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## "COLD CASE" INVESTIGATIONS WITHIN FAIRFAX COUNTY: TURNING THE LIABILITY OF TIME INTO AN ASSET

Rodney L. Gohn

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College of Humanities and Sciences  
Virginia Commonwealth University


This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Rodney L. Gohn entitled "*Cold Case*" *Investigations within Fairfax County: Turning the Liability of Time Into an Asset*, has been approved by his committee as satisfactory completion of the thesis requirement for the degree of Master of Science.



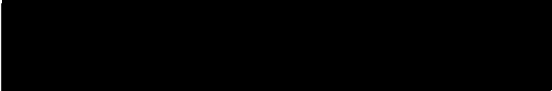
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November 2, 1995  
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**"COLD CASE" INVESTIGATIONS WITHIN FAIRFAX COUNTY:  
TURNING THE LIABILITY OF TIME INTO AN ASSET**

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Masters of Science in Criminal Justice at Virginia Commonwealth University.

submitted by:

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December 22, 1991  
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## Acknowledgements

I wish to personally acknowledge and thank several people whose help made this thesis possible. I sincerely apologize to anyone I may have inadvertently omitted.

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the three members of my thesis committee. To Professor Jim Hooker - Chair Person, for all his Thursday night trips to the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia. Professor Hooker brought a new understanding and meaning to Attila the Hun. To Doctor Laura Moriarty for her instructional ability concerning research methodology matters. Doctor Moriarty's patience and enthusiasm was greatly appreciated. And Mr. Wayne Connors for his writing expertise, suggestions and many telephone calls.

A debt of gratitude is owed to Ms. Kathy Turner for her time, wordperfect skills and proof reading ability. Ms. Turner was always available to help recover my manuscripts after the computer vaporized them. Her efforts and attention to detail are gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the conscientious work done by Lieutenant Dennis Wilson, Supervisor of the Fairfax County Police Department's Cold Case Squad. Lieutenant Wilson's experience of investigating homicides will contribute to additional resolution of unsolved cases.

## Dedication

*This thesis is dedicated to the three persons who mean the most to me in my life. To my eight year old son Zac, four year old daughter Becky and thirty something year old wife Shelley. Several times during the course of my graduate program Zac and Becky highlighted my text books with crayons and edited my thesis drafts with magic markers. Their contributions will hold a special place in my heart and will never be forgotten. Successfully completing this graduate program would not have been possible without Shelley's years of patience and support. Shelley placed a great deal of faith in my ability to complete this thesis and graduate program.*

*And in memory to those innocent victims of homicide and their surviving families, who must find the strength to go on without their loved ones. May justice prevail.*

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## **Abstract**

"COLD CASE" INVESTIGATIONS WITHIN FAIRFAX COUNTY:  
TURNING THE LIABILITY OF TIME INTO AN ASSET

By: Rodney L. Gohn, Master of Science

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Virginia Commonwealth University, 1995.

Director: James E. Hooker, Professor  
Department of Criminal Justice

No department or individual involved in the investigation of homicides is ever going to have a 100% closure rate. Therefore, many departments will be faced with a situation where another homicide happens before they are finished handling the previous one.

How does one manage these open cases; how often are they reviewed; and who is responsible once the assigned detective is either transferred or leaves the unit or department? Someone has to be able to answer questions from the family, media and anyone else who might inquire about the case.

Based on the number of unsolved homicide cases within Fairfax County, the concept of a "Cold Case Squad" was explored. During January 1995, the Fairfax County Police Department implemented a Cold Case Squad consisting of one supervisor, three veteran detectives, two auxiliary police officers and one cadet. The Cold Case detectives inherited approximately 75 unsolved homicides which occurred in Fairfax County, Virginia, from 1964 through December 31, 1994. More than half of the unsolved homicides (42) have occurred in the past nine years.

The *hypothesis* for this thesis was: *The formulation of a Cold Case Squad would measurably reduce the number of unresolved homicides within Fairfax County.* The primary evaluation factor for the thesis was the Cold Case Squad's "close-ability" rate.

The thesis identified and evaluated nine solvability factors utilized by the Cold Case Squad Supervisor. The solvability factors are considered when prioritizing case investigation, assigning personnel to an investigation and suspending investigate efforts. One of the goals for utilizing solvability factors is to develop a clear profile of cases with the most potential for close-ability.

The study population for this thesis is the 42 unsolved homicides which have occurred in Fairfax County, Virginia, between January 1, 1986, and December 31, 1994. Solvability factor work sheets were completed and computed for the study population.

The hypothesis has been proven as there is a measurable reduction in the number of unsolved homicides. From the study population, two cases have been closed by arrest, one case closed by exceptional means and one case is pending approval from the Commonwealth Attorney's Office to obtain arrest warrants. These four cases represent a 9.5% reduction of unsolved cases within the study population.

A copy of this thesis was given to the Cold Case Squad Supervisor for review and application. It is hoped the research from this thesis will be applied to the Cold Case Squad so it will become more effective and continue to turn the liability of time into an asset.

The Lord God said...

# Thou Shalt Not Kill

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

Book Of Exodus

The Holy Bible

## **THE OATH OF PRACTICAL HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION**

HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION IS A PROFOUND DUTY. AS AN OFFICER ENTRUSTED WITH SUCH A DUTY, IT IS INCUMBENT UPON YOU TO DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE DYNAMICS AND PRINCIPLES OF PROFESSIONAL HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION.

PRACTICAL HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION SUGGESTS THAT "THINGS BE DONE RIGHT THE FIRST TIME," AND "KNOWLEDGE IS POWER." KNOWLEDGE WHICH HAS BEEN ENHANCED WITH EXPERIENCE, FLEXIBILITY AND COMMON SENSE.

PRACTITIONERS MUST BE PREPARED TO USE TACTICS, PROCEDURES AND FORENSIC TECHNIQUES IN THEIR PURSUIT OF THE TRUTH; AND THEN FOLLOW THE COURSE OF EVENTS AND THE FACTS AS THEY ARE DEVELOPED TO THEIR ULTIMATE CONCLUSION.

DEATH INVESTIGATION CONSTITUTES A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY, AND AS SUCH, LET NO PERSON DETER YOU FROM THE TRUTH AND YOUR OWN PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO SEE THAT JUSTICE IS DONE, NOT ONLY FOR THE DECEASED, BUT FOR THE SURVIVING FAMILY AS WELL.

AND REMEMBER: "YOU ARE WORKING FOR GOD."

Lt. Cmdr. (Ret.) Vernon J. Geberth  
New York City Police Department  
Commanding Officer  
Bronx Homicide Task Force  
1988

## Chapter One

### The Problem and Its Setting

#### Introduction

Photographs of their smiling faces are packed away in dusty boxes, but they still haunt the investigators who tried to catch their killers. Farnum L. Burton was discovered 20 years ago at the bottom of a pond. Heidi Berg was shot six times in the back while jogging in 1984. Jeannie Herholtz was strangled in her car at a shopping center in 1987.

At an all-too-steady pace, new names are added to the list of unsolved homicides. Robin Warr Lawrence, stabbed to death in her Springfield home in November; Jennings Kettleton, gunned down outside a Centreville movie theater in January -- and even so investigators rarely have time to look back. But this is about to change.

The Fairfax County Police Department has recently added a four-person "Cold Case Squad" to their Homicide Section to specifically investigate unsolved homicides. Fairfax County has approximately 75 unsolved homicides dating back as far as 1964. There are several more

suspicious "undetermined" cause of death cases that were considered closed which will now be reinvestigated.

It is hoped the passage of time may help in many of the cases. As years go by, relationships change. People divorce. Witnesses once reluctant to come forward may have a change of heart.

Technology is improving on a daily basis. New forensic technology may give today's detectives tools so they can use once-marginal evidence. Through DNA analysis, useless blood stains from the past suddenly may reveal a killer. Through more sophisticated laboratory detection what once appeared to be a clean surface on a murder weapon now may yield a fingerprint.

Overall, Fairfax County's number of homicides has remained unchanged during the past eight years (1987 through 1994), holding steady at an average of 21 homicides per year, a small number for a county with a growing population of more than 840,283 residents.

Nevertheless, it is anticipated the Cold Case Squad will resolve more "whodunit" homicides by utilizing solvability factors to help prioritize cases that with a little more information, can be solved.

### Demographics of Fairfax County

The Fairfax County Police Department is the largest, local law enforcement agency in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Presently, the department has authorized staffing for 1,042 sworn personnel and 421 non-sworn personnel (Statistical Information, 1994).

Fairfax County is approximately 399 square miles in size and is an affluent suburb of Washington, D.C. The most recent income computations available (Statistical Information, 1994) for Fairfax County residents were as follows:

- Median family income (1991)      \$70,000
- Median household income (1991) \$61,000
- Per capita income (1991)          \$29,937

The median housing value for calendar year 1994 in Fairfax County (Statistical Information, 1994) was calculated at:

- Single family detached      \$222,050
- Townhouse                      \$142,483
- Condominium                  \$86,615
- All units                        \$184,400

Population data for both Fairfax County as a whole, (including Dulles, Vienna, Herndon and Fort Belvoir) and the Fairfax County Police Department service area only is presented in **Table One**.



Base year (1995 and 2000) population estimates were provided by the Fairfax County Office of Research and Statistics: population data for other years was interpolated from the base year data.

Population figures reflect estimates, as of January 1 of each year as prepared by the Office of Research and Statistics.

**Table One**

**Population Data For Fairfax County**

	<b><u>FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT SERVICE AREA</u></b>	<b><u>FAIRFAX COUNTY (INCLUDES VIENNA, HERNDON, FORT BELVOIR AND DULLES)</u></b>
1980	562,700	596,900
1981	573,200	608,900
1982	583,700	620,800
1983	594,500	630,400
1984	609,640	649,313
1985	627,460	668,290
1986	647,257	683,809
1987	668,615	704,757
1988	707,647	746,780
1989	730,491	764,780
1990	768,177	808,675
1991	787,492	827,119
1992	798,959	837,142
1993	813,548	851,853
1994	824,509	863,135
1995	840,283	879,537
1996	851,841	891,929
1997	863,400	904,322
1998	874,958	916,714
1999	886,517	929,107
2000	898,075	941,499

Table Two represents the most recent demographic characteristics available for Fairfax County (Statistical Information, 1994).

**Table Two**  
**Demographic Characteristics For Fairfax County**

<u>BY RACE</u> (1992)	<u>BY AGE</u> (1992)	<u>BY SEX</u> (1992)
White 76.0%	Under 5 6.8%	Male 48.2%
Asian 9.2	5 - 9 6.8	Female 51.8
Black 7.4	10 - 14 6.9	TOTAL 100.0%
Hispanic 6.2	15 - 19 5.9	
Other <u>1.2</u>	20 - 24 5.4	
	25 - 34 17.4	<u>BY MARITAL STATUS</u>
TOTAL 100.0%	35 - 44 20.1	Never Married 23.7%
	45 - 54 15.0	Married 63.0
	55 - 64 7.9	Separated 2.1
	65 & over <u>7.8</u>	Divorced 7.5
	TOTAL 100.0%	Widowed <u>3.7</u>
	1992 Median	TOTAL 100.0%
	Age (years) 34.3	

Changing demographics, increasing business activity and accompanying affluence have produced different crime trends. All of these factors have combined to shape the Fairfax County Police Department as it is today.

Ensuring the safety of the hundreds of thousands of people who live and work in Fairfax County is an enormous responsibility and a monumental job. To stay

in step with these changes, the department has responded in several key ways. It has grown in size, become more specialized and improved its training programs. The department also continuously submits to self-evaluation as well as to scrutiny by outside organizations in further improving the services it provides. One of the very first law enforcement agencies in the country to receive national accreditation, the Fairfax County Police Department maintains its quality and integrity through ongoing reaccreditation procedures, and has become a model by which other police departments evaluate their own levels of service. **Table Three** provides the reader with a comparison of the Fairfax County Police Department to other police departments within the Washington Metropolitan area.

Table Three

**BUDGETARY DATA COMPARISON<sup>1</sup>**  
**WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENTS**  
**FISCAL YEAR 1995**

	Popula- tion	Square Miles	Budget	Per Capita Spending	Total Personnel	Total Sworn Personnel
Fairfax County, VA	840,283	399.0	\$92,891,329	\$110.55	1,433	1,042
Arlington County, VA	183,400	25.8	\$29,632,177	\$161.57	442	324
Alexandria City, VA	116,000	15.8	\$24,924,104	\$214.86	378	258
Montgomery County, MD	757,000	502.0	\$92,587,840	\$122.31	1,364	926
Prince George's County, MD	760,684	488.0	\$110,546,501	\$145.33	1,809	1,330

**Overview of Investigative Responsibilities Within  
Fairfax County**

Most police departments have established guidelines and procedures which will allow the organization to function efficiently within their jurisdictional purview. The structure of the department and how it is organized to perform investigative functions will determine which units are responsible for conducting criminal investigations.

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<sup>1</sup> Information has been provided by the individual police jurisdictions as noted. This budgetary information is part of a statistical package presented by the Fairfax County Police Department, Planning and Research Bureau.

Due to the diverse nature of criminal complaints reported to the Fairfax County Police Department and the various complexities which may arise during investigations, it is necessary to delineate the areas of investigative responsibility. Normally, the preliminary investigation begins when the first police officer arrives at the scene and continues until a postponement of the investigation or transfer of investigative responsibility is made. There are two levels or transfers of investigative responsibility within the Fairfax County Police Department.

**Criminal Investigation Sections:** The first transfer of investigative responsibility involves those crimes commonly referred to as "crimes against property," ie. burglary, larceny, vandalism and so forth. These crimes are investigated at station level by Criminal Investigation Section (CIS) detectives. Each of the seven district stations has a Criminal Investigation Section and their detectives investigate all crimes against property incidents that occur within their district (General Order 501.2, 1994). Crimes against property scenes are normally processed for physical evidence by squad/station evidence

technicians. Station evidence technicians are trained and equipped to take still photographs of scenes and powder process for latent prints.

**Criminal Investigations Bureau:** The second transfer of investigative responsibility is for crimes commonly referred to as "crimes against person," ie. abduction, homicide, malicious wounding, robbery, sexual assault and so forth. These crimes against person incidents are investigated by a centralized Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) detective (General Order 501.2, 1994). No matter where the crime against person incident occurred within Fairfax County, a Criminal Investigations Bureau detective will respond for the investigation. When there is large amounts of physical evidence and/or advanced scene processing technology required, members of the Crime Scene Section are requested. Crime Scene Section personnel are available 24 hours a day.

It is the practice of Fairfax County Police Homicide Detectives to assume all death scenes are homicides until proven otherwise. The homicide crime scene is, without a doubt, the most important scene a police officer or detective will be called upon to

investigate. Because of the nature of the scene, the answer to the question "What has occurred?" can only be determined after the professional and medical evaluation of the various bits and pieces of evidence gathered by the detective and/or evidence technician.

Obviously, homicide investigation should be a highly professional and specialized undertaking which requires years of practical experience coupled with a process of continual education and training. Whether it be the call taker who initially takes the call and obtains a crucial piece of information, or the officer in a patrol car who responds to a "homicide" and detains a key witness or suspect, the fact is that homicide investigation is based on the cooperation of all members of the department and detectives working together toward the common goal of solving the homicide.

**The Problem**

No department or individual involved in the investigation of homicides is ever going to have a 100% closure rate. In fact, closure rates for homicides are decreasing. According to the 1962 Uniform Crime Reports, during 1961 there were 8,740 homicides reported in the United States. At that time the rate of homicide per 100,000 of population was 4.7 with a 94% closure rate. By 1991 the number of homicides increased to 24,703. The rate of homicide per 100,000 of population was 10 with a decreased closure rate of 67% nationwide (Uniform Crime Reports, 1992).

Therefore, many departments (especially larger departments) will be faced with a situation where another homicide happens before they are finished handling the previous one. As detectives transfer in and out of the Homicide Section, their unresolved homicides remain open and unworked. How does one manage these open cases; how often are they reviewed; and who is responsible once the assigned detective is either transferred or leaves the unit or department?

There are several approaches to this dilemma. Naturally, if the detective who originally was assigned



the investigation is still in the section, he or she would remain "in-charge" of the case. If this individual has been transferred or reassigned, someone has to be able to answer questions from the family, media and anyone else who might inquire about the case.

### **The Hypothesis**

If there is a need for a separate, investigative unit based on the number of unsolved homicide cases, as is the situation within Fairfax County, the concept of a "Cold Case Squad" should be explored.

This researcher's *hypothesis* is: The formulation of a Cold Case Squad would measurably reduce the number of unresolved homicides within Fairfax County.

The Cold Case Squad's responsibilities will be to review inactive, open homicide cases where the original lead detective is no longer in the Homicide Section; be reactive to incoming leads; and investigate "missing person" complaints where the individual is missing under suspicious circumstances.

The primary evaluation factor for this thesis will be the Cold Case Squad's "close-ability" rate.

The Cold Case Squad's close-ability rate will come under close scrutiny by various decision makers to plan and analyze police activities. Additional resource needs may also be determined by the section's effectiveness. All of the homicide cases that have been and will be assigned to the Cold Case Squad are classified as "Inactive." The Fairfax County Police Department's Report Writing Manual allows a case to be classified as inactive when:

all investigative leads have been exhausted and no information exists which would lead to an arrest or exceptional clearance. Inactive cases may be reopened at any time additional information is received or developed that would positively aid the investigation of the offense (p. II-7).

One of the ways to evaluate the Cold Case Squad's success will be how many inactive cases were investigated and reclassified as "Closed by Arrest" or "Closed by Exceptional Means." The Report Writing Manual allows a case to be closed by arrest when "at least one person is arrested for the offense under investigation and turned over to the courts for prosecution."

A case may qualify for an exceptional clearance if all of the following questions can be answered yes:

- a. Has the investigation specifically established the identity of the offender?
- b. Does sufficient information exist to support an arrest and place the offender before a court for prosecution?
- c. Is the exact location of the offender known so that custody could take place now?
- d. Does some reason outside the Department's control prevent the offender from being arrested and prosecuted?

In addition to answering all of the previous questions affirmatively, one of the following circumstances must exist:

- a. The victim refuses to cooperate in the prosecution of the case.
- b. Prosecution of the offender is not possible because the offender is being prosecuted in another jurisdiction and cannot be released for return to Fairfax County.
- c. Extradition has been denied.
- d. There is a confession by an offender already in custody or serving a sentence for some other offense.
- e. The offender is deceased.
- f. The offense is one of the following: a double homicide; two people who have killed each other; or a homicide in which the perpetrator then commits suicide.
- g. The offender has been granted immunity by the Commonwealth's Attorney in a plea bargain agreement.

When the qualifying questions have been answered affirmatively, and one of the previously listed circumstance exists, the case shall be closed exceptionally.

