Criminal Investigate Analysis:
An Inductive Investigative Procedure

The foundation to Criminal Investigative Analysis is a comprehensive examination of the offender’s specific behavior during the commission of a crime. While human behavior is a response to stimuli produced by thoughts, feelings, and emotions, it represents a universal language commonly understood. This common language allows the investigators to interpret the behavior from the offender’s perspective and take the initial steps toward leading the investigation to a successful resolution.

Criminal Investigative Analysis is best viewed as a strategy enabling law enforcement to narrow the field of options and generate educated opinions about the identity of the offender. It involves identifying, analyzing, and interpreting the behavior of the offender to help identify a motive and formulate the characteristics of the offender. It is a proactive approach to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the investigation.

Criminal Investigative Analysis: What is it?

Criminal Investigative Analysis is a study and analysis of the secret life committed in a private setting and exposed to public scrutiny and evaluation.
Services Provided Through Criminal Investigative Analysis

“Behavior is a mirror in which everyone displays his own image.”

Goethe
Effective Affinities

From the crime scene to the courtroom.™

1. Crime analysis

2. Description of the offender characteristics

3. Investigative strategy

4. Interviewing techniques

5. Search warrant information

6. Prosecutive strategy

7. Expert witness testimony

8. Pre-sentence assessment

9. Threat assessment
The Process of Criminal Investigative Analysis

1. _______________________________________

2. _______________________________________

3. _______________________________________

4. _______________________________________

The Three Portions of a Person’s Life

1. _______________________________________

2. _______________________________________

3. _______________________________________

“I have no data yet. It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibily one begins to twist the facts to suit the theories, instead of the theories to suit the facts.”

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
(Sherlock Holmes)
A Scandal in Bohemia (1891)
Offender Profile Characteristics

1. Age
2. Sex
3. Race
4. Marital status/adjustment
5. Intelligence
6. Scholastic achievement/adjustment
7. Lifestyle
8. Rearing environment
9. Social adjustment
10. Personality style/characteristics
11. Demeanor
12. Appearance and grooming
13. Emotional adjustment
14. Evidence of mental decomposition
15. Pathological behavior characteristics
16. Employment/occupational history and adjustment
17. Work habits
18. Residency in relation to crime
19. Socioeconomic status
20. Type of sexual perversion or disturbance (if applicable)
21. Prior criminal arrest history
22. Motive
Investigative Approach to Criminal Investigative Analysis

The investigator’s approach to analyzing and interpreting the offender’s behavior is similar to a physician who applies a systematic procedure to assess the patient’s symptoms and prescribe the cure. This orderly design facilitates an accurate diagnosis of both the offender’s and the victim’s behavior, and the subsequent appropriate investigative techniques to increase the chances of a successful resolution.

1. Compile and review all investigative reports.

2. Compile and review all crime-scene photographs.
   - The victim, focusing on the extent of the wounds
   - The position of the body(s) photographed from different angles
   - If inside, the room (area) where the victim is found, other rooms, doorways, entrances, exits, etc. (Include a sketch or floor plan of the building.)
   - The exterior of the location and its relationship to the surrounding area
   - If outside, the surrounding area and specific landmarks, entrances and exits from the area, etc.
   - Aerial shots to show relationship of body placement to surrounding area and to get a feel for the area
   - Vehicles parked in the area, showing their location and license numbers
   - Crowds that may gather (Occasionally the offender returns to observe the police at work.)

3. Compile and review all medical examiners reports:
   - Toxicology reports
     - Drugs, alcohol
     - Hair cut off
   - Semen present (anal, vaginal, Oral, Other)
   - Swab of all body cavities
   - Wounds (premortem or postmortem)
   - Opinion(s) of medical examiner which may not be committed to report
4. Compile and review all medical examiner’s autopsy photographs.
   - Photos to show full extent of damage to the body
     - Stabbing
     - Gunshot(s)
     - Bruises
     - Lividity
   - Obtain medical examiner’s opinion

5. Create a map of victim’s travels and activities prior to death.
   - Employment
   - Residence
   - Last seen
   - Location of crime scene

6. Conduct a “Victimology.” Complete the Victimology Form and a comprehensive social media & telephone toll record analysis.

7. Assess the neighborhood and surrounding area of each significant site.

8. Conduct a crime analysis.

9. Construct a crime analysis.
   - Hypothesize the scenario and sequence of events
   - Identify possible motives
   - Answer the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How questions
   - Consider the “crime classification” (from the Crime Classification Manual)

10. Forensic Assessment

11. Formulate profile of offender personality characteristics (if applicable).

12. Conduct an ongoing review of the crime analysis throughout the investigation to modify as needed.

13. Conduct a debriefing/review upon conclusion.

“Diagnose before you prescribe.”

