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# S.H.O.T. DB (Statistics Help Officer Tactics) – Officer-involved Shootings Database

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## **S.H.O.T. DB (Statistics Help Officer Tactics) – Officer-involved Shootings Database**

**Principal Investigator:** Hasan Arslan, Ph.D., Dyson College

**Project Description:** This project attempts to consolidate information of officer-involved shootings all around the United States and to develop a comprehensive repository, which can be referred to time and again when required. The intent behind this project is to make this data available to law enforcement officials so that they can analyze this information and be better prepared to make the right judgment call during a hostile situation.

### **Status Report (May 2013)**

#### **Original goals**

- ▣ The project aims towards creation and maintenance of a database system via interdisciplinary program between Dyson College of Arts and Sciences and Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems.
- ▣ Secondary goal is to compile nationwide police shootings from open source documents, mainly via Internet.
- ▣ There are three phases in this project:
  1. Construction of the database entry function
  2. Developing a management tool and query function within the db
  3. Database entry (All of the data has been collected over the years from local news publications and media and is available in MS Excel sheets; thus, importing the Excel data into the SHOT db).

#### **Progress to date (Feb - May, 2013)**

- ▣ Built student research team.
  - Prof. Dan Farkas from Seidenberg School contributed the project by finding a Graduate student, *Chaithra D. Rao*.
- ▣ Variables determined: *Target (Victim) – Officer – Incident*.
  - There were several weekly meetings between February and May, where principal investigator and the research team from Computer Science department discussed the design forms and variable construction of the SHOT db.

☞ Phase 1 is completed:

- We are currently using MS Access database to house all the data. There are various forms, which facilitate the user to interact with the database. The user can either add new information to the database or query existing information from the database. The user can choose options 'New Source' or 'Existing Source' pages to add a new information source or view an existing source respectively. A 'source' can be a newspaper, journal, book etc. The source page has information such as date the source was issued, source name, title etc.
- The database is designed in such a way that each shooting is stored as an incident. All related information such as source, suspect, officers etc. can be viewed logically as belonging to a single incident. Any new information that is available about the same incident will be stored under that corresponding incident Id.

### Next Steps

1. The queries for searching the database based on source name, Id, title, location etc. is being worked upon (**Phase 2**)
2. We intend to migrate to a more robust database such as MySQL.
3. We also intend to create and host a web application that will allow users to query from and add new information to the database. The MySQL database will serve as the backend for the web application.
4. New shooting incidents will be collected between June and August along with the update on the existing missing variables (**Phase 3**)

### Revisions to project goals

- ☞ September 2013 - Phase 2 and 3 will be completed
- ☞ September 2013 - SHOT db will be transferred to a permanent online host server, in which it will be accessible from anywhere by multiple users (password protected)
- ☞ Fall 2014 - Additional Funding request for continuance of the ongoing research.
- ☞ 2015 - Presentations at various Police Departments within the NY state to show the capability of the SHOT.