



PUBLIC AGENCY TRAINING COUNCIL



Solving Homicides: Investigative Steps to Success

Course Purpose / Objectives

Law enforcement agencies are tasked with investigating crimes against persons, to include sexual and non-sexual homicides, rape and abductions. The demand on the investigative abilities of law enforcement officers is put to the test to solve such heinous crimes. The goal of this high impact, interactive 2 ½ day course is to provide the participant with the knowledge, tools and investigative steps necessary to conduct thorough investigations.

To achieve this goal, the course will cover the key topical areas listed below. Additionally, the participants will be conducting actual case studies, reviewing crime scene photographs, participating in case practicums, utilizing investigative checklists and applying investigative techniques.

Homicide Crime Behaviors: Over the past three decades, research into violent crime behaviors has proven to be extremely helpful to investigators when trying to piece together “why” individuals fall victim to violent crime. In this course, participants will be provided an overview of the research findings that serve to assist in formalizing their investigative steps to get the case solved. Homicide and rape case studies as well as actual crime scene photographs will be provided to the participants to illustrate the research findings.

Homicide Victimology: One of the most important, yet often over looked steps an investigator can take to solving a homicide or violent crime is the development of Victimology. Often found within this information is “why” the person fell victim at the hands of an offender and “who” is the offender. Therefore, all aspects of the victim’s life must be looked into and properly documented. In this course of instruction, development of the relationship between the victim and offender will be explored and the participants will be provided a checklist that will assist them in developing and documenting the detailed information about the victim.

Suspect/Offender Checklist: As with Victimology, important to the investigation and an additional key step to solving the case is the gathering of any and all information about the suspect or offender. The participants will be provided a checklist that will assist them in developing and documenting the detailed information about a suspect or offender that will then be used in comparison with Victimology for potential leads to move the investigation forward.

Homicide and Violent Crime Scene Observations - Investigative Assessment Process:

Interactions between victims and offenders during the commission of a crime can hold many clues for law enforcement investigators. By assessing those crime behaviors in stages, investigators are

provided a clear picture of not only “what” happened, but most importantly “why” it happened. Achieving an understanding of “why” it happened moves the investigator ever so closer as to “who” committed the crime. Therefore, this process will assist in the identification of the offender based upon the examination of the offense and the manner in which it was committed. In this course of instruction, the participants will be provided an in-depth look at the key step of conducting an assessment of the crime scene through the use of case studies and crime scene photographs. Additionally, the participants will then develop additional steps that will assist them in the formulation of investigative strategies, interview strategies and even trial strategies.

Time Line Development: A critical step in the investigation is the development of a time line of the victim and if known, suspect or offender. Through the use of computer technology, proper documentation of pre crime, crime and post crime actions of the victim and suspect/offender become a key part of the investigative case file that is utilized by investigators and prosecutors at time of trial.

Sexual Deviancy- Laypersons Understanding of the Role It Plays in Homicide and Violent Crime: The presence of sexually related behaviors in violent crimes must be considered by investigators when conducting investigations. The participants will be provided an overview of various deviant behaviors and how it affects the investigative steps to be taken in solving violent crime. Additionally, the participants will be taught how to document this information in affidavits in support of execution of search warrants.

The Role of Fantasy Homicides: In many cases, particularly crimes with a sexual component, the acting out by an offender towards an unsuspecting victim can be influenced by his or her fantasies. In this course of instruction, the participants will learn how fantasy removes the “guilt factor” of the offender and thus allow him or her to commit violent crimes. Graphic crime scene photographs, inclusive of child abduction and rapes are used to illustrate critical teaching points.

Organized and Disorganized Crime Scenes: Just as not all criminals are alike, neither are crime scenes. The nature and manner of the offense and the demonstrated behaviors of the offenders left at the scene provide clues as to the offender. Understanding the differences in the characteristics of organized and disorganized offenders and the associated suspect profiles, the participants will use this valuable information as one of their key steps in narrowing the investigative focus towards a known suspect.

Offender Profiles: Through the research, we know that certain offenders commit certain violent crimes in the same manner but for different reasons. Crime scenes reflect those reasons or behavior. The participants, through the use of crime scene cases and crime scene photographs, will focus on the crime scene dynamics, homicidal patterns, and suspect profiles of the offenders as part of the key steps in solving violent crime cases.

Long Term Unsolved Homicide Cases: The investigative steps outlined throughout this course of instruction applies not only to incidents of violent crime that has just occurred, but also to long term unsolved cases as well. Utilizing the proposed steps the participants have been provided in this course of instruction, the participants will be given a long term unsolved case as a practicum.

