Criminal Investigation for Street Patrol and New Criminal Investigators

Course Purpose / Objectives

Overview: This 2 ½ day program is designed to build confidence in investigators with respect to the criminal investigations they will be conducting. No matter the type of crime under investigation the fundamentals of criminal investigation remain the same. Applying determination, sound investigative practices, techniques and procedures will enhance the investigator’s ability to collect evidence in such a way as to ensure its admissibility in future criminal proceedings.

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.

Distinguishing homicide from other unusual deaths: In many cases it may be required that investigators treat a death as a homicide until it has been ruled by a medical examiner or coroner to have been caused by something else. While law enforcement investigators are not expected to develop the same expertise as a pathologist performing an autopsy, it is critical that investigators be able to identify evidence at the scene which would be an early indicator as to the cause and manner of death. This segment discusses what officers can learn from the physical condition of the body and the importance of the relationship between the pathologist and the investigator. Case studies involving suicides, accidental deaths, and homicides will be reviewed.

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.

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

Stephen Campbell

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, and 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.

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

Dates:

5/5/2015 through 5/7/2015

Location:

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

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To Register visit www.patc.com