



W7 Extreme Violence — Military vs. Civilian Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Cases — Forensic Analysis and Disciplines in Practice

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand multiple crime scene investigation methods, including injury pattern analysis, post-blast analysis, mass murder crime scene processing, and methods for solving an array of violent crimes.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by identifying detailed and relevant aspects into the dynamics of multiple violent crime scenes observed around the world. The crimes were investigated by the Military Criminal Investigative Organizations. The investigations will present multimodal approaches elaborating on crime scene processing, evidence collection, interrogation methodology, post-blast reconstruction, medicolegal death determinations, and judicial hurdles and findings.

A group of military Forensic Science Officers (FSOs), each bringing decades of federal law enforcement experience within the United States Army Criminal Investigation Division, will present four high-profile investigations from the last ten years as well as discuss detailed steps every CSI responder experiences to process death scenes. There will be an in-depth focus on the significant challenges faced during the investigations, including special crime scene issues, language and cultural barriers, the combat environment, and examination of a stale murder scene. This presentation will explore the interaction of multiple forensic disciplines — crime scene examination, skeletal recovery, forensic anthropology, forensic odontology, DNA and computer forensics — as well as the utilization of young forensic scientists who used one case to springboard their careers.

In March 2012, a United States Army infantryman left his small outpost in southeastern Afghanistan, undetected and without authorization, and began a horrific killing spree. When finished, he invaded five homes in two villages, murdered 16 Afghani civilians (mostly women and children), and seriously wounded 6 others. The subsequent outrage from the Afghanistan nation would prevent Army investigators from reaching the crime scenes for more than three weeks. How DNA, firearms, and tool mark evidence helped link the subject to his victims and the scene of his crimes will be discussed.

A then-26-year-old female went missing in Missouri in 1985. The civilian investigation went cold until mid-2005 when information as to the identity of the murderer was received by the local sheriff's office. The investigation developed the probable location of the remains and ground/air searches, combined with additional interviews, identified a pond as a probable burial site. In 2006, forensic science and forensic anthropology college students, supervised by their professors, were engaged in the recovery. After federal and state coordination, an excavation was accomplished, which resulted in the recovery of skull fragments and a full mandible. Positive identification was made through dental comparison and DNA analysis and, in 2008, the suspect plead guilty to first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Military law enforcement aspects in processing crime scenes will be presented. Topics include: jurisdictional concerns at military bases inside and outside of the United States; cooperation with local law enforcement; working with a limited suspect pool; scene response while deployed and in austere environments; an overview of scene response and processing techniques; interviews; and, the military justice system.

The next case is a detailed account of a suicide bomber in Afghanistan who killed 11 and injured 22 in 2011. The topics discussed will include investigative operations in Afghanistan during the height of the 2011 Allied surge, post-blast analysis, methods of clearing and collecting evidence from the scene with live ordinance and biohazards, projectile trajectory, pattern injury analysis, and the search for additional suicide bombers.



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The final case details how a self-employed Information Technology (IT) computer repairman found digital evidence on the cloud that his wife was having an extramarital affair while she was deployed. The couple's daughters made posters welcoming the mother home, but failed to show up at the welcome home ceremony. The day she returned from deployment, her husband printed the emails, leaving them on the printer, then killed his oldest daughter while she slept. When the other daughter awoke, he killed her before committing suicide. Elements of the crime scene, the physical evidence, and the significant digital evidence on the cloud, which was later recovered and corroborated the affair, will be discussed.

Investigation, Violence, Multidisciplinary