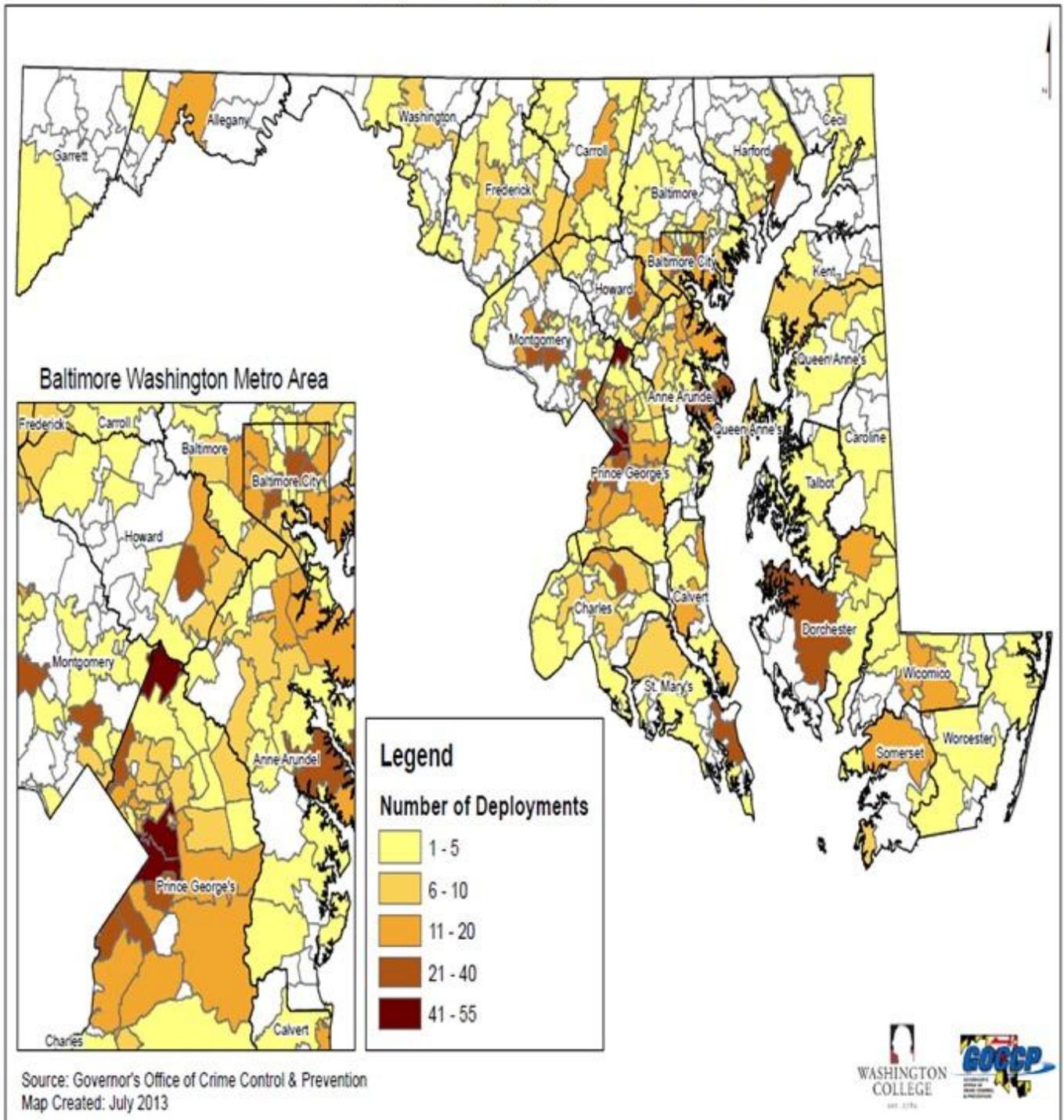
A total of 38 police departments reported at least one SWAT deployment and activation in Fiscal Year 2013. An additional 3 agencies had an active SWAT Team but did not make a deployment during the reported period. All of the remaining law enforcement agencies in Maryland were excluded from this report because they do not have a SWAT Team. *Table 1 illustrates the breakdown of deployments activated by police agency.*

Table 1. Number of SWAT Deployments and the Percent of Total Deployments by Police Agency					
	Frequency	Percent		Frequency	Percent
Aberdeen Police Department	21	1.3%	Howard County Police Department	73	4.4%
Annapolis City Police Department	30	1.8%	Hyattsville Police Department	2	0.1%
Anne Arundel County Police Department	101	6.1%	Kent County Sheriff's Office	1	0.1%
Baltimore City Police Department	204	12.4%	Laurel Police Department	24	1.5%
Baltimore County Police Department	91	5.5%	Maryland State Police	48	2.9%
Berlin Police Department	3	0.2%	Montgomery County Police Department	204	12.4%
Calvert County Sheriff's Office	61	3.7%	Natural Resources Police	1	0.1%
Cambridge Police Department	10	0.6%	Ocean City Police Department	5	0.3%
Charles County Sheriff's Office	65	3.9%	Prince George's County Police Department	406	24.6%
Chestertown Police Department	14	0.8%	Prince George's County Sheriff's Office	6	0.4%
Cumberland Police Department	18	1.1%	Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office	14	0.8%
Dorchester County Sheriff's Office	25	1.5%	Salisbury Police Department	19	1.2%
Easton Police Department	3	0.2%	Somerset County Sheriff's Office	1	0.1%
Frederick County Sheriff's Office	23	1.4%	St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office	38	2.3%
Frederick Police Department	15	0.9%	Takoma Park Police Department	6	0.4%
Garrett County Sheriff's Office	2	0.1%	Washington County Sheriff's Office	7	0.4%
Greenbelt Police Department	7	0.4%	Westminster Police Department	29	1.8%
Hagerstown Police Department	6	0.4%	Wicomico County Sheriff's Office	26	1.6%
Harford County Sheriff's Office	21	1.3%	Worcester County Sheriff's Office	20	1.2%