Undetermined and Homicide Investigations: This session focuses on the criminal investigative process and the application of the victim and offender to move the status of a death investigation from the unknown to the known, thereby providing case resolution. Participants will consider case illustrations and participate in case practicums.

Autoerotic Death Investigations: Unique in nature, most autoerotic activity goes unreported. However, in those cases where the activity leads to death, investigators are faced with challenges

associated with the manner of death. In this course of instruction, participants will be provided cases of autoerotic activity and the necessary steps to determine the manner of death and thus bring resolution to families left behind.

Management of Case Information: Violent crime investigations, when properly conducted, generate a lot of information that becomes data in the case file. This data must be properly managed to ensure all investigative steps are completed, evidence gathered is sent for forensic examination, etcetera. Through cases studies, the participants will see where critical investigative steps were missed as a direct result of the inability to manage the information in a criminal case files. The participants will then be directed to computer software programs that are specifically designed to provide the proper management of case file information.

Case Exercises: Throughout the course of instruction, the participants will review cases, inclusive of actual crimes scenes, and apply the key steps provided. The course of instruction will then culminate with the participants participating in a case exercise that will allow the participants to use their newly acquired knowledge.

NOTE: THIS TRAINING INCLUDES VERY GRAPHIC CRIME SCENE IMAGES FROM ACTUAL CASES.

Instructor

Wayne Sheppard assists local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in areas such as violent crime analysis, case consultations and investigative assistance as requested by law enforcement in the United States and abroad. Additionally, he provides training in violent crime analysis, crime scene assessments, the design of law enforcement policies and procedures, the development of regional response plans, and other efforts aimed at enhancing an agency's overall investigative response to violent crime incidents, missing, abducted and exploited children incidents.

He is an international lecturer on behavioral crime scene assessments and murder and rape typologies and has conducted research in the areas of serial homicide and child homicides.

Mr. Sheppard is a retired member of the Pennsylvania State Police where he held a number of investigative and supervisory positions. Prior to his retirement, he was the supervisor of the Criminal Investigation Assessment Unit, where he was responsible for the investigation and coordination of psychosexual homicide, serial rape, and other behaviorally based crimes occurring in Pennsylvania, also, the supervisor of the Missing Persons Unit where he provided investigative assistance for law enforcement in missing and sexually exploited children cases, and the Amber Alert Coordinator where he created and implemented the Pennsylvania Amber Alert Program for Pennsylvania.

He has also addressed professionals representing the disciplines of law enforcement, corrections, social work, probation and parole, medicine, law, television, radio and academia on a national and international basis.

He is the recipient of numerous awards both nationally and internationally for his support and expertise in violent crime and child exploitation investigations.

Mr. Sheppard is a member of the Vidocq Society, a group comprised of experts from various disciplines across the country that provide pro bono services in the investigation and analysis of unsolved violent crimes occurring in the United States.

He is the past Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Homicide Investigators Association, Virginia Homicide Investigators Association, and past board member of the Attorney General's Legal/Medical Advisory Board on Elder Abuse.

Dates:

3/7/2017 through 3/9/2017

Location:

Columbus, Ohio Division of Police Training Academy - 1000 North Hague Ave., Columbus, OH 43204-2121

Course Contact / Registration

Officer Stephanie Gibson

(O) 614 645 4800, ext 52218

(D) 614 645 2218

(e-mail): slgibson@columbuspolice.org

For consideration to receive a seat in this class, fill out the attached registration form and return to the course contact.



Columbus Division of Police

Training Course Registration Form

Columbus Regional Training Academy
 Building Strong Minds, Strong Tactics and Strong Values

**INSTRUCTIONS: Complete this form and send through departmental mail to
 "Stephanie Gibson / Advanced Training or fax to 645-4246**

Name:	Last	First	M.I.	Badge/IBM/Tech #:
Assignment:	Shift:		Days Off :	
Course: Solving Homicides: Investigative Steps to Success			Date: 3/7/2017 through 3/9/2017	
Time: 8:00A-5:00PM				

- I am interested in attending this course because:
- Career Advancement
- I am an FTO
- My assignment requires specialized training

Employee Signature:	Date:
I have read and understand the registration/cancellation policies and procedures for reserving a seat in this class.	
Supervisor Name (Please print.):	Date:
Supervisor Signature:	
Assignment:	Telephone #:
Supervisor signature indicates knowledge that this registration form will be submitted to Advanced Training Section for processing. A supervisor's signature represents approval for this employee to attend the course.	

Registration forms sent by fax should not be mailed. **Your confirmation notice will be emailed.**

Questions -- Call or contact the Advanced Training Section

Officer Stephanie Gibson, Advanced Training Administrative Unit, 645 4800, ext 1118