When a case is new and fresh, most detectives will agree time is essential. The first 48-72 hours are generally recognized as the most critical. During this initial time period, the information is the freshest in the mind of the witness and is usually more accurate. Additionally, the witnesses are easier to locate. However, what usually happens when this period passes is the probability of a quick closure decreases.

It is anticipated the Cold Case Squad will turn the liability of time into an asset. Time, the enemy that usually works so hard against solving a case, may eventually become the detectives ally.

This thesis project will identify and evaluate solvability factors which will be used by the Fairfax County Police Department's Cold Case Squad. The findings of this thesis will be made available to the Cold Case Squad for review and utilization so that the Squad may better resolve open homicide cases within Fairfax County.

### **The Need for the Study**

Many violent crimes, especially murder, have no simple motive and no easy solution. Homicide is generally thought to be the most serious crime committed against persons and its grave implications make its detection, solution and adjudication matters of vital importance to every citizen and the entire community. Confronted by a criminally violent death, society demands that the assailant be promptly identified and apprehended.

Homicide detectives everywhere are finding their work loads increasing with each passing month, creating a backlog of murders that remain unsolved. The caseload of most homicide detectives today prevents them from focusing on specific cases for extended periods of time and from following these cases through to a solution.

The Fairfax County Police Department Homicide Section is comprised of one supervisor and eight detectives. The Homicide Section is responsible for investigating the following types of incidents (Supervisor's Training Manual, 1995):

- Accidental shootings of one person by another

- Homicides
- Suicides
- Abduction cases involving the abduction of a minor child by a stranger or unrelated person where circumstances indicate the child's life is in danger
- Found body cases
- Drowning
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) cases
- Construction fatalities
- Fire fatalities
- Police shooting-other than accidental discharge with no injuries
- Felony assaults, if victim is hospitalized other than/or in addition to emergency room treatment
- Attempted murder cases (ie. shooting case in which the victim is unharmed)

Lieutenant Dennis Wilson<sup>2</sup> stated the Homicide Sections' workload is approximately 525 cases per year with an average workload of seven cases a month per investigator. The homicide rate has almost doubled in the past seven years when compared to the preceding

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<sup>2</sup> Personal interview conducted on May 23, 1995, with Lieutenant Dennis Wilson, Supervisor of the Cold Case Squad. Prior to Lieutenant Wilson being assigned supervisor of the newly formed Cold Case Squad, he was the supervisor of the Homicide Section for approximately four years. Lieutenant Wilson has been a Criminal Investigations Bureau supervisor for approximately 10 years and employed by the Fairfax County Police Department for 17 years.

seven year period. There are approximately 75 unsolved homicides from 1964 to present. More than half of these (42) have occurred in the past nine years. **Table Four** represents the number of homicides, unsolved homicides and percentage of unsolved homicides per year which have occurred in Fairfax County from 1964 through 1994.

**TABLE FOUR**  
**HOMICIDES PER YEAR IN FAIRFAX COUNTY**

# OF HOMICIDES	YEAR	UNSOLVED	% UNSOLVED
12	1964	2	17
10	1965	1	10
10	1966	0	0
9	1967	1	11
8	1968	0	0
9	1969	0	0
13	1970	2	15
17	1971	0	0
15	1972	3	20
20	1973	3	15
14	1974	1	7
18	1975	2	11
13	1976	1	8
13	1977	2	15
19	1978	1	5
12	1979	3	25
18	1980	3	17
12	1981	2	17
11	1982	3	27
10	1983	2	20
13	1984	2	15
4	1985	0	0
14	1986	3	21
12	1987	4	33
23	1988	4	17
28	1989	6	21
25	1990	3	12
22	1991	7	32
20	1992	5	25
18	1993	4	22
17	1994	6	35
<b>459</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>15%</b>



The increase in unsolved homicides during recent years may be a reflection of the murder profile nationwide. Whereas in earlier years the victim and murderer were known to each other, the trend during the last few years has been the victim and murderer are unknown to each other prior to the homicide. Often the unsolved homicide is related to another crime such as robbery, rape or drugs.<sup>3</sup>

Homicide cases have become more complex requiring extensive case preparation due to legal defense strategies created by a more liberal judicial system. The intricacy of homicide investigation requires a total commitment of the investigator's time often lasting months.

Presently, detectives charged with the investigation of several homicides are also assigned additional service-type cases which detracts from their primary responsibility of homicide investigation. Every effort is made to limit the caseload of the detectives during the investigation of a homicide. However, due to the restricted number of detectives and an overall increased caseload, this has become

---

<sup>3</sup> Wilson interview.

increasingly more difficult to accomplish.<sup>4</sup>

Often a detective, while investigating a homicide, will have to redirect his efforts to other cases such as suicides, unattended deaths, missing persons and other investigations. Additionally, a detective may have to suspend an investigation because he has to prepare for a trial regarding another homicide. These types of distractions create two specific problems. First, it is extremely difficult for a detective to maintain a "focus" on the case when he is being pulled in other directions. Second, the detective begins feeling fatigue or what is commonly referred to as "burn out." In an effort to try to accomplish everything expected of them, the detective works extended hours in addition to getting called out and going many nights with little or no sleep. In addition to being physically harmful for the detective, the thoroughness of the investigation suffers as fatigue fosters errors and eclipses clear thinking.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Wilson interview.

<sup>5</sup> Wilson interview.

Recently, a phenomena the Homicide Section has experienced is the increased questioning of suicide investigations by the deceased family and the media. It has always been difficult for families to accept the idea that a relative committed suicide. With the emergence of investigative media such as *Unsolved Mysteries*, *Current Affair*, *Inside Edition*, *Case Closed* and others, families are receiving support and encouragement to challenge the validity of a suicide determination. Responding to these persistent inquires consumes additional staffing hours.<sup>6</sup>

Ethically, the department has an obligation to the family of homicide victims and the community to keep these unsolved cases active until they are resolved. To not try to resolve old cases is an injustice to the families.

During January 1995, the Fairfax County Police Department implemented a Cold Case Squad. The squad consists of one supervisor, three veteran detectives, two auxiliary police officers and one cadet. The two auxiliary officers and cadet will be used for administrative and clerical tasks. Although in its

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<sup>6</sup> Wilson interview.

infancy, the Cold Case Squad was assigned all of the unsolved homicides where the "lead" detective is no longer in the Homicide Section and missing person reports/investigations.

The Cold Case Squad will be looking at various criteria during case screening. The objective of case screening is to prioritize cases that have the best chance of being investigated to a successful conclusion. One of the criteria for prioritization will be solvability factors. These factors will be considered when assigning personnel to an investigation and also used for suspending investigative effort (Case Management Procedures for the Cold Case Squad, 1995).

## Chapter Two

### Review of Literature

Chapter Two is presented in two sections. The first section titled **Related Literature in Criminal Justice** identifies what resources were employed and exhausted in an effort to locate information regarding the extent and prevalence of Cold Case Squads and solvability factors. It also provides a concise discussion addressing the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP) managed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Homicide Assessment and Lead Tracking Systems (HALT), managed by the Virginia State Police. Lastly, this section identifies which law enforcement agencies were queried for Cold Case Squad information and their responses.

The second section titled **Related Literature in Other Fields** begins with a flow chart showing the process a case will travel through once it is assigned to the Cold Case Squad. Nine solvability factors are identified which will be used by the Fairfax County Police Cold Case Squad supervisor to aid in prioritizing cases. Key aspects of each solvability factor

is discussed and how related literature supports their significance.

In short, this section focuses exclusively upon supportive literature and other information sources for the nine solvability factors. "Case in point" studies are provided to the reader for micro-analyses to illustrate the potential complexities of the solvability factors.

#### **Related Literature in Criminal Justice**

The succeeding information services were contacted in an effort to obtain Criminal Justice literature on the general theme of "Cold Case Squads/Solvability Factors." This researcher contacted each of the listed information services by telephone and talked with a representative. The information services contacted include:

- Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
- Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)
- Forensic Science Information Resource System (FSIRS)
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)
- Police Foundation

- National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS)
- National Sheriff's Association (NSA)

None of the services had written information on the topic of "Cold Case Squads." During the conversations, this researcher also requested any information on "solvability factors," "major case management" or other related data which may be used to add validity to my research.

The NCJRS provided dated information that alluded to solvability factors in a research study conducted during 1975. Under a grant from the Urban Institute by the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, U.S. Department of Justice, under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, a manual was created entitled Managing Criminal Investigations. The authors, Peter Bloch and Donald Weidman, created the manual to assist police managers in improving the success of their departments' criminal investigation function. This manual detailed the processes and results observed while conducting on-site research with selected police departments.

Bloch and Weidman acknowledged that while skilled

detectives are essential, there are a number of "new" methods police managers can use to improve the success of the investigation process. Vis-a-vis one of the most significant aspects of this management system is the utilization of solvability factors to screen out the cases which hold little or no investigative information (Bloch & Weidman, 1975).

This screening works to insure the detectives being assigned cases to investigate will only receive those which merit follow up. The key to the success of the screening process is the proper completion of the initial report. Bloch & Weidman (1975) allude to the Rochester Police Department, New York, who participated in their study and were utilizing solvability factors.

The Rochester Police Department designed a new preliminary report form that identified items of information which should be obtained during a preliminary investigation and arranged those items in the logical sequence for obtaining them. The form requires the preliminary officer to indicate whether specific "solvability factors" have been identified - items of information which might lead to the solution of the case. By asking the officer to check a box if



he/she cannot identify a particular factor, the form requires the officer to go through a mental checklist of the items which should be considered. If a particular box is not checked, then the officer must give a justification for not doing so (Managing Criminal Investigations, 1975).

The report form makes it easier for a reviewing officer to decide whether a case should have a follow-up investigation. If any of the proceeding 12 solvability factors is present, then a follow-up is conducted. The 12 solvability factors identified by Bloch & Weidman (1975) on the Rochester Police Department Crime Investigation Report were:

1. Was there a witness to the crime?
2. Can a suspect be named?
3. Can a suspect be located?
4. Can a suspect be described?
5. Can a suspect be identified?
6. Was a vehicle known to have been involved with the suspect?
7. Is stolen property traceable?
8. Is there a significant M.O. present?
9. Is there significant physical evidence present?
10. Has an evidence technician been called?

11. Is there a significant reason in the judgement of the police officer or supervisor to believe that the crime may be solved with a reasonable amount of investigative effort: e.g. the crime may arouse significant public interest giving rise to the possibility of the public supplying useful information on the case?
12. Was there a definite, limited opportunity for anyone except the suspect to commit the crime?

According to Bloch & Weidman (1975), the Rochester Police Department's solvability factors serve as the basis for deciding if additional investigative efforts should be dedicated to the case and whether there is a reasonable chance for case solution. **Appendix A** is the current "Crime Investigation Report" being used by the Rochester Police Department.

In another early study, researchers Peter Greenwood and Joan Petersilia (The Criminal Investigative Process, 1975) secondarily mentions "solvability factors" while discussing and proposing reforms in the primary topic of "Screening and Case Assignment." Greenwood and Petersilia (1975) state that:

In some departments formal "solvability factors" or the judgement of the unit supervisor may be used to determine whether or not a specific case should be followed up by the investigator assigned, or simply suspended until any new facts develop (p. 9).

Greenwood and Petersilia did not identify or list specific solvability factors in their research report.

Solvability factors were also discussed by Steven Egger in his book Serial Murder: An Elusive Phenomenon. Egger (1990) recognizes that resources are scarce and most law enforcement agencies must allocate on a cost-effective basis. Egger believes solvability factors as well as currency of the event lead to higher priorities and allocation of investigative staffing, especially as part of a serial sequence. The utilization of solvability factors in a homicide investigation, or more specifically, in a serial homicide investigation may become more utilized in the near future pending the results of current, ongoing research. Egger gives credit to Robert D. Keppel, who in 1986, analyzed over 1,200 homicide cases in the state of Washington and used a combination of solvability factors in his research. According to Egger, one of Keppel's research objectives was "to determine the critical solvability factors present in homicide investigations in order to provide the ability of the police to apprehend murderers."

Keppel lists in his book, Serial Murder: Future Implications for Police Investigations (1990) the following solvability factors which may contribute to a successful completion of an investigation:

1. The quality of police interviews with eyewitnesses.
2. The circumstances which led to the initial stop of the murderer.
3. The circumstances which established the probable cause to search and seize physical evidence from the person and or the property of the murderer; specifically, the solvability factors in each case.
4. The quality of the investigation at the crime scene(s).
5. The quality of the scientific analysis of the physical evidence seized from the murderer and or his property and its comparison to physical evidence recovered from the victims and the homicide scenes.

Keppel states that:

It is surprising that more empirical research has not been generated from the appellate cases which have criticized the quality of police investigations. Nor have detectives, traditionally, researched these investigative factors to make themselves more effective. To date, advances in the quality of detective work have been motivated and accomplished primarily by the ingenuity and drive of individual detectives (p. 4).

Keppel analyzed five notorious serial murderers; Larry Eyler, Wayne Williams, John Gacy, Theodore Bundy and Juan Corona. Each of the five was convicted of at

least one murder and suspected in at least 20 other murders. Keppel's text focuses on the major investigative and legal implications exhibited by these cases. It also identifies common investigative factors and trends that have been raised on appeal by convicted murderers in an effort to improve the investigative understanding of serial murder investigations.

The FSIRS also provided limited and dated information. All of the information provided by the FSIRS were articles that appeared in past issues of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Law Enforcement Bulletin. All of FSIRS's information was provided to this researcher. These articles were reviewed and they discussed the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime (NCAVC), Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP) and state managed Homicide Assessment and Lead Tracking Systems (HALT). The most recent article was dated December 1986.

The concept for the NCAVC came about in November 1982, when the Criminal Personality Research Project Advisory Board met at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The main idea of the NCAVC was to "bring together the fragmented efforts from around the country

so they could be consolidated into one national resource center available to the entire law enforcement community" (FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, 1986).

As it was originally conceived, the NCAVC consisted of four programs:

- Research and Development
- Training
- Profiling and Consultation
- VICAP

The overall goal of the NCAVC has been to reduce the amount of violent crime in American society. The NCAVC serves as a law enforcement clearinghouse and resource center for the most baffling and fearful of the unsolved, violent crimes such as homicide, forcible rape, child molestation/abduction and arson. The NCAVC collects and analyzes violent crime data and provides assistance to the law enforcement agencies in their attempts to identify, locate, apprehend, prosecute and incarcerate the persons responsible for these and other violent crimes and to develop new programs for the prevention of violent crime victimization (FBI Bulletin, 1986).

It is often said that two questions spring to a detective's mind when faced with a new case: what has happened like this before? And, whom do we know who could have done this? Answers to these questions will identify offenders and can also identify occurrences of different offenders using a similar modus operandi (M.O.).<sup>7</sup> There are systems in other countries and the United States that store information about cases for comparison and crime analysis. Two systems that are systematically used by the Fairfax County Police Department are VICAP and HALT. Both systems will be described briefly at this time so the reader may better understand the importance of entering information into these systems.

The following information concerning VICAP was obtained by interviewing Mr. Eric Witzig<sup>8</sup> at the FBI Academy. The interview began with Mr. Witzig explaining the mission of VICAP is to facilitate

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<sup>7</sup> The abbreviation M.O. represents "modus operandi" - the manner of operation; the means of accomplishing the act; characteristic method deployed by defendant in performance of repeated criminal acts, e.g., the M.O. of the murder was suffocation by pillow (Law Dictionary, 1991, p. 306).

<sup>8</sup> Personal interview conducted with Mr. Eric Witzig on June 1, 1995, at the FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia. Mr. Witzig is a faculty member of the FBI Academy and VICAP Specialist.

cooperation, communication and coordination between law enforcement agencies and provide support in their efforts to investigate, identify, track, apprehend and prosecute violent offenders. VICAP is a nationwide data information center designed to collect, collate and analyze crimes of violence - specifically murder. The types of homicides VICAP deals with fall into three categories:

1. Solved or unsolved homicides or attempts, especially those that involve an abduction; are apparently random, motiveless or sexually oriented; or are known or suspected to be part of a series.
2. Missing persons, where the circumstances indicate a strong possibility of foul play and the victim is still missing.
3. Unidentified dead bodies where the manner of death is known or suspected to be a homicide.

Mr. Witzig stressed that cases in which the offender has been arrested or identified should be submitted to permit unsolved cases in the VICAP system to be evaluated for possible linkages<sup>9</sup> to the known offender.

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<sup>9</sup> The term "linkage" and "linkage blindness" has been coined (Eggar, 1984, p. 161) to describe the situation in which the sheer number of police forces in the United States makes it difficult to circulate information that might be of mutual benefit.



It was explained that once a case is entered into the VICAP database, it is compared continually against all other entries on the basis of certain aspects of the crime such as type of weapon, body recovery site, firearm caliber and many other details. The purpose of this is to detect signature<sup>10</sup> aspects of homicide and similar patterns of M.O.'s, which will in turn allow VICAP personnel to pinpoint those crimes that may have been committed by the same offender and notify the agencies involved.

**Appendix B** is the VICAP Crime Analysis Report and presents to the reader an overview of the volume of information required to accurately complete the report.

When a murderer has been identified, VICAP can assist law enforcement agencies which may have relevant cases by coordinating a multi-agency investigation conference. This becomes important when the suspect has committed crimes in multiple jurisdictions. The value of this conference is the resultant coordination of activities such as search warrants, interview matters and laboratory testing.

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<sup>10</sup> Sometimes the murderer will leave a distinct or unique "signature" at the crime scene. Detectives may not recognize the similarity of the killings and the pattern will go undetected due to the sheer volumes of cases, particularly in large cities (Eggar, 1990, p. 166).

Furthermore, Mr. Witzig explained that VICAP offers services including investigative support such as timelines, investigative matrix, etc., major case management consultation and facilitation and training in crime analysis.

For years police detectives working in different jurisdictions on similar cases have worked independently of one another. They did not have access to the information available elsewhere that could speed and enhance investigations in their own jurisdiction. With the advances in computer technology, several agencies have (and are) developing programs that help detectives work better by allowing them access via computer to a wide range of information about serious crimes and to the resources that can help solve them (Keppel & Weis, 1993).

Examples of these programs are the Homicide Investigation and Tracking System (HITS) that began in Washington State and the Homicide Assessment and Lead Tracking System (HALT) managed by the Virginia State Police. These types of programs are similar to VICAP and provide several major services to local, law enforcement. Most of these programs, after data is

entered into their files, will automatically reformat the information and create a report to be submitted to VICAP (Keppel & Weis, 1993).

**Appendix C** represents the Virginia State Police HALT Crime Analysis Report.

Several of the information representatives suggested this researcher contact agencies who were known or rumored to have some form of a Cold Case Squad. None of the representatives could locate any written documentation that lists agencies with Cold Case Squads.

Initially, this researcher made random phone calls to several of the agencies inquiring about their Cold Case Squads. It quickly became apparent that phone calls would not be very productive (and created an outrageous phone bill). Of those agencies where personnel were available to talk over the phone, it was learned that either the agency did not have a Cold Case Squad or, if they did have a Cold Case Squad, no written information and/or data was available.