Location of SWAT Deployment

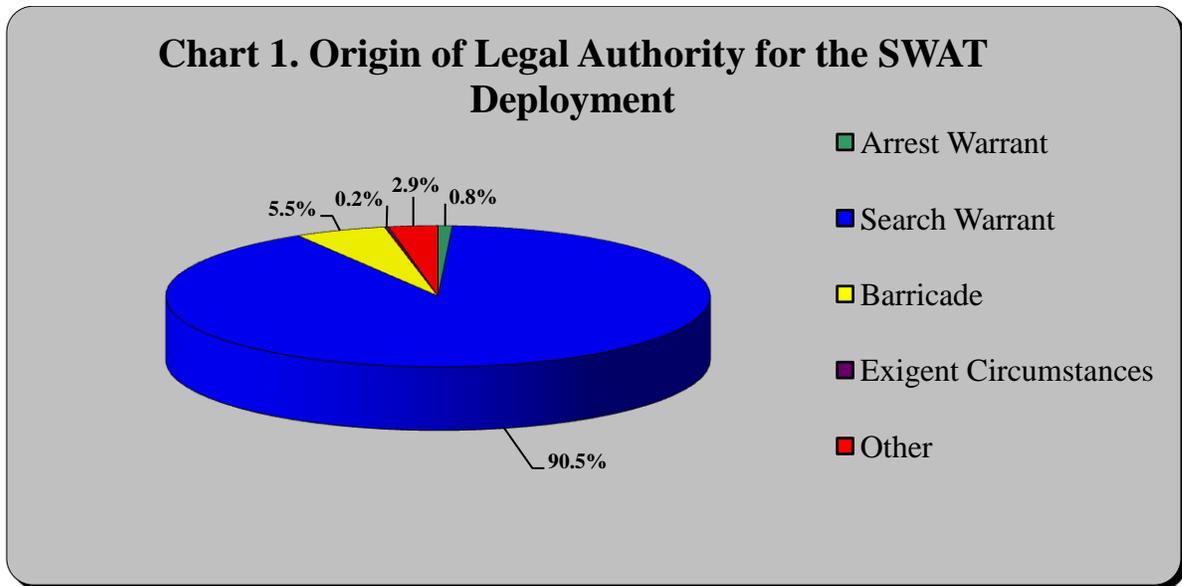
The map below depicts the number of SWAT deployments by zip code. The number of deployments per zip code ranged from 0 to 55, in Fiscal Year 2013.

SWAT Deployments by Zip Code Fiscal Year 2013



Legal Authority for Activation

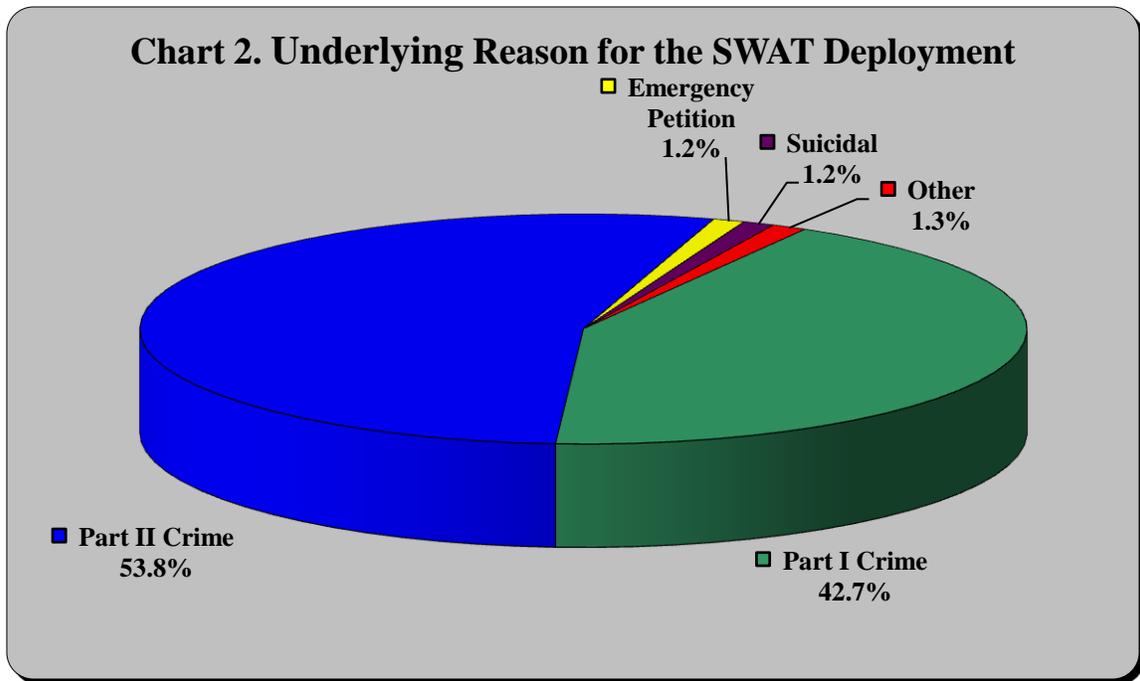
The majority of deployments occurred in conjunction with the execution of a search warrant (90.5%, n = 1,494). The remaining categories accounted for almost 10% of the deployments, including: barricade (5.5%, n = 90), other (2.9%, n = 48), arrest warrant (0.8%, n = 14), and exigent circumstances (0.2%, n = 4). Similar results were achieved over the past 3 years of SWAT Data Reporting. *Chart 1 displays the legal authority for every activated SWAT deployment.*



