

FIFTH REPORT TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND
UNDER PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE § 3-507
Fiscal Year 2014 SWAT Team Deployment Data Analysis
MSAR # 7790

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

September 2, 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 2014 SWAT report represents eligible SWAT Team deployments that were reported to MSAC during Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014); data were submitted biannually. The first data set were submitted by January 15, 2014 which included data from July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. The second six months of data were submitted by July 15, 2014 and included SWAT deployment data from January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014. 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

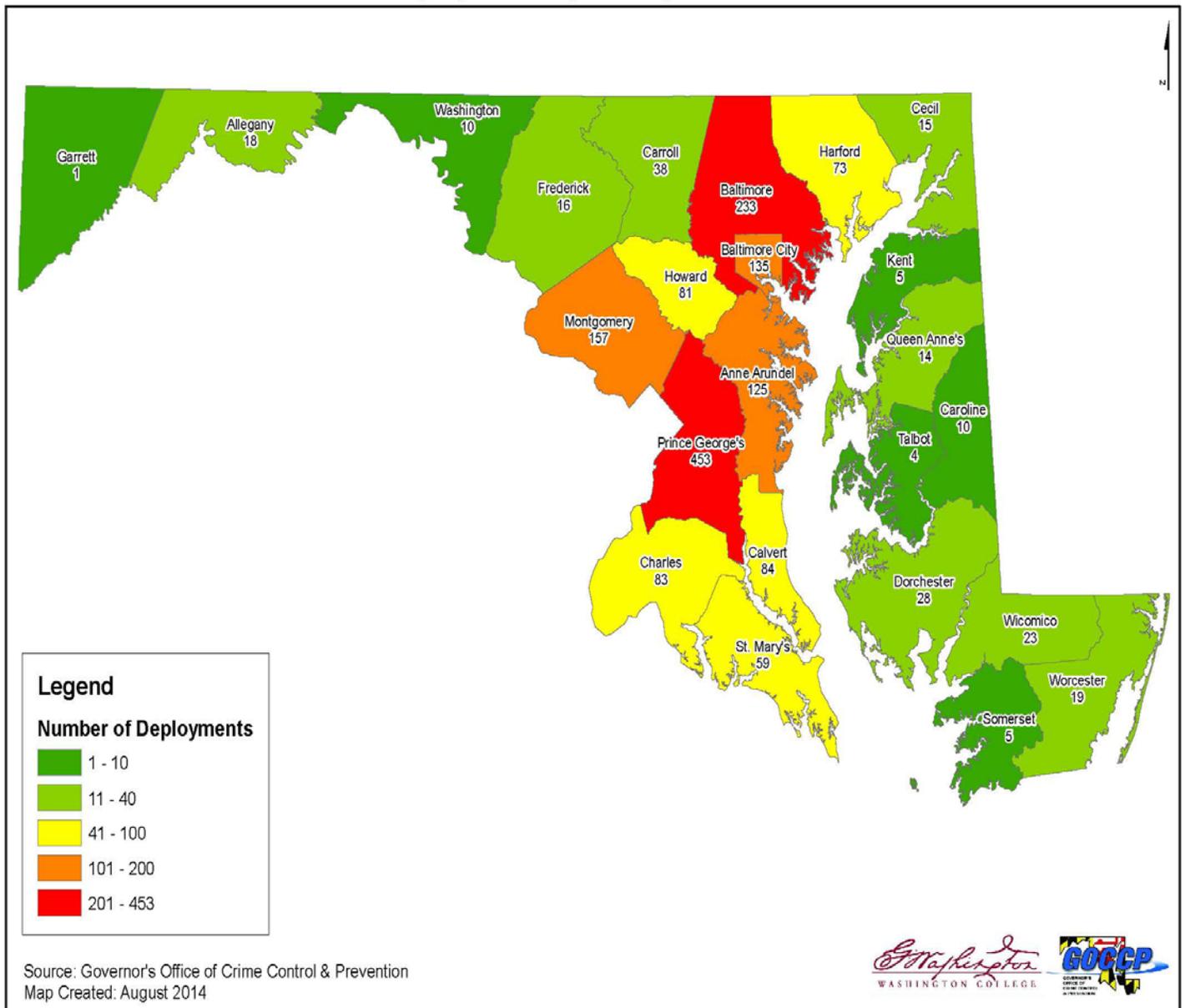
¹ According to the *Annotated Code of Maryland, Public Safety Article, § 3-507 (A)(2)*, a SWAT Team is defined as a special unit composed of two or more law enforcement officers within a law enforcement agency trained to deal with unusually dangerous or violent situations and having special equipment 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 2014, a total of 1,689 SWAT deployments were activated in Maryland. This total represents an increase of 39 (2.4%) SWAT deployments, compared to Fiscal Year 2013 (n = 1,650). SWAT deployments took place in all 24 of Maryland's jurisdictions as depicted on the map below.