On May 22, 1995, a letter of inquiry was mailed to 13 agencies requesting assistance and information.

**Appendix D** represents the inquiry letter.

The following are the queried agencies and their responses:

- **Baltimore City Police Department, Maryland:**  
no response.
- **Baltimore County Police Department, Maryland:**  
received a telephone call on June 22, 1995, from a Cold Case Squad Detective. The detective advised written information would be mailed "during the next few days." No information was received.
- **Broward County Sheriff's Office, Florida:**  
no response.
- **Charlotte Police Department, North Carolina:**  
no response.
- **Henrico County Police Department, Virginia:**  
responded on May 24, 1995, by telephone to advise they do not have a Cold Case Squad.
- **Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, California:**  
responded on June 6, 1995, by telephone to advise they do have an "Unsolved Case Squad." This squad consists of five investigators. Their primary functions are to reinvestigate old cases, prosecute cases in foreign jurisdictions and psychological profiling. The squad only inherits

cases if the lead investigator is no longer in the homicide section. The Unsolved Case Squad only reinvestigates inherited cases if new information is received. The section supervisor advised they barely "keep their heads above water" and they do not have the time or resources to reinvestigate a case unless there are new, viable leads. They do not use solvability factors. This is partially because of the homicide section's large case load of 500-700 homicides per year.

- **Metro-Dade Police Department, Florida:**

responded on June 7, 1995, to advise they have had a Cold Case Squad since 1988. The section supervisor advised they inherit unsolved homicides when the lead detective is no longer in the homicide section. Metro-Dade's Homicide Section is involved with 1700-1900 unsolved murders per year. Their Cold Case Squad uses a limited form of solvability factors. Because of the volume of unsolved cases, most reinvestigations are generated from a fresh lead being obtained. The section supervisor feels Cold Case Squads are a "luxury" and very expensive to operate due to

required travel during the course of an investigation. In the supervisor's experience, some form of a cold case squad customized to the individual department needs would definitely contribute to cases being resolved that otherwise would go unsolved. Written information was to be mailed, but none was received.

- **Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C.:**  
no response.
- **Montgomery County Police Department, Maryland:**  
responded on May 31, 1995, by telephone to advise they do not have a Cold Case Squad. However, they will occasionally look at unsolved cases by utilizing personnel on injury "light duty." From 1989 through 1994 Montgomery County has sustained 165 homicides, 36 which are "open" cases.
- **Orange County Sheriff's Office, California:**  
no response.
- **Prince Georges County Police Department, Maryland:**  
no response.
- **Richmond City Police Department, Virginia:**  
no response.

- **San Diego County Sheriff's Office, California:**  
no response.

Also contacted were the following publication companies to obtain their title lists:

- Aldine de Gruyter, Hawthorne, NY
- Anderson Publishing Company, Cincinnati, OH
- Chapman & Hall Publications, New York, NY
- Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, IL
- CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL
- Elsevier Science Publishing Company, New York, NY
- Facts on File, New York, NY
- Gould Publications, Longwood, FL
- Greenwood Publishing Group, CT
- J.B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, PA
- National Institute of Justice Publications List,  
Rockville, MD
- Rand Corporation, CA
- Waveland Press, Prospect Heights, IL
- Waverly Publishing, Baltimore, MD

A variety of title lists were acquired in the areas of Criminal Justice, Criminal Law, Criminology, Forensic Medicine, Forensic Science, Law Enforcement, Police Science, Sociology and so forth.

The publication synopses were reviewed. If the book synopsis appeared to have related information, an effort was made to come into possession of the book and/or purchase a text, if available. This researcher has reviewed numerous books with related information. The texts reviewed are included in the Bibliography. The majority of the finite information related to Cold Case Squads and solvability factors involves "serial killers." Most of this literature involves serial killer case management and exchange of information between agencies involved with serial killer investigations. It is not this writer's intent to research the serial killer murder phenomenon per se, but to extract useful information for this thesis and department's Cold Case Squad.

During April 10-12, 1995, this researcher attended the Virginia Homicide Investigators Association annual Homicide Symposium. There were approximately 154 persons present. Those in attendance represented two countries (United States and Canada), seven states, eight federal agencies and a variety of police departments, sheriff offices, coroner/medical examiner offices and Commonwealth's Attorney Offices. After a



break, this researcher was allowed to ask those in attendance if anybody was familiar with Cold Case Squads and/or had written information concerning Cold Case Squads. Several people approached this researcher during the symposium. All of the ideas and information given to this researcher were already explored.

This researcher also utilized Homicide: A Bibliography, (1993). The authors state they have:

Extensively searched the world literature on homicide. References from hundreds of journals and publications have been included. All major indexes have been searched, including some...which are not universally available. Twenty-three indexes have been utilized in the compilation of this work. There is no other single source available which can provide the researcher with such a complete selection of homicide literature. All essential elements of the ecology and epidemiology of homicide are reflected in the organization of the various chapter and subchapter headings. Chapters on the murderer, the victim, the mode, and the environments that produce all three are included. This format guides the user to articles of particular interest to their specialty and highlights the many components necessary for prevention in each. The subject index refers to specific key-word headings (pp. vi-vii).

This researcher checked the Subject Index for key-word headings to include *cold case squad*, *solvability factors*, *solving murders* and *closure rate*. Nothing was listed under any of the key-word headings.

Another area where solvability factors is mentioned is in the written standards from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).<sup>11</sup> Standard 42.1.2 states: "the agency uses a case-screening system and specifies the criteria for continuing and/or suspending an investigative effort." In the commentary of standard 42.1.2, among other things, it states:

The written directive should specify how such screening is to be conducted, by whom, and what criteria (solvability factors) should be used. Screening of preliminary investigative information should assist in the decision on whether a follow-up investigation should be made. The decision about the extent of follow-up or the suspension of investigative efforts should be made at a management level. Decision making involves the continued application of solvability and degree-of-seriousness factors plus operational input from periodic reporting by investigators on the progress of assigned cases. Suspension criteria may include lack of further leads or solvability factors, unavailability of investigative resources, and/or insufficient degree of seriousness (p. 42-1).

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<sup>11</sup> The CALEA is a national program which was formed in 1979 and is currently sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the National Sheriff's Association (NSA), the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). This commission has developed a comprehensive set of written standards covering every aspect of law enforcement policies, procedures, practices and operations. The Fairfax County Police Department became accredited on May 3, 1985, and maintains compliance with the professional standards called for by the commission.

### **Related Literature in Other Fields**

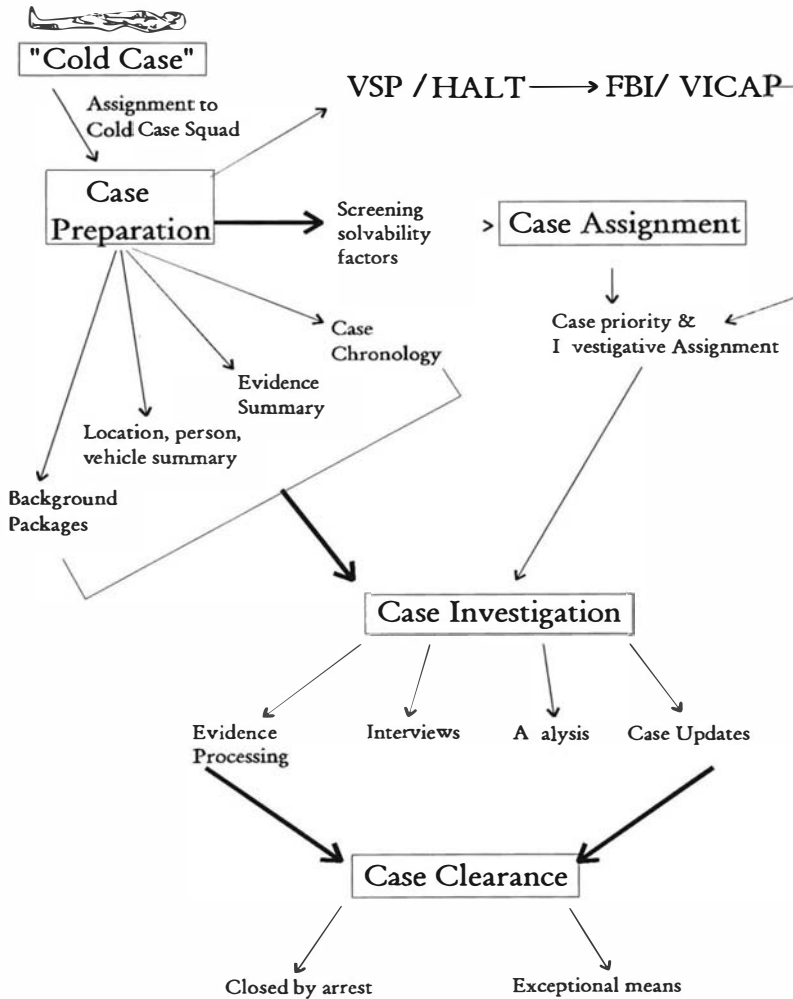
There are volumes of information related to the investigation of crime. There is a large amount of literature in other fields to include information for the uniformed officers who are invariably first to arrive on the scene; how to conduct a preliminary scene investigation; specific duties at the scene; crime scene processing and collection of evidence; forensic identification of suspects; criminal personality profiling; major case management and a myriad of other related topics. There is information for newly assigned detectives, experienced detectives, members of the court and other legal specialists. Information is provided from the view point of law enforcement, legal strategists, social workers, clergy, prevention and control analysts, statisticians, medicolegalists and psychologists. View points are abundant.

This wealth of information has been reviewed with an emphasis placed on related literature which supports the utilization of solvability factors.

**Figure One** illustrates this process and identifies the major steps a case will travel through once it is assigned to the Fairfax County Police Cold Case Squad.

Figure One

The process a case will travel through after being assigned to the Cold Case Squad.



The first step of the process is case preparation. Case preparation involves preprocessing the case. This is intended to save valuable, investigative time that would otherwise be lost by having a detective perform routine clerical and administrative tasks. This routine preprocessing is done by two Auxiliary Police Officers who have been assigned to the Cold Case Squad since its inception. Preprocessing also allows supervisors to quickly assess a case relative to other ongoing investigations to determine at what priority it should be worked.

In addition to physically organizing the case, the case preparation phase will yield the following investigative aids for detectives:

**Homicide Assessment and Lead Tracking System (HALT) Report.**

All unsolved homicides will be submitted to the HALT system. The intent is to enter all cold cases into the HALT system to determine if there are similar cases that may be located in other Virginia jurisdictions. After HALT system personnel enters the crime analysis report into the system, it is then given to NCAVC to be entered into the VICAP. The HALT report will be

reviewed for accuracy and completeness by the Cold Case Squad supervisor before submission to the Virginia State Police.

**Screening Solvability Factors.**

This set of questions will be answered during the preprocessing. These solvability factors are covered in depth beginning on page 52.

**Case Chronology.**

This section will provide a brief summary of all events regarding the actual case as well as case handling (assigned detective, search warrants, etc.).

**Evidence Summary.**

This section will detail all evidence held in the case, its location and status.

**Location, Persons, Vehicle Summary.**

This section will provide an index into the case according to any vehicles, persons and locations relative to the case.

**Background Packages.**

These packages will include current criminal history, driver's license history, wants and warrant checks on all persons involved in the

case. This will be used by the detective if there is a decision to recontact any persons involved in the case.

**Gap Report.**

This is an unstructured report that lists any gaps of information in the case. This will be done without consideration of the importance of the gaps of information. Examples of the types of gaps expected to be listed are persons mentioned in statements that do not have a corresponding interview report in the case file, undocumented investigative actions, etc.

**Case Assignment.**

The case assignment process will take a pre-processed case and prioritize it relative to other cases assigned to the Cold Case Squad. Investigative resources will be directed to cases that have a high solvability potential. A combination of solvability factors and other elements of the case will be evaluated during supervisory review before the case is assigned to a detective.

**Case Investigation.**

The Cold Case Squad will record all activities to maintain a complete, investigative log. Case activity will be recorded in a word processor with a data time stamp to allow easy review of all case activity.

**The Significance of Solvability Factors.**

The Fairfax County Police Cold Case Squad supervisor will use nine solvability factors as an aid to help determine the priority of cases. The nine solvability factors are:

Has the death been ruled a homicide?

Has the scene location been determined?

Has the victim been identified?

Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?

Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?

Is the evidence still available?

Are there named suspects in the case?

Are there witnesses in the case?

Have there been leads in the last six months?

At this point, a succinct explanation of each



solvability factor is going to be provided to the reader. The explanations are being given for the purpose of better understanding solvability factors and to appreciate how significant these factors may become in a complex death scene investigation.

#### **Has the death been ruled a homicide?**

The burden is on the state to prove that the deceased's death was the result of a criminal act. Until this is done, it is presumed the death was due to natural causes (Moenssens, Inbau & Starrs, 1986). The burden in any homicide prosecution rests on the state to show that the cause of death was due to a criminal act of the accused and the deceased is, in fact, dead. The burden of proof in homicide, as with all crimes, is placed on the prosecution. It encompasses proof, beyond a reasonable doubt and all of the essential elements of the offense (Moenssens et al., 1986).

A primary way to determine whether or not death was the result of homicide, suicide, accident or natural causes is through a medicolegal investigation. A pathologist can often make useful contributions to

the investigation through postmortem examination. The pathologist's efforts supplement, but do not replace those of the police (Adelson, 1974).

There are two general types of medicolegal investigative systems in the United States: coroner systems and medical examiner systems. The coroner system is the older of the two medicolegal systems, dating back to feudal England. In the pure form of this system, an individual who is not a physician is elected the coroner. The coroner makes rulings as to the cause and manner of death in cases that fall under the coroner law (DiMaio, 1989).

The medical examiner system was first introduced in the United States in 1877 in Massachusetts. The first true medical examiner system came into existence in 1918 in New York City. In the pure form of this system, the medical examiner is a physician experienced in the field of forensic pathology (DiMaio, 1989).

Since the Commonwealth of Virginia is under the purview of a medical examiner system and has been since its inception in 1946 (Medical Examiner's Handbook, 1982), this researcher will confine the importance of the medical examiner to Virginia specific guidelines

and procedures.

In 1946, by Act of the General Assembly, Virginia became one of the first states to institute a state-wide Medical Examiner System. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is now comprised of four district offices: Richmond (1946), Norfolk (1957), Roanoke (1967) and Fairfax (1972). **Figure Two** is a map of the district offices of the Chief Medical Examiner and depicts the four districts' boundaries.

District Offices of the  
Chief Medical Examiner

Northern Virginia District (Fairfax)

9797 Braddock Rd., Suite 100  
Fairfax, VA. 22032  
703-764-4640

Western District (Roanoke)

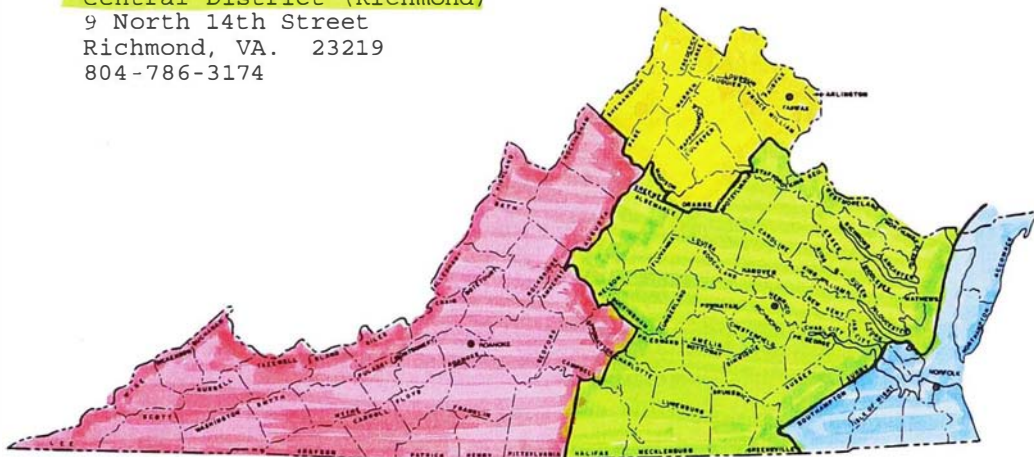
920 South Jefferson Street  
Room 301  
Roanoke, VA. 24006  
703-982-7290

Tidewater District (Norfolk)

401-A Colley Avenue  
Norfolk, VA. 23507  
804-623-8366

Central District (Richmond)

9 North 14th Street  
Richmond, VA. 23219  
804-786-3174



Each office is staffed by two certified forensic pathologists, an administrative aid, appropriate clerical and morgue personnel. The Chief Medical Examiner, housed in the Richmond Office, is responsible for the overall operation of the system (Medical Examiner's Handbook, 1982).

The Medical Examiner is authorized by the Commonwealth of Virginia to investigate violent, suspicious or unnatural deaths. The purpose is to bring trained medical evaluation into the investigation of those deaths which are of concern to the public health, safety and welfare. The office and functions of the Medical Examiner are established by the Code of Virginia, §32.1-277 et seq.

According to Dr. Francis Field<sup>12</sup>, two of the most important functions of the medical examiner are the determination of the *cause* and *manner* of death. Dr. Field explained that persons in law enforcement, lawyers and the lay public often have difficulty understanding the difference between cause of death and

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<sup>12</sup> Personal interview conducted on May 31, 1995, at the Northern District Medical Examiners Office. Dr. Francis Field is a Deputy Chief Medical Examiner for the Commonwealth of Virginia, assigned to the Northern District.

manner of death. Simply put, the *cause of death* is any injury or disease that produces a physiological derangement in the body that results in the individual dying. Thus, the following are causes of death: a gunshot wound of the head, a stab wound of the chest, adenocarcinoma (cancer) of the lung and coronary atherosclerosis ("hardening of the arteries"). The *manner of death* explains how the cause of death came about. In Virginia there are five manners of death. All deaths are ruled one of the following:

- Natural
- Homicide
- Suicide
- Accident
- Undetermined

The manner of death as determined by an Assistant Chief Medical Examiner is an opinion based on the known facts concerning the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the death in conjunction with the findings at autopsy and the laboratory tests.<sup>13</sup>

**Table Five**, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Statistical Data Report, for January 1, 1993, to December 31, 1994, lists the five manners of death (and other pertinent data) as reported from the four districts. This is the most recent data available.

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<sup>13</sup> Field interview.

