



EIGHTH EDITION

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

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A crime scene investigator is a forensic specialist whose specialty is the organized scientific collection and processing of evidence. Crime scene investigation requires years of training and experience, and a crime scene investigator must have both a general knowledge of lab analysis and a deep understanding in the areas of evidence recognition, documentation and recovery in order to be successful in his or her job.

A CSI is responsible for developing, processing, and packaging all physical evidence found at the crime scene and transporting it to the lab for forensic evaluation; attending and documenting autopsies; writing evidence reports to aid the ongoing criminal investigation; and testifying in court about the recovery and processing of crime scene evidence (Koivisto, 2004).

The Follow-Up Investigation

Preliminary investigations that satisfy all the investigative criteria do not necessarily yield enough information to prosecute a case.

Despite a thorough preliminary investigation, many cases require a follow-up investigation. A need for a follow-up investigation does not necessarily reflect poorly on those who conducted the preliminary investigation. Often factors exist that are beyond the officers' control. Weather can destroy evidence before officers arrive at a scene; witnesses can be uncooperative; and evidence may be weak or nonexistent, even after a very thorough preliminary investigation.

The follow-up phase builds on what was learned during the preliminary investigation. It can be conducted by the officers who responded to the original call or, most often, by detectives or investigators, depending on the seriousness and complexity of the crime and the size of the department. If investigators take over a case begun by patrol officers, coordination is essential.

Investigative leads that may need to be pursued include checking the victim's background; talking to informants; determining who would benefit from the crime and who had sufficient knowledge to plan the crime; tracing weapons and stolen property; and searching MO, mug shot, and fingerprint files. Specific follow-up procedures for the major offenses are discussed in Sections 3, 4, and 5.

Computer-Aided Investigation

Computers have significantly affected police operations. As Douglas (p.42) remarks: "It seems that every time a new widget comes

down the pike, the marketers come up with some way of making it adaptable to law enforcement." In addition to their obvious contribution to record keeping and statistical analysis, computers are becoming increasingly important in criminal investigations. Dees (2003, p.22) contends: "There is possibly no better investigative tool than information. Information, gathered through legitimate and illegitimate sources, has always been the cornerstone of investigation. In the days when most officers were walking neighborhood beats and didn't have global concerns, the information necessary to their jobs was kept mostly in their heads." Today, however, law enforcement would be hard pressed to do business, including conducting investigations, without the aid of computers.

Computers can help investigators efficiently access existing information such as fingerprint records and DNA tests, record new information and store it compactly for instant transmission anywhere, analyze the information for patterns (mapping), link crimes and criminals, manipulate digital representations to enhance the images, and re-create and visually track a series of events. Computers are also increasingly being used for electronic document management, allowing investigators to scan evidence captured from paper and attach audio and video clips to the case file. Furthermore, software is available to help investigators develop an analytical time line and manage the scheduling of tasks related to the investigation, such as follow-up interviews and evidence handling and analysis. As an example, Miller (pp.75-76) explains the capabilities of the Case Investigative Life Cycle (CILC) software (IRP Solutions, Colorado Springs, CO):

[It] organizes major investigations by the three common investigative phases: initial, follow-up and prosecution. . . . The software meets standards described in the National Institute of Justice tract, "Crime Scene Investigation: A Guide for Law Enforcement," which has best practices guidelines that include handling evidence, interviews, searches and crime scene security.

Starting with an initial investigation, CILC lets investigators organize incident, crime scene, witness, evidence and responder information. It then follows investigators through follow-up stages, including evidence analysis, a case-related calendar and "categorized suspect and non-suspect interview tracking." Finally, CILC's prosecution phase helps both investigators and prosecutors prepare for court using its calendar, witness and jury information, and discovery log.

At all stages of the investigation, CILC allows investigators to generate, waiver, press release and search warrant forms.

The ability to share data across jurisdictional lines is one of the most valuable benefits computers provide to investigators. In addition, the Internet has become an invaluable tool to criminal investigators. And although some agencies have yet to realize the full potential of Internet access, many others are already capitalizing on the multiple benefits of being online. The Internet offers hundreds of thousands of websites to aid informed investigators.

Crime Analysis, Mapping, and Geographical Information Systems

Using crime mapping, spreadsheet software, and advanced data analysis, crime analysis units have become integral partners in today's policing. Prior to the computer revolution, the traditional crime map consisted of a large representation of a jurisdiction glued onto a bulletin board with colored pins stuck into it. These maps suffered many limitations—they lost previous crime patterns when they were updated, could not be manipulated or queried, and were difficult to read when several types of crimes represented by different colored pins were mixed together.

In addition to pushpin maps, investigators routinely used link charts to keep track of the people and places involved in a case, connecting index cards and photos with a maze of strings as relationships became established and details of an investigation emerged. The cumbersome pin maps and link charts have since given way to computerized crime maps and crime analysis programs. **Crime mapping** changes the focus from the criminal to the location of crimes—the **hot spots** where most crimes occur (Figure 1.4).