SWAT Deployments by County Fiscal Year 2014



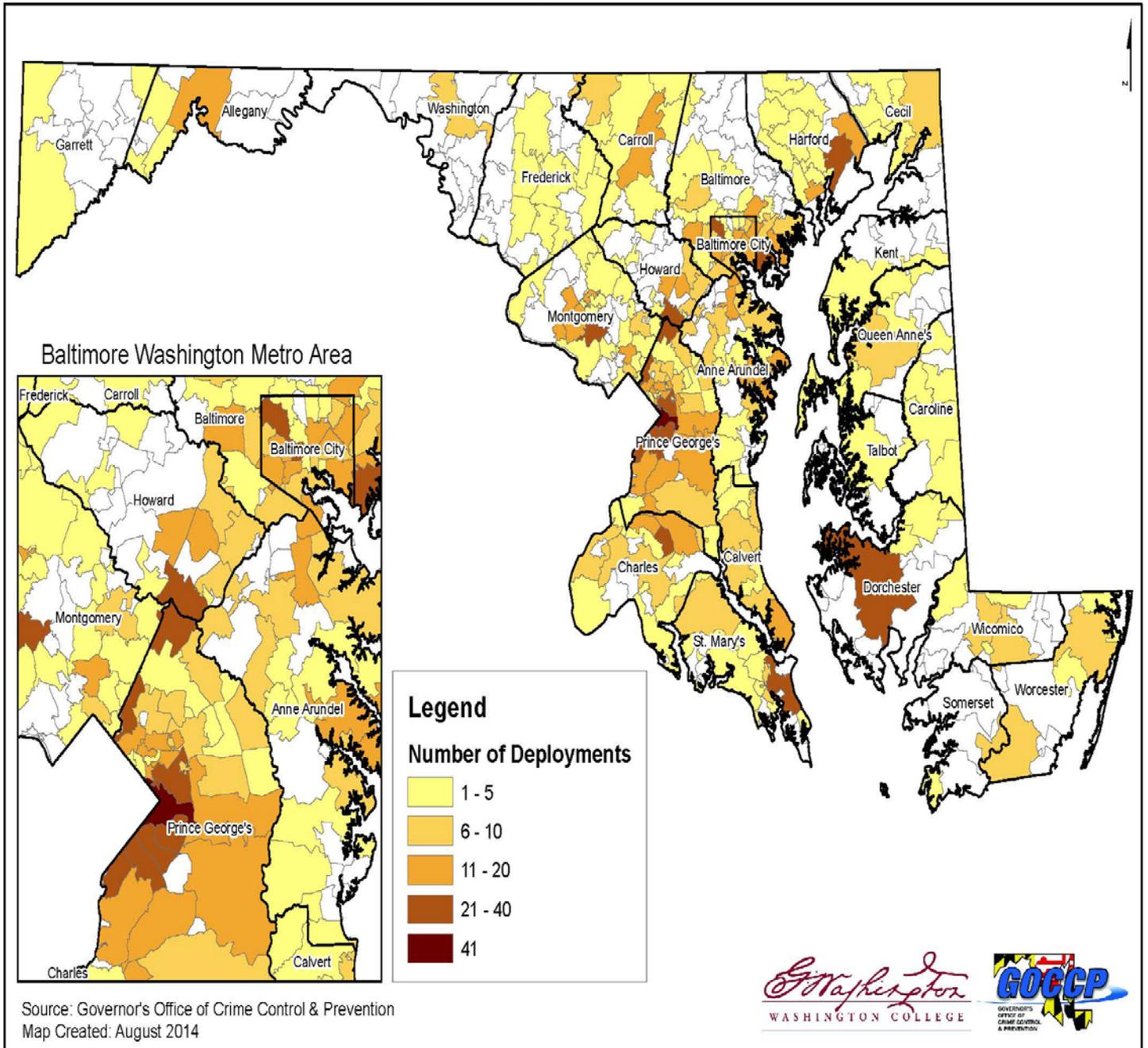
A total of 35 police departments reported at least one SWAT deployment and activation in Fiscal Year 2014. Six additional agencies had an active SWAT Team but did not make a deployment during the reported period. All of the remaining law enforcement agencies in Maryland were excluded from this report 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	40	2.4%	Harford County Sheriff's Office	32	1.9%
Annapolis City Police Department	27	1.6%	Howard County Police Department	69	4.1%
Anne Arundel County Police Department	97	5.7%	Kent County Sheriff's Office	3	0.2%
Baltimore City Police Department	230	13.6%	Laurel Police Department	18	1.1%
Baltimore County Police Department	127	7.5%	Maryland State Police	64	3.8%
Berlin Police Department	4	0.2%	Montgomery County Police Department	163	9.7%
Calvert County Sheriff's Office	84	5.0%	Ocean City Police Department	4	0.2%
Cambridge Police Department	13	0.8%	Prince George's County Police Department	418	24.7%
Charles County Sheriff's Office	83	4.9%	Prince George's County Sheriff's Office	6	0.4%
Cumberland Police Department	17	1.0%	Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office	13	0.8%
Department of Natural Resources	4	0.2%	Salisbury Police Department	9	0.5%
Dorchester County Sheriff's Office	15	0.9%	St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office	57	3.4%
Easton Police Department	1	0.1%	Takoma Park Police Department	2	0.1%
Frederick County Sheriff's Office	11	0.7%	Washington County Sheriff's Office	2	0.1%
Frederick Police Department	4	0.2%	Westminster Police Department	36	2.1%
Garrett County Sheriff's Office	2	0.1%	Wicomico County Sheriff's Office	14	0.8%
Greenbelt Police Department	1	0.1%	Worcester County Sheriff's Office	11	0.7%
Hagerstown Police Department	8	0.5%			