Table Five

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER  
STATE OF VIRGINIA  
Population 6,394,500 EST)

DATE: June 1, 1994  
TOTAL DEATHS IN THE STATE: 51,212 (EST)  
TOTAL DEATHS INVESTIGATED: 5,211  
NATURAL: 2,122  
VIOLENT: 3,089  
    ACCIDENT: 1,591  
    SUICIDE: 792  
    HOMICIDE: 569  
UNDETERMINED: 38  
CREMATIONS: 5,616  
DEATHS IN JAIL/PRISON: 74

January 1, 1993 to December 31, 1993  
TOTAL AUTOPSIES: 2,436  
Area OCMC Family Authorized  
CENTRAL 599 12  
TIDEWATER 546 31  
WESTERN 537 2  
NORTHERN 599 12  
TOTAL: 2,381 55  
BURIAL AT SEA: 17 17  
TOXICOLOGY ON ME CASES: 4,021

FATAL AGENCY	ACCIDENT	SUICIDE	HOMICIDE	UNDETERMINED	TOTAL
ABUSED/BATTERED CHILD					
ANIMALS			09		09
ASPHYXIA: ASPIRATION/CAFE CORONARY	23				23
ASPHYXIA: MECHANICAL/POSITIONAL	26				26
ASPHYXIA: PLASTIC BAG	20				20
ASPHYXIA: STRANGULATION	0	09			09
ASPHYXIA: SUFFOCATION/SMOTHERING	2	2	14		20
BEATING/BLOWN/BLUNT INSTRUMENT	5	4	4		13
BURNS/FIRE	3		14	3	20
CAVE-IN	21	1	2		24
CUTTING INSTRUMENT/STAR	2				2
DROWNING	2	10	78		90
ELECTRICITY	29	14	2	4	49
EXPLOSION	11		5		16
EXPOSURE: COLD	3				3
EXPOSURE: HEAT	17				17
FALL/PUSH	2				2
FALLING OBJECT	204	3			207
GUN (TOTAL)	19				19
GUN: HANDGUN	(21)	(538)	(411)	(4)	(974)
GUN: RIFLE	13	189	359	3	564
GUN: SHOTGUN	5	19	11		35
GUN: UNSPECIFIED FIREARM	2	108	17		127
GUN: OTHER (PELLET)		2	4		6
HANGING	2	32			34
INSECT/BEE STINGS					
JUMP					
LIGHTNING		11			11
MACHINERY	12				12
POISONING: ALCOHOL-ETHANOL	16	2			18
CARBON MONOXIDE (FAULTY HEATER)	2				2
CARBON MONOXIDE (PIRE SMOKE INHALATION)	51		1		52
CARBON MONOXIDE (MOTOR VEHICLE EXHAUST)	3	29	2		34
DRUGS, OTHER POISONS (TOTAL)	145	56		9	210
(COCAINE/MORPHINE/HEROIN)	(43)	(4)		(1)	(48)
POISONING: OTHER ALCOHOLS					
SPORTS/ATHLETICS	2				2
STARVATION/INANITION	1				1
STEAM/SCALD					
TRACTOR/HEAVY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT	11				11
TRAIN	17				17
UNDETERMINED	2				2
VEHICULAR: AIRCRAFT	19				19
VEHICULAR: ATV	2				2
VEHICULAR: AUTO/TRUCK (TOTAL)	(874)	(6)	(3)		(883)
AUTO/TRUCK (DRIVER)	510	2			512
AUTO/TRUCK (PASSENGER)	212	1	1		214
AUTO/TRUCK (PEDESTRIAN)	125	3	2		130
AUTO/TRUCK (UNKNOWN)	7				7
BICYCLE	13				13
BOAT	3				3
MOPED	1				1
MOTORCYCLE	27				27
OTHER	4				4
OTHER TRAUMATIC CAUSES	1				1
TOTAL:	1,691	792	569	38	3,090

The manners of death may appear simple, but become very complex in certain situations, especially when investigating gun shot deaths. Dr. Field provided this example.

If we have an individual found with a contact gunshot wound of the temple, without a weapon present and no history of any suicidal threats, one might then conclude that this case is a homicide. If subsequently it turns out that the individual had embezzled half a million dollars from his company and was about to be indicted by the grand jury, and his body was initially found by his wife, who removed a gun and a suicide note from the scene, one would change the manner of death to suicide.

An "undetermined" manner of death is also a complex issue to deal with, especially when dealing with skeletal parts or when only portions of tissues and organs are found. It has been this researcher's experience that such bodies or their remains are most frequently discovered outdoors (although we have investigated cases where they are found indoors under a floor, or other interior place). The remains may be those of a person who was murdered or run over by a vehicle, committed suicide or was lost and became the victim of exhaustion or exposure or was suddenly overcome by sickness and death.



Case in point:

During 1977 Deborah Fitzjohn, age 25, was reported missing by her parents. In 1978, a hunter found skeletal remains in the woods and through dental records, Fitzjohn's identity was determined. Because there was no signs of trauma to the few skeletonized remains recovered, the Medical Examiner officially ruled the manner of death as "undetermined." The Medical Examiner could not classify the manner of death as an accident, homicide or suicide, since the cause of death is unknown.

In this particular incident it is well documented who the last known person was with Fitzjohn and their activities before she was reported missing. This person is identified as John B. Crutchley and he is presently serving 25 years in a Florida state prison for kidnapping and assaulting a 19-year-old hitchhiker in Brevard County, Florida. Crutchley is eligible for parole next year. Crutchley gained notoriety during his trial after testimony revealed he kept the hitchhiker in bondage for 22 hours, draining and drinking her blood. Obviously, Crutchley is a prime suspect in this case and it is believed he killed Fitzjohn. (Synopsis from Fairfax County case #782886831).

It is anticipated that incidents such as this, when reworked by the Cold Case Squad, will find that piece of evidence or lead needed to have the case reclassified and bring the case to a successful conclusion.

**Has the scene location been determined?**

This is another factor that at first glance appears to be straightforward. However, establishing the actual scene location of an old homicide can be a valid, legal defense. Normally, it is assumed that "where they lie is where they die" and the jurisdiction where the victim was found will be responsible for the investigation and subsequent actions taken to bring the case to a successful conclusion. Questions that must be answered before declaring investigative venue include: Is the location the victim was found the actual location of death or the "dump site"? Was the body moved from an unknown location? Is the location the victim was found the same location as where the assault leading to death took place?

Case in point:

On September 18, 1994, Fairfax County Police Homicide Detectives and Crime Scene Section personnel responded to the Residence Inn, located in the Tyson's Corner area of Fairfax County at the request of the Nassau County Police Department, New York. Nassau County detectives requested assistance for an investigation they were conducting. Nassau County personnel requested a motel room be checked for the presence of blood and or other circumstances that may give them investigative guidance in their investigation. It was learned from Nassau County personnel that they had responded to a suicide in their jurisdiction on 9-16-94. The victim was

identified as Richard Ablamsky. Prior to his death, Ablamsky was in the company of his girlfriend, Deborah Taylor. The couple had stayed at the Residence Inn approximately one week prior to the suicide. According to the Nassau County Police, they were unable to locate Taylor and believe Ablamsky killed her prior to taking his own life.

The cleaning staff/maids were interviewed by Fairfax County Police Homicide Detectives and it was learned that several sheets and knives were missing from the suite. This was noticed just after Ablamsky checked out. The missing sheets and knives were not reported to management. The cleaning crew saw Ablamsky in the suite, but never saw Taylor. The cleaning crew had performed the usual sanitary procedures to the suite and didn't notice anything else unusual.

A systematic, forensic search was conducted of the motel suite by Crime Scene Section personnel and blood stains were located in several areas within the suite. Specifically, a sizable amount of dried blood was located under a mattress in an upstairs loft; the underside of the box springs and on the interior side of a lamp shade. The dried blood was identified as coming from a human source. (Synopsis from Fairfax County case #94260001768).

This "suspicious event" raises several questions.

- Is Ms. Taylor, in fact, dead?
- If she is dead and her corpse is ever found, will there be enough remains/forensic evidence to determine she was murdered?
- If it is determined Ms. Taylor was murdered, did Ablamsky kill her and where? Was she murdered in the Residence Inn located in Fairfax County, or at an unknown location somewhere between Fairfax County and Nassau County, New York?

The answer to these questions will be scrutinized by any number of persons, including family members, judicial personnel and other professional persons such as insurance companies, when there is a potential for large death pension settlements to be paid.

#### **Has the victim been identified?**

Snyder (1977) states "identification of either living persons or dead bodies is treacherous." If you stop to realize that among your own acquaintances there are usually several persons whom it is difficult to distinguish from one another, you can see what are the possibilities for error in identifying a corpse found days, weeks, months or even years from the time of demise.

Obviously, there are difficulties identifying a found body that has undergone a great amount of alteration. The alteration may be from intentional dismemberment or destruction by the action of insects and their larvae. When only skeletal parts and/or portions of tissues are found, the usual methods for identification such as documents or possessions found on the body, visual identification and fingerprints are

limited. Forensic anthropology and odontology techniques may prove useful in making an identification under these circumstances.

Occasionally, the identity of the dead person is not known, and the body has to be buried as that of an unnamed individual. Prior to burial, pain staking steps are taken to document other important information which may be used in the future for identification.

Another factor bearing on potential success in establishing identification is whether the deceased has been listed as a missing person, and if so, where. Increased mobility has diminished to some extent the value of "missing persons" reports. It could be possible for a person, who disappears from San Francisco yesterday morning and subsequently reported "missing" last night, be found dead in Fairfax County this evening. If no personal identification is found with the corpse, identifying this victim would be a monumental challenge, especially if the victim has no fingerprints on record.

**Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?**

Physical evidence plays a very important role in the initial crime scene investigation and all subsequent judicial proceedings (Lee, 1994). Physical evidence can take any form. It can be large or so small that it can only be seen under a microscope. It may be fleeting as an odor. In short, physical evidence is any type of evidence having an objective existence, that is, anything with size, shape and dimension (Fisher, Svensson & Wendel, 1987).

Fisher et al. (1987) asks the question: "What is the value of physical evidence and why should detectives concern themselves with an understanding of the uses and ways to collect physical evidence?" (p. 6). Fisher et al. (1987) identifies, lists and discusses ten uses for physical evidence. Listed below are four of Fisher's potential uses for physical evidence as related to this solvability factor.

1. Physical evidence can place the suspect in contact with the victim or with the crime scene.
2. Physical evidence can establish the identity of persons associated with the crime.
3. Physical evidence can exonerate the innocent.
4. A suspect confronted with physical evidence may make admissions or even confess.

In further evaluating the contribution of physical evidence, one cannot overlook an important reality in the courtroom: The weight or significance accorded physical evidence is a determination left entirely to the trier of fact, usually a jury of laypersons. Given the high esteem in which scientists are generally held by society and the infallible image created by books and television for forensic science, it is not hard to understand why scientifically evaluated evidence often takes on an aura of special reliability and trustworthiness in the courtroom. Often physical evidence is accorded great weight during jury deliberations and becomes a primary factor in reinforcing or overcoming lingering doubts about guilt or innocence (Saferstein, 1987). In short, physical evidence is expected by the judge and jury.

#### **Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?**

As science and technology continues to advance, the information that may be obtained from physical evidence will increase, and hence the importance of re-evaluating dated physical evidence. It must be kept in mind that yesterday's state of the art technology used

to examine physical evidence may be antiquated by today's standards.

The Fairfax County Police Department Crime Scene Section has kept abreast of new and changing technologies. Of current technologies, this researcher believes three specific technologies readily available to the Fairfax County Police Department should be identified and summarized so the reader has a basic understanding of these potential assets. The three technologies to be summarized are:

- DNA testing
- Forensic Light Sources
- Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems

The goal is for the reader to be enlightened to the importance of evaluating and reprocessing dated physical evidence. The reader must keep in mind a central problem for the homicide detective is the establishment of personal identity - usually of the criminal, sometimes of the victim. It is a grave error for a detective to believe that any item of evidence can be directly related to a specific person, place or thing.

There are only a few kinds of physical evidence that can be individualized. In other words, an item is



unique when the item can be shown to be directly associated with a specific individual source. Fingerprints, tool marks and fired bullets are examples of evidence capable of being specifically associated with a unique source. Although DNA typing cannot technically be considered a unique source of identification; today's genetic findings are statistically stating that an individual may have a DNA profile of one in a few million or even billions of individuals. In other words, they can be virtually unique in the human population.

**DNA Testing:** It seems there isn't a day goes by that there isn't some mention of DNA on the television or in the printed media. Especially with the "O.J. Simpson Trial" in progress. There is no escaping the Simpson trial. The case is the staple of television and radio shows, articles, editorials and commentaries, jokes and cartoons. Coleman and Swenson (1994) predict this case, by the time it is over, will have received more news coverage than any event since the Viet Nam War.

Within the forensic community and news media, it is generally thought DNA testing represents the most

important breakthrough in crime detection since the discovery of the fingerprint. DNA technology may represent the future of forensic medicine; the experts have only begun to scratch the surface with this technology.

The forensic use of DNA started with the work of Alec Jeffreys, a geneticist at the University of Leicester in Britain's Midlands. In 1984, Jeffreys invented the techniques that took human identification from the laboratory to the courtroom (DNA in the Courtroom, 1994). Jeffreys used his new form of genetic typing to resolve an immigration case. A boy from Ghana, seeking immigration to Britain, claimed his biological mother was already a resident. Conventional blood tests could only confirm the two were related. DNA analysis showed beyond reasonable doubt the relationship was as claimed and the home office put its stamp of approval on the new technology (DNA in the Courtroom, 1994).

A detective in the East Midlands read of the case and sought Jeffreys' help in solving the vicious murder and rape of two British schoolgirls. The police held a prime suspect in the case. Semen samples from the

murder scenes and a blood sample from the suspect were compared. Jeffreys confirmed that the same person committed both crimes but it was not the suspect the police held. On November 21, 1986, this suspect became the first person in the world to have his innocence proven by DNA testing (DNA in the Courtroom, 1994).

Since forensic DNA testing was introduced in 1986, it already has been used in approximately 50,000 criminal investigations in the United States alone (DNA in the Courtroom, 1994).

During May 1989, the Commonwealth of Virginia became one of the first states in the country to have DNA testing capability in a state forensic laboratory and go on-line with a DNA data bank. During July 1989, legislation was passed which required all convicted felony sex offenders to submit a sample of their blood to be entered into the data bank. At that time only convicted sex offenders were required to submit to blood samples being taken because of the disproportional high recidivism rate of sex offenders.

During July 1990, legislation was passed which now requires all convicted felons to submit a sample of their blood to be entered into the data bank as

prescribed in Code of Virginia, §19.2-310.2 through §19.2-310.11.

Ms. Ambrozy<sup>14</sup> explained that although legislation requires all felons to submit to blood samples, limited funding allows for only convicted sex offender blood samples to be processed and entered into the data bank.

As of April 1995, there are 4,638 samples on-line in the data bank - all convicted sex offenders. Another 99,915 samples are preserved and awaiting to be processed and entered into the data bank when funding becomes available.<sup>15</sup>

It should be obvious to the reader that DNA testing is a powerful tool for justice used by both the prosecution and the defense. DNA testing is available to both the prosecution and defense in homicide and sexual assault cases.

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<sup>14</sup> Personal interview conducted on May 31, 1995, at the Northern Region State Forensic Laboratory. Ms. Karen Ambrozy is the supervisor of the Serology Section at the northern laboratory.

<sup>15</sup> Ambrozy interview.

**Forensic Light Sources:** For years, the primary fingerprint search tool was a brush with black fingerprint powder. "Dusting" for latent fingerprints<sup>16</sup> is routinely done at crime scenes. Fingerprint powder is designed to adhere to the moisture in latent fingerprints. Items with smooth, slick surfaces such as bottles, cans, glass and so forth have conducive surfaces for retaining latent prints. Except for paper products that could be processed with a chemical such as ninhydrin, porous surfaces were not considered conducive to latent processing.

In the early 1980's, research began to show promise for the use of laser light as a method of searching for fingerprints. As research turned into practical application, various lasers were marketed for criminalistic application. These early forensic light

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<sup>16</sup> Each ridge of the fingers, palms and soles bear a row of sweat pores, which in the average person, constantly exude perspiration. Also, the ridges of the fingers and palms are in intermittent contact with other parts of the body, such as the hair and face, and with various objects, which may leave a film of grease or moisture on the ridges. In touching an object, the film of moisture and/or grease may be transferred to the object, thus leaving an outline of the ridges of the fingers or palm thereon. This print is called a latent impression, the word "latent" meaning hidden, that is, the print many times is not readily visible (The Science of Fingerprints, 1984, p. 170).

sources were certainly a major aid in fingerprint and trace evidence<sup>17</sup> detection, but had several drawbacks: high costs (up to \$100,000), weight and bulk, with most units requiring high-power water cooling systems and a limited area of light output (Law Enforcement Technology, March 1995).

During the mid 1980's, units were introduced that were much more affordable, portable and user friendly. The latter 1980's and early 1990's saw the introduction of forensic light sources, also known as alternate light sources (ALS). These units are priced up to \$20,000, are quite portable and project wide patterns of light, allowing the search to progress much faster.

Forensic light sources produce powerful invisible and visible filtered light at various wavelengths. Many models have the ability to vary the wavelength of light. The projected light excites latent print residues (Inherent Fluorescence), fluorescent powders and various chemical dyes. Fingerprint searches are

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<sup>17</sup> "Trace evidence" is a generic term for small, often microscopic material. Such evidence may easily be overlooked in crime scene investigation unless proper care is exercised in the search. The variety of trace evidence is almost endless. The more common types of trace materials found at scenes of crimes include: body fluids, fibers, hairs and so forth. In short, the scope of trace evidence is such that anything of a small or microscopic size can potentially be trace evidence.

usually conducted on evidence that has first been exposed to "superglue"<sup>18</sup> fumes, stained with one of the various liquid stains that have been formulated for fingerprint processing or is dusted with a fluorescent fingerprint powder. If a luminescent print is found, it can be photographed using the light source with the appropriate filter over the camera lens (Journal of Forensic Identification, November/December 1994). The film is then developed and "life size" images of the latent is printed and used to compare against suspect inked prints or automated computer searches.

Forensic light sources can also facilitate the discovery of hair, fiber and biological stains at both the crime scene and in the forensic laboratory.

In short, forensic light sources have evolved significantly in the last several years, have come down in price and are user friendly for those agencies that

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<sup>18</sup> "Superglue" is a cyanoacrylate based adhesive which was developed in the late 1950's as a bonding material for plastics and metals. Superglue was first used as a method to visualize latent fingerprints in 1978 and through use, experimentation and publication has gained wide acceptance as an effective means to develop latent fingerprints. The object to be fingerprinted is placed in contact with the fumes which causes the ridge structure of the latent print on the object to appear white. The print can be photographed, lifted by means of print powder/tape or other lifting procedures. Because superglue is cyanoacrylate based, the technique is commonly referred to as "superglue" or the "superglue procedure" (Techniques of Crime Scene Investigation, 1987, p. 86).

have personnel trained in crime scene processing. Forensic light sources are tools which have added significantly to the search for latent fingerprints as well as for trace evidence.

