Basic Criminal Investigations for Street Patrol and New Criminal Investigators

Various types of evidence: The public can at times be skeptical and it must be emphasized that the public sits on juries. It is a common occurrence to hear of police policies and procedures called into question during these trials. It is critical that today’s investigators present the court with a variety of evidence that originates from more than just one source. The importance of a thorough investigation that includes eyewitnesses, circumstantial crime scene evidence and statements from the defendant must become part of the total investigative initiative.

Sources of evidence: In today’s technology age investigators must be aware of the multiple sources of evidence that may enhance their ability to solve a case. This segment provides participants with a laundry list of evidentiary sources that they should consider when conducting an investigation including cell phones, computers, surveillance images and GPS devices.

Working with prosecutors: Focuses participants on the importance of working closely with prosecutors at the earliest possible stages of the investigation. Any successful prosecution will be the result of the combined efforts of the law enforcement investigators and the prosecution team. This segment focuses on the value of legal input and advice related to the investigative process with respect to the admissibility of the evidence which is essential to a successful prosecution.

Investigators guide to dealing with the media: It has often been said “If it bleeds, it leads.” Crime always captures the attention of the media and the public. Investigators must balance the public’s need to know, the 6th amendment rights of the defendant to a fair trial and the integrity of the case. With a large viewing and reading audience, how can the media be effectively utilized to assist law enforcement in the investigation?

Legal issues: Investigators are constantly dealing with issues pertaining to the constitutional rights of the defendant. This segment will discuss search warrants, arrest warrants, statements by defendants, interview and interrogation techniques, methods of identifying the defendant and the contemporary issues regarding best practices of eyewitness identification, and the best ways to ensure the evidence collected is admissible.

Resources brought from outside agencies: This session will provide participants with a host of resources that can be provided by outside investigative agencies. Firearms traces, NCIC searches, CODIS, AFIS, NIBN, VICAP.

Instructor: Steve Campbell, Major (Retired)
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Stephen Campbell began his Law Enforcement career with the Providence, Rhode Island Police Department in 1982 and retired at the rank of Major, Commander of the Investigative Division in 2008. During his 26 years he worked in numerous bureaus within the department including the Detective Bureau. Steve developed and commanded the Domestic Violence Unit. He has investigated over 100 homicides and numerous suicides, accidental and natural deaths.

In the Investigative Division, he had oversight of all Major Crimes, Narcotics Bureau, Crime Scene Investigation, and Youth Services.

Steve is a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Policing at PERF. He attended the Williams Homicide School, New York State Police. Steve holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Roger Williams University and a Master of Science Degree from Salve Regina University.

March 21, 22 & 23, 2017
Birmingham, Alabama

Register online at: www.patc.com
Distinguishing homicide from other unusual deaths: Police officers are called to investigate approximately 15,000 homicides a year. Many of these homicides result in homicide and suicide. The type of crime under investigation the pathologist and the investigator are always called to investigate gunshot wounds. The type of crime under investigation the pathologist and the investigator.

The scene: Participants will be provided with an understanding of the importance of the crime scene. The session will identify the duties and responsibilities of the first responders and investigators in the initial preservation of the scene and collection of evidence.

In any investigation the lead investigator will be charged with the responsibility of the investigation and will ultimately be held accountable for the integrity and success of the completed investigation. Participants will be made aware of the proper methods of ensuring that the scene is properly processed and documented. This documentation includes written reports, photographs, measurements, sketch, and area canvass.

Gun crime: Over 100,000 people suffer gunshot wounds each year nationwide, many of which result in homicide and suicide. Officers are always called to investigate gunshot wounds. The type of wound and presence of blood at the scene can assist investigators in piecing together what really happened. This segment will discuss gunshot wounds and blood evidence.

The Importance of the Investigation
First responder’s duties:
- Protection of the crime scene from contamination
- Dealing with: Witnesses, Police Officials, family members
- Witnesses help solve crimes: How to keep them safe.
- Crime scene documentation
- Role of the detective at the crime scene
- Case Study: Homicide by Gunshot Wound
- Preserving Evidence / Casting Impressions
- Firearms, gunshot wounds and blood evidence
- Who is the victim? What is the motive? Legal issues: 4th Amendment considerations inside and outside the crime scene.

What officers need to know when conducting an investigation into an “Apparent Suicide”
- Suicide / Accidental Death / Natural Death
- Evidence preservation and collection
- Case Study: Blunt Force Trauma
- Lunch (on your own)
- Identifying the suspect
- Legal issues related to searching the scene and questioning of suspects
- Legal updates
- Interview and Interrogation

Criminal Identification Issues
- What every officer should know about DNA
- Biometrics: using unique identifying characteristics to solve crime
- The importance of evidence storage for solving future crimes: CODIS, AFIS, NIBIN, DNA, VICAP

Certificate Presentation