Location of SWAT Deployment

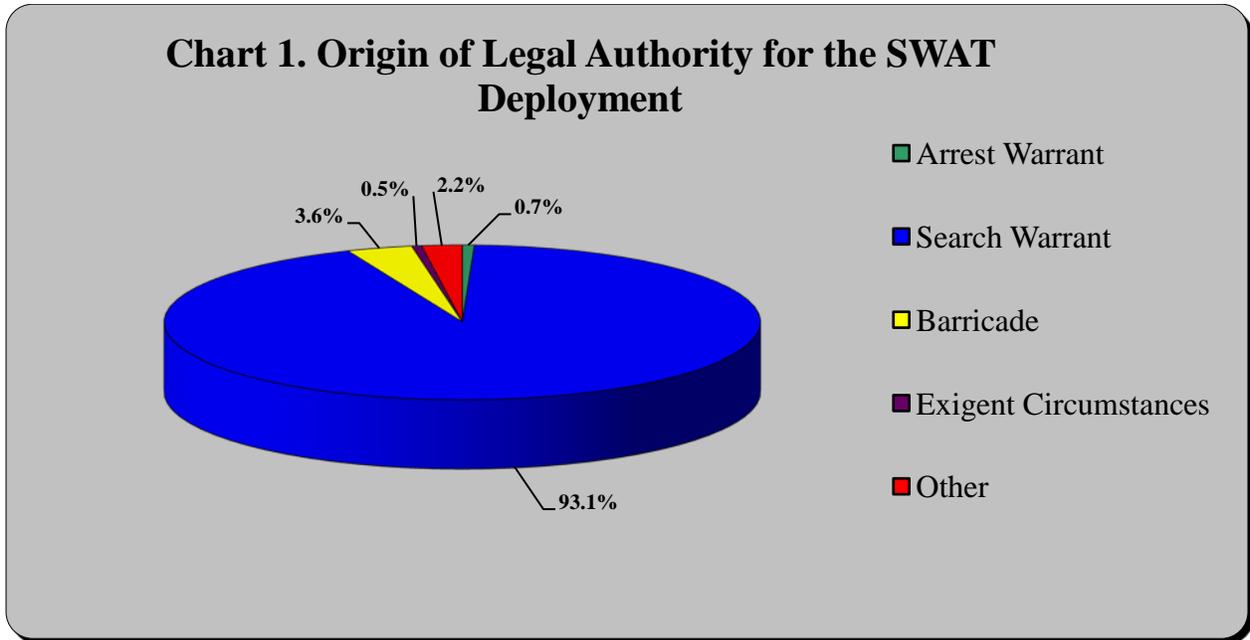
The map below depicts the number of SWAT deployments by zip code. The number of deployments per zip code ranged from 0 to 41 in Fiscal Year 2014.

SWAT Deployments by Zip Code Fiscal Year 2014



Legal Authority for Activation

The majority of deployments occurred in conjunction with the execution of a search warrant (93.1%, n = 1,572). The remaining categories accounted for almost 7% of the deployments, including: barricade (3.6%, n = 60), other (2.2%, n = 37), arrest warrant (0.7%, n = 11), and exigent circumstances (0.5%, n = 9). Similar results were achieved over the past 4 years of SWAT Data Reporting. *Chart 1 displays the legal authority for every activated SWAT deployment.*

