



INTELLENET NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2009

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Carino's Corner

In April (22 – 26 April) we will convene our annual seminar in Honolulu. The emphasis this year will cover the development of recession and legislative proof niches. It should be on everyone's "Must Attend" calendar especially if you are concerned about future billable time! I add, incidentally, that Intellenet seminars are open to all PIs and security personnel. For our own members and others, we have established a perennial seminar website. Come visit it at www.intellenetagm.com. The speaker and social programs, hotel reservation form and seminar registration form are all on the website. Of course, my email box and telephone (info on website) are also available for queries / additional information. This year we are running a pre-event – a special briefing and tour of JPAC (The Joint POW/MIA Command) in Honolulu. This is a DOD Agency tasked with accounting for all Americans missing

since WWII. Our tour will be at the Central Identification Lab – the largest forensic anthropology lab in the world. We'll be transporting the spouses to one of the largest "flea markets" in the world at the time.

If you plan to attend, you need to hurry. The time is running out.

 Q: What did the redneck do when he found out he was being promoted from second to third grade?

A: He got so excited, he cut himself shaving.

Q: What's the difference between a rich redneck and a poor redneck?

A: Whitewalls on their wheelbarrows.

Know Your Fellow Members



Jacob Lapid
Lapidim US LLC
1150 Lake Hearn Drive, Suite 130
Atlanta, Georgia

Jacob was decorated for his remarkable accomplishments in the 1973 Israeli Yom Kippur War and was later promoted to Colonel, a Tank Brigade Commander, and was assigned to the Israeli Intelligence Unit. He has degrees in Architecture, Economics & Leadership Administration.

His Israeli company, Lapidim Projects, has conducted investigations in North America, Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia (e.g. Kazakhstan), Arabic countries, India, and Africa. He specializes in complex cross-jurisdictional and dangerous assignments. He maintains an office in Atlanta for American customers who need international investigations.

Jacob specializes in mergers and acquisition cases. He recently conducted a due diligence investigation for a \$2 billion deal in Russia, as the lawyers had reason to doubt the skill, loyalty and integrity of local investigators. Jacob employs medical specialists to investigate insurance frauds where claimants were found in third world countries.

Jacob was involved in the Enron case, where he proved European bankers were guilty of false pretence regarding Enron's creditors. Other major cases have included: British Bank frauds, a \$30

million international telemarketing fraud, and a \$100 million Korean/US company dispute.

Jacob participates in pre-trial negotiations, and recently resolved a 7-year South African-Russian technology dispute. He recently testified in front of an international tribunal in London in support of an American company who won their case against the Indian company which had bribed Nigerian officials to take over the American-owned contract/assets.

Members in the News

On November 26th, 2008, **Jerry (Stud Muffin) and Gay Adams**, Austin, Texas, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

David Ziegler, West Trenton, New Jersey, made a presentation entitled "Privacy and ID Theft" at the November meeting of the Philadelphia Chapter, Institute of Internal Auditors. He was also elected President of the "Tri-State Association of Criminal Investigators, an association of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware public sector law enforcement, insurance, banking and private investigators.

Harriet Gold, Norcross, Georgia was a presenter on background investigations at the South East Investigators Conference on November 8, 2009 and the Georgia Chapter, International Association of SIUs on November 11, 2009.

Sean Mulholland, Jacksonville, Florida and Winslow Chapman, Cataphora, Redwood City, California, presented a seminar on "4 Proven Strategies to Reduce eDiscovery Costs and Improve Review Results", in Atlanta, Georgia on December 3, 2009.

Sonya Sigler, Vice President Business Development and Legal Counsel, Cataphora, is a new Supplemental Support Member. Based in Redwood City, California, Cataphora is the creator of the industry leading platform for investigative analytics and electronic industry recovery. She will be a presenter at the seminar in Hawaii.

Q: Do you know what a redneck' last words are?

A. Hey, fellas, watch this.



Recently, **Bert Falbaum** (left) visited **Stanley Moos** in Tucson, Arizona and presented him with his Intellenet life membership certificate and pin. Stanley was most appreciative receiving his certificate and asked that I express his appreciation. He was born on March 11, 1915, making him 93 years old, probably the oldest living licensed investigator.

Rich O'Neil, Cobbs Creek, Virginia, retired at the end of 2008 due to ill health.

Jim Carino and **Bill Blake** gave a presentation on "Premises Liability and Negligent Security—A Missed Opportunity" at the March 2009 NCISS Annual Conference.

PI Magazine for February 2009, had several articles authored by Intellenet members: **Kitty Haley**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—"Obtaining Clients in a Depressed Economy"; **G. Michael Newman**, San Diego, California—"Gang Related Investigations", "Defending a Prison Yard Stabbing", and "Defending an Aryan Brotherhood Case"; **Michele Stuart**, Gilbert, Arizona—"The Difference Between Search Engines and Directories". **Jayne McElfresh**, Phoenix, Arizona, was the NALI Member of the Month.

Charles (Chuck) Cross, Corporate Director of Security, Computer Services Corporation (CSC), Falls Church, Virginia, has been added to the Distribution List.

Robert Dudash, Omaha, Nebraska, authored "Continuing Education: how professionals keep

their edge" which appeared in the March/April 2009 issue of PI Magazine.

NEW MEMBERS

Terry R. Cox CLI, CFC, The Lonewolf Group, Booneville, Mississippi, also licensed in Arkansas and Tennessee, specializing in criminal defense and civil cases.

Frederick Coward, Jr., Investigative Services International Corporation (ISI), 2801 Coconut Avenue, Suite 5-H, Honolulu, Hawaii with satellite offices in Honolulu, Hawaii, Tokyo, Japan, and Mauritius-Africa.

Michael and Jayne Walker, Walker Confidential, Cedar Ridge, California.

Annalisa Ricketts, Annabale Limited, London, England and Milan, Italy.

John F. Matula, CFE, John F. Matula, Private Investigator, Hempstead, New York.

Rick Panske, CFE, CPA, Oshkosh Corporation, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, has been added to the Supplemental Support List.

Richard Kelly, Director of Security, Harsco Corporation, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, has been added to the Distribution List.

Raul Fat, Transylvania Investigative Service, Cluj Napoca, Romania.

Artur Janta-Lipinski, Contrarisk Management, Czuchon, Poland.

Bickell Lund, Peace of Mind Investigations, Eudora, Kansas.

Doug Proulx, Proulx, Professional Research, Inc, Brookfield, Wisconsin.

Jim Carino received the John J. Duffy Memorial Award at the 2009 NCISS Annual Conference in San Diego, California. This is the highest honor bestowed by NCISS.

Spam E-Mail Reminder

Trouble has been encountered when Yahoo determines an e-mail to be spam. When you are responding to an e-mail received through the Yahoo system, such as the Intellenet Listserv, **DELETE "RE"** in the subject line which will reduce the potential for your e-mail to be considered spam.

Intellenet Member Inducted into Air Force's Special Agent Hall of Fame

*Du Quoin (IL) Evening Call
February 19, 2009*



On April 16, 2009, Jeff Williams will be inducted into the U.S. Air Force OSI Hall of Fame at OSI's annual awards dinner in Washington D.C.

Jeff had a 23 year career with the U.S. Air Force, serving 17 years as a Special Agent for OSI. In 1986 he was cited for commanding the Outstanding Worldwide OSI Office at the U.S. Embassy, Manila. In 1987 he was recognized as the Worldwide Counterintelligence Collector/ Liaison for the entire U.S. Department of Defense. Jeff was also awarded the Bronze Cross Medal from the Philippine National Police (PNP) in 1991

In 1992, Jeff retired from the U.S. Air Force and eventually became Pinkerton USA's Asia Vice President, successfully supervising their 14 offices throughout Asia. During this time, he was selected by Pinkerton as their Worldwide Investigations Managing Director of the Year in 1997, followed by his selection as Pinkerton's International Managing Director of the Year – Leadership Award in 1998.

He is now President and Managing Director of Orion Support Incorporated in the Philippines and Intellenet's Asia Regional Director.

2009 Intellenet Conference

The 2009 Intellenet Conference will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii from April 21 – April 25, 2009 at the Sheraton Waikiki hotel. Joe Cabrejos and

Kevin Ripa have worked hard to identify a fabulous facility and develop a great social activity program. Robert Dudash has ensured that there will be a very varied, interesting and informative educational program. It is not too late to make hotel and conference reservations. If you will be able to attend please make your reservations as soon as possible so adequate facilities and tour resources can be assured.

Service Mark

The word Intellenetsm is now a registered service mark with the United States of America Patent and Trademark Office. A service mark is any word, name, symbol, device, or any combination, used, or intended to be used, in commerce, to identify and distinguish the services of one provider from services provided by others, and to indicate the source of the services.

Law Enforcement Entrance Test

A sheriff needed to hire a deputy. An applicant by the name of Gomer applied for the job and was invited to meet with the sheriff. Right off the bat the sheriff realized that Gomer was not the brightest person in the world but wanted to give him a chance, so he asked Gomer, "What is 1 and 1?"

"11," Gomer replied.

The sheriff said to himself, "That's not what I meant, but he's right."

He next asked, "What two days of the week start with the letter 'T'?"

Gomer said, "Today and tomorrow."

The sheriff was again surprised.

"Now Gomer, listen carefully, who killed Abraham Lincoln?"

Gomer thought real hard for a minute and finally admitted, "I don't know."

"Well, why don't you go home and work on that one for a while?"

Gomer left the sheriff's office wandered to the pool hall where his pals were waiting to hear the results of the interview. Gomer was exultant. "It went great! First day on the job and I'm already working on a murder case!"

Count Dracula—PI

At a recent private investigators' meeting, two PI's did what many PI's at a conference do—hang out in the bar and tell stories (lies)! Not to be outdone

by mere mortals, an Intellenet member (a reliable source, of course) and a second individual, both of whom claiming to be on vacation from Ireland, decided to provide some entertainment at the expense of an overworked, underpaid, underappreciated waitress. When asked if they wanted something to eat, the fun (?) started! Our Intellenet member asked for a burger and his friend said "I would like one, uncooked with the blood around it." The shocked waitress asked where the friend was from and was told Transylvania. Our Intellenet members started to enlighten the waitress about Dracula and the vampires. She freaked out and had to be driven home by her boss as she would not walk. The moral of this story is if you have a reluctant interviewee, call Dracula for results at Transylvania 6-5000!