Reason for Deployment

The underlying reason for SWAT Team activation consists of responses to Part I Crimes, Part II Crimes, Emergency Petitions, Suicidal persons, or Other reasons. In the Uniform Crime Reports, Part I Crimes consist of eight crimes: homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, breaking and entering, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Part II Crimes can consist of a variation of offenses; however, for the purposes of a SWAT Team, most deployments would be activated to recover and seize illegal drugs and other contraband items from the offender.

The majority of deployments (96.4%, n = 1,591) were activated through the commission of a Part I Crime (42.7%, n = 704), or a Part II Crime (53.8%, n = 887). In comparison, Fiscal Year 2012 showed a similar prevalence in the response to Part I Crimes and Part II Crimes (44.8% and 51.2%, respectively). Additional reasons for deployment activation consisted of: other reasons (1.3%, n = 21), responding to a suicidal person (1.2%, n = 19), and answering to an emergency petition (1.2%, n = 19). Regardless of the reason for the SWAT deployment, all Teams are deployed to respond to potentially dangerous or violent situations in order to minimize the risk of harm to police officers and members of the public. *Chart 2 shows the underlying reason for each SWAT Team deployment.*



Most deployments occurred in conjunction with the execution of a search warrant for Part I and Part II Crimes (91.6% and 95.5%, respectively). Emergency petitions and responding to a suicidal person are primarily barricade situations. *Table 2 displays the cross tabulation of deployment reason stratified by the legal authority.*

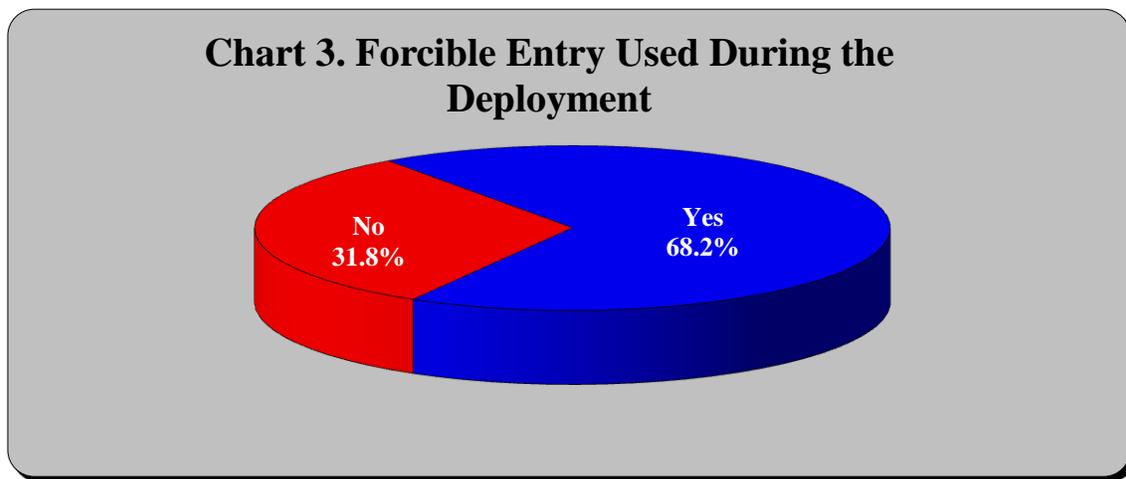
Table 2. Legal Authority by Underlying Reason for the SWAT Deployment							
Authority		Part I Crime	Part II Crime	Emergency Petition	Suicidal	Other	Total
Arrest Warrant	Count	11	3	0	0	0	14
	Pct	1.6%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
Barricade	Count	37	9	17	19	8	90
	Pct	5.3%	1.0%	89.5%	100.0%	38.1%	5.5%
Exigent Circumstances	Count	2	0	2	0	0	4
	Pct	0.3%	0.0%	10.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Other	Count	9	28	0	0	11	48
	Pct	1.3%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	52.4%	2.9%
Search Warrant	Count	645	847	0	0	2	1,494
	Pct	91.6%	95.5%	0.0%	0.0%	9.5%	90.5%
Total Deployments	Count	704	887	19	19	21	1,650
	Pct	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Outcome of Deployment

Forcible Entry

Forcible entry is defined as ANY entry during which the occupant does not consent to entry. A nonconsensual entry to penetrate the premises includes any physical force whether or not damage to the location actually occurs. Forcible entries include a deployment where notice has not been given to the occupants prior to the tactical Team’s entry and entries where the occupant refused consent to enter.