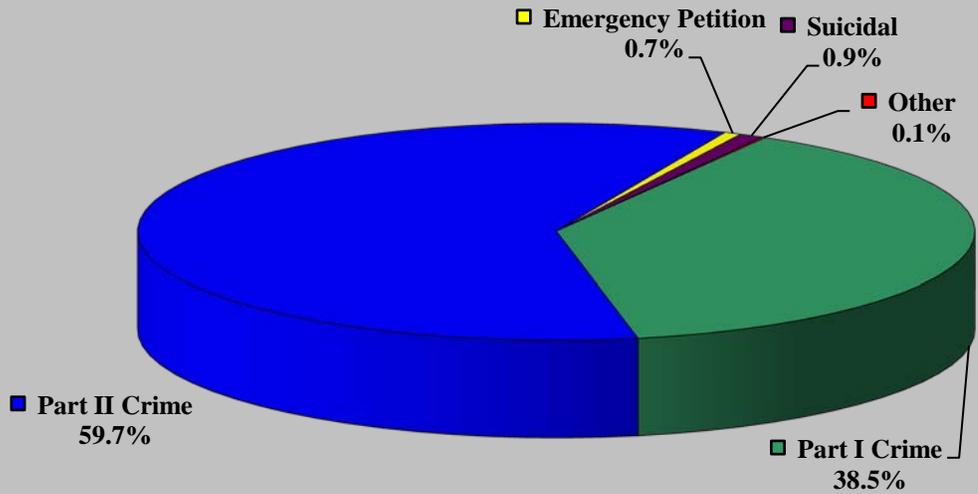


Reason for Deployment

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 (98.2%, n = 1,660) were activated through the commission of a Part I Crime (38.5%, n = 651), or a Part II Crime (59.7%, n = 1,009). In comparison, Fiscal Year 2013 showed a similar prevalence in the response to Part I Crimes and Part II Crimes (42.7% and 53.8%, respectively). Additional reasons for deployment activation consisted of: other reasons (0.1%, n = 2), responding to a suicidal person (0.9%, n = 16), and answering to an emergency petition (0.7%, n = 11). 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.*

Chart 2. Underlying Reason for the SWAT Deployment



Most deployments occurred in conjunction with the execution of a search warrant for Part I and Part II Crimes (89.2% and 98.2%, 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

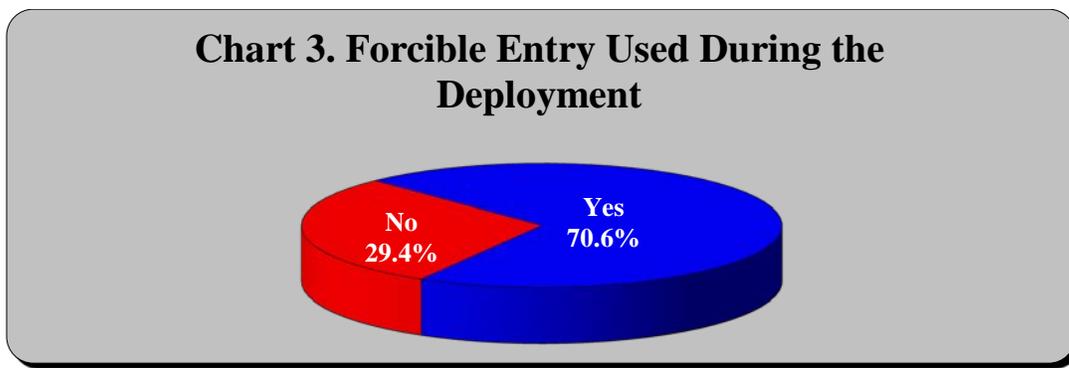
Authority		Part I Crime	Part II Crime	Emergency Petition	Suicidal	Other	Total
Arrest Warrant	Count	8	3	0	0	0	11
	Pct	1.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Barricade	Count	36	3	9	12	0	60
	Pct	5.5%	0.3%	81.8%	75%	0.0%	3.6%
Exigent Circumstances	Count	4	1	2	2	0	9
	Pct	0.6%	0.1%	18.2%	12.5%	0.0%	0.5%
Other	Count	22	11	0	2	2	37
	Pct	3.4%	1.1%	0.0%	12.5%	100%	2.2%
Search Warrant	Count	581	991	0	0	0	1,572
	Pct	89.2%	98.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	93.1%
Total Deployments	Count	651	1,009	11	16	2	1,689
	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.

Just over 2/3 of all SWAT deployments involved forcible entry (70.6%, n = 1,192). Similar results were acknowledged over the past 4 years (69.1%, 68.1%, 65.8%, and 68.2% in Fiscal Years 2010 - 2013 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 (69.1% and 72.2%, 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.*