4 Quick Things Screening Companies Should Know About International Criminal Record Checks In Today's Global Market

*Terry Corley
International Screening Solutions
Kennesaw, Georgia*

The Global Screening market is growing at accelerated rates. Are your customers satisfied with the quality of international records checks they're receiving today?

Do you wonder why your screening company is not getting any "hits" on name checks after hundreds of international criminal checks?

What is the value of an international criminal check that comes back with a result that says "No Record Found", what is the legitimacy of such a report?

Consider the following 4 key points about International Criminal Record Checks:

1. "Seemingly Cheap" international criminal searches offered by less reputable companies claiming to run "court checks" from every country on the planet from our experience are often bogus. The fact is criminal data is not available or even remotely accessible from every country due to local privacy and other legal provisions regulating access.

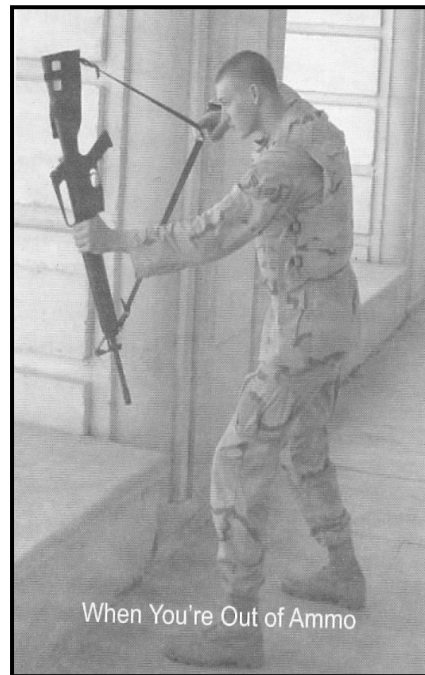
2. When records can be accessed many countries

require criminal application forms to be completed by a candidate in order to legitimately provision data from local authorities.

3. Some international providers may bribe officials, misrepresent themselves or even fabricate results in order to gain access to criminal data outside the Public Domain. This exposes you and your customers to possible prosecution and enforcement action from abroad and in the USA under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

4. Similar to US consumer reporting guidelines, many countries have enacted national provisions on the erasure of past convictions from criminal records of a convicted individual as a means of allowing an individuals' rehabilitation. As such reporting information that was obtained outside the legitimate process or reporting details that may be considered "spent" may be a violation of privacy and subject to unnecessary risk to employers for employment discrimination.

Talk About a Financial Crisis!



The Vidocq Society: Murder On The Menu

*Originally published in the London (England) Telegraph on November 20, 2008.
Reprinted with Permission*

Nineteen years ago three men had the idea of a regular lunch club for crime experts that would try to solve some of the United States' most baffling homicides. The Vidocq Society has now been instrumental in solving hundreds of crimes. Adam Higginbotham meets the founding members.



Former FBI special agent Bill Fleisher, an original member of the Vidocq Society Photo: Jens Umbach Sunlight filters through the blinds of a private dining-room on the top floor of the Public Ledger Building in the centre of Philadelphia.

Lunch – a small salad, followed by chicken and spaghetti topped with cheese and peppers – concludes with lemon tart. Most of the diners gathered around the half-dozen circular tables are finishing their coffee by the time Detective Charlie Fairbairn approaches the lectern to go over the events of August 29, 1985.

A short man with close-cropped grey hair, Fairbairn has flown across three states and driven straight in from the airport to be here, hoping to find a solution to a crime committed when he was only 14, long before he was assigned to cold-case homicide in the police department in Columbus, Georgia.

His face glistens with sweat as he describes the details of the murders – of a woman and her two children, killed in the kitchen of their home, with blows from an elongated axe designed for clearing undergrowth. Fairbairn outlines the crime scene in careful technical language, as photographs are projected on a screen behind him: 'The body of Erica Currie, a four-year-old white female, was located between the kitchen table and the side door. Several feet from Erica, a section of her upper jaw and her glasses were located...'

The images advance: a pool of blood on linoleum; an axe on orange shagpile carpet; a child's leg protruding from beneath a table. The few dozen assembled members of the Vidocq Society stare at the screen with professional detachment; at a table near the front a big man in his early seventies bounces a toothpick in his mouth impassively.

Another photograph shows a close-up of the body of Ann Currie, eight months pregnant at the time of her death, her head propped up for the camera by a man who is out of shot. A woman in the audience gasps.

But, being a forensic anthropologist from the New Jersey State Police, she is simply horrified at her colleagues' lack of procedural rigour: 'No gloves,' she hisses at her dining companion, a world authority on ritual murder.

It is almost two decades since the original members of the Vidocq Society first gathered at the Officers Club of the Philadelphia Navy Yard to enjoy lunch and consider the deaths of others. But since that meeting in September 1990, the organisation has developed from a quirky curiosity into a law-enforcement resource taken seriously by police across the United States; one that has inspired several books and a Hollywood bidding war.

Vidocq Society meetings – billed on its website as 'Cuisine and Crime-Solving' – now take place in Philadelphia on the third Thursday of every month; members gather beneath the electric chandeliers of the wood-paneled Downtown Club to have lunch and, afterwards, to help find a solution to a cold-case homicide. With 82 full, and more than 100 associate, members – a mix of men and women who must be invited to join by a committee – the society is a voluntary brains trust of retired and working criminologists.

Over the years membership has been drawn from the entire spectrum of judicial and crime-fighting institutions: from the local district attorney's office to Interpol; from Philadelphia's medical examiner to renowned FBI profilers. The society boasts members from 17 US states and 11 other countries around the world.

Members, who like to describe themselves as 'crime solution catalysts', pay an annual \$100 subscription fee, and agree to attend at least one meeting a year, regardless of where in the world they live. Each meeting attracts about 60

members. Funded in part by a cut of a reported \$1.3 million film development deal signed with Danny DeVito's Jersey Films in 1997, the society pays for travel and accommodation expenses – so that underfunded detectives from across America can present their most perplexing cases at the Downtown Club.

'We'll never see the FBI or the New York City police bring a case to us,' says Vidocq's chairman, Fred Bornhofen – a 70-year-old private security consultant and former spook for the Office of Naval Intelligence. 'But we'll get all the state and town cases, because they just don't have the training, background or sophistication to handle it.'

Despite the restrictions the society places on the crimes it will consider – only unsolved deaths more than two years old; the victims cannot have been engaged in criminal activity such as prostitution or drug-dealing; the case must be formally presented to them by the appropriate law enforcement agency – there is no shortage of work.

Bornhofen says there is a mounting backlog of crimes to consider. New cases come in at the rate of two a week, a hundred or so a year. 'Some have value, some don't,' he tells me over lunch. 'All these cases are old; everyone has tried to solve them. It's not a matter of us jumping in when the horse is at the finish line. The horse is dead by the time we get there.'

Nineteen years after they conceived the idea of a crime-solving dining club, the three founding members of the Vidocq Society – Bill Fleisher, Frank Bender and Richard Walter – still make an unlikely trio: the policeman, the artist and the psychologist.

Affable, thick-set and wise-cracking, Fleisher, 63, holds the title of society commissioner. He orchestrates the monthly meetings, and came up with the idea of naming the organisation after Eugène François Vidocq – the 19th-century French criminal-turned-detective who pioneered the use of ballistics and fingerprinting, and provided inspiration for the world's first detective story, Émile Gaboriau's *L'Affaire Lerouge*. At the private detective agency he now runs in downtown Philadelphia, Fleisher's office is filled with mementos of a life in law enforcement – his graduation certificate from the City Police Academy, his FBI special agent badge mounted in Perspex, a vintage polygraph machine.

Fleisher knows a great deal about murder: during his time with the FBI in the early 1970s he worked the area of Boston known as the Combat Zone, and was later assigned to organised crime, arresting men he describes as 'characters out of a B-novel'. And 30 years ago, through an introduction by the Philadelphia medical examiner, he met Frank Bender.

Bender, 67, is a small, animated man with a snow-white beard and a constant twinkle in his eye. He now works as a sculptor and watercolourist, but at one time or another has been an advertising photographer and a commercial diver inspecting the hulls of tugboats in Philadelphia harbour. He fell into catching criminals by accident:

In 1975 he was taking evening courses in painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. To help him see 'in the round' he started attending sculpture classes, but there were no anatomy lessons available to evening students, so a friend in the medical examiner's office offered to let him sit in on some autopsies to learn about the human form. 'I go to the morgue. He shows me around. Bodies had been cut up, burnt. They had this one woman,' Bender says, 'her whole body was decomposed, they didn't know what she had looked like or who she was'.

The woman had been shot in the head, the bullet smashing her skull open, but Bender told his friend, 'just out of conversation', that he could show him what the woman had looked like, and recreate the features of her face in a sculpture.

'I just knew what people looked like,' Bender tells me when we meet at his studio. Five months later the woman was identified from Bender's bust as Anna Duval, an Arizona woman who had come to Philadelphia to collect money on a property deal that had gone sour. She had been executed by a Mafia contract killer who would not be convicted of the murder for another 20 years.

Bender had discovered an apparently intuitive gift for facial reconstruction and, as word spread of his success, was called first to work on more 'skull-to-face' cases; later, he began creating aged renderings for the FBI and Federal Marshals Service to help them find fugitive criminals.

Bender's skill made him something of a celebrity. 'I've helped the government catch seven of their most wanted fugitives – I've got more IDs than probably anyone else,' he says.

Fleisher was immediately fascinated by what Bender was capable of, and the two men began to have lunch together every week. 'He seemed to have a sixth sense,' Fleisher says, 'almost a spiritual intervention in his cases.'

A cadaverous chain-smoker with an acid sense of humour, Richard Walter lives alone in rural Pennsylvania, in a remote hilltop bungalow filled with antiques. He is reluctant to reveal his age. ('That's a state secret. I'm sixth decade... and of course I don't look it.') Perched on a leopard-print chair in his living-room, he says that he first met Bender at a Philadelphia hotel in 1986, at a meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Walter began his career as a criminal psychologist at the LA County medical examiner's office in the 1970s, and since then has profiled the perpetrators of some of world's most infamous crimes – including the serial killer Colin Ireland, who terrorised the gay community in London in the 1990s. He tells me that much of his work has been confidential: 'Most of my high-profile stuff has been under the radar, in the shadows. I would just be the consultant – it gives me more freedom that way.' He is not keen on having his photograph taken.

When they were first introduced, the psychologist – darkly sarcastic, donnish – and the sculptor, a cavalier self-publicist, could not have seemed more different. 'I really wanted to dislike him,' Walter admits. 'I made some rather pointed comments, but Frank just laughed, so I thought, how can you be all bad if you laugh at my jokes?'

