LAW ENFORCEMENT STRESS SCALE

By James D Sewell, Chief, Criminal Intelligence Bureau Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee, Florida adapted from THE FBI LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN, APRIL 1981

multiply event by the number of times you have experienced it in the last year

	LIFE EVENT (STRESSOR)	VALUE #/YR	TOTAL
1.	Violent death of a partner in the line of duty	88 X =	
2.	Dismissal		
3.	Taking a life in the line of duty	— 84 X =	
4.	Shooting someone in the line of duty	81 X =	
5.	Suicide of an officer who is a close friend		
6.	Violent death of another officer in the line of duty		
7.	Murder committed by a police officer		
8.	Duty-related violent injury (shooting)		
	Violent job-related injury to another officer		
	Suspension		
	Passed over for promotion		
	Pursuit of an armed suspect	· · · · ·	
13.	Answer call to violent/non-accidental death of child	· · · · · ———	
	Assignment away from family for long period of time	/O /	
	Personal involvement in a shooting incident		
	Reduction in pay	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	Observing an act of police corruption	70 A	
	Accepting a bribe		
	Participating in an act of police corruption		
	. Hostage situation (from) aborted criminal action		
	Call to scene involving accidental death of child		
	Promotion over you of inexperienced/incompetent office		
	. Internal affairs investigation against self	~~ · · · <u></u>	
23.	23 LEAST STRESSFUL LAW ENFORCEMENT CRITICAL LIFE EVENTS	66 X =	
23.	Overtime duty	20 V _	
	Letter of recognition from the public		
	· ·		
	Delay in a trial Response to a "sick or injured person" call		
10	Award from a citizen's group	28 X = .	
12.	Assignment to day shift		
17	Work on a Holiday	26 X =	
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16.	Making a routine arrest		
10.	Call involving inventor	25 X = .	
14.	Call involving juveniles		
10.	Routine patrol stop		
12.	Assignment to a single-man car		
	Call involving the arrest of a female		
	Court appearance (misdemeanor)		
9.	Working on a traffic accident	23 X =	
8.	Dealing with a drunk	23 X =	
7.	Pay raise	23 X =	
6.	Overtime pay	22 X =	
5.	Making a routine traffic stop	22 X =	
4.	Vacation	20 X =	
3.	Issuing a traffic citation		
2.	Court appearance (traffic)		
1.	Completion of a routine report	13 X =	
		YOUR TOTAL	



OPINIONS AND FEELINGS ARE FREQUENTLY A PERSONAL TRIUMPH OVER GOOD THINKING YOU DEFINE REALITY BY WHAT YOU KNOW, WHAT YOU BELIEVE, AND WHAT YOU DO ABOUT IT.