

PRESS PAGE
BRIAN MCKENNA



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Brian McKenna is a 33-year police veteran, now retired from the Hazelwood (MO) Police Department, where he served as a patrol lieutenant, lead firearms instructor, in-service training instructor, and crime prevention officer. When serving in crime prevention, he researched and presented numerous classes on personal safety, home security, and other safety subjects to various citizen groups. He is also a state certified police instructor, former police academy instructor, and active shooter response instructor, and holds a master's degree in human resource development from National Lewis University.

Brian has written extensively on officer safety topics, and for 23 years authored the "Officer Down" column for *Police Marksman Magazine*, a regular feature that analyzed officer involved shootings for key learning points. Brian's extensive research for his column led him to become a leading expert on the dynamics of armed encounters, how officers think and behave under stress, and the most effective ways to prepare for dangerous encounters. Besides his extensive writing background, Brian provides police training through his company, *Winning Edge Training*.

Brian is also involved in his church, where he has served on several boards and currently teaches a semiweekly adult Bible study class. His priorities in life are his Christian faith, the



Title: Cops Under Fire!

Subtitle: Twelve Gripping Stories of Real-Life Police Shooting (and What to Make of Them)

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Book Description:

Everyone loves a good action story, and *Cops Under Fire!* tells twelve gripping stories about real cops, written by a retired 33-year police veteran, current police trainer, and top notch storyteller with many years' experience analyzing police shootings. The stories it tells put the reader in the shoes of police officers who have faced sudden attacks by deadly assailants, run toward the sound of the guns, or otherwise faced death and prevailed against all odds. But this book is far more than a series of riveting stories about courageous cops. Each story is followed by an expert analysis of its important learning points, such as how and why police officers use force and otherwise do many of the things that are often misinterpreted by the public, the legal aspects of use of force in self-defense and defense of others, situational

safety of our country's police officers and the citizens they serve, and his family. He has little time for hobbies, but enjoys studying American history and spending time with his beloved wife Lynn, three lovely daughters, Elizabeth, Rebecca, and Katherine, and two amazing grandchildren, Ellis and Mae.

awareness, personal safety, the realities of armed encounters, and how to prepare for the tough challenges we face in life. You will come away with vital information on these and many other important subjects while reading action-packed stories from the brutal streets of America.

Short Bio

Brian McKenna is a retired police lieutenant, police trainer, and former columnist with vast experience in researching, analyzing, and writing about violent police encounters. His is a leading expert in how officers operate under stress and mental preparation for controlling lethal encounters. To learn more visit: <https://authorbrianmckenna.com/>.

Advance Reviews

"Brian McKenna is one of our nation's foremost authorities on police officer safety and training. Now, in *Servant-Warriors in Blue*, he generously shares his wealth of experience and knowledge with the citizens our nation's police officers are sworn to protect and serve. The readers will get a front-row seat to the pressures, training, experiences, decisions, actions, and repercussions which are part of a police officer's everyday calculus. If they are open and mindful, they will see policing through a different lens—that of the embattled officer—and will gain a better and more complete understanding of police use of force. Additionally, they will better understand their own role in the delicate contract between the police and the community. For those who are brave enough to accept this challenge, *Servant-Warriors* is the first step in understanding an aspect of policing that they've been fortunate enough to be shielded from, courtesy of the efforts and sacrifices made by uniformed men and women on their behalf. The reader is fortunate indeed, to have such an insightful, experienced and dedicated guide as Brian McKenna for this important journey."

Mike Wood: Author of Newhall Shooting: A Tactical Analysis

"The name Brian McKenna is synonymous in the Law Enforcement community with relevant and realistic information regarding officer safety. Brian's writings and teachings have reached tens of thousands of officers and have undoubtedly saved the lives of countless officers and civilians alike. You, the reader of Brian's latest endeavor, become the benefactor of his years of experience and expertise in gleaning valuable learning points from violent police encounters. He does a masterful job of making you feel as if you are in the middle of the action as he relates real stories about heroic cops fighting for their lives. He then gears his analyses to key learning points for everyday citizens you will use the stories of these hero officers to improve your personal safety and increase your commitment to self-preservation. Look forward to an incredible journey

of learning conflict avoidance, situational awareness, response selection and easy to implement safety tips. Unfortunately, our world is often not as safe as we pretend it to be. This timely information helps level that playing field."

Ron Scheidt, Author and Law Enforcement Trainer

"For decades, Brian McKenna's analyses of police gunfights have taught lessons that guided police training and have saved countless lives. Having debriefed some of the same survivors I can confirm that Brian 'gets it right,' and extracts the salient life-saving lessons from these deadly encounters. His work is a must-read for those who go armed into harm's way."