'I thought, this guy sounds like he knows what he's doing,' Bender says, 'and we needed a fugitive profiler at the Marshals Service. So I invited him over.' Together they developed a profile of Robert Nauss, the former head of the Warlocks motorcycle gang who had escaped from prison concealed in a cabinet, and who was still at liberty seven years later: Bender and Walter were at a conference in Australia when they heard Nauss had been recaptured. 'Being vain,' Walter says, 'I wanted to know whether he was driving a black Cadillac, because I had predicted he would be. And he was.' Later, Walter and Bender would co-operate on one of the most sensational fugitive cases of the era: the search for John E List, a failed accountant from New Jersey who had been at large for nearly 18 years since shooting dead his wife, mother and

three children one night in 1971. Bender imagined how List's face would have sagged and wrinkled since he had last been seen, aged 46; Walter suggested List would still be wearing horn-rimmed spectacles, because he would want to look prosperous. Bender's bust of List was shown on America's Most Wanted in May 1989; List was arrested 11 days later in Virginia, where he was living under an assumed name as a happily married, church-going accountant – who wore horn-rimmed glasses.

When Bender, Walter and Fleisher all finally met for the first time at a restaurant in downtown Philadelphia later that year, the three men had a lot to talk about. They traded details of cases they were working on and told anecdotes. Fleisher suggested they make it a regular event – 'I said, we'll bring a bunch of people with common interests, sit over a good meal, talk about old cases, and see if we can solve them in the light of this forensic psychology that you're involved in and the ageing, rebuilding skulls – that type of thing.'

Fleisher sent out invitations to 28 contacts – members of the FBI, the police department, the US Attorney's Office – expecting only a handful of replies. But 26 wrote back accepting his invitation, and became the first members of the Vidocq Society. 'The whole thing, to start with, was for fun,' Fleisher says. 'Maybe that sounds ghoulish, but it was to have a good time with people I liked – and maybe do something good as a by-product.' The society considered its first case in 1990, at a theme restaurant where the staff dressed in 18th-century costume. After that their meetings were ad hoc, the cases they considered governed by the information to which members had access. 'At that point we didn't have any credibility with anybody really – except ourselves,' Walter says.

Their first success was in 1991: in March that year the family of Huey Cox, victim of a brutal murder in Little Rock, Arkansas, approached the society to help win the acquittal of the black dishwasher whom they believed had been wrongly accused of the crime. Richard Walter and a Vidocq fingerprint expert testified at the trial, and the case was dismissed in 45 minutes.

Although they may have begun to solve crimes merely for recreation, as word about the meetings spread, the volume of cases the society was asked to consider increased dramatically, and the organisation's aims began to change. Initial

presentations were made both by Vidocqians and by invited members of the public: at one meeting, a murder victim's sister took the podium and accused the assembled senior members of the Philadelphia Police Department of corruption; in another, Frank Bender stood up and suggested that the case presenter, a sex-shop owner whose friend had been killed, had actually perpetrated the crime himself. 'The guy denied it,' Richard Walter laughs, 'and got himself out of there as fast as he could.'

But after that, the rules were changed to exclude anyone but professional law-enforcement officers from making presentations. And as the society was approached to look at more and more cases they narrowed their focus to better suit their collective expertise.

'You have medical examiners, homicide investigators, odontologists – who for the most part deal with dead bodies,' Walter says. 'We realised that our strength was in homicide, because the dead can't speak for themselves. Armed robbery victims can. We decided then that we should focus on cold-case homicides.'

In 1992 the society considered the murder of Deborah Wilson, a student who had been found strangled in a stairwell at Philadelphia's Drexel University in 1984. One mysterious aspect of the case was that the victim was found barefoot; the shoes she was wearing when she died were never found. Walter suggested detectives look for a foot fetishist. Three years later a security guard at the university, who had been discharged from the army for stealing women's footwear, was found guilty of the killing.

In the years since, the Vidocq Society has been credited with an instrumental role in solving several baffling crimes. Most recently, in October last year, Fred Bornhofen made an exception to the society rules about the age of crimes they consider to examine the 2006 case of a student who disappeared one night from a campus in New Jersey, only to turn up dead exactly a month later in a landfill, his body crushed and mangled. Police discovered blood, and a necklace the boy wore, in the rubbish compactor in the basement of his dorm, but couldn't fathom how they had got there – or how he had died.

The Vidocqians suggested that, after a row with his girlfriend, he had thrown his necklace down the

garbage chute in his building, but regretted it later, and gone down to retrieve it. There, he triggered the electronic eye controlling a hydraulic rubbish compactor: the ram crushed him to death, and pushed his body into a waiting skip. 'So it wasn't a homicide, or a suicide,' Bornhofen says. 'It was a terrible accident.'

Beneath the dimmed lights of the Downtown Club the waitresses wander from table to table refilling coffee cups, while the diners study copies of a seven-page floorplan of the Currie family crime scene.

From the podium, Detective Fairbairn moves on from the photographs to a list of suspects. There is the family's next-door neighbour at the time of the murders, subsequently arrested for rape and battery: he was given a polygraph test about the crime, and passed; there is no physical evidence to link him to the scene. Then there is the 26-year-old schizophrenic who escaped from a mental hospital the night before the killings, who had a history of violence involving axes; at one point he confessed to the murders, but was unable to provide detectives with any details of how he had committed them. And then there is Michael Currie – 27 at the time of the murders – who told police that he discovered the butchered bodies of his wife and family when he returned home from work that day. A former drug user, Currie had been having an affair with a co-worker for months before the murders. On the day of the crime, he left work for an extended period of time, apparently to buy a fan from a general store, where the clerk distinctly remembers him because he was soaked in sweat. Currie was questioned by detectives, and his clothes confiscated, submitted and resubmitted to the Georgia State Crime Lab for tests: 'No evidence of value, such as blood, was recovered,' Fairbairn says. Currie remains a suspect, but in the 23 years since the murders, the Columbus police have found nothing to conclusively link anyone to the crime. The case remains one of the most infamous murders in the history of the city – and has so far frustrated every single one of the 20 or 30 detectives who have investigated it.

By 1.30 pm, half an hour into his presentation, Fairbairn is ready to take questions from the room. This is the point where the members of the society go to work. 'What you have,' Richard Walter tells me, 'is the potential of 82 people thinking, as opposed to one person in their office.'

The cross-examination takes a little more than half an hour. Today, neither Bender nor Walter is at the meeting. None the less, questions about the events of August 29, 1985, and the investigation that followed, come from around the room: Was Michael Currie the father of all the children? Were the drains at the house checked for evidence?

Were the victims' hands bagged and scraped? Where is the murder weapon being kept now? Dr Michael F Rieders, a severe-looking forensic toxicologist with an American flag pin on his lapel, asks about the glass from a broken window at the scene. Fleisher wonders if Fairbairn knows the order in which the victims died. 'Could you comment on the apparent disagreement between the original investigators and your medical examiner over the time of death?' inquires a voice from the back of the room. Finally, after one more question from Dr Rieders about Michael Currie – 'Do you still have his clothing? Evidence from his vehicle?' – Fleisher steps up to the podium to wrap things up. He offers Fairbairn a memento of his visit: a magnifying glass in a wooden presentation case. 'The first scientific tool of the investigator,' he explains. 'Keep it handy. I think this case is solveable, somehow. If you need to exhume or get money for DNA testing, we'll be glad to assist you with the financial burden.'

Most of the diners drift toward the exit, but a handful wait behind to talk more with Fairbairn and his colleague, Detective Drew Tyner. Dr Rieders stops to discuss a microscopic examination of the suspect's clothes, and suggests Fairbairn send the murder weapon to his lab for testing: 'I'd be happy to look it over for you – no charge. This case is a horrible thing.'

A former CIA man from Florida is especially interested in discussing blood spatter: as the waiters clear away the last of the dinner settings, he and Fairbairn examine the crime scene photographs on an empty table, the grisly 10x8s spread out between the discarded napkins.

Bornhofen estimates that, over the years, the society has considered more than 300 examples of cold-case homicide. But ask what proportion of those cases has been solved, and the answers are less clear-cut.

There is no formalised follow-up process for those invited to present a case. At the end of each month's meeting, some interested members of the society may exchange cards with visiting

detectives, and chat further about possible leads. But there is no guarantee of help with building a case to go before a jury, much less a successful prosecution. 'It's a very grey area,' says Bender, who argues that the primary role of the organisation is to keep cold cases alive, and to provide free of charge the best information possible to under-resourced investigators. 'Our job at Vidocq is purely to help law enforcement solve their own cases with our information. So when you ask, how many cases did we solve? None. How many cases has law enforcement solved through our help? Quite a few.'

'I say we solve 80 per cent,' Fleisher says, 'but solving them and proving them are horses of different colours.'

'We don't keep track,' Bornhofen says. 'We feel that if we make a contribution, that's it. Quite often – I'd say 30, 40, 50 per cent of the time – we'll find that we made a contribution that resulted in the arrest and conviction of the killer. We'll get a call from the investigator saying, "We got him – thanks for your help." But he gets the credit.'

Six weeks after his visit to Philadelphia, Fairbairn is still no closer to catching whoever it was that killed Ann, Erica and Ryan Currie with a bush axe 23 years ago. When I last speak to Fairbairn, he and Tyner are back at their desks in Columbus, immersed in current investigations, and haven't heard anything from the Vidocq Society since the meeting, though they remain optimistic.

'When you've got a case like this – it's 20 years old, you pretty much know who your suspect is, but you can't prove it – any little thing can spark a fire that might help you solve the case,' Tyner says.

Back in the living room of his bungalow, beside a table set with a vase of artificial gladioli, Richard Walter talks for several hours about the history of the society, about his lectures on sadism, about the tubs of murder files that clutter his basement, before he finally addresses the issue of insoluble crimes. How many of the cases that come before him, I wonder, prove totally baffling? 'It's going to sound indecent,' he says, balancing an ashtray in his lap, 'but I don't remember one.'

How about one that was simply deeply frustrating? A hush settles over the room for nearly a minute before Walter replies, wreaths of cigarette smoke twisting in the air. 'If you're talking about

frustration because of the complexity of the case, I really don't remember any. I wish I could, because it makes me sound like a know-it-all. That doesn't mean I have all the answers,' he says. 'But there's always something.'

Interview and Interrogations

Interviewing Young Children: A Challenge to the Investigator

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Who is the boogeyman? Is it the creepy crawly monster that hides in the dark closet at night? Is it the foul breathed predator that bothers sleepy children by invading their sweet dreams? Or is it the living nightmare of violence that has been visited upon a child in the form of a favorite uncle, teacher, playmate or parent?

