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### **BS4 Crime Scene Reconstruction of Nine United States Air Force Members Killed in Kabul, Afghanistan**

*Chad W. Hutchins, MFS\*, 652 Mossy Oak Trail, Waverly, GA 31565; and Alison R. Babcock, MFS, 1030 S Aspen Street, Buckley AFB, CO 80011*

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand some principles of crime scene reconstruction, such as how to gain explicit knowledge from a series of events or event segments that surround the commission of a crime, the application of deductive and inductive reasoning, the integration and interpretation of physical evidence, strict adherence to the scientific method, and the interrelationship of all the components into a final product.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by demonstrating how crime scene reconstruction can enhance an investigation with critical interdisciplinary reliance. Crime scene processing techniques, criminalistics, digital sciences, pathology, serology/toxicology, firearms analysis, and other disciplines of forensic science all contribute vital information in this example of a practical application of crime scene reconstruction.

On April 27, 2011, eight United States Air Force (USAF) active duty members and one civilian were murdered by a trusted Afghan pilot being mentored by the USAF members in a surprising blitz-style attack. The incident took place in the two-story Afghan Air Corps Headquarters building on the Afghan Air Force's side of the Kabul International Airport, Kabul, Afghanistan. Just before a routine weekly meeting, seven USAF active duty members and one civilian were gunned down in the Afghan Air Command and Control Center (ACCC); the meeting was to take place just minutes later in an adjoining conference room. The eighth USAF active duty member was murdered just outside the building after he and another active duty USAF member exited the conference room and engaged the gunman throughout two separate hallways of the headquarters building. The gunman was wounded at some point during the gun fight, which left clues to his actions before he walked to the second floor of the building where he sustained two fatal gunshot wounds to the chest.

Four different multi-national response and law enforcement teams processed the scene before the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) was allowed unrestricted access five days later. By this time, furniture had been moved from its original position and cleaned, all visible projectiles and cartridge casings had been collected in a manner which made it impossible to determine exactly where they had come from, blood on the floors and walls had been cleaned and painted over, glass containing bullet holes had been replaced, and the decedent's clothes had been incinerated.

Many questions were immediately asked. Was there more than one gunman? If not, how could one person murder this many military members, most of whom were armed, without being stopped? Crime scene reconstruction was the only way to take this extremely complex case with fragmented physical evidence from a severely contaminated crime scene and produce answers.

Statements from several Afghan witnesses present in the ACCC were used to aid in the reconstruction; however, available physical evidence and autopsy findings were crucial. The rest of the reconstruction, spanning a building of approximately 14,000 square feet, relied heavily upon interpreting physical evidence, deductive and inductive reasoning, and applying the scientific method to come to conclusions.

Many times a crime scene reconstruction is accomplished to answer a specific question or sequence specific events involved in a crime. In this case, the reconstruction was performed to simply identify the major event segments and place them in as much of a sequence as possible in an effort to answer the question, "What happened?" This enabled the conclusion of only one gunman and provided clues as to how one person could carry out a murder spree against military personnel who were carrying weapons.

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#### **Reconstruction, Scientific Method, Afghanistan**