Over 2/3 of all SWAT deployments involved forcible entry (68.2%, n = 1,125). Similar results were acknowledged over the past 3 years (69.1%, 68.1%, and 65.8% in Fiscal Years 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively). *Chart 3 illustrates the percent of forcible entries that occurred during deployments.*



Forcible entry was utilized similarly during responses to Part I and Part II Crimes (69.9% and 69.6%, respectively), though less likely to be used during a response to emergency petitions, suicidal persons, or other deployments. *Table 3 displays the cross tabulation of deployment reason stratified by the use of forcible entry.*

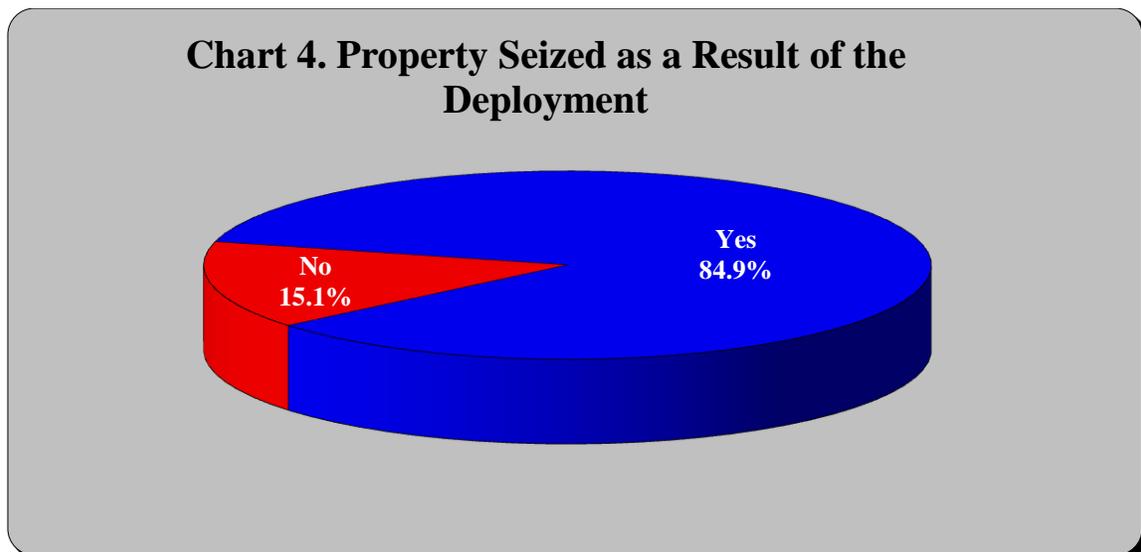
Table 3. Forcible Entry by Underlying Reason for the SWAT Deployment							
Forcible Entry		Part I Crime	Part II Crime	Emergency Petition	Suicidal	Other	Total
No	Count	212	270	12	14	17	525
	Pct	30.1%	30.4%	63.2%	73.7%	81.0%	31.8%
Yes	Count	492	617	7	5	4	1,125
	Pct	69.9%	69.6%	36.8%	26.3%	19.0%	68.2%
Total Deployments	Count	704	887	19	19	21	1,650
	Pct	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Forcible entry was utilized most often (72.5%) during SWAT deployments in conjunction with the issuance of a search warrant and less likely to be used when the legal authority is an arrest warrant, barricade, exigent circumstances, or other. These statistics appear to correspond to issuance of “no knock” search warrants by the judges. *Table 4 displays the cross tabulation of legal authority stratified by the use of forcible entry.*

Table 4. Forcible Entry by Legal Authority of the SWAT Deployment							
Forcible Entry		Arrest Warrant	Barricade	Exigent Circumstances	Other	Search Warrant	Total
No	Count	7	60	3	44	411	525
	Pct	50.0%	66.7%	75.0%	91.7%	27.5%	31.8%
Yes	Count	7	30	1	4	1,083	1,125
	Pct	50.0%	3.3%	25.0%	8.3%	72.5%	68.2%
Total Deployments	Count	14	90	4	48	1,494	1,650
	Pct	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Property or Contraband Seized

During the reported period, SWAT Teams recovered or seized property or contraband in 84.9% of all deployments (n = 1,401), compared to deployments where no property or contraband was seized (15.1%, n = 249). This is almost identical to Fiscal Year 2012, property or contraband was seized in 85.0% (n = 1,403 of all deployments, compared to deployments where no property or contraband was seized (15.0%; n = 248). *Chart 4 illustrates whether the police agency seized any property or contraband as a result of the Team’s activities during the deployment.*