Who knows? The child does.

As investigators it is our job to seek out the demons that inhabit the recesses of the minds of the juvenile victim/witness. We must ease these devils from their place of hiding and show them to the world.

The task is both complex and challenging. The investigators who have been hired to interview a child must call upon all of their skills of professionalism and gain answers to hidden secrets without intimidating, influencing or confusing the youngster.

The following will identify the greatest problems encountered by this investigator during the past 30 years of professional experience. Suggestions of appropriate ways to handle a juvenile interview will be offered. The greatest tool, however, is the investigator's ability to know himself (herself). For the most overwhelming problem one must face in such situations is the intuitive meter with which every child is equipped. They can spot a phony a mile away. Our greatest challenge is being ourselves so that we can comfortably and effectively lead the child out of their nightmare and onto the video or audio tape to preserve evidence.

WHO IS A CHILD?

State and federal statutes conspire to confuse. It is the duty of an investigator to fully understand whom they can and cannot interview. This information must come from the legal counsel requesting the child-interview. Request that the attorney provide a memo with either citations or copies of the applicable laws. It would be a travesty to conduct a successful interview only to find it is inadmissible because a local law does not approve of the manner in which it was conducted. In most states a child is an individual under the age of 14¹. The maturity levels differ so greatly between toddlers and teens that the broad category of "child" is ineffective. General subdivisions that more realistically divide the juvenile population are:

Aged 6 and under

Ages 7-12 (elementary school to pre-teen)

Teenager

Obviously social and environmental differences will reflect in the growth of individual children. A twelve year old from an inner city environment may be experientially more mature than a 17 year old from Middle America.

THE VERY YOUNG (Aged 6 and under)

Often referred to as "the formative years," this is the time when infants become toddlers and then miniature adults. Little minds learn to communicate as they prepare for school and social interaction. Then something happens!!!

A tiny tot is playing beside his mother's bed when an estranged boyfriend enters the room and shoots mom in cold blood. The child is camouflaged by the bedclothes and frightened speechless.

A little girl is awakened in the night as her favorite uncle crawls in beside her. He keeps whispering "Shhh, this won't hurt. This won't hurt." But it does.

Five young playmates cringe in fear in the darkened movie theatre. They cry silently, afraid to let their dads know that the superhero on the

¹ child: a person 14 years and under. A "child" should be distinguished from a "minor" who is anyone under 18 in almost all states.

screen is the very character that the pornographer used to threaten them. They all know that this very strong cartoon creature in metal armor will kill their parents if they don't cooperate with the man who holds the video camera.

These living nightmares are played out daily as our sick society uses and abuses the young. The abuses do not stop with the crime or the incident. They continue as the child is questioned by everyone from parents to psychologists and social workers to law enforcement. These tender, impressionable minds are subjected to interpretation by a variety of adults, each with their own particular perspective.

Now it is the investigator's turn. Being aware of the general problems confronting the child will sensitize the investigator. The following should all be taken into consideration:

Trauma affects perception, especially in a very young child.

Every adult who has previously discussed the situation with the child has probably provided words or interpretation to the child. These words will color or alter the child's original perceptions. Children want to gain approval from the adults who judge them. Their recollections may be affected by a desire to please or not to displease a parent or other adult.

Abused children or those who witness violent crime may fear for their own safety or the safety of another if they identify the perpetrator.

The investigator is a stranger. For the most part, children are cautioned not to talk to strangers. A childhood is forever. It is adult time that is fleeting. A child's perception of time is greatly different from an adult's. Childhood summers last for eons. To the busy adult juggling family, work and other responsibilities, these three months fly like lightning.

PREPARATION

As with every phase of investigative work, being prepared is of the utmost importance. The following suggestions are but a few of the major areas one should consider before initiating an interview with a young child:

Familiarize yourself with the situation from adult interviews (conducted out of the purview of the child). Speak with attorneys, review police reports and try to understand everything known or believed to have happened.

Know the child. Understand their level of maturity. Comprehend the child as a special entity with likes and dislikes, habits and hobbies. Obtain data regarding his or her age, the daycare or summer camp attended, the names of favorite teacher and friends, pets and favorite toys.

Learn the child's vocabulary. Does the child have pet words for genitalia or body functions? Is the child's practice to say "penis"; or is "pee-pee" used as a substitute word? Does the child know Mr. Roberts by that name or is he "Uncle Chip?" Arm yourself with communication skills that will both assist in the understanding and be familiar to the interviewee.

Recognize areas of discomfort. Many children are taught not to discuss "private" matters with adults. Learn about the youngster's comfort level with delicate conversations. Often, we as adults imbue children with our own sense of shame. If they are totally candid, the investigator should take the child's lead and avoid any appearance of embarrassment. However, if certain subjects are taboo, respect the child's preferences and speak with carefully chosen words.

TIMING

"The sooner the better" is an appropriate adage. Do not put off a child's interview. Not only can details be repressed, but substitute fantasies may be concocted by a child in pain. Be aware that everyday delayed could mean the imposition of ideas by a well-meaning adult. In the case of an injured or abused child, a sympathetic nurse might inadvertently put ideas into their head in an effort to comfort. A simple statement like "Ooh you must have fallen off a building to get that bruised" might provide the child with a cover story to protect a physically abusive father, or to help a loving child deny that their daddy could have been so hurtful.

Attempt to schedule the appointment around the child's normal routine. Immediately prior to or after a nap might find the investigator dealing with a cranky or whiney subject. Try scheduling for just after breakfast when a child is most likely to be rested, clean and comfortably full. Never interview a young child right before bed. Not only will you

be greeted by a moody little one but you will positively guarantee a night of reliving horrors and unhappy nightmares.

LOCATION

Most people are intimidated by attorney's offices, conference rooms and courthouses. Children are no different. Attempt to interview the child in an environment that provides comfort and familiarity for the subject. A child's own bedroom, playroom or even backyard swings can all be the appropriate locations. First insure a minimum of distractions.

If the interview is to be videotaped it might be best to select the kitchen table in their home or one comfortable corner of the family den. If the interview will only be audio recorded be sure to listen carefully for outside intrusions that might interfere with clear sound quality. Turn off all televisions and radios that provide background noise. While this "white noise" may not be an obvious obstacle because of its continuous presence it could overshadow important words uttered by a shy toddler. Make sure all telephones, cell phones and beepers are turned off so they will not distract during the interview.

EQUIPMENT AND PROPS

Confer with counsel and determine if audiotape, videotape, both or neither is required at this interview. Prepare and recheck each item of equipment in advance. The obvious check for fresh batteries, sufficient tapes and proper lighting should be routine to the seasoned investigator.

Special needs dictate special equipment. Here is where the good investigator exercises self-understanding and knowledge of others. Think carefully about the situation and consider what props will help the child to feel comfortable while maximizing communication. The answer might be in the following list:

1. anatomically correct dolls (for aid in sexual assault cases)
2. building blocks and/or Legos (to help recreate a specific environment)
3. crayon and drawing paper (to provide diversion and to help the child to explain in drawings what they cannot verbalize)

4. miniature cars or motorcycles (for automobile accidents and other incident recreations)

5. a stuffed animal (to hug and provide comfort)

ESTABLISH TRUST AND AUTHORITY

Young children should not be interviewed without a parent or adult guardian present. In these cases the liability is, in fact, the adult. Parents who want so desperately for their children to tell the investigator everything might frequently interject comments and ideas that might invalidate an interview. Often their comments interrupt the flow of the interview or remind the child that they are not living up to the expectation of the adult. Inform the adult in advance that they have three very important jobs:

Introduce the investigator and make it blatantly clear that this is a trusted and respected individual. Make the child understand that he or she should feel abundantly safe and comfortable saying anything to the investigator.

Position themselves somewhere in the room conspicuous to the child, but out of the way of conversation. They are condoning the interview by their presence. However, they should not be overtly apart of the interview. It is suggested that the parent appear to be reading a book or magazine so that the child does not feel like they are listening in.

Most important is for the parent to remain silent. The adult must be cautioned not to interject even a word. Complete and absolute quiet is a necessity even if a young child seeks the comfort of that adult's lap while being interviewed. Make it a bargain: the adult can stay in the room, but the trade-off is silence.

DRESS AND DEMEANOR

Contrary to my normal admonition to always dress and act professionally, now is the time to be less formal. A child can be easily intimidated by authority. Business suits and brief cases are authoritarian images. Consider wearing jeans and a casual shirt. Carrying necessary equipment in a backpack or gym bag is less threatening than a briefcase.

When interviewing very young children an investigator might find themselves sitting on the

floor or outside on the grass. Be comfortable, casual but respectable in your choice of attire.

Do not for one minute make the mistake of thinking that you can "relate" to a child by wearing "fad" clothing. There is nothing sillier or more "uncool" than an adult in kids clothing. Dress down, but not far out.

THE INTERVIEW

Now after all preparation is made, all circumstances understood and the environment prepared, it is time to do the job. Conducting an interview with a child can be an amazing and interesting experience. Children have very short attention spans and do not like to talk about things that bother them. So be prepared to have fidgety fingers exploring your note cards or bored bouncers running around the room in mid-sentence. Patience! Patience! Patience!

Establish rapport. After being introduced do not start by drilling the child with questions about the incident. Initiate a little conversation that focuses first on you. After all, why should this little person open his soul to the big man with the taperecorder whom he just met? Don't start by asking. Start by telling. Let the child know you are an investigator, that you help people that you get to the bottom of people's problems and assist in solving crimes. Show them your credentials. Be prepared to explain the difference between yourself and Inspector Gadget or Deputy Dawg. Remember that a child's perception of your job is probably not the romantic image of 007 held by most adults. Gradually get the child talking about themselves. Having knowledge of their pet's names or their best friends and the pre-school attended will help you both to ease the process.

Establish the child's ability to know truth from a lie. This can be done by asking silly questions: i.e. "Is the sky green? Is the grass blue? If I say Muffy (a cat) is really a dog, am I telling the truth?" Another way I have been able to capture a child's interest and help determine their understanding of right and wrong is to draw pictures. I will provide crayons and paper to both the child and myself. I'll ask him to draw a favorite animal. While he is engrossed I will start to draw my crazy zoo. Taking the front half of one animal and the back half of another, I'll combine them to create a third fanciful figure. So a fish head and elephant bottom becomes an "elefish." After a while the child will

examine my own work and probably giggle or question my artwork. These creations serve as a perfect springboard for questions regarding what is real and what is a lie. It is important to establish that you want only truth from the child. You will reserve their time for play and imagination for another time. Let them know that in this conversation you want only the real fish or the real elephant, not the make believe one.