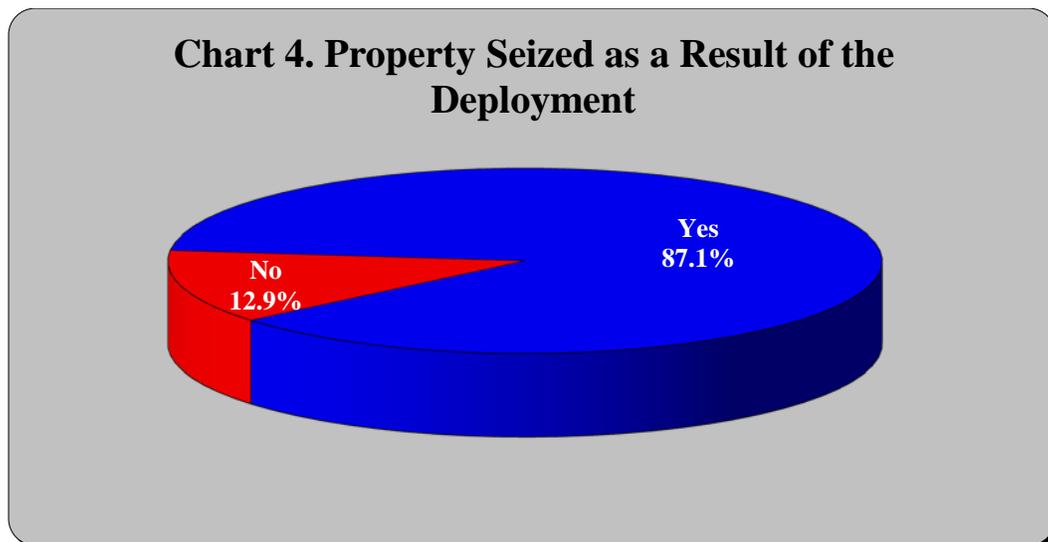
Table 3. Forcible Entry by Underlying Reason for the SWAT Deployment							
Forcible Entry		Part I Crime	Part II Crime	Emergency Petition	Suicidal	Other	Total
No	Count	201	280	5	10	1	497
	Pct	30.9%	27.8%	45.5%	62.5%	50%	29.4%
Yes	Count	450	729	6	6	1	1,192
	Pct	69.1%	72.2%	54.5%	37.5%	50%	68.2%
Total Deployments	Count	651	1009	11	16	2	1,689
	Pct	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Forcible entry was utilized most often (73.2%) during SWAT deployments in conjunction with the issuance of a search warrant, and was 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	6	32	7	31	421	497
	Pct	54.5%	53.3%	77.8%	83.8%	26.8%	29.4%
Yes	Count	5	28	2	6	1151	1,192
	Pct	45.5%	46.7%	22.2%	16.2%	73.2%	70.6%
Total Deployments	Count	11	60	9	37	1,572	1,689
	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 87.1% of all deployments (n = 1,471), compared to deployments where no property or contraband was seized (12.9%, n = 218). This is similar to Fiscal Year 2013 where property or contraband was seized in 84.9% (n = 1,401) 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.*

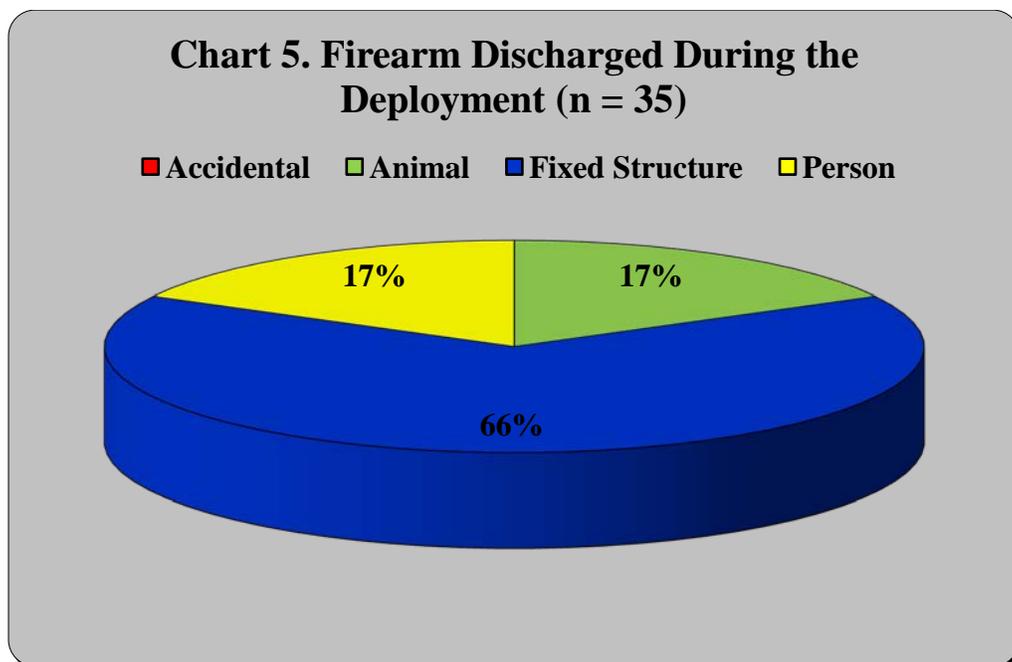


Property or contraband seizure was frequent during activated deployments due to a Part I or a Part II Crime (85.1% and 89.5%, respectively). Property or contraband was less likely to be seized in response to emergency petitions, suicidal persons, and other reasons. *Table 5 represents the cross tabulation 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	97	106	7	6	2	218
	Pct	14.9%	10.5%	63.6%	37.5%	100.0%	12.9%
Yes	Count	554	903	4	10	0	1471
	Pct	85.1%	89.5%	36.4%	62.5%	0.0%	87.1%
Total Deployments	Count	651	1,009	11	16	2	1,689
	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 35 of the 1,689 deployments (2% 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.*