Stephen R. Covey
The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People
Filters of Profiling

From the Possible to the Probable™

The profiling process is similar to a physician’s approach of diagnosing a patient’s condition accurately before prescribing the cure. Another analogy is akin to a gold miner who is panning for gold. The prospector patiently probes while sifting through granulate debris to separate the dross. Finally rewarded, the refuse is discarded, leaving only the valuable yellow metal. Like the prospector, the investigator purges the least valuable data through a filtering process while unearthing the gold nuggets of truth. This approach allows the examiner to focus by “process of elimination” on the most probable (or informative material) rather than the least possible (and distracting) data. The end result is to lead the investigation instead of reacting to it.

The 10 Filters of Profiling™

1. Victimology
2. Initial Suspect/Victim Contact Site
3. Crime Scene Analysis
4. Body Disposal and/or Recovery Site
5. Physical Assault - (Body Disposition, Cause of Death and/or Trauma)
6. Sexual Assault
7. MO vs. Signature
8. Criminal Behavior: Organized vs. Disorganized
9. Offender Risk Level
10. Suspect Information

“I keep six honest serving men (They taught me all I knew); their names are What and Why and When and How and Where and Who.”

Rudyard Kipling
The Elephant’s Child, 1902
The 10 Filters of Profiling™

Filter #1: Victimology

Filter #2: Initial Contact Site

Filter #3: Crime Scene Analysis

Filter #4: Disposal Site

Filter #5: Physical Assault

Filter #6: Sexual Assault

Filter #7: MO vs. Signature

Filter #8: Organized vs. Disorganized

Filter #9: Offender Risk Level

Filter #10: Suspect Information
Filter #1: Victimology

The key to crime analysis is Victimology, the study of the victim. By examining who the victim is, we begin to unravel and eliminate an often perplexing web of misguided leads. A thorough understanding of the victim can often lead the investigation toward a probable suspect, rather than an endless pool of less likely possibilities.

According to the Crime Classification Manual, “Victimology is often one of the most beneficial investigative tools in classifying and solving a violent crime. It is a crucial part of crime analysis. Through it, the investigator tries to evaluate why this particular person was targeted for a violent crime. Very often, just answering this question will lead the investigator to the motive, which will lead to the offender. Victimology is an essential step in arriving at a possible motive. If the investigators fail to obtain a complete victim history, they may be overlooking information that could quickly direct their investigation to motives and to suspects.”

Diagnostic Questions

Diagnostic questions are used during an effectively directed investigation to explore all aspects of the crime. They will probe the jugular issues which will help lead to the full truth. Hardly a case is resolved without using exploratory diagnostic questions.
Primary Question: Who Is the Victim?

1. Victim Characteristics
   - Age/description
   - Sex
   - Race
   - Marital status/adjustment
   - Intelligence
   - Scholastic achievement/Adjustment
   - Lifestyle
   - Personality style
   - Demeanor
   - Residence (in relation to crime)
   - Employment/occupation (in relation to crime)
   - Social status
   - Friends/associates (type/number)
   - Income (level/source)
   - Family components
   - Domestic relations/environment
   - Alcohol/drug use /abuse
   - Dress style (typically/at the time of the crime)
   - Handicaps (physical/mental)
   - Transportation
   - Reputation
   - Interests/habits
   - Fears
   - Dating status/habits
   - Leisure activity
   - Criminal history
   - Assertiveness (physically/verbally – in various settings)
   - Likes and dislikes
   - Religious affiliation
   - Sexual adjustments

2. Victim Activities
   - Significant events before the crime
   - Triggering events
   - Precipitating stressors
   - Victim’s last known sightings and activities
   - Initial contact with the offender
Secondary Question: Why?

1. Why was the victim selected?
2. Why was the crime committed in this location?
3. Why was the crime committed in this manner?
4. Why did the offender approach the victim in a particular manner?
5. Why did the offender assault the victim in a particular manner?
6. Why did the offender inflict these particular wounds on the victim?
7. Why did the offender use/choose a particular weapon?
8. Why was the victim attacked by that method?

Victimology Continuum

The factors in assessing the victim’s risk level on this continuum include the circumstantial, situational, and environmental characteristics associated with the crime. Assessments that have accurately determined the risk level of the victim may also lead the investigator to an educated opinion of the associated relationship between the victim and the offender.

The lower the level of risk, the higher the probability that the offender knows who the victim is and has targeted the victim. The higher the level of risk, the lower the probability that the offender knows who the victim is, and is a victim of opportunity.

Greg Cooper