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## OFFICER SAFETY - FACEBOOK SEARCH AUGUST 2013

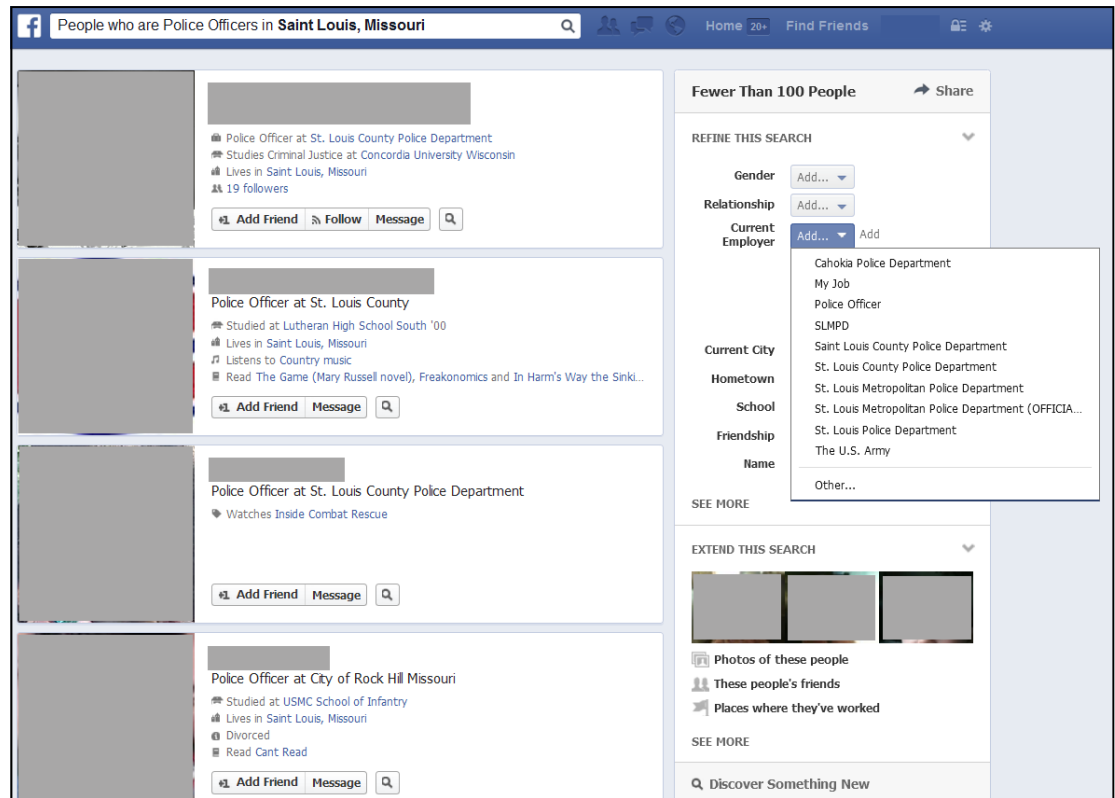
Recently, the online social network Facebook released a new search method, which could present a security concern for law enforcement employees who use Facebook, and have not engaged privacy controls.

The search method allows any Facebook user to use vague search phrases to find much wider results, based on basic information provided by the Facebook user and/or anything that has been “liked” on Facebook. For example, the search feature can provide results for search phrases such as:

- People who are police officers and live nearby**
- People who are police officers and live in Kirkwood, Missouri**
- People who work for St. Louis County Police Department**
- People who are police officers and live nearby and like St. Louis Cardinals**
- People who are police officers and live nearby and have been to Busch Stadium**

This type of search allows for countless combinations, which could allow someone to locate law enforcement employees and obtain personal information, photos, family members, list of Facebook friends, places visited, etc.

Presently, Facebook does not include any users who have engaged the privacy controls, located on the top right of the Facebook toolbar. Law enforcement employees are strongly encouraged to utilize these privacy controls to maintain security of personal information.



*The St. Louis Fusion Center: Terrorism Early Warning Group is a cooperative effort between St. Louis area law enforcement, emergency management, fire protection districts, health agencies, and private industry dedicated to the detection and prevention of terrorism through improved communication. For more information visit [www.stlfc.org](http://www.stlfc.org) or [www.sltew.org](http://www.sltew.org).*

**ALERT**