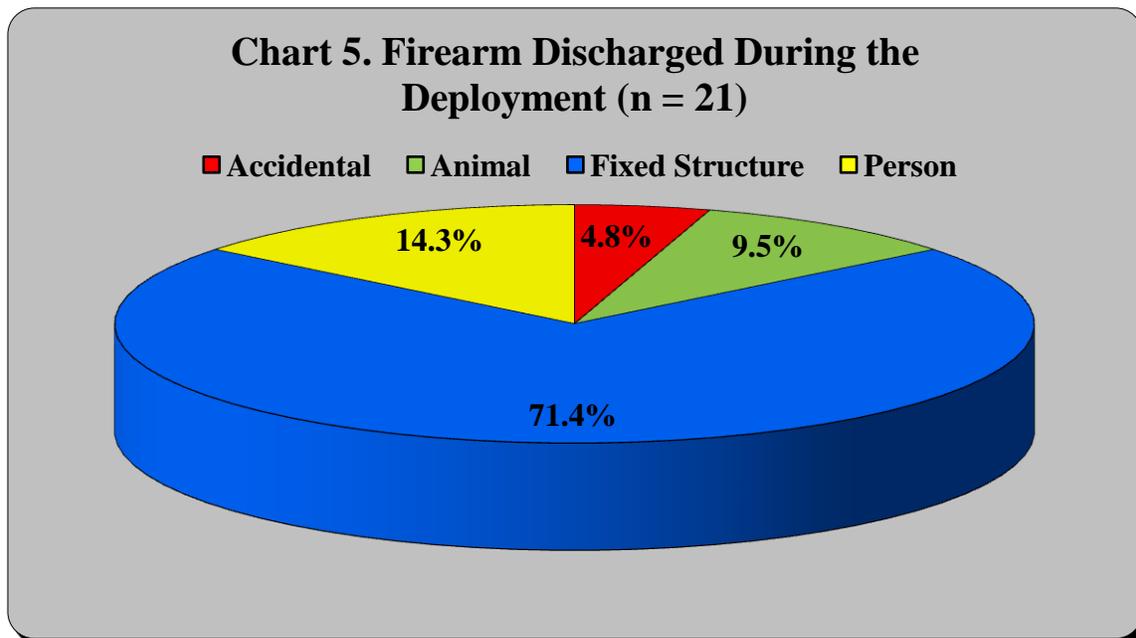


Property or contraband seizure was frequent during activated deployments due to a Part I or a Part II Crime (83.5% and 88.6%, respectively). Property or contraband was less likely to be seized in response to emergency petitions, suicidal persons, and other reasons. *Table 5 represents the cross tabulation of deployment reason stratified by the seizure of property or contraband.*

Table 5. Property or Contraband Seized by Underlying Reason for the SWAT Deployment							
Property or Contraband Seized		Part I Crime	Part II Crime	Emergency Petition	Suicidal	Other	Total
No	Count	116	101	7	5	20	249
	Pct	16.5%	11.4%	36.8%	26.3%	95.2%	15.1%
Yes	Count	588	786	12	14	1	1,401
	Pct	83.5%	88.6%	63.2%	73.7%	4.8%	84.9%
Total Deployments	Count	704	887	19	19	21	1,650
	Pct	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Weapon Discharged by SWAT Team Member

A firearm was discharged by a SWAT Team member in 21 of the 1,650 deployments (1.3% of total deployments.) The most common target of these discharges was a fixed structure (door, window etc.) *Chart 5 displays the target of the weapon discharged during each SWAT deployment.*



Over 90% of deployments where a firearm was discharged were in response to a Part I or Part II Crime. In addition, forcible entry was used in 20 of the 21 deployments where a firearm was discharged. This is due to the fact that in many of these cases, SWAT team members had to discharge a firearm (fixed structure; e.g.: door or window) in order to gain entry into the dwelling. *Table 6 represents the cross tabulation of deployment reason stratified by a firearm discharge.*

Table 6. Firearm Discharged by Underlying Reason for the SWAT Deployment (n = 21)						
Reason for Deployment		Accidental	Animal	Fixed Structure	Person	Total
Part I Crime	Count	1	1	3	2	7
	Pct	100.0%	50.0%	20.0%	66.7%	33.3%
Part II Crime	Count	0	1	11	0	12
	Pct	0.0%	50.0%	73.3%	0.0%	57.1%
Emergency Petition	Count	0	0	1	1	2
	Pct	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	33.3%	9.5%
Suicidal	Count	0	0	0	0	0
	Pct	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	Count	0	0	0	0	0
	Pct	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total Deployments	Count	1	2	15	3	21
	Pct	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Arrests Made by SWAT Teams

Similar to statistics shown in previous years, at least one arrest was made in nearly two-thirds of all SWAT Team activations (65.2%, n = 1,076); whereas, no arrest was reported in 574 deployments (34.8%). *Chart 6 displays the prevalence of arrests made as a result of the SWAT deployments.* The number of arrests made during a single deployment ranged from 1 to 12. From these arrests, 42.2% resulted with only one arrest made (n = 696), followed by 221 deployments that resulted in 2 arrests made (13.4%), 89 deployments that resulted in 3 arrests (5.4%), 38 deployments that resulted in 4 arrests (2.3%), 23 deployments where 5 or 6 arrests were made (1.4%), and 9 activations where 7 or more arrests were made (0.5%). *Chart 7 provides a breakdown of all arrests made by law enforcement as a direct result of the SWAT deployment.*