Lay the groundwork by going back in time. Do not start with the incident itself, but with the circumstances surrounding and leading up to it. If the subject, for example, is an automobile accident and the child is a witness, start early in the day. Questions such as: "Do you remember the day you and your dad were going to visit Aunt Louise?" Then establish seemingly benign things such as the clothing the child was wearing, where they sat in the car, what they had for lunch on the way. Let them take over and lead the conversation through the day. Prompt rather than question. Be sure not to color your inquiries with prejudicial statements. (Never say: "Do you remember when the big truck hit the little car?" Instead ask, "There was a big accident wasn't there? Do you remember what happened?")

Use the props to help the child illustrate their recollection. Then take a photo of their handiwork as you verbalize the events with them. When dealing with sexual or physical assault and abuse, allow the child to play or draw as you talk. Don't insist on eye contact which might stifle their cooperation. Allow the child to work out the details within the realm of his own comfort.

Remember that to most children it is a man who is the dominant individual who has been the predator or caused their harm. This does not negate females from being abusers. However, male investigators must remember that they represent a multitude of images to a small child, some of them not always flattering.

Do not be judgmental. As an investigator you are a recorder of information and a fact finder. Each society has its own set of morals and codes of ethics. Do not pass judgment or show prejudice as it might limit the amount of cooperation and ruin any rapport previously established.

Be careful not to become overly sympathetic. Overt statements such as "you poor child" or "how

could he do that to you" only detract from objectively performing the job.

Observe as well as listen. Body language and activity are as important in child communication as they are in the adult world. Children rarely speak of abuse in bold, straightforward terms. It is unusual for a child to look an adult in the eye and speak openly about pain, abuse or hurt. If the child is making eye contact and being completely clear and concise it is possible that they are putting on a performance for your benefit.

CONCLUSION

The investigator is not a psychologist, social worker or attorney. Do not forget the purpose for your employment. Clearly understand the assignment and the objectives of the job. While it is difficult to observe a child in pain, it is necessary to record these recollections to assist in the proper dispensing of justice. Getting too close to a victim/witness can cloud the objectivity of even the most seasoned investigators.

Prepare, conduct and record your interview in a professional manner. At the conclusion of each interview dignify the situation by shaking hands and saying thank you for their cooperation and honesty. Acknowledge the time that has been taken from their routine to assist you in your job. Do not immediately discuss their comments with the adult or guardian. Value the information that you have been given and respect the child by treating the interview as an important matter. After all, it is important. Their self-esteem will be heightened and their respect for adults advanced.

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Interviewing Children—A True Story

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Esperanza* had shiny, black hair and huge dark eyes. Her skin was caramel-colored and the sweetness of her smile was surpassed by her playful personality. In short, she was one of the most beautiful children I had ever met. Also, she was ten-years-old and her stepfather was in jail for raping her.

I was called the day before I met her by Juan's* attorney. He explained the case and said that Juan's employer was so convinced of his innocence that he was paying for his defense. The attorney said that Esperanza's mother was not sure the child was telling the truth and he asked me to interview the little girl.

The family lived in the downstairs of a two-family house in an area of Cleveland, Ohio, that has as many businesses as families. The neighborhood was rundown, but the family's home was tidy and the four children living there were clean and neatly dressed.

The little girl's mother asked me to talk to her daughter in the bedroom, which was right off the living room. I was surprised that Esperanza wanted the door closed, but the mother did not have a problem with that and, as I should have realized, it foretold what was coming.

I placed the tape recorder next to me on the bed where I sat. Esperanza sat next to me part of the time and walked around part of it.

As investigators know, you don't start with the difficult questions. I spent a long time asking her about her computer and school and her friends. I also asked about her family.

I learned that she had two younger brothers, nine and seven, and a half-sister, two. She said that her father left when her youngest brother was born and went "with another girl." She said he was living in Florida and that she has not seen him since he left.

When we started talking about what happened with her stepfather, she said he touched her with his fingers. I asked her how many times and she shrugged every time I suggested a number. Abruptly, she said, "twenty."

Her answer was too precise; I then asked if she had spoken to any other women. She said she did but didn't know what they were called. I asked "social workers?" She said yes. I then knew why her answer of "twenty" bothered me so much.

As we talked further, I told her that she was not going to be in any trouble no matter what she said. I told her, "If what you said is true, you should say it is true. If it is not true, you should say it is not true." I asked her to repeat what I said so I'd know that she understood what I meant.

After she repeated it she looked at me and said, "What if she lied?"

I asked if she meant what if "you" lied and she nodded her head. I told her that everyone lies some time and that would mean she was like everyone else. I told her I needed to know the truth and that she was not going to be in any trouble no matter what she said. She then told me the story wasn't true.

I asked why she would make up a story like that and she said it was because she was jealous and mad. When pressed, she said that when her mother is home from work, she spends time with her stepfather and Esperanza wanted her to spend time with her.

What a sweet child and what a sad story. And now I understood why she wanted the door closed.

I gave the attorney the tape and a transcript of it; the case was dismissed by the prosecutor on the day the trial was to start. But, as prosecutors will do, they had the tape for three months before the case came to trial and still kept Juan in jail.

I made less than \$300 on that case; I charged only for my time. I've had other investigators tell how much they would have charged: one said \$5,000 because Juan could have spent the next thirty days in jail, as mandated in Ohio.

I didn't make much money, true, but what I did do was help keep a man out of jail and kept the entire family from being destroyed.

I feel enormous satisfaction with the outcome of that case. I have helped keep other innocent people out of jail but I view this one as my biggest accomplishment in fifteen years as a private investigator because I was able to help a family who really needed my help.

I recently watched a TV show that went to great lengths explaining the necessity of specialized training it takes to interview children. The truth is that anyone with a whit of sense can interview a child: speak softly, smile a lot, talk about what interests them until they become comfortable with you and then listen when they talk. They'll tell you everything you need to know.

* Names have been changed.

Interviewing the Incarcerated

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There are three reasons why an investigator will ever visit a correctional facility: (1) to interview a client, (2) to interview a witness and (3) to become incarcerated.

Interviews are a necessary function of the legal investigator. Conducting interviews with persons detained by our criminal justice system require an extra modicum of preparation and sensitivity. Understanding the uniqueness of the physical and mental conditions one is likely to encounter prior to arriving for the meeting with an incarcerated person will allow the investigator to make the most of the time allowed.

Our correctional facilities and jailhouses serve a variety of purposes. On a local or county level, they may be used to hold persons awaiting trial or being detained immediately after arrest. The reason for incarceration may well extend to motor vehicle offenses, public disturbances or a variety of more grievous crimes. Often the level of security and formality of environment depends upon the geographic location of the facility. Federal correctional facilities also vary in their levels of security. Work farms and minimal security prisons are more relaxed, informal and less threatening to all involved. High security facilities create an aura of fear and finality.¹ Door upon door upon door must be entered and locked, before the next is opened. Cameras and guards watch each step of the way, making the seriousness of the situation an oppressive, physical reality.

LOCATING THE PRISONER

Locating the prisoner is a first and necessary step in the process. Prisoners are frequently moved around between facilities for numerous reasons. Overcrowding, pending court procedures, medical needs, facility programs and work release arrangements could result in a transfer from one correctional institute to another without warning. Prior to embarking on a trip to a particular location either contact the facility itself or check with one of the locator services.

Names, dates of birth and/or social security numbers are generally needed to identify a prisoner using a locator service. Understand that

persons in jail frequently have multi-identities and aliases under which they have operated. Be as prepared as possible with the various identities of a subject prior to placing the confirming call. In addition to using information provided by the attorney/client, go the extra step of checking with one of the many databases to insure that the subject of this interview has been thoroughly identified.

ARRANGING THE VISIT

Visiting the incarcerated is not something done on the "cold call" system. Each facility, depending on the level of security, has its own system and rules for admission. Avoid being turned away at the door because the proper authorizations have not been completed. Call the institution prior to embarking. Identify yourself as an investigator working for an attorney. Rules are different for "legal" visits and "social" visits. Then ask several pertinent questions:

Is the subject present at this time?

This can be quickly verified, as the information is kept current at all facilities.

Will the subject be present when the interview is scheduled?

This information may not be known. However, it is possible that orders have already been given for a transfer and may be known to the information clerk to whom you are speaking.

What are the hours for visitation?

A friendly conversation may result in more specific details. If visits are allowed any time during a given day, find out the best time to arrive. Security preparation may take extra long at one particular location because of internal problems. Getting a prisoner from one part of the institution to another might cause a time delay. Schedules for meals and recreation might inconvenience the prisoner, thus making them less willing to communicate when you arrive.

What procedure must be followed to accomplish the visit?

A simple call by an attorney may open the doors without any further work on the part of the investigator. In some institutions it is necessary

for the prisoner to add the name of the investigator to their approved visitor's list. It then becomes necessary for an investigator or their attorney/client to write to the prisoner and request that the investigator be added so that an interview can be conducted. Special arrangements might be needed if a prisoner is on work release or in isolation.

What must one bring with them to be admitted?

Proper identification is always necessary. The type of identification deemed appropriate by different facilities changes dramatically from one to another. Sometimes a driver's license is all that is required to be admitted. Often, two types of identification in addition to an investigator's license, photo identification and letter from the attorney approving the visit may constitute the sum total of materials needed just to get in the front door.

What is one allowed to bring into the interview?

Depending on the level of security at a given location, an investigator is sometimes limited in that which can be brought into the interview area. Find out in advance what is allowed. It is generally advisable to bring only that which is necessary to a correctional facility. Leave irrelevant cases and files locked in the trunk of the car in the parking lot. Lockers are sometimes provided for items not appropriate for a prisoner visit. However, in some facilities lockers are not provided and briefcases are confiscated and held until a visitor leaves. Prepare to carry the minimum into the meeting. A notebook or legal pad may be all that is allowed. Anticipate this possibility by learning the routine in advance.

PREPARATION

Visiting someone in a correctional facility is frequently a "one shot deal." Time constraints and the prisoner's own level of cooperation might limit the first visit to the only visit the investigator is granted. Therefore, it is necessary for the investigator to make the most out of the limited time allowed to speak with this subject.

Thoroughly understand the case at hand.