97% 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 29 of the 35 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 = 34)						
Reason for Deployment		Accidental	Animal	Fixed Structure	Person	Total
Part I Crime	Count	0	2	12	5	19
	Pct	100.0%	33.3%	52.2%	83.3%	54.3%
Part II Crime	Count	0	4	11	0	15
	Pct	0.0%	66.7%	47.8%	0.0%	42.9%
Emergency Petition	Count	0	0	0	0	0
	Pct	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Suicidal	Count	0	0	0	1	1
	Pct	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	2.9%
Other	Count	0	0	0	0	0
	Pct	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total Deployments	Count	0	6	23	6	35
	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 (60.3%, n = 1,018); whereas, no arrest was reported in 662 deployments (38.9%). In 9 cases, the arrest data is not known. *Charts 6.1 and 6.2 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 10. From these arrests, 38.9% resulted with only one arrest made (n = 657), followed by 242 deployments that resulted in 2 arrests made (14.3%), 70 deployments that resulted in 3 arrests (4.1%), 27 deployments that resulted in 4 arrests (1.6%), 15 deployments where 5 or 6 arrests were made (.9%), and 7 activations where 7 or more arrests were made (0.4%). *Chart 7 provides a breakdown of all arrests made by law enforcement as a direct result of the SWAT deployment.*

Chart 6.1 Number of Arrests Resulting from the SWAT Deployment

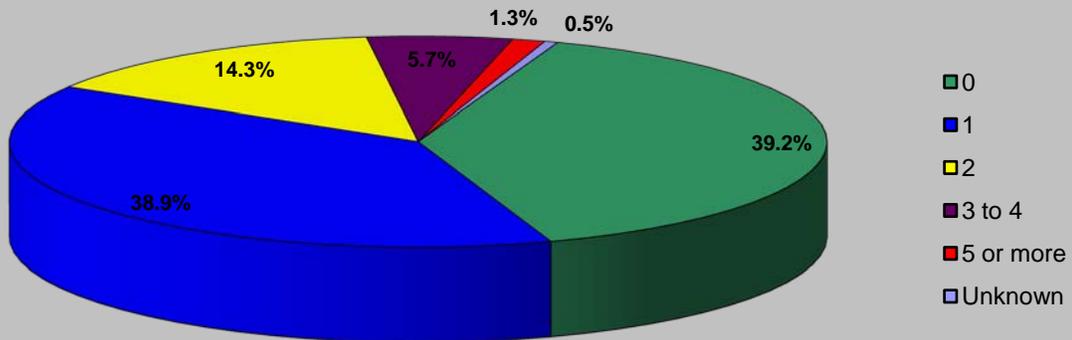


Chart 6.2 One or More Arrests Made During the SWAT Deployment

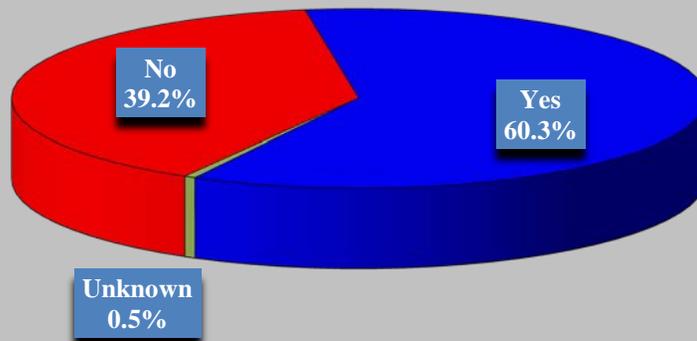
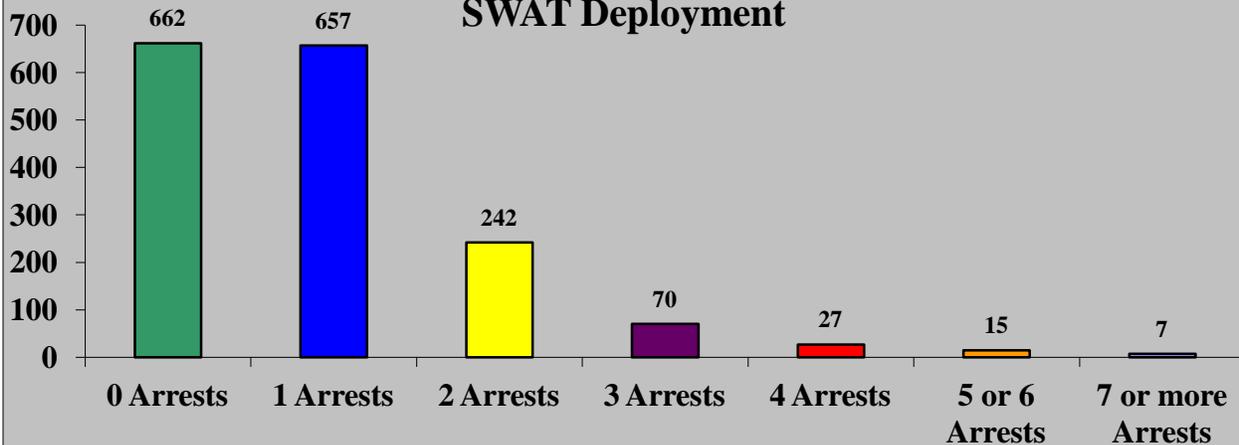