Chart 6. One or More Arrests Made During the SWAT Deployment

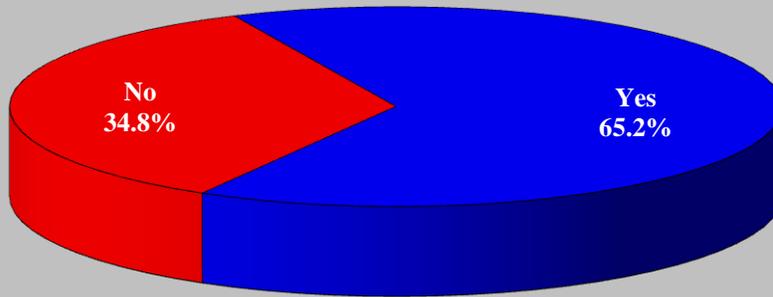
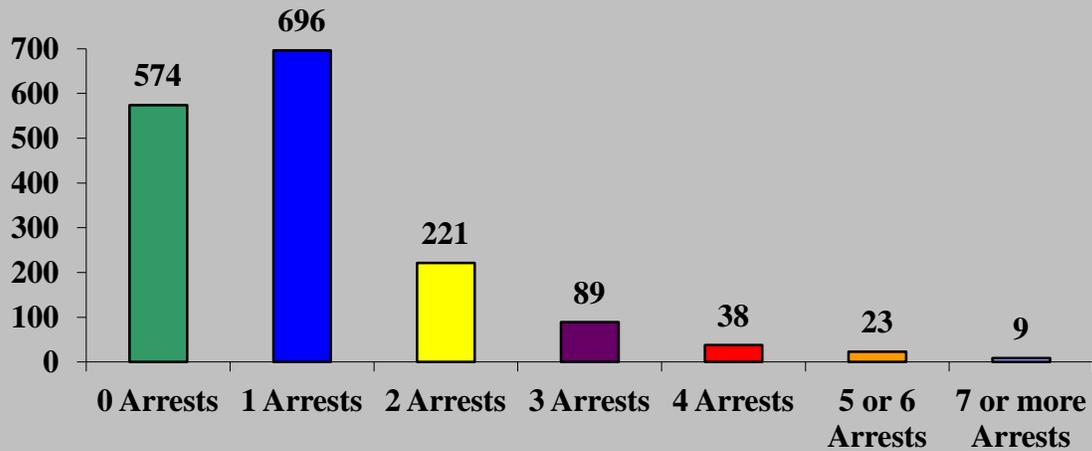


Chart 7. Breakdown of Arrests Made as a Result of the SWAT Deployment



Arrests were equally predicted to occur during deployments initiated by a Part I and Part II Crime (64.3% and 67.5%, respectively). An arrest occurred in only 14.3% of “other” deployments. *Table 7 displays the cross tabulation of deployment reason which is stratified by the number of arrests made by law enforcement.*

Table 7. Number of Arrests by Underlying Reason for the SWAT Deployment

Number of Arrests		Part I Crime	Part II Crime	Emergency Petition	Suicidal	Other	Total
0	Count Pct	251 35.7%	288 32.5%	7 36.8%	10 52.6%	18 85.7%	574 34.8%
1	Count Pct	312 44.3%	360 40.6%	12 63.2%	9 47.4%	3 14.3%	696 42.2%
2	Count Pct	98 13.9%	123 13.9%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	221 13.4%
3	Count Pct	28 4.0%	61 6.9%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	89 5.4%
4	Count Pct	8 1.1%	30 3.4%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	38 2.3%
5	Count Pct	5 0.7%	11 1.2%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	16 1.0%
6	Count Pct	1 0.1%	6 0.7%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	7 0.4%
7	Count Pct	0 0.0%	1 0.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 0.1%
8	Count Pct	0 0.0%	2 0.2%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	2 0.1%
9	Count Pct	0 0.0%	3 0.3%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	3 0.2%
10	Count Pct	0 0.0%	1 0.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 0.1%
11	Count Pct	1 0.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 0.1%
12	Count Pct	0 0.0%	1 0.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 0.1%
Total Deployments	Count Pct	704 100.0%	887 100.0%	19 100.0%	19 100.0%	21 100.0%	1,650 100.0%

Injured or Killed Animal

During the reporting period, 2 deployments resulted in an animal being injured and 2 deployments resulted in an animal fatality. *Charts 8 and 9 depict the number of SWAT deployments that resulted in an animal being injured or killed.*