Diamond (p.42) notes: "Crime mapping grabbed the public's attention when the New York Police Department launched its COMPSTAT initiative under former Mayor Rudy Giuliani and former Police Commissioner William Bratton." CompStat, short for

"computer statistics" or "comparison statistics," is a strategic crime-control technique based on four crime-reduction principles: "accurate and timely intelligence, effective tactics, rapid deployment of personnel and resources, and relentless follow-up and assessment" (Shane, p.13).

Geographic information systems (GIS) and geographic profiling are other powerful tools for investigators. Geographic profiling is based on the theory that all people, including criminals, have a pattern to their lives. This pattern involves, among other things, a limited geographical area that encompasses the bulk of a person's daily activities. Citing the "least effort" principle of human behavior, Weiss and Davis (p.24) note: "People travel only as far as they need to accomplish their goals and not much further. . . . The most probable area for a crime [is] near where the offender's desire to remain anonymous met with his desire to stay within his comfort zone." Gore and Pattavina (pp.471–472) add that hot-spot analysis can help investigators prioritize lists of suspects generated from descriptive and MO information or determine the order of mug shots for witness examination.

In addition to location, computer programs can help investigators uncover patterns in the timing of criminal events. Helms (p.144) asserts: "The spatial component of a crime forecast is only half the answer. In order to be useful, when an event will occur also must be approximately known." Unfortunately, time analysis methods have lagged behind spatial analysis techniques, thus far having proved more difficult to develop