Chart 7. Breakdown of Arrests Made as a Result of the SWAT Deployment



Arrests were equally predicted to occur during deployments initiated by a Part I and Part II Crime (59.1% and 62.7%, respectively). An arrest occurred in only 36.4% of “emergency petition,” and 31.2% of “suicidal” 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	266 40.9%	376 37.3%	7 63.6%	11 68.8%	2 100.0%	662 39.2%
1	Count Pct	265 40.7%	384 38.1%	3 27.3%	5 31.2%	0 0.0%	657 38.9%
2	Count Pct	81 12.4%	160 15.9%	1 9.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	242 14.3%
3	Count Pct	22 3.4%	48 4.8%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	70 4.1%
4	Count Pct	10 1.5%	17 1.7%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	27 1.6%
5	Count Pct	1 0.2%	8 0.8%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	9 0.5%
6	Count Pct	1 0.2%	5 0.5%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	6 0.4%
7	Count Pct	1 0.2%	2 0.2%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	3 0.2%
8	Count Pct	0 0.0%	1 0.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 0.1%
9	Count Pct	0 0.0%	2 0.2%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	2 0.1%
10	Count Pct	0 0.0%	1 0.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 0.1%
Unknown	Count Pct	4 0.6%	5 0.5%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	9 0.5%
Total Deployments	Count Pct	651 100.0%	1009 100.0%	11 100.0%	16 100.0%	2 100.0%	1,689 100.0%

Injured or Killed Animal

During the reporting period, 2 deployments resulted in an animal being injured and 5 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

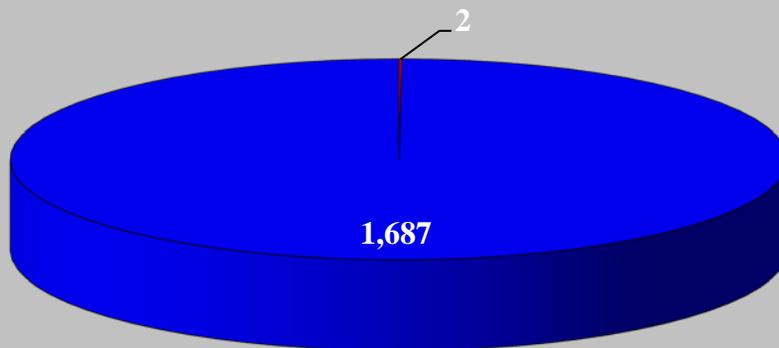
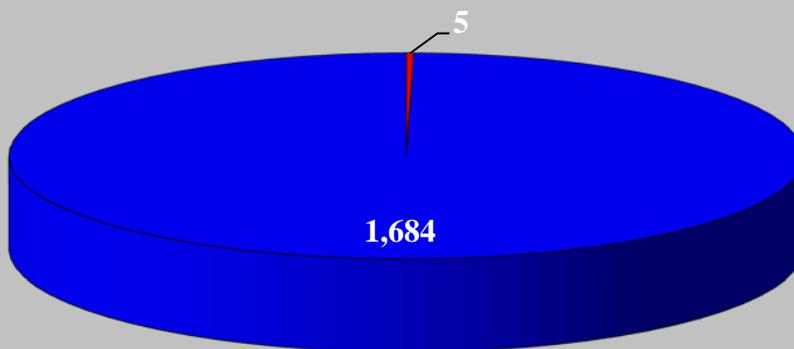


Chart 9. Number of Deployments where an Animal was Killed

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



Injured or Killed Person

In Fiscal Year 2014, 23 deployments resulted in a person being injured by a SWAT Team member; less than 1.4% of all eligible deployments. From the 1,689 SWAT Team deployment activations, 5 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

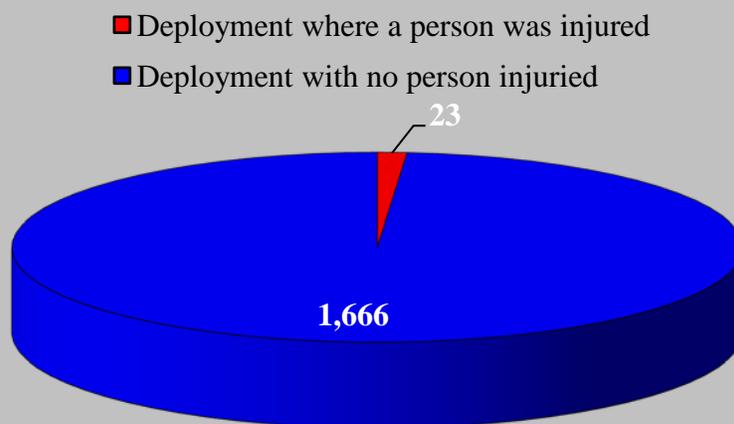
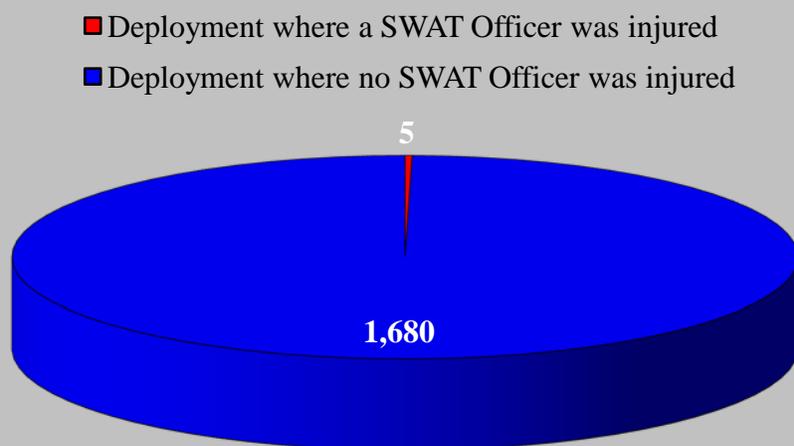