Chart 8. Number of Deployments where an Animal was Injured

- Deployment where an animal was injured
- Deployment with no animal injuries

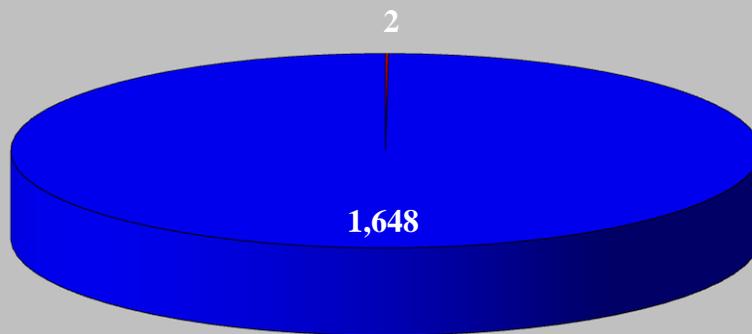
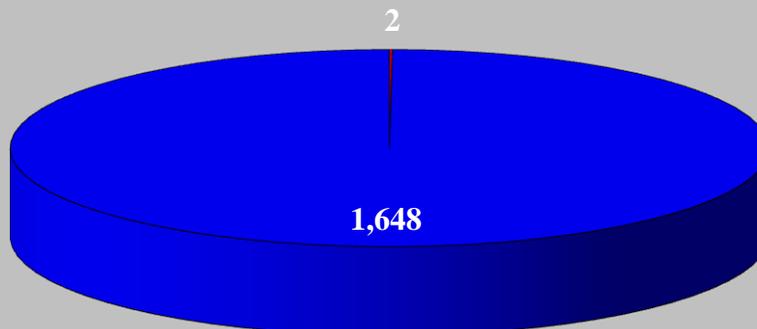


Chart 9. Number of Deployments where an Animal was Killed

- Deployment where an animal was killed
- Deployment with no animal fatalities



Injured or Killed Person

In Fiscal Year 2013, 23 deployments resulted in a person being injured by a SWAT Team member; less than 2% of all eligible deployments. From the 1,650 SWAT Team deployment activations, 2 deployments resulted in the death of a human being. This statistic excludes cases of suicide. *Chart 10 illustrates the number of deployments that resulted in a human being injured while chart 11 depicts the number of deployments that resulted in the death of a person.*

Chart 10. Number of Deployments where a Person was Injured

- Deployment where a person was injured
- Deployment with no person injured

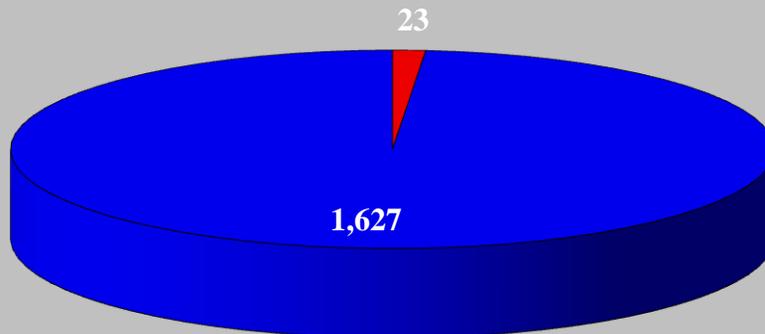
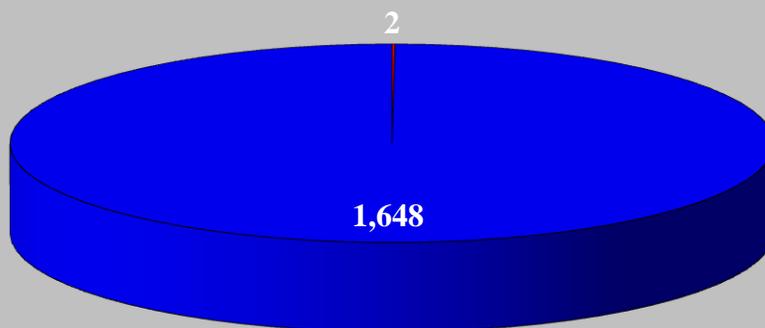


Chart 11. Number of Deployments where a Person was Killed

- Deployment where a SWAT Officer was injured
- Deployment where no SWAT Officer was injured