#### **Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems:**

It has long been recognized that the pattern of the friction ridges of the fingers, palms, toes and soles of the feet are, for practical purposes, individual and constitute a positive means of identification of an individual. The inherent complexity of large numbers of ridges located with a high degree of randomness has led to an almost infinite diversity of pattern, no two of which have ever been found to be identical. In other words, no two individuals have ever been found to have identical fingerprints. Within forensic science circles, the basic factors that fingerprints are permanent and individually unique is universally accepted. In short, fingerprints and fingerprinting have been treated quite thoroughly in the literature and well understood in police circles. Therefore, this researcher will only clarify the general knowledge of this subject without reconsidering the extensive



details of the field.

Prior to 1984, latent fingerprints recovered at a crime scene by Fairfax County Police crime scene technicians had to be manually compared with those of a known suspect. A magnifying glass and keen eyes were an investigator's only tools and the task was slow and laborious. During March 1984, the Northern Virginia Regional Identification System (NOVARIS) went on-line.<sup>19</sup>

This computerized fingerprint analysis system represents impressive technological advances. Housed in Fairfax, Virginia, NOVARIS is operated jointly by the Fairfax County Police Department and nine other Northern Virginia law enforcement agencies. NOVARIS utilizes a computer to scan latent fingerprints recovered from scenes of crimes and inked tenprint cards<sup>20</sup> and compares them with all existing finger-

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<sup>19</sup> Personal interview conducted on June 6, 1995, with 2nd Lieutenant Steve Hall, Supervisor of the Northern Virginia Regional Identification System (NOVARIS). Lt. Hall has been the NOVARIS supervisor for approximately five years.

<sup>20</sup> Inked tenprint cards display the fingerprints of identified individuals that are on standardized cardstock. This is accomplished by rolling the known persons fingers in black printers ink and then systematically rolling each finger from side to side in the appropriate box on the print card. The fingers are rolled in such a way as to obtain all available ridge detail on each finger. The ridge detail is then used for classification and comparison.

prints of known offenders placed on file by the participating agencies. The computer can classify and compare fingerprints thousands of times faster than a technician, allowing the identification of criminals who otherwise might go undetected.<sup>21</sup>

Typically, after a latent fingerprint is recovered at a homicide scene occurring within Fairfax County, the latent print is entered into the NOVARIS data base to be searched against the approximate 195,000 known inked tenprint cards. These cards consist of persons who have been arrested and fingerprinted among the nine participating jurisdictions.<sup>22</sup> If an identification is not made within the NOVARIS, the unknown latent is then searched against fingerprint data bases from Washington, D.C., Montgomery County, Maryland, and Prince George's County, Maryland. The NOVARIS has the capability to interface with these jurisdictions. The automated search is done from the NOVARIS site by NOVARIS technicians.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Hall interview.

<sup>22</sup> Hall interview.

<sup>23</sup> Hall interview.

If the automated searches are negative to this point, the latent print will then be entered into the Virginia State Automated Fingerprint Identification System by NOVARIS technicians at the NOVARIS site. The latent is searched against the state's approximately 800,000 known inked tenprint cards. These cards consist of persons who have been arrested and fingerprinted throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.<sup>24</sup>

If the latent search is unproductive, the latent will be submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to be entered and searched in their automated fingerprint identification system. It is estimated the FBI's data base has more than 20 million known inked tenprint cards.<sup>25</sup>

A big advantage of the NOVARIS and state AFIS system is that once the unknown latent print is entered into the data base and an immediate identification is not made; the systems will continually search and compare the unknown latent to all known cards entered in the future. This search will continue until such

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<sup>24</sup> Hall interview.

<sup>25</sup> Hall interview.

time as a technician commands the system to cease searching.<sup>26</sup>

The NOVARIS has already proven itself as an invaluable tool. Since it's inception, the NOVARIS has identified eleven suspects in homicide cases.<sup>27</sup>

#### **Is the evidence still available?**

As per departmental policy, after physical evidence is collected and analyzed, it is secured in the Fairfax County Police Department's Property Section. Any officer introducing evidence in a court case must be able to account for the whereabouts of that evidence continuously since its recovery, and be able to certify that only police personnel had access to it. This is commonly referred to as "chain of custody" (Moenssens et al., 1986, p. 62).

The Fairfax County Police Department came into existence July 1, 1940. Since the department's beginning, all items of evidence and property were manually submitted to the Property Room. "Property cards" were completed by those persons submitting

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<sup>26</sup> Hall interview.

<sup>27</sup> Hall interview.

evidence. Property cards were the main tracking documents used to locate all evidence up through the early 1980s. At one point, there were over 30,000 items of evidence and other miscellaneous articles in the Property Room.<sup>28</sup>

During January 1986, the computer aided Recovered Evidence Management System (REMS) was implemented. The REMS allows Property Room clerks to locate and track by automated means approximately 20,000 items.<sup>29</sup>

During this transition an unknown number of property cards were inadvertently destroyed for various reasons. Without the original property cards, locating old evidence is very difficult, if not almost impossible.<sup>30</sup>

Since 1985, mandatory, semi-annual audits are systematically conducted on all items in the Property Room. Occasionally, an unaccounted-for piece of evidence is located. However, without the original property card, the unaccounted-for item cannot be

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<sup>28</sup> Personal interview conducted on June 5, 1995, at the Fairfax County Police Department Property Section with Mr. James P. Henderson, Supervisor of the Property Section. Mr. Henderson has worked in the Property Section over 20 years and has been the supervisor of that Section for approximately three years.

<sup>29</sup> Henderson interview.

<sup>30</sup> Henderson interview.

traced back to its origin.<sup>31</sup>

Add to this difficult task of securing and maintaining physical evidence human errors such as improper 11 digit case numbers; improper six digit property numbers; improper storage location codes; illegible hand writing; and so forth, it should become apparent that evidence from years past may have been discarded or its present whereabouts unknown.

Case in point:

On March 8, 1979, a 14 year old female was stabbed to death in the western part of Fairfax County. Several latent prints of comparison value were lifted from the scene and did not identify to any possible suspects.

Within a short period of time, a juvenile acquaintance was developed as a suspect. This suspect was requested to submit to a polygraph examination. The parents denied the polygraph exam, moved the child to Connecticut, and refused any further cooperation. Since this juvenile was a suspect only, and his finger prints were not on file, he could not be eliminated.

The original detectives exhausted all leads and eventually this case became "inactive." During the early part of 1995, this case was given to the Cold Case Squad for consideration. During the case preparation phase, criminal history checks were conducted on all named suspects. It was learned that during October 1993, the juvenile suspect, now an adult, was arrested and fingerprinted for a "bad check." With known inked prints of the suspect available, a very viable lead could be pursued. When Cold Case Squad

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<sup>31</sup> Henderson interview.

personnel attempted to obtain the latent prints from the Property Room, they could not be located. After an exhaustive review of the original case jacket, it is unclear if the latent prints were ever placed in the Property Room or retained in the original crime scene technician's case jacket. The technician that processed the homicide scene and lifted the unknown latent prints retired from the department several years ago. The technician was located and questioned about the latent lifts. The retired technician does not remember the details of the case and thought his case jacket/latent lifts may be stored in the general county archives.

A written request was submitted to the management of County Archives to initiate a location search for the latent print cards. Without any further written documentation or starting point, this is the proverbial "finding a needle in a hay stack."

Unfortunately, this is a classic example of a "no" answer to the solvability factor "Is the evidence still available?" (Synopsis of case #790672667).

The solvability factor questions "**Are there named suspects in the case?**" and "**Are there witnesses in the case?**" have similar implications and will be discussed in tandem.

In general, a suspect is an individual believed to be the offender in a case but for whom the detective has insufficient information to establish probable cause for an arrest. From an investigative standpoint, it must always be kept in mind that witnesses

could be suspects and visa versa.<sup>32</sup>

There are numerous reasons to reinterview witnesses and suspects, when appropriate. Before re-interviewing a witness, it must be kept in mind that an interview may alert a suspect to a reinvestigation or bring false hope to the victim's family. It would be appropriate to explain to the family what has brought about the new or continuing interest in the case (unless, of course, they are the suspects).<sup>33</sup>

Justifications for reinterviews with witnesses and suspects include the following:<sup>34</sup>

- An interview may enlighten the detective and provide insight into changing relationships and associations.
- Witnesses that were friends of the suspect at the time of the homicide may not be any longer. In some cases, they may even be adversaries.
- The witness may have been afraid of the suspect at the time.

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<sup>32</sup> Personal interview conducted on June 6, 1995, at the Criminal Investigations Bureau with members of the Cold Case Squad. Members present included Lieutenant D. Wilson and Detectives S. Hendren, R. Smith and R. Walker. Detective Hendren has been a detective for 14 years and with the Fairfax County Police Department 23 years. Detective Smith has been a detective for four years and with the Fairfax County Police 16 years. Detective Walker has been a detective ten years and with the Fairfax County Police Department 21 years.

<sup>33</sup> Wilson, et al, interview.

<sup>34</sup> Wilson, et al, interview.



- Time may have made the witness stronger or the suspect weaker.
- The witness may now be in need of help with another aspect of the Criminal Justice System.
- The witness may have become a better person, gotten married, found religion or any number of other things.
- The witness just doesn't mind getting involved now.
- People have been known to purposely not identify suspects or give false information because of business considerations.
- Experience has shown that many times an offender tells at least one person about his/her involvement. Locating these witnesses can provide the final element for arrest and/or closure.

#### **Have there been leads in the last six months?**

As previously described, cases assigned to the Cold Case Squad are classified as "Inactive," i.e. all investigative leads have been exhausted and no information exists which would lead to an arrest or exceptional clearance. The reality of this solvability factor is that if no new leads or information are available to further advance the investigation, then resources should not be expended on this case.

On the other hand, if a viable lead is obtained for an otherwise, inactive case, the lead should be

explored. It is anticipated leads will come available from other law enforcement agencies and through anonymous phone calls from persons who provide information to Crime Solvers.<sup>35</sup>

Case in Point:

For 15 years Fairfax County police have had few clues that would lead to the arrest of the person who shot and killed an Alexandria builder in a wooded area near Lorton on July 14, 1980. On that day in 1980, a clean-cut man in his early 20's walked into the Alexandria Redevelopment Company office and asked to see the victim, Terry Blackstock. The man, who called himself "Bob Anderson," had telephoned twice before but never left a message. Anderson told Blackstock he had a small parcel of land he wanted to develop. The two talked for about 15 minutes in Blackstock's office and then left together. Several hours later, Blackstock was found shot to death approximately seven miles from his business office.

An audit of Blackstock's business and financial records revealed he was in debt and there was suspicion that several insurance documents were fraudulent. Detectives suspect Anderson was hired to kill Blackstock. All leads were exhausted and the case became inactive.

During March 1995, an Arlington County Police Detective came upon some information and a "tip" was passed onto the Cold Case Squad.

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<sup>35</sup> The Crime Solvers program is a joint effort of the police department, the business community and the news media to deter crime through the identification and apprehension of suspects. Business leaders serve on a local board of directors for the program and solicit funds for rewards from area businesses. The board determines the amounts of reward to be paid to anonymous callers who provide information leading to arrests and indictments for serious crimes committed in Fairfax County. News media feature an unsolved crime each week and encourage individuals with information to call the Crime Solvers telephone number.

Because of the potential of this lead, squad members are once again combing through the information gathered on Blackstock's death. It is believed that with a little more information this case can be solved. The Fairfax County Police Crime Solvers is offering a \$1,000 reward to anyone who can provide information for an arrest and indictment. This case is periodically given to local media to be featured in the news and on Crime Solvers. (Summary of Fairfax County case #801961770).

In conclusion, this researcher has enthusiastically and methodically reviewed the literature in the criminal justice arena and related fields. This researcher feels confident in stating that a comprehensive literature review was conducted.

## **Chapter Three**

### **Methodology**

#### **The Research Design**

The objective of screening unsolved homicide cases involves a process that predicts which cases would have the best chance of being resolved. At a management level, determining the extent of follow-up, amount of resources committed/exhausted and when to suspend investigative efforts is a monumental determination. Decision making involves the continued application of solvability factors plus operational input from assigned detectives on the progress of assigned cases. Suspension determination may include lack of further leads, solvability factors or unavailability of investigative resources.

One of the goals for utilizing solvability factors is to develop a clear profile of cases with the most potential for close-ability and identify cases with a low potential for close-ability. Armed with this data, the Cold Case Squad supervisor is in a position to make qualitative decisions as to which cases should be assigned for follow-up investigation,

which cases should be deferred, or which cases should simply be filed pending receipt of additional information.

The decisions that will be made, based on the totality of such data, are qualitative decisions that result in quantitative actions. Therefore, it is very important that the historical data on which such decisions are based is continually updated and the analysis of this data is as comprehensive and accurate as possible.

### **The Population**

The population for this thesis is the 75 unsolved homicides which have occurred in Fairfax County, Virginia, from January 1, 1964 through December 31, 1994. The study population is the 42 unsolved homicides which have occurred in Fairfax County, Virginia, between January 1, 1986 and December 31, 1994. The population is listed in **Table Six**.

Table Six

1964	2	1980	3
1965	1	1981	2
1966	0	1982	3
1967	1	1983	2
1968	0	1984	2
1969	0	1985	0
1970	2	1986	3
1971	0	1987	4
1972	3	1988	4
1973	2	1989	6
1974	1	1990	3
1975	2	1991	7
1976	1	1992	5
1977	2	1993	4
1978	1	1994	6
1979	3	TOTAL	75

The rationality for the study population and its time frame is twofold. First, more than half (42 or 56%) of the 75 unsolved homicides have occurred during the past nine years (1986 - 1994). To management personnel, this sizable percentage of unsolved cases is of great concern. Because of limited resources and staffing for the Cold Case Squad, management decided to give a higher priority to the 42 unsolved cases. Secondly, experience has shown that the older the case, the more difficult it is to locate physical evidence, witnesses and other specific information. Practically speaking, no detective, no matter how many homicides he or she has investigated, can know for sure at the

beginning just what witness, suspect, feature, or piece of physical evidence will be important. Therefore, note taking is of the utmost importance in death scene investigation. The further back one goes into the unsolved homicide archives, the more obvious it becomes that comprehensive, accurate and detailed notes are lacking. It seems the more complex the homicide, the more accumulative vast amounts of information became. Detectives from "days of old" did not have the luxury of personal computers and related automated case management tools. It appears homicide supervisors from past decades, when reviewing cases, did not place an emphasis on systematic written notes and preserving them for later review and/or admission into evidence.

In describing the purposes of note taking and submitting written reports, many texts mention that it represents the official memory of a department. Regrettably, trying to locate and decipher notes and reports from some of the older cases into distinct phases of the investigation is very difficult, if not impossible. Police officers are not renowned for sharing information with each other. What knowledge that is shared between detectives is often times

informally disseminated. Unfortunately, there are situations when the original detective left the homicide section, a wealth of undocumented information was gone. From a management position, unless viable leads or other pertinent information is "rediscovered" or received, unsolved cases prior to 1986 will be given a low investigative priority.

#### **Data Collection Procedures**

The 42 unsolved homicides comprising the study population will be reviewed and a brief summary of each case will be presented in an appendix. The format for each unsolved case will be as follows:

Victim:  
Case No:  
Date:  
Location:  
Synopsis:  
Motive:  
Weapon:  
Suspect:

Because these cases are unsolved, intimate details of each incident will remain confidential. The details in the summaries will intentionally be vague so as not to compromise any investigations. For example, when a gun was the weapon of choice, the response "firearm" will be used. Identifying additional



descriptors of a firearm such as pistol, rifle, revolver, semi-automatic, shotgun, caliber and so forth may jeopardize an investigation. Ambiguous descriptors such as "shot several times" or "stabbed numerous times" will be used. The exact number of times a victim was shot or stabbed and the specific location(s) on the body will not be included so as not to compromise any cases. Being intentionally vague eliminates the possibility of a suspect claiming to have learned the details of an investigation from outside sources. The ambiguity also protects strategic aspects of the cases, maintains confidentiality of the investigation, protects the rights of the suspects and the sensibilities of the family of the victim. Being this protective of the details of the cases may seem extreme, but there are many well documented cases where a suspect claims to have intimate knowledge of the crime obtained from public sources.

As each of the 42 homicides are reviewed, a solvability factors work sheet will be completed. The solvability factors work sheet is depicted in **Figure Three**.

Figure Three

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?		
Has the scene location been determined?		
Has the victim been identified?		
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		
Is the evidence still available?		
Are there named suspects in the case?		
Are there witnesses in the case?		
Have there been leads in the last six months?		

All of the solvability factors are questions which will be answered with a yes or no response. Each of the nine solvability factors is an independent variable. Resolving the case is the dependent variable.

The answers to the nine solvability factor questions will then be combined into a single score and summarized in a table. The compilation of the nine questions for the 42 cases will be computed by the statistical/analytic software of SPSS: The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences.

The 42 cases will be placed in rank order from highest to lowest solvability factor score. The rank order will be listed in table form by the victim's name, if the victim has been identified and case number. The case number provides basic information which will easily allow the reader to cross reference between the sample population and rank order list. The first two digits of a case number identifies the year. The next three numbers identifies the Julian Day. The remaining digits are sequential event numbers.

For example, the case number 8019661770 is decoded as follows: 80 represents the year 1980; the Julian Day 196 is the 196th day of the year, or July 15th; the remaining digits 1770 is the event number and reveals this event was the 1,770th event reported to the Fairfax County Police Department Emergency Operations Center on that day.

All unsolved cases which are resolved between January 1, 1995, through September 15, 1995, will be identified and evaluated. Each resolved case will include an explanation of the factor(s) which were instrumental in their resolution.

Special attention will be given to resolved cases to isolate any factor(s) which contributed to the resolution which was not among the original nine solvability factors. If significant new solvability

factors are identified, the original nine factors may be modified so as to improve investigative guidance. Ultimately, the evaluation of existing solvability factors and identifying additional factors will contribute to the Cold Case Squad in resolving cases which otherwise would remain unsolved.

## Chapter Four

### Results

Chapter Four is presented in two sections. The first section titled **Findings and Discussion**, summarizes the study population and responses to each of the nine solvability factors. A final synopsis is provided for each solvability factor.

The second section titled **Interpretation of Findings**, addresses whether the hypothesis has been proven and summarizes the three cases which were resolved between January 1, 1995 and September 15, 1995. The solvability factor(s) which primarily contributed to each case resolution is/are identified and discussed.

#### **Findings and Discussion**

The study population of 42 unresolved cases was reviewed and a solvability factors work sheet was completed for each case. **Appendix E** presents a summary of each case within the study population and completed solvability factors work sheets. **Figure Four** highlights

the compilation of the nine solvability factors from the study population analysis.

**Figure Four**

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	39	3
Has the scene location been determined?	36	6
Has the victim been identified?	41	1
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	23	19
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?	2	40
Is the evidence still available?	42	0
Are there named suspects in the case?	24	18
Are there witnesses in the case?	9	33
Have there been leads in the last six months?	13	29

**Has the death been ruled a homicide?**

Three cases have not been ruled homicides. They are:

<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Victim</u>	
86050212630	BARROWS, Cindy	W/F/19
92036000652	BRACKENN, Richard	W/M/53
94168001234	JONES, Gail	W/F/36

Although the three cases have not been ruled homicides, any new information or leads would be acted upon by the Cold Case Squad.

