



HEAT

The Homicide Education And Training Project

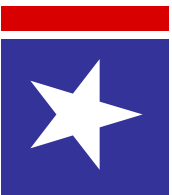
Presents Equivocal Evidence: The Human Element of Homicide Investigation

WHEN: February 1-3, 2010 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

WHERE: The Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute,
Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas

COST: \$300 (includes lunch each day)

No refunds after January 15, but substitutions will be allowed



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Fort Worth, Texas 76111

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Register online at www.theheatproject.com or complete registration and mail to
The HEAT Project, P.O. Box 7505, Fort Worth, TX 76111

Equivocal Evidence: The Human Element of Homicide Investigation

Technological and scientific advancements in physical evidence identification and processing have been instrumental in solving thousands of murder cases. These case histories have not only been the foundation for cold case success stories, but the release of persons convicted of serious crimes by questionable means. It would be ideal for every case to have irrefutable scientific evidence that connects an individual to a murder scene, establishes intent, and assures the successful prosecution of the offender. However, not all cases will contain this major component to assure its success. Numerous scientific studies, court decisions, and media reports have also cast doubt over the credibility and reliability of witness recollection and identification. In the absence of scientific evidence, it is imperative that law enforcement agencies re-establish the credibility and importance of the human element of homicide investigation.

This human element includes homicide victim analysis, the police-witness relationship, offender relations and homicide motives.

Victim Analysis— examines the vast differences in victims as individuals and how these differences can affect the investigation.

- problems and issues associated with deceased victim credibility
- conducting complete and thorough victim background investigations, from the present investigative perspective to future prosecutorial and potential cold case considerations
- a 50 page comprehensive victim background information packet will be provided
- next of kin notifications and investigative advantages that can be obtained at the time of notification

Police-Witness Relationship—covers the complex issues of establishing the police-witness relationship.

- interview techniques used to obtain cooperation and truthfulness
- discussion of complex issues regarding witness credibility

- methods of improving and enhancing the credibility of witnesses
- making the witness an effective weapon, while using foresight to predict future problems and addressing them at the right time and with the right methods
- current controversy surrounding eyewitness identification
- current studies on witness memory and identification
- case studies on wrongful convictions
- Texas Law as it relates to witness testimony

Offender Relations— covers issues pertaining to the investigator's contact with a homicide suspect.

- psychological states of murder suspects
- interview and interrogation goals and techniques
- effective interview techniques that will prevail during subsequent suppression hearings and trials
- identifying the motivation behind untruthfulness, and ways to redirect that motivation toward truth
- legal issues surrounding confessions
- using the law to the investigator's advantage

Motive— The various and numerous motivations behind murder are covered.

- how different motives can determine the investigative approach
- recognizing false or fabricated motives

Numerous homicide case studies will be used to demonstrate important points in each section.

Instructors

David Thornton

David received his Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University. He joined the Fort Worth Police Department in 1980, promoted to detective in 1985 and was assigned to the Major Case Squad in 1986. In 1987, he was selected for the Homicide Division, where he spent 12 years conducting numerous murder and death investigations. During his tenure in the Homicide Unit, Fort Worth had one of the highest homicide rates in the nation. David promoted to sergeant in 1999 and was assigned to the Major Case Unit, before returning to supervise the Homicide Unit in 2002. David has worked on over 5000 death investigations as a detective and supervisor, which include numerous high profile and death penalty cases. He was instrumental in developing the Fort Worth Police Department's Cold Case Unit, which has identified and prosecuted several serial offenders.

Cheryl Johnson

Cheryl Johnson joined the Fort Worth Police Department in 1989. She promoted to detective in 1994 and was assigned to the Sexual Assault Unit. In 1999, she was assigned as a detective to the Crime Scene Search Unit, before joining the Homicide Unit in 2001. Cheryl promoted to Sergeant in 2006 and returned to supervise the Sexual Assault Unit in 2007. Cheryl has worked on over 1000 death investigations, to include several high profile murder cases. She has been involved in more than 2000 sexual assault investigations as a detective and supervisor, which include more than 15 serial rapists.

Terri Moore

Terri Moore is the First Assistant District Attorney for Dallas County, and an integral part of the Dallas County Conviction Integrity Unit. Terri began her career as an Assistant District Attorney with Tarrant County from 1987 until 1997. During that time, Terri rose through the ranks from a misdemeanor prosecutor to the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division. She was the Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas from 1997-2001 and then entered private practice until 2007, when she joined the Dallas County District Attorney's Office. Terri has prosecuted numerous high profile and death penalty cases throughout her career. She will provide a prosecution and defense perspective on legal and courtroom issues surrounding human evidence. Terri's presentation will also include numerous case studies.