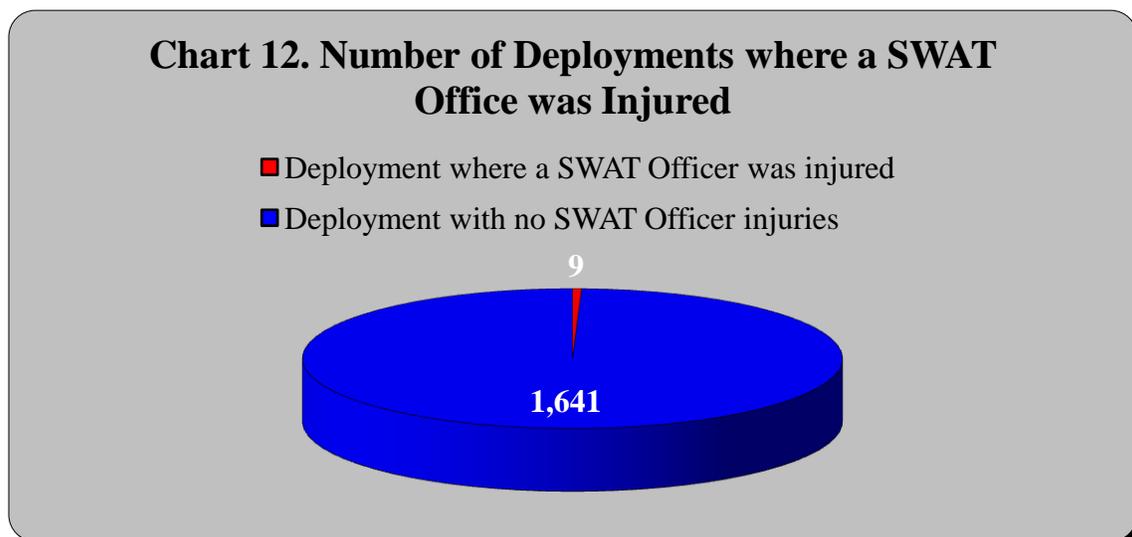


The majority of deployments where a person was injured by a SWAT Officer were in response to a Part I or Part II Crime (87.0%), in conjunction with the issuance of a search warrant (69.6%) and when forcible entry was used in the deployment (91.3%). *Table 8 displays the cross tabulation of deployment reason, legal authority, and the use of forcible entry, which is stratified by a person being injured.*

Table 8. Person Injured by Reason, Legal Authority, and the Use of Forcible Entry (n = 23)					
Reason for Deployment	<i>Part I Crime</i>	<i>Part II Crime</i>	<i>Emergency Petition</i>	<i>Suicidal</i>	<i>Other</i>
Count	12	8	3	0	0
Pct	52.2%	34.8%	13.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Legal Authority	<i>Arrest Warrant</i>	<i>Barricade</i>	<i>Exigent Circumstances</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Search Warrant</i>
Count	0	6	0	1	16
Pct	0.0%	26.1%	0.0%	4.3%	69.6%
Forcible Entry	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>			
Count	21	2			
Pct	91.3%	8.7%			

SWAT Officer Injured

In Fiscal Year 2013, 9 deployments resulted in a SWAT Officer being injured by another person; less than 1% of all eligible deployments. *Chart 12 illustrates the number of deployments that resulted in a SWAT Officer being injured.*



All 9 deployments where a SWAT Officer was injured by another person were in response to a Part I or Part II Crime. 7 out of 9 (77.8%) occurred during the issuance of a search warrant, and when forcible entry was used. *Table 9 displays the cross tabulation of deployment reason which is stratified by a SWAT Officer being injured.*

Table 9. SWAT Officer Injured by Underlying Reason for the SWAT Deployment (n = 9)						
SWAT Officer Injured		Part I Crime	Part II Crime	Emergency Petition	Suicidal	Other
Person	Count	6	3	0	0	0
	Pct	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Maryland Statistical Analysis Center has analyzed 4 years of SWAT team data from Maryland law enforcement agencies and has indentified consistent trends regarding activation and deployment information. Roughly 1,600 SWAT deployments occur each year from 36-39 police agencies. SWAT deployments in Maryland are activated and initiated, almost exclusively (90-92%) in conjunction with the execution of a search warrant signed by a judge, thereby showing that there are legal means to conduct the deployments. These search warrants almost unanimously (95-97%) are initiated as a response to a Part I Felony Crime or a Part II Crime drug investigation. Each year, 2/3 of SWAT deployments involve forcible entry; 80-85% involve the seizure of illegal property or contraband; and, at least one arrest is made in 2/3 of all deployments. Furthermore, a discharged weapon or injury of a person by a SWAT team officer occurs in less than 2% of all deployments. An injury or death of a domestic animal and the death of a person by a SWAT Team member during a deployment occur only a few times a year out of 1,600 total deployments.

Reported data regarding a discharged firearm, an injury or fatality of an animal or person by a SWAT Team member, or an injury of a SWAT Officer were reported to MSAC in a format consisting of “yes” or “no.” The situation or reason surrounding these occurrences was not required to be reported.

This reported evaluation was conducted to provide an overview of SWAT deployments in Maryland and the nature of these specialized units. MSAC will continue to work with law enforcement to ensure completeness and accuracy of data for future years of SWAT deployment data reporting.

The findings in the table below clearly show the consistencies in SWAT data over the past 4 years.

SWAT Deployment Data	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Total SWAT Deployments	1,618	1,641	1,651	1,650
Agencies that Reported at least 1 Deployment	39	36	37	38
Legal Authority was a Search Warrant	91.8%	90.3%	89.5%	90.5%
Reason for Deployment was a Part I or Part II Crime	95.1%	96.9%	96.0%	96.4%
Forcible Entry was Used	69.1%	68.1%	65.8%	68.2%
Property or Contraband was Seized	81.5%	83.3%	85.0%	84.9%
At least 1 Arrest was Made	63.4%	62.8%	66.0%	65.2%
A firearm was discharged	11	10	22	21
An Animal was Injured	3	2	1	2
An Animal was Killed	3	2	2	2
A person was Injured	16	13	20	23
A person was Killed	1	1	0	2
A SWAT Officer was Injured	Not Reported	Not Reported	10	9