



W11 Extreme Violence in the Military: Multiple Case Studies and the Exploration of Murder, Rape, and Cold Cases in the United States Military

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand: (1) the processing of mass murder scenes; (2) the forensic roles of military criminal investigators; (3) the responsibilities of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner; (4) investigations of United States personnel in foreign countries; (5) use of digital media in death investigations; (6) linking child pornography to cold cases; (7) gunshot range determination in suspected suicides; (8) multimodal crime scene investigation methods of rape and death scenes; (9) post-blast analysis; and, (10) methods to solve an array of violent crimes.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community through the detailed accounts of multiple violent crime scenes observed around the world, as described by the 21 special agents and a medical examiner who solved the cases. All of 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.

The forensic science consultants of the Military Criminal Investigative Organizations (MCIO), which consists of the United States Army Criminal Investigation Division, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, conduct felony investigations around the world. After an overview of each MCIO's capabilities, investigative presentations by 21 Special Agents and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner will include:

Case 1: A 20 year-old, local Japanese girl went missing. Security cameras led local authorities to interview an Air Force civilian who provided a partial confession and led investigators to the location of victim's body. Forensics agents teamed up with the local Japanese crime scene investigators to search for additional evidence; to



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conduct a FARO® scan of all crime scenes; and to conduct an analysis of waterways. The subject was charged with first degree murder, rape, and improper disposal of a corpse in the Japanese courts.

Case 2: The wife of a military officer observed her husband's sudden death while chatting with him over Skype during his deployment. Agents will provide an overview of the investigative techniques, the challenges of a deployed environment, and the psychological aspects of next-of-kin briefings.

Case 3: A victim's partially decomposed, nude body was found in a ravine. Investigators recognized the importance of electronic media in determining a timeline of the murder and who may have been responsible. Analysis of surveillance videos, cellular tracking, and credit card purchases solved this homicide.

Case 4: A disgruntled soldier began firing on unit personnel and continued his shooting spree at eight different locations. More than 20 were injured and four killed. The case presentation will discuss crime scene highlights and the cooperation of CID, FBI, Texas Rangers, Texas DPS, ATF, and local PDs.

The Armed Forces Medical Examiner will then explore the background and capabilities of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System and provide further insight into the forensic pathology of cases.

Case 5: Two brothers reported they were sexually abused 30 years prior by a family friend. In January 2014, agents received a break when the subject attempted suicide and was hospitalized. He provided consent for a neighbor to access an iPad, which revealed nude images of adolescent children. A search warrant was obtained of the residence, which provided evidence of the subject molesting a young adolescent male as well as over five million images and videos of child pornography.

Case 6: A Navy victim was found dead in a closet in her barracks room. The victim had a pillow case over her head and no injuries to her body. The victim's cell phone and laptop were missing from her barrack's room. It was not until a local police officer made an observation that began to unravel a bizarre series of crimes that led to the fate of the deceased.

Case 7: In April 2014, a United States Army soldier suspected his wife of cheating on him. He kidnapped his wife and 3-year-old son and began driving around to look for the wife's suspected lover. The wife escaped and the soldier fled. Arriving back home, the soldier turned on the 3-year-old, stabbing him several times in the torso while the child laid in his crib. The soldier then attempted multiple methods of suicide – all failed.

Case 8: A victim suffered a suspected, self-inflicted gunshot wound to her face. A pistol was on the floor by her feet. The victim's husband told police he had left his wife in the living room while he went to the kitchen and heard a gunshot. The pathologist's findings would lead to a bizarre ending.

Case 9: An Air Force Cadet was found unresponsive in his dorm room with 28 sharp force injuries covering his body after having his wisdom teeth removed earlier. Bloodstain pattern analysis suggested the Cadet was alone at the time of the incident.

Case 10: A task force investigation involving the beating death of a child in Korea. The same child was a prior victim of a non-fatal aggravated assault perpetrated by the father. Prosecutors were hesitant to move forward with the case, but a month after correcting the disjointed investigative and reporting effort, charges were preferred for murder.

Case 11: A post-blast scene examination following the unexpected detonation of approximately 345 explosive rounds which killed four Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Marines during a clearing operation in California.

Homicide Investigation, Forensics, Pathology

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