**Has the scene location been determined?**

The location where the victim was killed has not been determined in six cases. They are:

<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Victim</u>	
86050212630	BARROWS, Cindy	W/F/19
88292000357	DUNBAR, John	B/M/41
88303000828	LEWIS, Leader	B/M/27
89183001286	GORDON, Riannon	W/F/9
90125000978	DARAB, Sheila	W/F/28
93340000646	- Unknown -	W/F/27-34

**Has the victim been identified?**

In one case the victim has not been identified.

The case is:

93340000646	- Unknown -	W/F/27-34
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In the remaining solvability factors summaries specific information will not be given. The summaries will remain intentionally vague so as not to compromise any investigations.

**Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?**

There are 23 cases where physical evidence has the potential to identify a suspect. In general, 12 of the 23 cases where physical evidence can identify a suspect involves a bullet and/or bullets that were removed from

the victim during the autopsy. Three cases yielded a cartridge case or cases which were recovered at the scene. The identification and examination of bullets, cartridge cases and firearms are often an integral part of the forensic investigation in homicide cases. If a weapon is recovered which is believed to be the murder weapon, a firearms examination will be performed. The firearms examiner usually compares the bullet(s) recovered from the victim to known test fired bullets from the recovered weapon by comparison microscopy. The recovered bullet(s) can be said to match the test bullet(s) if the major portions of their striations are identical around the periphery and it can be concluded the two were fired from the same weapon.

As with the individual characteristics which may be reflected in the markings on bullets, markings can be impressed and scratched onto the cartridge casing by various parts of the gun's mechanism. The firearms examiner can compare these markings and link a cartridge case to a specific weapon.

As a matter of routine, the firearms examiner would enter the markings on the cartridge cases into



the Drugfire<sup>36</sup> data base. Obviously, a conclusive firearms examination is a vital investigative aid, especially when the murder weapon is recovered in the possession of an individual.

In four cases usable amounts of DNA were recovered. If and/or when a suspect is developed, a sample of the suspect's blood will be obtained for DNA typing and genetic profile comparison to the DNA recovered at the scene. At present, genetic profiling can discriminate the question sample to the known sample to less than one in a few million or even billions of individuals in the overall population. In other words, the profile of the suspect can be unique or virtually unique when compared to the overall human population.

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<sup>36</sup> Drugfire was conceptualized by the FBI during the late 1980's and went on-line during July 1992. Drugfire's goal is to increase the solution rate of gang, drug-related and other types of serial shootings through the automation of forensic firearms identification. Drugfire's objective is the collection and sharing of forensic firearms information through data imagery. Forensic firearms information is used to link unsolved shootings to other shooting incidents and confiscated firearms. The Drugfire system consists of a high-speed telecommunications network which links Drugfire work stations in six regional forensic laboratories throughout the Baltimore/Washington area. Drugfire allows federal, state and local authorities to compare firearms evidence from unsolved shootings in a regional database to determine if the same guns are being used repeatedly. (Personal interview with Julien J. Mason, Senior Forensic Scientist/Firearms Examiner, on September 1, 1995, at the Northern Virginia Regional Forensic Laboratory).

Latent prints were recovered from two cases which are of comparison value. If/when a suspect is developed, inked ten prints will be obtained and compared to the latent prints recovered from the scene.

Although identifiable latent prints are not often recovered from crime scenes, they remain one of the most valuable types of physical evidence in criminal investigations.

Two cases involve foreign hairs which were recovered from the victim. Hairs are among the most common types of physical evidence encountered and recovered at scenes of crimes. Human head hair and pubic hairs are often found at homicide scenes. Known and questioned hairs can be unequivocally excluded from having a common origin, if they are found to be significantly different. If the samples are similar, it is common for an examiner to conclude the hairs "could have shared a common origin." Although this opinion is normally the strongest which can be given in a hair comparison case, hair examinations often provide investigative guidance and are frequently used by the prosecution during trial.

**Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?**

There are two cases in which evidence was reprocessed. One case involved additional DNA testing and the other case involved firearm examinations between a gun recently recovered from a suspect to the bullet recovered from the victim.

**Is the evidence still available?**

In all 42 cases, the evidence is available. Generally, evidence which is recovered from the crime scene and at the autopsy is packaged and stored in the police evidence room. It has been this researcher's experience that most recovered evidence is never analyzed until a suspect is located. Often times recovered evidence is such that it does not lend itself to laboratory analysis. Examples of this type of evidence could include, but are not limited to the victim's personal effects such as jewelry, rings, watch and clothing. Recovered at the autopsy from the victim could be blood for toxicology, fingernail scrapings, head and pubic hair samples, inked fingerprints of the victim and personal effects still on the body.

Are there named suspects in the case?

In 24 cases there are named suspects. The degree of involvement of the suspects varies greatly. The spectrum of involvement may range from the named suspect actually being the perpetrator to no involvement at all and legitimately being in the area at the time of the homicide.

Are there witnesses in the case?

There are named witnesses in nine cases. The significance of the witnesses varies immensely. For example, the witness may be a neighbor who took the initiative to call the police after observing the victim's accumulated mail and car had not been moved for several days. Often times the witness saw a suspicious person or vehicle just prior to the homicide or heard noises which provided investigative guidance.

In a few of the cases, the witness actually observed the homicide and has personal knowledge of the perpetrator. Unfortunately, some witnesses no longer live in the immediate area, have died, or for whatever reason, cannot be located.

### Have there been leads in the last six months?

In 29 cases, leads have been developed or called-in to the Cold Case Squad. Many of the leads are from unidentified callers who only give fragmented information. Concerted efforts are made to follow-up all leads. This becomes a monumental task and is very time consuming. There is no reliable way to quickly measure a lead's veracity. Therefore, a fresh lead must be systematically investigated and independently corroborated.

### Interpretation of Findings

As stated in **Chapter One**, page 12, this researcher's *hypothesis* is:

The formulation of a Cold Case Squad would measurably reduce the number of unresolved homicides within Fairfax County.

The hypothesis has been proven as there is a measurable reduction in the number of unresolved homicides within Fairfax County. From the 42 cases comprising the study population inclusive January 1, 1995 through September 15, 1995, two cases have been closed by arrest, one case closed by exceptional

clearance and one case is pending approval from the Commonwealth Attorney's Office to obtain arrest warrants.

The SPSS Program computed the two "closed by arrest" cases and the one "exceptional clearance" case as 7.1% of the study population. The "pending" case is 2.4% of the study population. When combining the closed by arrest/exceptional clearance cases with the pending case, the computation is 9.5% of the study population.

**Table Seven** is the study population presented in rank order from highest to lowest potential of solvability. The rank order was determined by the SPSS Program based on yes or no answers to the nine solvability factor questions.

It is interesting to note, the two cases closed by arrest are at rank order position one with eight solvability factors present and rank order position six with seven solvability factors present. The one pending case is at rank order position three with eight solvability factors present and the exceptional clearance case is at rank order position 30 with five solvability factors present.

Table Seven

Case Number	Victim's Name	Solvability Factors	
		Present	Resolved
88220000436	TOLAND, J.	8	Yes
89090000728	BAKER, A.	8	
91240000553	MENJIVAR, A.	8	Pending
94285000744	ROBLES, J.	8	
88341000663	FULTON, W. & RAVER, R.	7	
90243002045	HARLEY, P.	7	Yes
91226000035	RA, Y.	7	
92315000975	HEAD, M.	7	
93334001265	WHITE, B.	7	
89272000194	GRAY, D.	6	
91362001543	MITCHELL, B.	6	
92295000435	MCKAGAN, J.	6	
93310001723	RICCA, T.	6	
94009000755	YOUNG, C.	6	
94091000538	ROCHE, J.	6	
94130000580	GREENWELL, M.	6	
94324000742	LAWRENCE, R.	6	
86042000002	CRUTCHFIELD, A.	5	
86220150630	CAMPBELL, J.	5	
87251000364	SOBER-ADLER, E.	5	
87351001746	HERHOLTZ, J.	5	
89099000443	BONILLA, J.	5	
89296000342	ADIYEH, A.	5	
89326000321	DO, N.	5	
90265001660	DANG-TRAN, T.	5	
91047000522	WEBSTER, J.	5	
91222001464	GRAHAM, W.	5	
91271000432	BENNETT, R.	5	
91327000228	HILL, M.	5	
92036000652	BRACKENN, R.	5	E.C.
92078000972	BANDERA, M.	5	
93365001587	KHUSHNOOD, M.	5	
94168001234	JONES, G.	5	
86050212630	BARROWS, C.	4	
87020135522	HOFFMEYER, W.	4	
87114224216	WONG, Y.	4	
88303000828	LEWIS, L.	4	
89183001286	GORDON, R.	4	
90125000978	DARAB, S.	4	
92349000056	AKBAR, G.	4	
88292000357	DUNBAR, J.	3	
93340000646	-UNK- W/F, 27-34	3	

In the **John Toland** homicide, the solvability factor "Have there been leads in the last six months?" was the factor that broke the case. During November 1994, the Cold Case Squad received a confidential telephone call from a person in prison who stated there was a fellow inmate identified as David Petruska bragging about killing a "fag" in the Northern Virginia area. After interviewing the caller, it became apparent David Petruska was revealing specific details of the homicide that only a person who was at the homicide scene would know. Further investigation identified a companion of Petruska. This companion also had knowledge of intimate details that only a person who was at the scene would know. Petruska's companion agreed to testify for a reduced sentence in an unrelated case. On February 28, 1995, David Petruska was found guilty of first degree murder by jury and sentenced to 50 years in prison for Toland's murder.

In the **Amilcar Menjivar** case, the primary solvability factor "Have there been leads in the last six months?" is credited for potentially closing this homicide. Anonymous information was received which identified the shooter, where the shooter could be



found and where the murder weapon was located. Additional investigation corroborated the lead and the firearm was recovered from the suspect. The secondary solvability factor "Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?" is also credited for potentially closing this homicide. The recovered firearm was identified as the weapon firing the fatal bullets which were recovered from the victim during the autopsy. During March 1995, this case was given to the Commonwealth Attorney's Office for review and approval to obtain murder warrants. As of September 15, 1995, the Commonwealth Attorney's Office has not made a decision to proceed forward with this case. This may seem like a long period of time for the Commonwealth Attorney's Office to have this case but it isn't. Since the suspect and his whereabouts are known to the Cold Case Squad, the Commonwealth Attorney's Office need not be in any rush.

In the **Paul Harley** homicide the solvability factor "Have there been leads in the last six months?" was the factor that broke the case. An anonymous caller gave information which implicated Charles Shank and Steven King as the persons who murdered Harley. Additional

investigation revealed Charles Shank was the shooter and Steven King was an accomplice. On April 3, 1995, Charles Shank was found guilty of first degree murder by jury and sentenced to 40 years in prison. On April 21, 1995, Steven King was found guilty of second degree murder by jury and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

In the **Richard Brackenn** incident, the facts of the case (to include the physical evidence was inconsistent with the wife's statement and there was a six million dollar insurance payoff) were given to the Commonwealth Attorney's Office for review and approval to obtain murder warrants. During January 1995, the Commonwealth Attorney's Office decided not to prosecute the case because "there is no provable motive and/or criminal culpability." Since the Commonwealth Attorney's Office will not prosecute this case, it has been reclassified as "Closed by Exceptional Means."

## Chapter Five

### Conclusions

Chapter Five is a summary of conclusions based upon the data, findings and knowledge gained while conducting research for this thesis project.

In the **Toland**, **Menjivar** and **Harley** cases, the solvability factor "Have there been any leads in the last six months?" was the primary factor which broke each case. Although this writer doesn't have any research data to back up this conclusion, it is safe to say that many murderers are not arrested due to criminal investigative efforts by the police, but rather from information that comes to the police from the people in the community. For this reason, it is important that members of the media and general public be given as much information as possible about the crime. Information which should be withheld from the public are the critical points and related physical evidence that only the murderer would know.

Nationally, television programs like *Unsolved Mysteries* and *America's Most Wanted* have demonstrated that such programs can be powerful tools in

apprehending dangerous criminals. Locally, programs such as *Crime Solvers*, broadcasting over the radio, television and printing in the newspapers are very effective means of helping to catch the perpetrator. It is important for people of the community to believe their police department will follow through if they take the time and effort to call in information on a case.

Since the leads that broke the **Toland**, **Menjivar** and **Harley** cases were confidential and/or anonymous, it is unclear what relationship the callers had with the murders. However, it is clear their lead along with other investigative information was the cornerstone for the successful apprehension and prosecution of the perpetrator. Most incidents which require police assistance will generate a written report that may later become the foundation of the detective's case in court. Obviously, a homicide investigation has the potential to produce volumes of hand written notes and other recorded information. A large-scale, continuing homicide investigation, involving a relatively substantial number of detectives will create vast amounts of information which will need to be processed quickly

and permanently recorded so this information is available to any one of a number of detectives when needed.

While researching unsolved homicide case files for this thesis project, it quickly became apparent some of the detectives from the past were very lax in preparing complete, accurate, detailed notes and reports. In some cases, original field notes were never found and supplemental reports were ambiguous.

With the O.J. Simpson trial just ending, it must be anticipated courtroom lawyers will try many tricks and tactics to convince the jury to allow their defendant to go free. In several of the unsolved homicide cases, lack of detailed notes could result in grave consequences. The detective's inability to locate pertinent information and familiarize himself with important elements of the case most likely will lead to unfavorable results in a criminal prosecution.

Most detectives from past decades never thought to look to the future and consider if the homicide in question is not solved by the original detective, what can be done to make future follow-ups easier?

Within the past decade, there seems to have been a concerted effort to apply scientific methodology to criminal investigations, especially in the form of computerized information management. The Fairfax County Police Department routinely utilizes outside resources such as HALT and VICAP. Within, the department depends on sophisticated computer systems to store and access its vast data bases.

Computer usage may create a paradox. Unless properly synthesized and analyzed, this data will do little except produce large informational archives. Computers have no doubt made homicide investigation analyses many more times effective than in the past.

Presently, the use of computers provides the detective with the ability to quantify and extrapolate information contained in volumes of case reports. The types of information that can be analyzed is limited only by what is recorded by the investigating officers and the imagination of the person(s) designing the computer input screen. Such information would otherwise be and once was, lost in paper files.

An area which was not researched and appears to have a tremendous impact on how the Cold Case Squad

(and in general, the Fairfax County Police Department) is perceived is the "Fairfax Peer Survivors' Group" (FPSG). The FPSG was established by the Fairfax County Police Department's Victim/Witness Assistance Unit.<sup>37</sup> The FPSG began in 1991 and is comprised of "homicide survivors" whose family member or loved one was the victim of a homicide within Fairfax County. The Director, Ms. Ellis, explained the FPSG meets every other Wednesday evening and offers emotional support and understanding to individuals who are left behind after a death due to homicide. The idea for the support came when Ms. Ellis (and other Victim/Witness counselors) who help Fairfax County crime victims through the various stages of the criminal justice system saw relatives and friends of homicide victims suffering a different kind of grieving process. The families of homicide victims are inflicted by devastating, emotional trauma. Ms. Ellis has seen

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<sup>37</sup> The Victim/Witness Unit is positioned in the Criminal Investigations Bureau in order to ensure immediate and direct help to victims of violent crime. The Victim/Witness Unit function is to assist victims of felony crimes or crimes causing injury or death and help witnesses in prosecution cases to participate effectively in the criminal justice process. The Victim/Witness Unit was established by the Fairfax County Police Department to demonstrate that the criminal justice system is responsive to the needs, concerns and rights of all victims and witnesses. (Personal interview with Ms. Carol Ellis, Director of the Victim/Witness Unit, on September 16, 1995).

shock and apathy, helplessness and terror, overwhelming rage, guilt and intense yearning for the one who is dead. Moreover, relatives and friends of homicide victims also have the added burden of dealing with police, lawyers and others in the criminal justice system.<sup>38</sup> "The criminal justice system is not structured for emotions; it's structured for law," said Ms. Ellis.

From a management point of view, the question may be asked: Is it advantageous for the department to have a Cold Case Squad when staffing and funding is limited? Especially when three cases out of 75 unsolved homicides have been resolved and a fourth case is pending. Overwhelming, the answer to this question is yes. There is no way to place a monetary value on the emotions of homicide survivors. The Cold Case Squad is in a win - win situation. Whenever a cold case is being reopened, as a matter of routine the victim's family is contacted. The Cold Case Squad detective is especially careful not to unjustly raise their hopes. It is explained to the family what has brought about the new, or continuing interest.

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<sup>38</sup> Ellis interview.



This contact with the family lets them know the department has not forgotten them. Additionally, when an arrest is made in a case that is many years old, several things happen. First, any article or other media coverage which depicts a positive image of the department is always welcomed. Secondly, it makes others in the community realize that we as police officers do care about the old cases. Lastly, media coverage on resolving cold cases may generate calls on other unsolved cases.

This researcher can foresee the Cold Case Squad resolving additional unsolved homicides. The members of the squad are experienced, veteran detectives who are self-motivated. The squad is left alone to work the old, unresolved cases and is given sufficient resources. The Cold Case Squad also has the support of the administration. Written guidelines and procedures are now in place for the day to day operations of the squad. The Cold Case Squad's effectiveness will only be limited by the detective's imagination and ingenuity. With these factors in their favor, it is believed the Cold Case Squad will become more effective and continue to turn the liability of time into an asset.

### **The Homicide Detective**

No greater honor will ever be bestowed or a more profound duty imposed than when entrusted with the investigation of the death of a human being.

It is the detective's duty to find facts, regardless of color or creed, without prejudice and to let no power on earth deter the detective from presenting these facts to the court without regard to personality.