Completely comprehend the goals of this interview. Confirm with the attorney/client what is expected of you. Read and review all available information on the case at hand to become conversant about the facts, locations and persons involved. If it is a

meeting with a client, then this might possibly be a learning expedition for the investigator. Prepare for this trip by understanding that which is already known. Then understand the holes that must be filled in by the client to best defend their case.

If a witness is being interviewed, know in advance what role this person played. Understand their importance. Learn their relationship to the client, any hostilities, prejudices or peccadilloes that might affect the interviewing process. Plan questions in advance.

Always assume that this is going to be the only opportunity to interview this particular subject. Don't find yourself in the position of driving home and thinking "I should have asked...." Some prisoners rarely have visitors and their enthusiasm to talk might divert the interview from its actual intent. Many prisoners have preconceived ideas about what the investigator wishes to hear. Avoid having the prisoner control the interview or misdirect the conversation by preparing questions in advance.

Since the possibility exists that only one notebook or legal pad is admitted into the interview with the investigator, prepare for this. Consider all the important answers you desire to obtain and write appropriate questions on the notepad in advance of being admitted. Sometimes using shorthand or abbreviating pertinent names is necessary. In highly sensitive cases it might be best to create a numbering system of your own that corresponds to a "cast of characters" involved in this particular case. (e.g. Shooter Jones=1; Victim Smith=2; Witness Clark=3, etc.) Whatever system is used, the basic premise remains: *prepare all questions in advance so that this precious time is not ill spent.*

Bring a sufficient amount of writing paper and at least two pens or pencils. There is nothing more frustrating than running out of ink in the middle of a confession! Determine if recording equipment is allowed. Obviously, do the obligatory check for fresh batteries and several clean tapes before departing for the prison.

Create a cast of characters

Criminal cases often contain complex layers of persons who are well known to those involved. However, the investigator, working as an outsider often remains clueless to the importance and interactions of these players. Allow the client

and/or witness, to help to identify each individual in the case, their importance, relationship, knowledge and location. The incarcerated interviewee is often the key to locating other witnesses who are also within the system. Remember that the prison is a microcosm of the outside world. There are communications links, messenger services, cliques and gangs within prison walls that function very effectively.

Last known addresses, friends and relatives of others you must interview might also be known to this individual. Use them as a resource. Understand the hierarchy of relationships; who is afraid of whom and who will be most cooperative. Members of a criminal community are sometimes very knowledgeable about local police and prosecutors. Use their knowledge to locate detectives or judges. It is amazing how focused on their own profession criminals can be. This extends to following the various moves and promotions of authorities who affect their lives. Because nicknames and street-names are often an important part of a criminal culture, allow the prisoner you are interviewing to fill in this information. Addressing someone as Irwin whose street name is "Little Carlos" is a sure sign that the investigator is "out of the loop." Become educated by every individual interviewed. You will be more capable of better conducting subsequent interviews successfully.

INTERVIEW DAY

The interview starts early in the day when selecting appropriate attire to wear. Impressions are important in a prison setting as well as anywhere else. If interviewing the client, it is essential to imbue yourself with an air of professionalism. The client is inside, relatively useless and frustrated at not being able to help themselves. The investigator is their link to the outside world and often their sole hope of exoneration. Dressing appropriately allows the client to feel more confident about their representation.

Do not believe for a moment that it is possible to relate to a prisoner by casual dressing. No one can relate to someone in jail, except someone else in the same situation. Having all freedoms removed and being totally at the mercy of institutional schedules, rules, regulations and constraints is unlike anything experienced by the average investigator. Fear of being viewed as "the man" or "authority" often motivates investigators to dress

down for prison interviews. This is a grave mistake. All prisoners may not be mental giants, but they are generally savvy to the differences between those "inside" and those "outside" of the walls. It is better to be honest in your representation of yourself, than to attempt to be someone you are not. It is not the investigator's job to look like or act like a criminal to gain the trust of a witness. Dress with pride, without being flashy or flaunting. Success is more admired than not.

Also remember the following:

Be early

There is a volume of red tape that must be waded through prior to seeing a prisoner. Leave sufficient time to fill out the forms, wait for the prisoner to be transferred from their cell or work station to the interview area and still conduct a meaningful discussion within a prescribed period of time.

Be prepared

Don't forget to have read the file, understand your purpose and have prepared questions. Have all identification, letters of authority and prisoner ID numbers readily available. Carry nothing superfluous. Have all notebooks, legal pads, pens, pencils and recording equipment handy in a simple, slim folio. Cell telephones and pagers will have to be checked at the door. If there is concern for their proper handling, leave them in the car.

Wait constructively

Understand before you begin that you are totally incapable of rushing this procedure. Corrections facilities work on their own time schedules. Being in a rush or too anxious might antagonize an already overworked guard. The result will be an even more lengthy and frustrating time for the investigator. Use the time to review the file, understand the case, and identify the characters so that the interview is productive.

THE PROCESS

Security checks must be endured before one even enters the interview room. Avoid having a problem by thinking ahead. A good adage to remember is: "If it is not necessary to the interview, don't bring it." Obviously weapons are not going to be allowed inside a correctional facility. This also interprets to penknives, key rings that might contain sharp

decorative objects, letter openers, etc. Think like a security person and check yourself prior to arriving to avoid any embarrassment or image of impropriety. If it is not necessary for a woman to carry a pocketbook it should be avoided. Using pockets or folios to carry pens and identification is quite sufficient.

2. Level of prisoner contact

There is much variation between and among institutes of incarceration with regard to the physical layout of the interview area. Generally most facilities have two levels of prisoner contact: the legal visitor and the social visitor. Interview rooms are normally made available to attorneys, paralegals and investigators that are equipped with a table and chairs. The general population sees their social visitors in a larger, semi private environment with other prisoners. Unfortunately, due to overcrowding and sometimes lack of planning, investigators must conduct their interviews in less than optimal settings.

On a county level, this investigator has endured interviews in corridors, nurses' offices, warden's offices and even the back seat of a patrol car (which constituted the only "secure" location available in a rural area.) Be prepared for the worst and make do. Complaining to harried and hassled sheriff's officers might actually terminate any opportunity for a private conversation of any type.

Depending on the security risk of the interviewee, it might be necessary to conduct the interview through a physical divider of anything from mesh wire to double thick bulletproof glass. Talking through a telephone to a person on the other side of a three-inch partition removes the intimacy of a one-on-one encounter. However, in a facility of incarceration, one takes what one can get.

This is not to suggest that the investigator should allow themselves to be treated with less than normal courtesy. But often it is necessary to swallow a bit of pride for the greater goal of gathering evidence necessary to one's case.

3. Meeting the prisoner

This is neither the time nor the proper venue for a complete discussion of prisoner psychology. Several basic concepts should be understood, however, to be most effective with a prisoner

interview. The level of incarceration and the length of time being served may well affect the mental attitude of the prisoner toward the investigator-visitor. "Lifers" are obviously not in a hurry. They have nowhere to go and the investigator is a welcome variation in an otherwise routine existence. "Death row" interviews involve persons whose every minute is precious. Wasting time, being unprepared or getting involved in extraneous conversation is a pure waste of time. Others, with limited time to serve are generally receptive to the diversion of a visit. Most prisoners value the ability to communicate with someone besides their cellmates or family and friends who make obligatory visits.

Introduce yourself.

Explain the purpose of the visit. Then establish some ground rules. In most cases the prisoner is in no hurry to return to a cell or a work detail. Be cognizant of the inmate's schedule. If a meal or recreational time is scheduled shortly, the prisoner may well wish to limit the interview in favor of an anticipated high point in their day. Determine their time limits, consider your own and state clearly what you wish to know and the method you will be recording their responses.

THE INTERVIEW

Don't rush the interview process. Use the time carefully and thoroughly. Get down to business as quickly as possible. For a myriad of reasons (guilt, empathy, pity) investigators often try to befriend the subject of an interview. That is not the purpose of the visit and not necessarily the best approach. Professional detachment with genuine interest in the prisoner as a person is the best approach. This is not a time for the neophyte investigator to question the prisoner on the inner-workings of the prison-system. It is a time for a gathering of information about a matter under investigation.

Outline the reason for the visit.

Do not mislead or obfuscate the reason for the visit. This is ultimately a waste of both your time and that of the prisoner. Identify whom you work for and the reason that this interview is being conducted. If the interviewee is a client, reinforce the fact that you are working for their legal counsel to assist them in their defense. If a witness is being interviewed, clearly state the name or names of the individuals for whom you are working. It is

possible that the interview is regarding a non-criminal matter and that the witness just happens to be currently incarcerated. The same rules still apply. Do not mislead or deceive your subject.

Maintain an appropriate demeanor.

Be a good listener. Ask appropriate questions. Show concern for the subject. Do all things that would normally dictate your demeanor during any other interview. Above all else, do not lose control of the conversation. Prisoners with nothing else to do but obsess about a given event (crime, trial, upcoming deposition) may attempt to lead the discussion into areas that are irrelevant. Stay as focused as possible. This is only one of numerous cases on the docket of the busy investigator. It might possibly be the only thing on the mind of the prisoner attempted to free him or herself from this untenable situation. It is easy to get off track because the prisoner has a new "ear" to hear their theories or suppositions. Hear what the prisoner has to say, but constantly direct and re-direct the conversation back to the purpose of the visit.

3. Be careful about making promises that cannot be kept.

It is not a good idea to become a conduit for the witness to the outside world. Carrying messages to friends or relatives might result in the investigator becoming embroiled in situations that are seriously undesirable or even illegal. Also avoid making legal representations. The investigator can offer no promises or guarantees regarding any aspect of a case. Constantly remind the prisoner that you are only a part of the legal process being orchestrated and arranged by their attorney. The lawyer is the only person who can offer assurances of any kind.

4. Respect the inmate's situation.

If the interview must be conducted in an area that is less than totally private, respect the fact that this individual must return to the general prison population when you are finished. Do not say anything that can be overheard and cause retribution when you are gone. Others in the prison system may be involved in the same crime under investigation, or they may have a relationship via someone on the outside. Be careful to honor the privacy of this conversation.

REVIEW AND CONCLUDE

Once the information has been gathered, or time constraints have been played out to the final five minutes, conclude the interview.

Review the data provided. Quickly highlight the information that has been obtained so that there are no misunderstandings. If there were statements to be signed, allow the inmate to read and review the document, make changes or corrections, initial and sign the paperwork.

Reiterate your expectations of the inmate. Go over what you expect of the interviewee during the coming days. Perhaps it is to locate other witnesses within the facility or to contact a relative for help in finding a witness on the outside. It might be as simple as thinking back about a particular incident or name that is essential to the case at hand. Make sure that your requests have been clearly understood.