Massad Ayoob, Author & law-enforcement trainer

"Many people's perceptions of the realities of police work are influenced by television, movies and incomplete media accounts of violent encounters involving the police. If you have ever wondered, "Why did the police shoot that subject so many times?" or "Why did they have to shoot that unarmed mentally ill person?" then this book is for you. Brian McKenna is a master at researching, dissecting, recounting, and analyzing violent encounters involving law enforcement professionals and pulling out the lessons learned. This book is about the service, sacrifice, heroics and humanity of the men and women who serve as law enforcement professionals and offers a glimpse into the real world of law enforcement for those citizens who are interested and open to learning."

Brian Willis, Author and Owner, Winning Mind Training

"I have been using material from Lt. Brian McKenna (ret) since my early years as a road sergeant during roll call. His newest book, *Cops Under Fire*, continues his tradition of teaching vital facts and analyzing tactics so the reader can glean life-sustaining habits. Brian's ability to convey information will not only encourage continued reading and sharing of these stories, but will help shape a new generation of citizen servant-warriors. I highly recommend *Cops Under Fire* to anyone interested in learning invaluable lessons about situational awareness, mental toughness, staying safe, overcoming adversity, and more—all through the eyes of streetwise officers who persevered against society's worst offenders."

Tim Barfield, Chief of Police, Wellington Ohio Police Department

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Why did you write this book?

Answer: At first I just wanted to publish a book for the general public. I was a columnist for a couple of law enforcement magazines for about 20 years and also wrote a self-published book based upon my column. In both the column and the book, I analyzed actual police shootings for

learning points related to officer safety. But I still wanted to publish a book for those outside of police work. More recently, like my fellow officers (I still see myself as a cop), I am deeply troubled by the image of police officers portrayed by the media, activists, and many others as racist brutes that shoot first and ask questions later. This led me to decide to re-do many of the articles I had written about police officers who have performed valiantly, often with selfless disregard for their own safety, when under lethal attack. I wanted the public to know that our cops are actually individuals who care deeply about the citizens they serve, and have proven it by their courageous actions. I also wanted to make sure that, like the officers who read my column and book, the general public could benefit from the lessons learned in these dramatic encounters. Originally, I intended to use the incidents recounted in the book to highlight and discuss the mental tools the officers used to win in the face of danger, tools that the readers could use in dealing with their many challenges in life. But the more I pointed out the lessons about winning I learned these heroic cops, the more I came to realize that there is a lot more to learn from them. I realized that I could inform the readers about the enormous dynamics, challenges, and harsh realities associated with violent encounters between police officers and their attackers. I also noticed that there are many things cops know about situational awareness, self-defense, crime prevention, the responsible carrying of use of concealed firearms, and much more, that can be of great value to their fellow citizens. The result was an unusual but entertaining book filled with amazing stories about hero cops and what we can learn from them.

Question: What can you tell me about the book's cover?

Answer: I had a lot of great feedback about the cover on my first book, which had as its center piece an image that recreated a key moment in one of the shootings recounted in the book. It was so well received that I did the same with *Cops Under Fire!* The police cruiser and officer shown were "borrowed" from the department from which I retired, the officer's assailant is me, and the photographer was one of my close friends. It took quite a bit of time to set up the lighting, proper angle and other elements of the shot, and the muzzle flash and officer's gun had to be photoshopped in, but I like how it turned out. I hope you feel the same way.

Question: How did you choose which incidents to include in the book?

Answer: In order to grab and hold the reader's attention, I choose tense, action-packed stories, but I also wanted a book that did more than tell engrossing "war stories." I also wanted to show the courage and tenacity common among police officers, and therefore wrote about incidents involving officers who were courageous, able to keep fighting despite severe injuries, and/or otherwise able to win despite great odds against them. Moreover, since I wanted to offer valuable lessons for the readers, I picked incidents that provided clear examples of key points I wanted to offer. Meanwhile, as I analyzed each incident, other learning points came to mind, which led me to add a collage of other helpful tidbits for the readers.

Publications

Officer Down! Lessons from the Streets, Self-published by Bookstand Publishing,

“Officer Down” column. *The Police Marksman*: Nov. 1996 to Oct. 2007.

“Our Newest Threat – Terrorism” (an editorial response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001). *The Police Marksman*. Jan./Feb. 2002.

“Officer Down” column. *The Police Marksman*: Sep. 1985 to Jan. 1990.

“AIDS: The Covert Killer.” *The Police Marksman*. Jul./Aug. 1989.

Realism in Police Training: How to Improve Simulation Firearms Training for Police Officers. National Lewis University (thesis/research project for Master of Science Degree, 1988.

“A Tactical Approach to Suspicious Persons Calls.” *The Police Marksman*. Nov./Dec. 1984.

“Surviving Family Disturbances.” *The Police Marksman*. Jan./Feb. 1984.

“Van Stops...Another Approach.” *The Police Marksman*. Sep./Oct. 1983.

Curriculum Vitae available upon request