Anonymous

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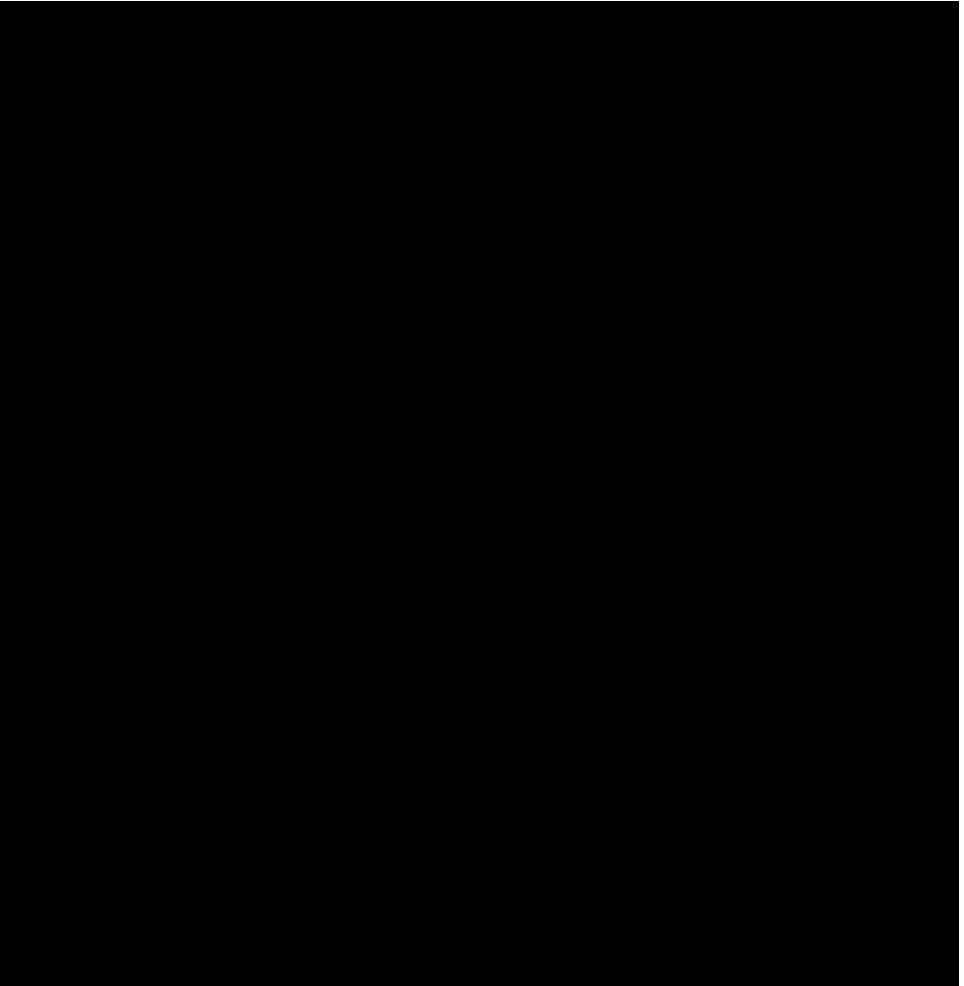


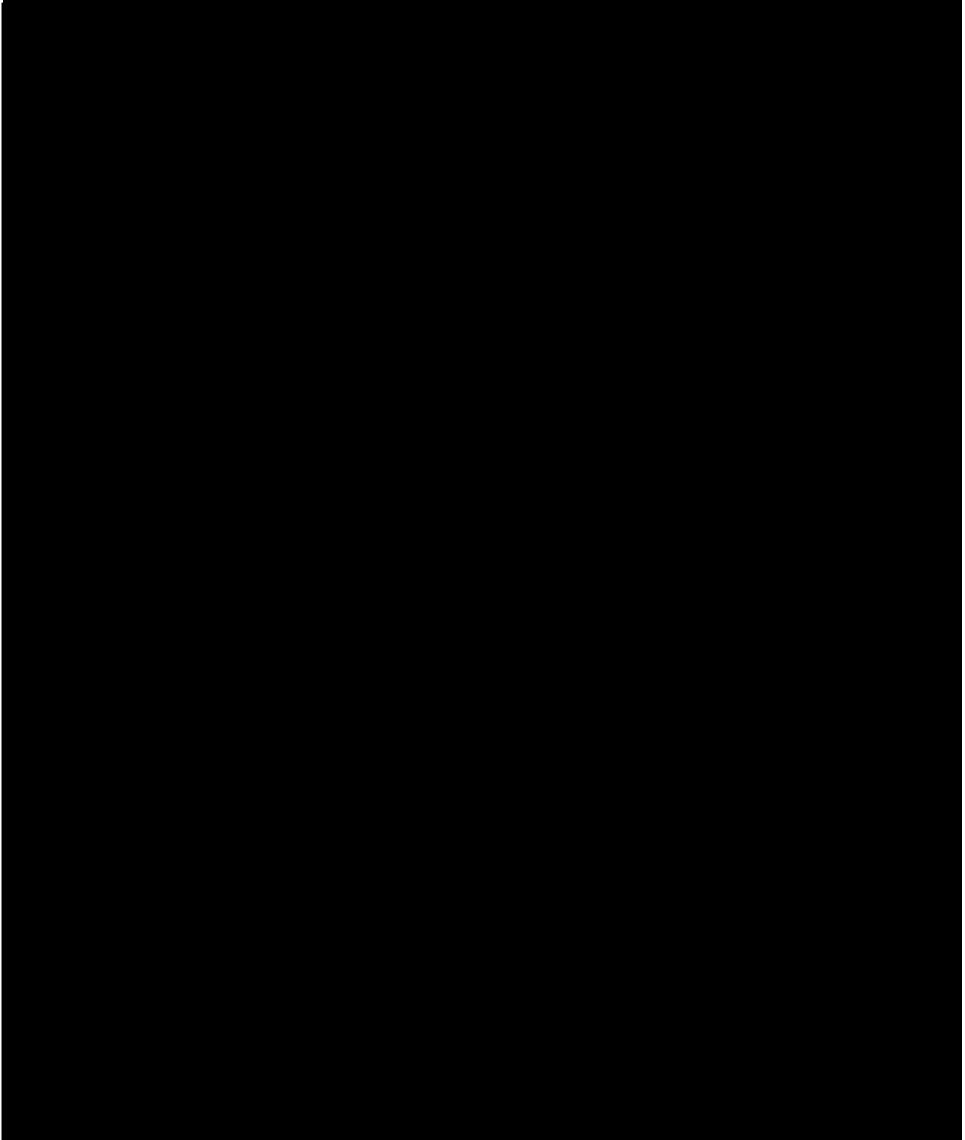
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Vita





LIST OF APPENDIXES

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- B        Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP)  
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          Lead Tracking System (HALT) Crime Analysis  
          Report
- D        Letter of Inquiry Concerning Cold Case Squads
- E        Summary of Study Population with Completed  
          Solvability Factors Worksheets

# **Appendix A**

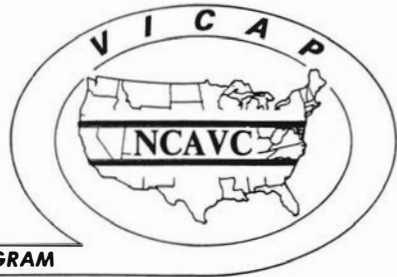
Rochester Police Department  
Investigation Report

1. OFFENSE CLASSIFICATION (INCLUDE DEGREE, FULL SECT/SUB #'S, INDICATE LAW IF NOT PENAL)										2. CR #		IF FIELD, SUPERV. CIRCLE SOLV. FACTORS
CRIME CONTEXT (2 MAX.)												
1. ARSON		3. DRUGS		6. GAMBLING		9. BURGLARY		12. SEX OFFENSE		15. ROBBERY		
2. DOMESTIC OFFENSE		4. D.W.I. & TRAFFIC		7. MURDER		10. PROSTITUTION		13. STOLEN VEHICLE		16. LARCENY		
3. TIME OF OCCURRENCE		5. FORGERY & #RAUD		8. ASSAULT		11. PUBLIC ORDER		14. WEAPONS		17. CRIMINAL MISCHIEF		
DOW M D Y T		4. WHEN REPORTED		DOW M D Y T		5. LOCATION OF OFFENSE (HOUSE #, STREET NAME, APT #)				SEC.		
DISPATCHED TO												
6. VICTIM (LAST NAME, FIRST NAME)				7. VICTIMS ADDRESS (HOUSE #, STREET NAME, APT. #)				8. RESIDENCE PHONE				
9. VICTIM TYPE		10. D.O.B.		11. SEX		12. RACE		13. ETHNICITY		17. FACIT REFERRAL		
										YES NO		
14. VICTIM ALTERNATIVE CONTACT ADDRESS/PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT				15. PHONE		16. VICTIM'S RELATIONSHIP TO SUSPECT						
18. VICTIM INJURY LEVEL		19. VICTIM INJURY TYPE		20. WHERE HOSPITALIZED		21. ATTENDING OR PRONOUNCNG PHYSICIAN (DATE AND TIME)		22. TREATMENT STATUS				
23. WAS THERE A WITNESS TO THE OFFENSE?										IF NO PLACE AN X IN BOX A		A.
24. INDICATE WITH CODE, PERSONS RELATIONSHIP TO INVESTIGATION: W - WITNESS, NI - NOT INTERVIEWED, R - REPORTING PERSON, PK - PERSON WITH KNOWLEDGE, NO - INTERVIEWED, NO INFORMATION												
ADDRESS CHECKED (INCL. APT. #)		PERSON INTERVIEWED		SEX RACE D.O.B.		HOME ADDRESS (INCL. APT. #)				DAY EVE		
										DAY EVE		
										DAY EVE		
										DAY EVE		
										DAY EVE		
25. <input type="checkbox"/> SUSPECT VEHICLE		28. YEAR		27. MAKE		28. MODEL		40. CAN A SUSPECT BE NAMED? IF NO PLACE AN X IN BOX B.				
<input type="checkbox"/> STOLEN VEHICLE		29. REGISTRATION NO.		30. STATE		31. TYPE		SUSPECT #1 NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) INCLUDE ANY A-K-A INFO		R.P.O. #		
								41. CAN SUSPECT BE LOCATED? IF NO PLACE AN X IN BOX C.				
								SUSPECT #1 CAN BE LOCATED AT				
32. V.I.N.		33. NYSPIN ENTRY		33. YES NO		42. CAN SUSPECT BE DESCRIBED? IF NO PLACE AN X IN BOX D.		SUSPECT #1				
								DOB SEX RACE ETHNICITY HAIR COLOR HGT WGT				
34. COLOR		35. IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS/DAMAGE/ACCESSORIES		36. REG. OWNERS NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)		37. REG. OWNERS ADDRESS		38. PERSON LAST DRIVING VEHICLE/ADDRESS				
39. AUTO THEFT MET OD		TYPE OF FORCE USED		SUSPECT INJURED		ARRESTED		APPEARANCE TICKET				
43. CAN SUSPECT BE IDENTIFIED? IF YES, BY WHOM?		44. CAN SUSPECT VEHICLE BE IDENTIFIED? IF YES, TIME BROADCAST		45. IS STOLEN PROPERTY TRACEABLE?		46. ARTICLE TYPE? (INDICATE IDENTIFIABLE CHARACTERISTICS IN NARRATIVE)		47. SERIAL #		48. MAKE		
								49. MODEL		50. COLOR		
								51. T.T		52. VALUE		
										53. TOTAL VALUE STOLEN		
										54. TOTAL VALUE DAMAGED		
55. WERE FIREARMS USED/INVOLVED? IF YES, THEN COMPLETE BOXES BELOW.										TELETYPE SENT <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
<input type="checkbox"/> STOLEN <input type="checkbox"/> COMPENSATION		57. MANUFACTURER		58. CAL./GAUGE		59. SERIAL NO.		60. MODEL		61. ACTION		
<input type="checkbox"/> POSSESSION <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER										62. TYPE		
63. PISTOL PERMIT NUMBER		ISSUE DATE		64. CAPACITY		65. BARREL LENGTH		66. FINISH		67. OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS		
68. COUNTY		JUDGE										
69. LOCATION TYPE		69. POINT OF CRIME		70. ENTRY TYPE		71. ENTRY POINT		72. ENTRY AREA		73. ASSAULT/MOMDIE CIRCUMSTANCES		
										74. LARCENY TYPE		
75. RELATED CR #		76. DOMESTIC OFFENSE		77. BIAS CRIME		78. PROP. INV.		79. CITY PROP. DAMAGE		80. SRR FILED		
										81. OFFICER INJURED		
82. IS THERE A SIGNIFICANT M.D. PRESENT? IF YES, DESCRIBE IN NARRATIVE										IF NO PLACE AN X IN BOX H		H.
83. IS THERE SIGNIFICANT PHYSICAL EVIDENCE PRESENT? IF YES, DESCRIBE IN NARRATIVE										IF NO PLACE AN X IN BOX I		I.
84. HAS EVIDENCE/TECH WORK BEEN PERFORMED? REQUESTED? TECH WORK PERFORMED/REQUESTED: <input type="checkbox"/> PHOTO <input type="checkbox"/> FINGERPRINT <input type="checkbox"/> COMPOSITE OTHER _____ BY: _____										IF NO PLACE AN X IN BOX J		J.
85. IS THERE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION CANNOT BE COMPLETED AT THIS TIME? IF NO PLACE AN X IN BOX K										IF NO PLACE AN X IN BOX K		K.
86. FALSE STATEMENTS MADE HEREIN ARE PUNISHABLE AS A CLASS A MISDEMEANOR PURSUANT TO SECTION 20.45 OF THE NEW YORK STATE PENAL LAW.										SIGNATURE OF PERSON FILING REPORT		DATE
87. Are there significant solvability factors present or other information requiring follow-up?										88. REPORTING OFFICER		ID #
<input type="checkbox"/> NO. OFFICE <input type="checkbox"/> YES, FIELD <input type="checkbox"/> YES, CLOSED												91. XC TO:
89. SUPERVISORY REVIEW CLASSIFICATION/SIGNATURE										90. FIELD SUPERVISORY DECISION		1
ID #										<input type="checkbox"/> OFFICE <input type="checkbox"/> FIELD		
										<input type="checkbox"/> ARREST <input type="checkbox"/> NO ARREST		<input type="checkbox"/> WARRANT ADVISED <input type="checkbox"/> UNFOUNDED
										<input type="checkbox"/> NO PROSECUTION <input type="checkbox"/> JUVENILE DIVERSION		



## **Appendix B**

Violent Criminal Apprehension  
Program Crime Analysis Report  
(VICAP)



**VIOLENT CRIMINAL APPREHENSION PROGRAM**

# VICAP

## Crime Analysis Report



**NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE ANALYSIS OF VIOLENT CRIME**

## HOW TO COMPLETE THE VICAP CRIME ANALYSIS REPORT FORM

### VICAP SUBMISSION CRITERIA

The VICAP Crime Analysis Report form has been designed to collect information regarding the following types of crimes whether or not the offender has been arrested or identified:

- (1) Solved or unsolved homicides or attempts, especially those that involve an abduction; are apparently random, motiveless, or sexually oriented; or are known or suspected to be part of a series.
- (2) Missing person, where the circumstances indicate a strong possibility of foul play and the victim is still missing.
- (3) Unidentified dead bodies, where the manner of death is known or suspected to be homicide.

***Cases where the offender has been arrested or identified should be submitted so unsolved cases in the VICAP system can be linked to known offenders.***

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink or pencil. Legibly print all written responses.
- Unless stated otherwise, check as many boxes as apply for each item.
- If in doubt about how to respond to a given item, be guided by your experience and good judgment. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is not required, but do not guess either.
- If there are details of the case that you feel are important but that do not fit well into the items provided in the VICAP Crime Analysis Report, describe them in the narrative.
- If you wish to supplement or correct information previously reported to VICAP, submit a new VICAP Crime Analysis Report but complete only Items 1 through 18, 27 and 36 plus the Item(s) you wish to supplement or correct. You need not resubmit unchanged items.
- For advice or assistance regarding this report or its completion, call VICAP at (703) 640-6131.
- If you are submitting this VICAP Crime Analysis Report in conjunction with a request for a criminal personality profile evaluation, you **must** contact the **CRIMINAL PROFILE COORDINATOR** assigned to the FBI Field Division in your area. The **CRIMINAL PROFILE COORDINATOR** is charged with the responsibility of assisting you with your request for a criminal personality profile and will advise you of additional materials that must be submitted in order to evaluate your case properly. He/she will review the materials and will submit the entire profile package to the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime on your behalf. **Do not submit Criminal Personality Profiling case materials directly to VICAP.** Only the VICAP Crime Analysis Report should be submitted directly to VICAP.
- **Multiple victims & multiple offenders**

If your incident has **MULTIPLE VICTIMS**, you must complete a separate VICAP Crime Analysis Report form for each victim. Offender information need not be duplicated.

If your incident has **MULTIPLE OFFENDERS**, submit only one complete VICAP Crime Analysis Report per victim; xerox and attach additional offender page(s) (Items 55 through 84) to each Report as needed.

**Examples:**

- 1) For two (2) victims and one (1) offender, you must complete two (2) VICAP Crime Analysis Report forms (one for each victim). Do not duplicate the Offender information (Items 55 through 84) in the second Report.
  - 2) For two (2) victims and two (2) offenders, you must complete two (2) VICAP Crime Analysis Report forms. Victim #1 and offender #1 would go on the first Report form and victim #2 and offender #2 would go on the second Report form.
  - 3) For one (1) victim and two (2) offenders, you must complete one (1) VICAP Crime Analysis Report form. The victim and offender #1 would be reported in the body of the VICAP Crime Analysis Report form, and offender #2 would be reported by copying an additional offender page (Items 55 through 84), completing it, and attaching it to the VICAP Crime Analysis Report.
- Before submitting the VICAP Crime Analysis Report, make a copy for your records.
  - Mail all VICAP Crime Analysis Reports, Supplements, and/or Corrections to:  
VICAP  
National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime  
FBI Academy  
Quantico, VA 22135.
  - Enclosing Crime Scene Photographs with the VICAP Crime Analysis Report will assist the VICAP staff in the evaluation of the case.
  - A VICAP Case Number will be assigned to your case when it is processed and will be provided to you as soon as possible. The VICAP Case Number should be referenced in any subsequent correspondence or telephone communications with VICAP regarding the case.
  - The Narrative Summary is intended to provide VICAP Analysts with a general overview of the case. Minute details of the investigation need not be provided here; the VICAP Crime Analysis Report will capture most of the detail necessary to complete the analysis. A person unfamiliar with your case, however, should have at least a general idea of what happened after reading your brief narrative.

**Examples:**

- 1) The partially decomposed body of an adult female was discovered in a wooded area of a state park, one-quarter mile from a major state highway. There are indications of sexual assault. Victim died of gunshot wounds. It appears that the victim was not killed at the body recovery site. The victim's whereabouts prior to her death have not been established.
- 2) Female juvenile was last seen at school. Investigation indicates that she was possibly abducted at or near the school while en route home. The victim has not returned nor has her body been recovered. Investigation indicates that it is unlikely that the victim is a runaway or that she disappeared of her own accord. This case is strikingly similar to one that occurred approximately 8 months ago in the same vicinity.
- 3) The reported offender entered a locked single-family residence occupied by a man, his wife, and 2 infant children. While the offender was gathering property in the residence, the husband confronted the offender. The husband was shot immediately and died. The wife responded after hearing the gunshot and was physically restrained by the offender. The offender hit her repeatedly with his fists, forced her to commit oral sex, and raped her repeatedly. The wife survived the attack. The children were not assaulted. The offender left the residence, and a vehicle was heard to leave the area. Offender arrested during the commission of a burglary in the same neighborhood one week later.