Establish a means of communication for the future. It is possible that another visit will be needed after the inmate has done his or her assignment. Establish the best way for notification that their job is done and you should return to the facility. In the event that a return visit is not necessary, find out the best time for a call from the inmate and provide an appropriate number. It is always best to use a business and not a home telephone number. Maintaining distance from any client will prevent unwanted and unwarranted telephone interruption into your private life.

Summon the guard, stand up and shake hands with the inmate. People incarcerated often feel less than human because of the circumstances of their environment. Outsiders are often afraid to touch a prisoner for fear that the stigma of jail will wear off on them. This phobia can sour a relationship that was so delicately honed over the previous hour's time. You have taken this individual's time, used their brain and their expertise. Thank them in a sincere and professional manner before you leave.

SUMMARY

The environment of the interview differentiates one within prison walls from one on the outside. Preparation and anticipation of problems will help to ready the investigator for the actual face to face meeting with a minimum of problems. It is not possible to group all prisoners into a psychological

category that will prepare the investigator for the various mind-sets that will be encountered. It is possible to make the process less aggravating and egregious by anticipating the red tape and bureaucratic foibles one might encounter. Always keep in mind the reality that the investigator is an intruder into the daily routine of an incarcerated individual. This can be equally welcomed or offensive, given the individual's circumstances.

The best way to avoid problems is to understand the case at hand so that you are readily conversant about the circumstances and individuals involved. Control your own emotions, especially anger. The only thing that a prisoner does have control over is their emotions. Thus, they might range from ebullience to depression within the same conversation. This may be nothing more than an exercise in expressionism. Do not allow yourself to lose control over the interview by expecting a prisoner to act or react in your own manner.

Do the same careful, thorough job of the actual interview that you would in any other setting. Do not forget to obtain identifiers that are complete. After all, the prisoner may have been released when they are next needed for a court appearance. Locating them within the system is much easier than finding them in the outside world. As with a regular statement, obtain the name of a contact person or relative who will know how to reach the witness, request all aliases and confirm social security numbers.

Patience is probably the most relevant word when interviewing the incarcerated. Be aware that this is one system that cannot be short-circuited. Prison authorities, guards and desk personnel are besieged by demanding relatives, impatient attorneys and others who believe they are the most important people in the world. A prison is a great leveler for all concerned. No prisoner is more valuable than any other. No visitor deserves better treatment. Respect the jobs of all involved and the process will go smoothly.

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"Weapons For Moms": Child Support Enforcement

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Private investigators frequently receive requests from custodial parents who do not have the funds to hire an attorney with help enforcing overdue Child Support Orders. While procedures vary from state-to-state, one remedy is to request involvement from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement (HHS/ACF/OCSE).

Child support is a court-ordered financial contribution paid by a non-custodial parent for the support and maintenance of a child or children. Every state handles child support orders differently. Some do it through the District Attorney or State's Attorney. Others will assign it to the Department of Revenue, or the Tax Division. Either way, all orders over \$5,000 that are unpaid for more than a year, are eligible to be "federalized."

In addition to remedies that individual states provide to a custodial parent, the federal remedy falls under the *Child Support Recovery Act of 1992*. Under the Act, the willful failure to pay child support is a federal crime if the parent who owes support lives in a different state. The Act sought to prevent non-custodial parents moving to different states or a foreign jurisdiction in order to evade a child support order.

Under the *Child Support Recovery Act*, a first offense (Class B Misdemeanor) can result in a prison sentence of up to six months, in addition to full restitution of owed monies. If the non-custodial parent receives a second conviction (Class E felony), it can result in longer jail time and greater fines.

The Act was amended in 1998 and re-named the *Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act*. The elements of enforcing a federal offense under the Act are:

- » The non-custodial parent had the ability to pay;
- » The non-custodial parent willfully failed to pay;
- » The non-custodial parent knew that a past due child support obligation existed;

- » The child support order remained unpaid for longer than one year or is an amount greater than \$5,000;
- » The child resides in a different state (or country) than the defendant.

The law is very specific that even partial payments of child support do not constitute compliance with the law. The statute defines a past due support obligation as "any amount" that is due to the custodial parent and outstanding.

It is important to know that there are two primary mechanisms that support the framework for child support enforcement in the United States. The first is called the National Database of New Hires (NDNH), and the second is the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS). Both undergird the capability of enforcing orders – the first because every working American is registered in the database, the second because locating parents is the first step to collecting on obligations.

The NDNH is a national repository of wage and employment data. Its primary purpose is to assist state child support programs in locating non-custodial parents to establish paternity and child support obligations, as well as to enforce and modify orders for child support, custody, and visitation. The information in this database is only available to authorized entities for specified reasons. Moreover, both databases are considered highly restricted for access and only available to certain federal employees.

The NDNH maintains files which contain information from New Hire (W-4), Quarterly Wage (QW) and Unemployment Insurance. The W-4 information collected is reported by employers to each State Directory of New Hires, which is then transmitted to the NDNH. There are six data elements found on the IRS Form W-4: The employee's name, Social Security Number, Address, the Employer Name, FEIN, and Address, and two optional data elements – date of hire and state of hire.

The Quarterly Wage (QW) file contains wage data on individual employees. The QW contains the same data elements as the NDNH, with the additional element of "wage amount."

The Unemployment Insurance database contains information on individuals who have applied for unemployment benefits. The data elements

include the claimants name, SSN, address, the benefit amount, and reporting period.

The Federal Parent Locators Service is a series of programs and initiatives that support the location of participants in child support cases. These services include programs operated directly by the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement. These include the Federal Case Registry, Federal Offset Program, Insurance Match Initiative, Multistate Financial Institution Data Match, National Directory of New Hires, Passport Denial Program, and Query Interstate Cases for Kids, and many more non-published database programs, securitized database sets, or aggregated data from confidential, federated systems. To learn more about these programs, visit the OCSE web site at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocse>

Here again, none of these databases or systems are available to the general public, including licensed private investigators or licensed attorneys – but assistance can be obtained using State and Federal authorities for those that have the appropriate orders.

Together, these programs and initiatives constitute the variety of enforcement mechanisms that are available from the state level to the federal level that are in place to assist in collecting child support and to aid the custodial parent. Here are just a few negative consequences that can beset the errant deadbeat, should he or she elect not to pay Child Support, once the ordered is properly registered:

» Wage Assignment – This is one of the most effective methods of collecting child support. Earnings are attached through a court order, and make the employer responsible to ensure that the appropriate deduction is made from the non-custodial parent's pay check.

» Writ of Execution – This is an order to a Sheriff or Marshal to execute a judgment by seizing tangible property, or seizing and selling real and tangible property and passing on the proceeds to the custodial parent.

» Lien on Real Property – A judgment lien on real estate is usually created by recording an "Abstract of Support Judgment." This is a simple process that stops a non-custodial parent from attempting to sell property in a county where the lien is recorded, or obtain a loan on the property. Any prospective purchaser of property will more than

likely require that the liens be paid off prior to purchase.

» Contempt of Court – This requires a judge to issue a contempt of court order which will place the non-custodial parent in jail until the child support is paid. This is a civil contempt. If a judge issues an order for contempt of court, and holds the person in jail even if the child support is paid – this is a criminal contempt order. The difference between the two is that a *civil* contempt is a means to coerce a person to pay the support, and a *criminal* contempt order is a punishment for not having paid in a timely fashion.

» Writ of Garnishment – If an obligor owns property or has money and gives it to a third party to keep "safe", a writ of garnishment can be filed. In effect, it is a lawsuit against the third party to give up any money or property being held on behalf of the non-custodial parent.

» Revocation of a state tax refund – Most states will not refund taxes to a non-custodial parent who is in arrears.

» Car Boots – Some states will boot a car that is owned by a non-custodial parent who is in arrears in child support.

» No Driver's License. Many states suspend the debtor's driver's license and will not relinquish it until the child support payment is made, in full.

» State License Suspension – In addition to a state driver's license, hunting, fishing and professional and occupational licenses can and will be suspended if a person fails to pay child support.

» Social Network Coercion -- Many states have a "Most Wanted" web site where a photograph and details of the parent are broadcasted. While this is not under the purview of "federalized" mechanisms, it is an excellent tactic for public scrutiny.

To find a list of all state child support offices, you can visit the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocse>

Federal:

» Round Up. Persons owing more than \$5,000 can be criminally prosecuted at both the State and Federal Levels. The Office of Child Support Enforcement, in concert with the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Marshal's Office, organize

occasional nationwide “round ups” coordinating with each state and their systems.

» Passport Revocation. The Passport Denial Program helps states enforce delinquent child support obligations. Non-custodial parents certified by a state as having arrearages exceeding \$2,500 are submitted by OCSE to the Department of State which denies an application for a passport, or the use of a passport service. In addition to the OCSE web site, State has a comprehensive source at: http://travel.state.gov/law/info/info_608.html

» No Federal Tax Refund of any Kind – In concert with the Internal Revenue Service, non-custodial parents who have a federalized order will not receive any federal tax refunds of any kind.

» Federal Seizure and Sell Off. If the non-custodial parent owns a home, the property can be sold to collect the child support monies.

» Credit Card Denial. Because State and Federal Child Support Enforcement Orders are reported into “The Big Four” Databases (TU, EFX, Experian, and CBC/Innovis) all credit cards can be canceled if issued from a federally insured banking institution. Once the order is federalized and published to the credit bureaus, it will significantly dampen the debtor’s credit scores. Most credit card companies have Child Support Enforcement “Debarment Lists,” and will refuse to issue a DEBIT, CREDIT, or ATM card, or will cancel an existing one in the name of the deadbeat parent.

» Banking Relationships. All banking, financial, credit, and asset-based account relationships can be attached, and the subject will not be able to obtain any bank, securities, or investment accounts at any federally insured institution. This includes the maintenance of a safe deposit box.

» Mechanized Vehicle Plates for any equipment licensed to operate on a highway that has federal funds will be suspended—all cars and trucks.

» Federal Discretionary Programs. Disbursements from any federal government participatory programs, such as Social Security or Veterans benefits can be attached.

» DOJ Criminal Referrals. The United States Attorney in the jurisdiction where the non-custodial parent resides will be referred the case and a federal criminal prosecution can result.

It should be noted that until recently, Child Support Enforcement intervened only *after* debt had accrued. Today, OCSE has created a model that prevents the build-up of unpaid support through early intervention. It has shifted toward building a culture of compliance in which voluntary and reliable support is given to children of parents who are responsible for their support.

