



W8 Death Investigations in the Military: Case Studies From Around the World

*Steven Geniuk, MS**, United States Army Military Police School, Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473; *Precious JeanBatiste, MS*, United States Army Criminal Investigation Command, Fort Meade, MD 27055; *Armando B. Dela Rosa, Jr., MA**, United States Army Criminal Investigation Command, Fort Carson, CO 80913; *Derek J. Kingsbury, MBA**, United States Army Criminal Investigation Command, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA 98387; *Vanessa R. Neff, MS**, United States Army Criminal Investigation Command, Fort Hood, TX 76544; *Joshua L. Adams, PhD**, United States Army Criminal Investigation Command, Fort Myer, VA 22211; *Sarah N. Crosby, MS**, United States Army, Arlington, VA 22213; *John W. Dunlap, MSFS, MSCJ*, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division, Joint Base Lewis-McCord, WA 98433; *Adam C. Armstrong, MS**, United States Army Criminal Investigation Division, Fort Bragg, NC 28310; *Keith M. McCullen, MFS**, Black River, NY 13612-0624; *Edmund D. Tamburini, MFS**, McDonough, GA 30252

Learning Overview: After attending this presentation, attendees will understand: (1) processing a variety of death scenes; (2) forensic capabilities of military investigators; (3) investigative considerations in foreign countries; (4) coordination with international agencies; (5) domestic violence impact on child death; (6) staged suicide; (7) scene reconstruction; and (8) laboratory capabilities.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community through detailed accounts of a variety of death investigations as described by Army Special Agents who participated in the cases. The investigations represent various circumstances and illustrate the worldwide capabilities and responsibilities of military investigative agencies, along with legal and laboratory support.

In June of 1956, a soldier assigned to Fort Riley, KS, failed to show up to his assigned place of duty and was declared Absent Without Leave (AWOL). Fifty years later, a family in New Brunswick, Canada, came forward with the information that their grandfather was the missing soldier from Fort Riley. Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) working with numerous agencies verified (through DNA) the grandfather in Canada was the missing soldier from 1956. The investigation helped bring some answers and closure to both families.

In 2018 an 11-year-old committed suicide at an Army installation. Investigation into the death of the child found numerous law enforcement interactions with the family at different Army installations, including child abuse involving the victim and his siblings. Domestic violence by the stepfather and biological mother included a firearm-related incident. The firearm was returned by law enforcement and was used in the suicide.

During the draining of a lake, a vehicle antenna appeared on the surface. Divers identified a submerged car and found a foot stuck under the driver's headrest. Identifying the victim, recovering data from a cell phone, and following leads more than five years old led to a suspect. The suspect ultimately confessed to strangling the victim, driving the car onto post, and submerging the car in the lake.

In March 1991 a soldier's wife was found dead with a single gunshot wound to the head, pistol in hand. Several suicide notes and a history of depression and marital problems led to a closed suicide. Later information developed, including a possible earlier attempted murder by arson. The soldier was tried for murder and attempted murder.

A case study examines a unique multiple gunshot wound suicide of a 36-year-old, Caucasian male Army service member who shot himself nine times with a Walther® P22 pistol (.22LR). Entrance wounds included the head, neck, and chest.

A soldier used a network of friends to help harass and stalk his estranged soldier wife. After seeing her with male friends, the subject and an accomplice broke into one of the other the men's residence and killed two of them.

On Christmas day, 2005, a United States soldier was attacked by a translator in Mahmoudiya, Iraq. The translator opened fire, striking the soldier, who luckily survived the attack; he returned fire, striking and killing the translator.

Homicide Investigation, Forensics, Suicide