



E8 The Expanded Application of Forensic Science and Law Enforcement Methodologies in Army Counterintelligence

Braden Stockham, MFS, US Army Counterintelligence, JFTB Los Alamitos, CA 90720; Ismail M. Sebetan, MD, PhD*, National University, Forensic Sciences Program, 11255 N Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037-1011; and Paul Stein, PhD*, National University, Forensic Sciences Program, 11255 N Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037*

After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the importance of forensic science as it applies to Counterintelligence (CI) investigations and that combined with standardized law enforcement methodologies, it is as critical to CI as it is in traditional criminal investigations.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by identifying the factors involved with why Army CI operates differently in its investigative activities compared to its counterpart organizations. Addressing these factors will make it possible for Army CI to improve their overall case resolution through expansion of the investigative capabilities by adding forensic science resources, training, and personnel.

This presentation should provide insight into the inner workings of Army CI, which reflects an observed lack of investigative capabilities when compared to the other military CI investigative agencies of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI). This study indicates that the lack of investigative capabilities in Army CI is prevalent in three key areas: (1) forensic science resources and support; (2) law enforcement methodologies and procedures; and, (3) basic investigative training. This presentation will examine this investigative capability gap that seems to exist primarily due to a false belief within the United States Army that a CI investigation is not also a criminal investigation.

This study deals with the capability areas Army CI need to improve. There appears to be a difference in the opinions of Army CI agents compared to NCIS and OSI agents in regard to the investigative capabilities within their respective agencies. The existence of such a difference of opinion would support the idea of a lack of investigative capabilities within Army CI. This study will further support or refute that opinion by utilizing information gathered from published research, professional communications, and 12 years of experience in Army CI and civilian law enforcement.

Current and recently retired special agents from the Army CI, NCIS, and OSI participated in a survey to examine this difference of opinion. The opinions of these agents were noted in the investigative capability areas previously mentioned. The data obtained will reinforce the fact that Army CI conducts investigative activities with a general lack of capabilities in the key areas already identified, creating unnecessary burdens for its special agents in the conduct of their investigations.

The survey results revealed statistically significant differences in the responses by Army CI agents versus NCIS and OSI combined. The responses were divided into three categories related to the three areas of investigative capability previously identified. An analysis was conducted comparing the mean average answers of NCIS+OSI to that of Army CI in each of these categories. In each of the categories of questions asked, extreme statistical significance was present, demonstrating that Army CI agents tended to agree that a lack of investigative capability in each of these areas was present in their organization. This did not appear in a majority of the answers of the NCIS and OSI agents in any of the categories. This statistical difference is further evidence of the disparity between these CI investigative agencies and indicates that Army CI may be less effective by comparison. The findings are consistent with published data. These results further point to a systemic problem within the current investigative culture of Army CI that could be corrected if forensic science and law enforcement methodologies are expanded in a manner similar to that which already exists in other organizations.

Counterintelligence, Investigation, Forensic Sciences