Chart 11. Number of Deployments where a Person was Killed

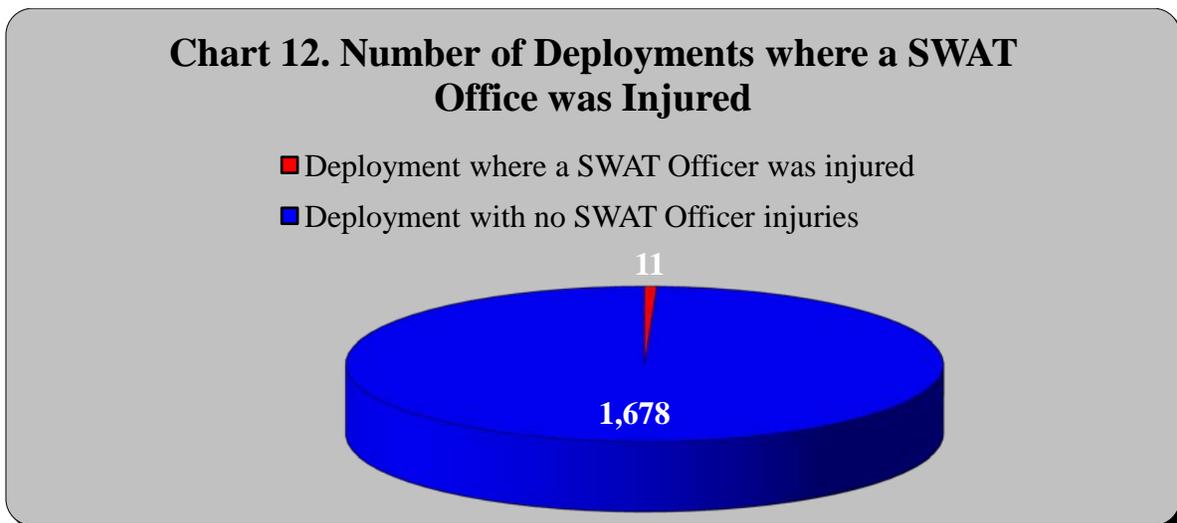


In Fiscal Year 2014, a person was injured in 23 SWAT deployments. The majority of deployments where a person was injured by a SWAT Officer were in response to a Part I or Part II Crime (86.9%), in conjunction with the issuance of a search warrant (69.6%) and when forcible entry was used in the deployment (82.6%). *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	13	7	2	1	0
Pct	56.5%	30.4%	8.7%	4.3%	0.0%
Legal Authority	<i>Arrest Warrant</i>	<i>Barricade</i>	<i>Exigent Circumstances</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Search Warrant</i>
Count	0	7	0	0	16
Pct	0.0%	30.4%	0.0%	0.0%	69.6%
Forcible Entry	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>			
Count	19	4			
Pct	82.6%	17.4%			

SWAT Officer Injured

11 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 resulting in an Officer injury injured.*



All 11 deployments where a SWAT Officer was injured by another person were in response to a Part I or Part II Crime. 9 out of 11 (81.8%) 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 = 11)						
SWAT Officer Injured		Part I Crime	Part II Crime	Emergency Petition	Suicidal	Other
Person	Count	7	4	0	0	0
	Pct	63.6%	36.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Maryland Statistical Analysis Center has analyzed 5 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 36-40 police agencies. SWAT deployments in Maryland are activated and initiated, almost exclusively (90-93%) 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 (95-98%) 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; 80-87% 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 3% 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 also occur in less than 3% of 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 5 years.

SWAT Deployment Data	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Total SWAT Deployments	1,618	1,641	1,651	1,650	1689
Agencies that Reported at least 1 Deployment	39	36	37	38	35
Legal Authority was a Search Warrant	91.8%	90.3%	89.5%	90.5%	93.1%
Reason for Deployment was a Part I or Part II Crime	95.1%	96.9%	96.0%	96.4%	98.2%
Forcible Entry was Used	69.1%	68.1%	65.8%	68.2%	70.6%
Property or Contraband was Seized	81.5%	83.3%	85.0%	84.9%	87.1%
At least 1 Arrest was Made	63.4%	62.8%	66.0%	65.2%	60.3%
A firearm was discharged	11	10	22	21	35
An Animal was Injured	3	2	1	2	2
An Animal was Killed	3	2	2	2	5
A person was Injured	16	13	20	23	23
A person was Killed	1	1	0	2	5
A SWAT Officer was Injured	Not Reported	Not Reported	10	9	11