Some of the initiatives that are being supported at the federal level are:

- Modify orders to ensure that orders are consistent with the ability to pay;
- Update child support guidelines to recognize modern family dynamics;
- Contact noncustodial parents soon after the first scheduled payment is missed;
- Use automation for detection of non-compliance at an earlier point in the continuum.

Nonetheless, when a parent has exhausted all possibilities, the enforcement tools available are rigorous and effective with one mission in mind – secure support for the children of custodial parents of America.

A final personal note, there is hope for custodial parents who are left to fend for themselves and their children. Many fall into despair, believing that the system is broken and will not work for them or their children. Please believe that most OCSE employees work very hard and diligently, with a single purpose in mind: Caring for and protecting America’s children and making certain that money owed for their support is paid, and done so timely.

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In My Opinion

Organized Crime: A Threat Assessment (Overviews, trends and how to fight against it.)

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Let me introduce myself to you fine people. I am a retired Colonel Armando Stavole, Technical Officer of I.A.F.

Surely, you may ask yourself how can an I.A.F.'s Tech Officer give a lecture on organized crime. Well . . . experience is a good teacher. For more than 10 years of my career, I was involved in joint US/Italian security for the special warhead storage and strike sites, plus some intelligence work during the difficult years of terror, which was caused by the Red Brigades in Italy. How true is the old Roman saying: "Si vis pacem, para bellum" – "If you want peace, prepare for war!" It was true during the Cold War; it is even more true today in combating Global Terrorism and Global Organized Crime.

I am a man fond of knowledge, who enjoys studying history, ethnology, new technological trends, as well as law and defense enforcement technologies. My extensive research in these fields has led to active membership in several important professional organizations: PERF, WFS, PFI, IACP, AFCEA, NDIA, NMAI, INTELNET, ICAA, etc. In any case, a member of PFI thought that I was more than qualified fit to cover such an interesting topic. I will try to do my best not to let her down and to share my knowledge and opinions with you distinguished ladies and gentleman.

First, I would like to start with a brief history of the criminal organizations' genesis in Italy, then some notes about those around the world (some quite old indeed), but all of them are still active:

In Italy we have Cosa Nostra (literally, "Our thing"), better known internationally as the "Mafia." This group started in Sicily in the 19th century. During that time and as early as the 16th century there had been several types of "organized gangs" all over Italy. They were engaged by aristocrats who ruled over their various

princedoms. The "mafia" set its roots in south Italy, Sicily, and grew strong due to the lack of a strong central government law enforcement agency of the Bourbonian State, before Italy became united in 1861.

Camorra: The Camorra started in Naples and spread within the region of "Campania". The approximate startup date is the 19th century, about the same time as the mafia. Until recently, the Camorra was divided into various family clans fighting one another unlike the Mafia, which was homogeneous and a well-organized group with the "Cupola" on top. Cupola, meaning a group of bosses by area of influence that has a president otherwise known as the "Godfather". But the mafia or for that matter any other "organized crime" group has and will always have internal power struggles for the control of the organization.

'Ndrangheta: They came into being in the late 19th century in the region of Calabria. The 'Ndranheta is a younger organized crime association in South Italy, but they have grown so strong that they are the strongest syndicate known both nationally as well as internationally today.

Sacra Corona Unita (literally, Holy United Crown) This organization is the youngest, mostly known to be from the Puglie region of South Italy, started in the middle 20th century. Its apparent scope is to deal with eastern European organizations. The Sacra Corona Unita reached its maximum peak during the eighties. Today, they have been rather weakened by the efficiency of the Italian State Police.

Stidda(Star), is a very secret localized "fifth column" breakaway mafia from Sicily with roots in the area of Agrigento, Catania, Gela and Siracusa.

Around the World

China

Triads, started in the 17th century and have now spread anywhere and everywhere there are Chinese settlements. These groups have spread to Canada and the rest of North America, largely after the People's Republic of China, took back Hong Kong in 1997.

Tongs, Chinese American secret society, originally created for mutual beneficial support to protect its members from oppressive government or other, and many are still legitimate associations, many tongs quickly degenerated into criminal gangs.

(This is the recurring theme of most cited organizations).

Japan

Yakuza, a peculiar criminal organization that operates only within Japan. Born during the 17th century, they deal with the other criminal organizations. They have a strict and tough honor code. Yakuza look upon themselves as Samurai knights and Robin Hoods, not criminals.

Ninja, whose origin is probably in the age of the Samurai, were mostly well-versed in espionage, terrorism and assassination, but they were not into the money making business.

Russia

Russian Mafia, it appears it was born after the collapse of the Soviet Empire, when some KGB and GPU agents started to organize various criminal gangs. However, the criminal underground was alive and well during the 70 years of the communist regime. These criminals engaged in the Black Market activities, often with the complicity of the Militia (police), KGB and the GRU. It was only after the fall of the Soviet Union, the massive immigration of Russians to Europe, Israel, Canada and the United States that it became entrenched.

There are other minor criminal organizations (US street gangs; Biker gangs, Drug Cartels), not very widespread or as powerful as the ones I have mentioned, but still dangerous and cruel. There appears to be no society in the world immune from these criminals. Wherever there is money to be made, they are and will always be available to cooperate with the bigger criminal groups and/or terrorist organizations.

The threats of all the above-cited organizations are widespread and cover any human voice or business need, from drugs, medicines, counterfeited items to human labor and emigration, from gun dealing to merging into terrorist and guerrilla activities, and so on. Today, they have become sophisticated, smart and have lots of money that they merge into the financial market by means of the white-collar jobs. Like it or not, these criminal organizations are already globalized.

I would like to point something out . . . this is undoubtedly a personal opinion that you can agree with or not; but, I believe that there is positive and negative energy in the whole universe, black and white, day and night, therefore we will always have

good and evil. The reality is that we may not like or want to accept this, but it is unavoidable.

Therefore, we have a choice, we can choose to stand and fight to strive for a balance between good and evil and hope that the scale will always tip well in favor of good. On the other hand, we can choose to ignore the program of these groups and let evil prevail. Personally, like you, I prefer to stand up to evil, but unfortunately we will never nullify the other part, the part that we are here to discuss.

The actual status of organized crime and related organizations is quite strong and difficult to fight. This problem is made worse by the fact that not all law enforcement agencies throughout the world enforce the law as actively as they should. You may object that this problem is not equally proportioned either, but this is not the point. Regardless, I see our job as suppressing evil wherever we find it.

Most of these criminal organizations have huge amounts of money to use for their criminal activities. But, more importantly they have no borders, bureaucracy and long exhausting diplomacy. What I mean is that they are already globalized, well equipped with no limits, or obstacles, etc. They can acquire almost any type of high-tech products already on the shelf. Whether this product relates to software, hardware, electronic equipment, digital photographic capabilities or even mobile transponders, etc., are easily within their grasp within their reach, either through legitimate or sub-rosa. Besides the technical equipment, they can hire the talent to use; not, just muscle to intimidate - they now buy the brains.

On the other hand, all governments, and sometimes the law enforcement agencies of the same country, are so jealous of their own job, data, etc., that they often refuse to share info because they fear that it could lead another country or agency interfering with their affairs and/or fights against organized crime. They are entangled in heavy, stupid bureaucracy and supported by low budgets and poor policies. It is sibling rivalry at its worst.

(This is what I read and heard: shortly after 9/11 there was a lot of talk that both the CIA and the FBI had information that could have prevented 9/11, but they didn't or couldn't share their

information. In the words of a comedian: "this is nothing new, the CIA won't tell the FBI where the bathrooms are, imagine more serious information". I can tell you the same applies to the Italian Police in regard to Carabinieri and Interior in regard to Foreign Secret Service. It seems that it is quite a widespread attitude, but I feel it be also one of those metropolitan legends.)

But, and more seriously, do not forget that in this sad state of affairs sometimes criminal organizations are used by governments for their own interests that go beyond their borders whereas other countries use organized crime to try to fight terrorism or vice versa. (Just remember back, when the CIA used the mafia to try to kill Castro) It may sound cynical, but I prefer to judge it reality. I feel an appropriate nickname for such Organized Crime is "octopus," since by their tentacles they are able to reach anywhere and stick to everything for the sake of money and power. Like octopi, they have ability to change their appearance and hide in plain view.

I, like many of you, have chosen to be and fight on the "good" side. Regrettably, I have to admit that the good side is not doing so well. The needle on the scale seems to be pointing in favor of "evil" more so than good.

What suggestions or solutions do I have to fight and change this situation? This, is more than a hard question to answer, it is a problem that can be solved only by top Government hierarchies. Maybe I can answer in a utopian way and with a vision of hope. Yes, a vision, a vision that the only way to balance and even try to win this fight against evil is that the most civilized and/or advanced countries have to reach an agreement to join forces and data banks to cooperate together.

To reach that goal, all top Law Enforcement Agencies in the world have to speak out against all those knots, tangles, so that politicians in order to be elected will have to become strong supporters for a real change. They must take that charge and feel the responsibility, if not their jobs are going to be frustrating and empty. Since it is often a part of their code of ethics, law enforcement organizations should believe that it is the moral and responsible way to be cooperative with their sister agencies. Like it or not, globalization is an event already realized and is spreading further throughout the world. We are like the surfer who stands waiting on the beach for the big wave to

come. When he sees it he paddles furiously out to meet. But, alas by the time he gets there, the wave has passed. Criminal organizations, on the other hand are like the surfer who sits out in the ocean and picks up the big wave immediately as it passes. Who would you rather be?

Is this all a dream? Until now, maybe it has been, but now things are changing fast and we too are getting a global vision and soon governments will see the need to put aside petty reasons and join together for our sake and ultimately survival.

What do I see for the future? I see organized crime and terrorism to always be around. However, it will have a changing face. As the more traditionalized groups as the Italian mafia and the Russian mafia are gradually replaced by the U.S. and South American Street gangs, other new groups will emerge. The only hope we have in law enforcement is good intelligence, strong cooperation, legislation support so that we may suppress these criminal groups to the point they become marginal. A good example is what is happening in Columbia with the narco-terrorists. It's costing billions, but the cocaine dynasties are beginning to be pushed underground where they belong.

"fatti non foste a viver come bruti,
"you weren't made to live as brute people,
ma per seguir virtute e canoscenza"
[but to follow virtue and knowledge](#)
(Dante Alighieri, Divina Commedia, Inferno canto XXVI, 116-120)
Divine Comedy, Hell poem XXVI, 116-120