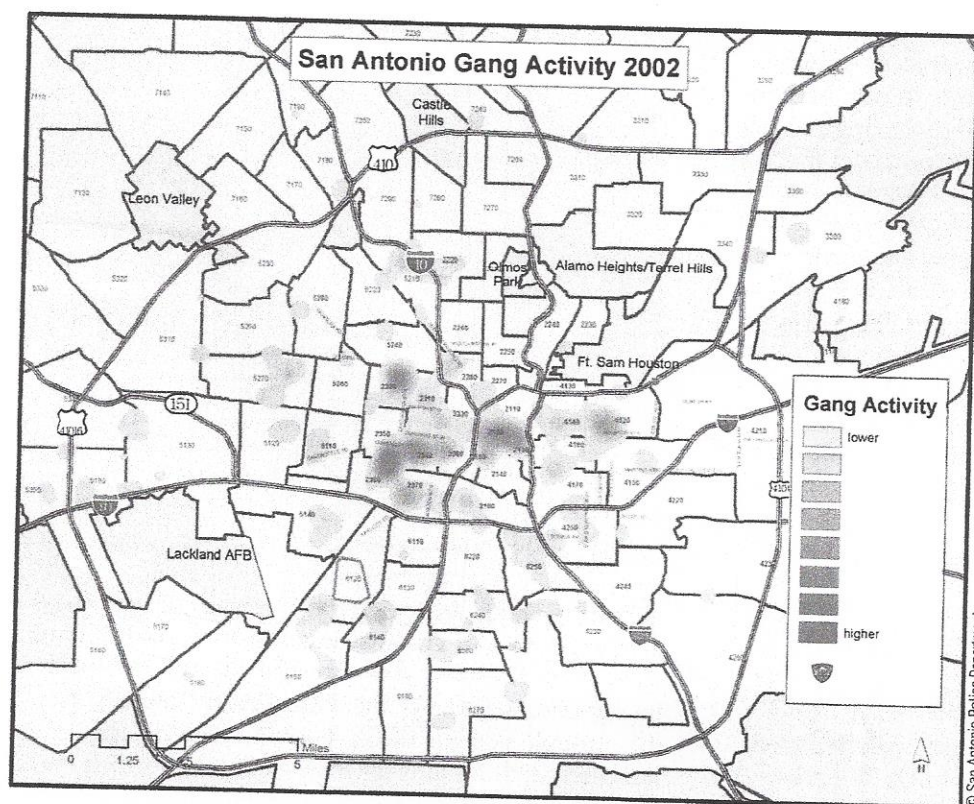


Figure 1.4

Computerized crime analysis programs have changed the focus of crime mapping from the criminal to the location of crimes—the hot spots where most crimes occur. This map shows several hot spots in San Antonio, Texas, where gang activity occurs more often.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Plymouth Police Department</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">3400 Plymouth Blvd. • Plymouth, MN 55447 (763) 509-5160 fax: (763) 509-5167</p>							
No.	Type	MOC					
			Date				
			Reported	call	asn	arr	clr
			Location				
			Occurred	date	time	SAA	
			Badge no.	report	assist		
Person 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Complainant <input type="checkbox"/> Victim <input type="checkbox"/> Witness <input type="checkbox"/> Mentioned							
Name (last, first, middle)				DOB		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F Sex	
Address				home phone		work phone	
City, state, zip				school		misc/insurance	
Driver's license				<input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> African Am <input type="checkbox"/> Am Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Asian race <input type="checkbox"/> Other			
misc/parents/work							
Person 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Complainant <input type="checkbox"/> Victim <input type="checkbox"/> Witness <input type="checkbox"/> Mentioned							
Name (last, first, middle)				DOB		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F Sex	
address				home phone		work phone	
city, state, zip				school		misc/insurance	
driver's license				<input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> African Am <input type="checkbox"/> Am Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Asian race <input type="checkbox"/> Other			
misc/parents/work							
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional names/vehicle supplement attached							
Patrol Investigation <input type="checkbox"/> video tape <input type="checkbox"/> audio tape (statement or evidence)							
<input type="checkbox"/> solvability factors		<input type="checkbox"/> photos taken		<input type="checkbox"/> forced entry		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic/vic info	
<input type="checkbox"/> written statement		<input type="checkbox"/> prints lifted		<input type="checkbox"/> attached garage		<input type="checkbox"/> none	
						victim will prosecute SFD <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
Narrative <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>							
<input type="checkbox"/> Continued							
Disposition <input type="checkbox"/> pending <input type="checkbox"/> clear arrest <input type="checkbox"/> clear exceptionally							
<input type="checkbox"/> assist and advised		<input type="checkbox"/> unfounded		Patrol supervisor		Inv Supervisor	
				Inv assigned		Entry	

Figure 3.3

Types of law enforcement report forms.

Source: Adapted from Kären M. Hess and Henry M. Wroblewski. *For the Record: Report Writing in Law Enforcement*, 5th Edition. Bloomington, MN: Innovative Systems-Publishers, Inc., 2002, p.iv. Reprinted by permission.

SUSPECT 1: (last, first, middle)				DOB		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F Sex	
address			home phone			work phone	
city, state, zip			ht	wt	hair	eye	school/grade
driver's license			<input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> African Am <input type="checkbox"/> Am Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Other				
parents & work phone			misc				
misc/work							
Patrol Action <input type="checkbox"/> suspect <input type="checkbox"/> juvenile arrest <input type="checkbox"/> no contact <input type="checkbox"/> booked Plymouth <input type="checkbox"/> Miranda <input type="checkbox"/> adult arrest <input type="checkbox"/> juvenile blue <input type="checkbox"/> warn & release <input type="checkbox"/> booked Hennepin <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> missing person <input type="checkbox"/> school alcohol report <input type="checkbox"/> bail release <input type="checkbox"/> booked JC <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney requested <input type="checkbox"/> runaway <input type="checkbox"/> parents notified <input type="checkbox"/> citation <input type="checkbox"/> PFC <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No							

SUSPECT 2 (last, first, middle)				DOB		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F Sex	
Address			home phone			work phone	
city, state, zip			ht	wt	hair	eye	school/grade
driver's license			<input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> African Am <input type="checkbox"/> Am Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Other				
parents & work phone			misc				
misc/work							
Patrol Action <input type="checkbox"/> suspect <input type="checkbox"/> juvenile arrest <input type="checkbox"/> no contact <input type="checkbox"/> booked Plymouth <input type="checkbox"/> Miranda <input type="checkbox"/> adult arrest <input type="checkbox"/> juvenile blue <input type="checkbox"/> warn & release <input type="checkbox"/> booked Hennepin <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> missing person <input type="checkbox"/> school alcohol report <input type="checkbox"/> bail release <input type="checkbox"/> booked JC <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney requested <input type="checkbox"/> runaway <input type="checkbox"/> parents notified <input type="checkbox"/> citation <input type="checkbox"/> PFC <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No							

Property S=stolen D=damaged L=lost THIS SECTION NOT FOR IMPOUNDED PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> Inventory report attached							
Victim	Code	Qty	Item	Brand/description/model	Serial #	Value	NCIC

Vehicle #1 <input type="checkbox"/> victim's <input type="checkbox"/> stolen <input type="checkbox"/> recovered <input type="checkbox"/> impounded <input type="checkbox"/> bicycle <input type="checkbox"/> mentioned <input type="checkbox"/> suspect			
Plate #	State	Plate year	Owner
Make	Model	Year	Color Style

Vehicle #2 <input type="checkbox"/> victim's <input type="checkbox"/> stolen <input type="checkbox"/> recovered <input type="checkbox"/> impounded <input type="checkbox"/> bicycle <input type="checkbox"/> mentioned <input type="checkbox"/> suspect			
Plate #	State	Plate year	Owner
Make	Model	Year	Color Style

By my signature I release all duly authorized peace officers from any legal claim for any damages, loss or expense incurred in the recovery, holding, storage, or conveyance OR verify I am the guardian of a missing juvenile listed in this report.

Signature _____