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DO NOT COMPLETE THIS REPORT WITHOUT FIRST READING INSTRUCTIONS

**I. ADMINISTRATION****CASE ADMINISTRATION**

## FOR VICAP USE ONLY

1. VICAP Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. FBI Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. FBI OO: \_\_\_\_\_ 4. VICAP Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. Reporting Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
 6. Address: \_\_\_\_\_ 7. City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 8. County: \_\_\_\_\_ 9. State: \_\_\_\_\_ 10. ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 11. Reporting Agency's ORI Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 12. Reporting Agency's Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 13. NCIC Number If Victim Is 1) Missing or 2) an Unidentified Dead Body: \_\_\_\_\_  
 14. Investigator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 15. Investigator's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 16. VICAP Crime Analysis Report Type:  
 1  Original Submission of This Case  
 2  Supplement to Previously Submitted Information  
 3  Correction of Previously Submitted Information  
 17. Investigating Agency's Case Status:  
 1  Open (active investigation) 4  Cleared by Arrest  
 2  Suspended (inactive investigation) 5  Exceptionally Cleared (by UCR definition)  
 3  Open — Arrest Warrant Issued

**CRIME CLASSIFICATION**

18. This VICAP Crime Analysis Report Pertains to the Following Type Case (check one only):  
 1  Murder or Attempted Murder — Victim Identified (go to Item 19)  
 2  Unidentified Dead Body Where Manner of Death Is Known or Suspected to Be Homicide (go to Item 19)  
 3  Kidnapping or Missing Person with Evidence of Foul Play (victim still missing) (go to Item 20)  
 19. Based on Your Experience and the Results of the Investigation of This Case, Do You Believe This Offender Has Killed Before?  
 1  Yes (explain in Narrative Summary) 99  Unable to Determine  
 2  No  
 20. There Is an Indication That This Case Is Related to Organized Drug Trafficking:  
 1  Yes 2  No 99  Unable to Determine

**DATE AND TIME PARAMETERS**

21. Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
 (mo) (da) (yr)
- |                             | Date                                | Military Time | Exact                    | Approximate              |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 22. Victim Last Seen:       | _____/_____/_____<br>(mo) (da) (yr) | _____         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23. Death or Major Assault: | _____/_____/_____<br>(mo) (da) (yr) | _____         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24. Victim or Body Found    | _____/_____/_____<br>(mo) (da) (yr) | _____         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## II. VICTIM INFORMATION

### VICTIM STATUS

25. This Is Victim \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Victim(s) in This Incident.  
(number) (total)
26. Status of This Victim:  
 1  Deceased (as result of this incident)  
 2  Survivor of Attack  
 3  Missing

### VICTIM IDENTIFICATION

27. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(last, first, middle)
28. Alias(es) (including maiden name and prior married names):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
29. Resident City: \_\_\_\_\_ 30. State: \_\_\_\_\_ 31. ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_
32. Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ 33. FBI Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

34. Sex:  
 1  Male                                      2  Female                                      99  Unknown
35. Race:  
 1  Black    3  Hispanic    5  Other  
 2  Caucasian                                      4  Oriental/Asian                                      99  Unknown
36. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
(mo) / (da) / (yr)  
 99  Unknown
37. Age (or best estimate) at Time of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_  
 99  Unknown (years)
38. Height (or best estimate): \_\_\_\_\_ feet \_\_\_\_\_ inches  
 99  Unknown
39. Approximate Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ lbs.  
 99  Unknown
40. Build (check one only):  
 1  Small (thin)    3  Large (stocky)  
 2  Medium (average)                                      99  Unknown
41. Hair Length (check one only):  
 1  Bald or Shaved    4  Shoulder Length  
 2  Shorter Than Collar Length                                      5  Longer Than Shoulder Length  
 3  Collar Length    99  Unknown
42. Hair Shade (check one only):  
 1  Light    3  Neither 1 or 2 Above  
 2  Dark    99  Unknown
43. Predominant Hair Color (check one only):  
 1  Gray and/or White    5  Black  
 2  Blond    6  Other  
 3  Red    99  Unknown  
 4  Brown

If your victim is either a missing person or an unidentified dead body, respond to Items 44 through 48. Otherwise, go to Item 49.

44. Abnormalities of Teeth:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> None              | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Decayed             | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): _____ |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Braces            | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Noticeable Gaps     | _____  |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Broken or Chipped | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Some or All Missing | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown                |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Crooked           | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Stained             |  |

45. Glasses or Corrective Lenses Normally Worn by or Associated with Victim:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> None          | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Metal Frame             |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Prescription  | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Rimless                 |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Contacts      | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): _____ |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Bifocals      | _____  |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic Frame | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown                |

**SCARS AND/OR BIRTHMARKS**

46. Location of Noticeable Scars or Birthmarks (not tattoos):

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> None                | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Torso          | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): _____ |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Face, Head, or Neck | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Buttocks       | _____  |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Arm(s) or Hand(s)   | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Feet or Leg(s) | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown                |

**TATTOOS**

47. Tattoo Locations:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> None                | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Torso          | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): _____ |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Face, Head, or Neck | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Buttocks       | _____  |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Arm(s) or Hand(s)   | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Feet or Leg(s) | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown                |

48. Tattoo Designs:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Initials or Words       | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Number(s)               | _____   |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Picture(s) or Design(s) | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown               |

**OUTSTANDING PHYSICAL FEATURES**

49. Did the Victim Have Outstanding Physical Features (crossed eyes, noticeable limp, physical deformity, etc.)? (Do not repeat information reported in Items 44 through 48, above.)

- 1  Yes (describe): \_\_\_\_\_
- 2  No
- 99  Unknown

**CLOTHING OF VICTIM**

50. Generally Preferred Clothing Style (this item deals with general style of dress typically preferred by the victim, not a detailed clothing description):

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Business Suit     | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Work Clothes or Uniform  |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Casual            | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): _____ |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Gaudy or Garish   | _____   |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Sport or Athletic | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown                 |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Western Wear      |   |

51. Generally Preferred Predominant Color Tone of Clothing

(check one only):

- |                                    |  |   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Whites  | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Blues           | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Browns/Tans  |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Yellows | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Purples/Violets | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Grays/Blacks |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Greens  | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Reds/Oranges    |   |

52. If This Victim Is a Missing Person or Unidentified Dead, Give a Detailed Description of Clothing:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**MISCELLANEOUS**

53. Victim's Residence (check one only):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Single-Family Dwelling         | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicle |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Family Dwelling          | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Street        |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary or Transient Housing | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown      |

54. Current Occupation(s): 1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_



### III. OFFENDER INFORMATION

**OFFENDER DEFINED.** As used in this VICAP Crime Analysis Report, "offender" includes arrestees, perpetrators, or persons the investigator has reasonable cause to believe are responsible for the commission of the crime.

#### OFFENDER STATUS

55. This Is Offender \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Offender(s) in This Incident.  
(number) (total)

56. The Offender Is (check one only):

- 1  Unknown—Not Seen (go to Item 85)  
 2  Unknown—Seen  
 3  Identified (named)—Not in Custody  
 4  In Custody  
 5  Deceased

#### OFFENDER IDENTIFICATION

57. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(last, first, middle)

58. Alias(es) (including maiden name and prior married names):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

59. Resident City: \_\_\_\_\_ 60. State: \_\_\_\_\_ 61. ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

62. Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ 63. FBI Number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

64. Sex:

- 1  Male                      2  Female                      99  Unknown

65. Race:

- 1  Black                      3  Hispanic                      5  Other  
 2  Caucasian                      4  Oriental/Asian                      99  Unknown

66. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
(mo) / (da) / (yr)

99  Unknown

67. Age (or best estimate) at Time of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

99  Unknown (years)

68. Height (or best estimate): \_\_\_\_ feet \_\_\_\_ inches (to \_\_\_\_ feet \_\_\_\_ inches)

99  Unknown

69. Build (check one only):

- 1  Small (thin)                      3  Large (stocky)  
 2  Medium (average)                      99  Unknown

70. Hair Length (check one only):

- 1  Bald or Shaved                      4  Shoulder Length  
 2  Shorter Than Collar Length                      5  Longer Than Shoulder Length  
 3  Collar Length                      99  Unknown

71. Hair Shade (check one only):

- 1  Light                      3  Neither 1 or 2 Above  
 2  Dark                      99  Unknown

72. Predominant Hair Color (check one only):

- 1  Gray and/or White                      5  Black  
 2  Blond                      6  Other  
 3  Red                      99  Unknown  
 4  Brown

73. Was Wearing Glasses: 1  Yes 2  No 99  Unknown
74. Facial Hair (check all that apply): 1  None 3  Beard 99  Unknown  
2  Mustache 4  Other
75. Appeared Generally Well Groomed: 1  Yes 2  No 99  Unknown
76. Offender Wore a Disguise or Mask: 1  Yes 2  No 99  Unknown

**SCARS AND/OR BIRTHMARKS**

77. Noticeable Scars or Birthmarks (not tattoos): 1  Yes 2  No 99  Unknown

**TATTOOS**

78. Noticeable Tattoos: 1  Yes 2  No 99  Unknown

**OUTSTANDING PHYSICAL FEATURES**

79. Other Outstanding Physical Features of the Offender Not Reported Above (crossed eyes, noticeable limp, physical deformity, etc.):
- 1  Yes (describe): \_\_\_\_\_
- 2  No
- 99  Unknown

**IV. IDENTIFIED OFFENDER INFORMATION**

If you have an offender in custody or identified in this case, complete Items 80 through 84. Otherwise, go to Item 85.

**OFFENDER BACKGROUND**

80. Cities and States of Residence during Last 5 Years (exclude current city of residence):
- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_
81. List the States the Offender Has Visited during Last 5 Years (attach separate sheet if necessary):
- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_
82. Foreign Countries Lived or Traveled in:
- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPERTY OF OTHERS**

83. Offender Was in Possession of Property of Others (check all that apply):
- 1  Body Parts 4  Jewelry
- 2  Clothing 5  Photo(s)
- 3  Credit Card(s), Checks, or other I.D. 88  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFENDER'S ADMISSIONS**

84. Offender Admits Other Similar Crime(s) of Violence:
- 1  Yes (attach details) 2  No

## V. VEHICLE DESCRIPTION

### VEHICLE USED IN THIS INCIDENT

85. Is a Vehicle Known to Have Been Used in This Incident?  
 1  Yes 2  No or Unknown (go to Item 96)
- NOTE: Complete vehicle information if 1) a vehicle was used by the offender in this incident; or 2) this is a missing person case and the vehicle is missing; or 3) this is an unidentified dead case and the vehicle has been connected with the victim; or 4) the vehicle is in any way significantly involved in this incident.
86. Did the Vehicle Belong to, or Was It under the Civil Control of, the Victim?  
 1  Yes 2  No
87. The Vehicle Would Normally Be Described as Being:  
 1  Exceptionally Well Maintained ("sharp") 3  Neither 1 or 2 Above  
 2  Not Generally Well Kept ("beat-up") 99  Unknown
88. The Vehicle Would Normally Be Described as Being:  
 1  Newer/Late Model 3  Neither 1 or 2 Above  
 2  Older Model 99  Unknown
89. License Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 90. License State: \_\_\_\_\_
91. Vehicle Year: \_\_\_\_\_ 92. Make: \_\_\_\_\_ 93. Model: \_\_\_\_\_
94. Body Style:  
 1  Passenger Car 6  Motorcycle  
 2  Van 88  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 3  Pick-up Truck  
 4  "Jeep" Type (i.e., Bronco, Blazer, etc.) 99  Unknown  
 5  Tractor-Trailer
95. Color: \_\_\_\_\_ (top) \_\_\_\_\_ (bottom)

## VI. OFFENSE M. O.

### OFFENDER'S APPROACH TO VICTIM AT TIME OF INCIDENT

96. The Victim or a Witness Reported That the Offender's Approach to Victim Was:  
 1  No Living Victim or Person Witnessed the Offender's Approach to Victim (go to Item 100)  
 2  By Deception or Con: Openly, with Subterfuge or Ploy (e.g., offers assistance or requests direction) (go to Item 97 and then go to Item 100)  
 3  By Surprise: Lay in Wait or Stepped from Concealment (go to Item 98 and then go to Item 100)  
 4  By "Blitz": Direct and Immediate Physical Assault (go to Item 99)
97. If the Offender Initiated Contact with the Victim by Means of Deception, Indicate the Type of Deception Below:  
 1  Posed as Authority Figure 7  Asked for or Offered Assistance  
 2  Posed as Business Person 8  Caused or Staged Traffic Accident  
 3  Asked Victim to Model or Pose for Photos 9  Phony Police Traffic Stop  
 4  Offered Job, Money, Treats, or Toys 10  Solicitation for Sex  
 5  Implied Family Emergency or Illness 11  Offered Ride or Transportation  
 6  Wanted to Show (something) 12  Other Deception
98. If the Offender Initiated Contact with the Victim by Means of Surprise, Indicate the Type of Surprise Below:  
 1  Lay in Wait—Out of Doors 4  Victim Sleeping  
 2  Lay in Wait—In Building 5  Other Surprise  
 3  Lay in Wait—In Vehicle

99. If the Offender Initiated Contact with the Victim by Direct and Immediate Physical Assault, Indicate the Type of Direct and Immediate Physical Assault Below:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Immediately and Physically Over-powered Victim (picked up, carried away, etc.) | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Choked Victim        |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hit Victim with Hand, Fist, or Clubbing Weapon                                 | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Stabbed Victim       |
|   | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Shot Victim          |
|   | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Other Direct Assault |

#### EXACT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

100. Last Known Location of Identified Victim or Location of Unidentified Dead Body Recovery Site:

- a.  City of (if within incorporated city, town, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- b.  County of (if not within incorporated city, town, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- c. State: \_\_\_\_\_ d. ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

#### LOCATION OF EVENTS

##### BODY RECOVERY SITE

101. Description of General Area of the Body Recovery Site (check one only):

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Rural    | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Urban    |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |

102. The Neighborhood of the Body Recovery Site Is Predominantly (check one only):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Business, Industrial, or Commercial | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Uninhabited or Wilderness |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Farm or Agricultural                | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown                  |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Residential                         |  |

103. The Body Recovery Site Was (check as many as apply):

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Any Residence                     | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> In an Open Field         |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> At or Near a School or Playground | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> In a Vehicle             |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> In a Retail Shopping District     | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> On Public Transportation |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> On a Public Street                | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____  |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> In a Vice Area                    |   |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> A Densely Wooded Area             | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown                 |

104. The Body Recovery Site Was Victim's Residence:

- |                                |                               |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

105. The Body Recovery Site Was Victim's Work Place:

- |                                |                               |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

106. Potential Witnesses at the Time the Offender Left the Body at the Body Recovery Site:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Other People Were Present in the Immediate Area | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Area Was Essentially Deserted |
|  | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown                      |

##### MURDER OR MAJOR ASSAULT SITE

107. Was the Murder or Major Assault Site the Same as the Body Recovery Site?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (go to Item 113) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No or Unknown |
|---|--|

108. Description of General Area of Murder or Major Assault Site (check one only):

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Rural    | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Urban    |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |

109. The Neighborhood of Murder or Major Assault Site Is Predominantly (check one only):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Business, Industrial, or Commercial | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Uninhabited or Wilderness |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Farm or Agricultural                | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown                  |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Residential                         |  |

110. The Murder or Major Assault Site Was (check as many as apply):

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Any Residence                     | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> In an Open Field         |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> At or Near a School or Playground | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> In a Vehicle             |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> In a Retail Shopping District     | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> On Public Transportation |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> On a Public Street                | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____  |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> In a Vice Area                    |   |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> A Densely Wooded Area             | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown                 |



125. The Victim's Last Known Location Was Victim's Residence:  
 1  Yes 2  No 99  Unknown

126. The Victim's Last Known Location Was Victim's Work Place:  
 1  Yes 2  No 99  Unknown

#### EVENTS AT ASSAULT SITE

127. There Is Evidence That the Offender Disabled the Telephone, Other Utilities, or Security Devices:  
 1  Yes 2  No 99  Unknown

128. The Property at the Crime Scene(s) Was Ransacked, Vandalized, or Burned:  
 1  Yes 2  No 99  Unknown

129. There Are Indications That the Offender Took Steps to Obliterate or Destroy Evidence at the Scene:  
 1  Yes 2  No 99  Unknown

#### OFFENDER'S WRITING OR CARVING ON BODY OF VICTIM

130. Writing or Carving on Body:  
 1  Yes (describe): \_\_\_\_\_ 2  No

131. Instrument Used to Write or Carve on Body:  
 1  Knife or Other Sharp Instrument 4  Writing Instrument (pen, etc.)  
 2  Blood 88  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 3  Lipstick \_\_\_\_\_

#### OFFENDER'S WRITING OR DRAWING AT THE CRIME SCENE

132. Writing or Drawing at Crime Scene(s):  
 1  Yes (describe): \_\_\_\_\_ 2  No

133. Instrument Used to Write or Draw at Crime Scene(s):  
 1  Knife or Other Sharp Instrument 4  Writing Instrument (pen, etc.)  
 2  Blood 88  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 3  Lipstick \_\_\_\_\_

#### SYMBOLIC ARTIFACTS AT CRIME SCENE

134. Was There Evidence to Suggest a Deliberate or Unusual Ritual/Act/Thing Had Been Performed on, with, or near the Victim (such as an orderly formation of rocks, burnt candles, dead animals, defecation, etc.)?  
 1  Yes (describe): \_\_\_\_\_ 2  No  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 99  Unknown

#### OFFENDER'S COMMUNICATIONS

Item 135 deals with communications initiated by the offender with respect to the crime. Examples would be: an offender sending a letter or tape recording to the police or media claiming responsibility for the crime; a ransom note; or a suspicious communication received by the victim prior to the crime. (This item does not refer to conversation between the offender and victim during commission of the crime.)

135. Was There Any Communication from the Offender Before or After the Crime?  
 1  Yes (enclose a copy or synopsis of the communication) 2  No  
 99  Unknown



**CLOTHING AND PROPERTY OF VICTIM**

150. Clothing on Victim When Found:  
 1  Fully Dressed  
 2  Partially Undressed  
 3  Nude  
 88  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
151. There Is Evidence the Victim Was Re-dressed by Offender:  
 1  Yes  
 2  No  
 3  Unable to Determine
152. There Is Evidence to Suggest That Any or All of the Victim's Clothing had been Ripped or Torn:  
 1  Yes  
 2  No  
 3  Unable to Determine
153. There Is Evidence to Suggest That Any or All of the Victim's Clothing had been Cut from the Body:  
 1  Yes  
 2  No  
 3  Unable to Determine
154. Items of the Victim's Clothing Were Missing from the Body Recovery Site:  
 1  Yes (identify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 2  No  
 99  Unknown
155. Victim's Clothing (not on the body) Recovered at the Body Recovery Site Was:  
 1  Piled Neatly  
 2  Scattered  
 3  Hidden  
 4  Not Applicable
156. Based on the Investigation, There Is Evidence to Suggest That the Offender Took Small Personal Items (other than clothing) From the Victim (these items may or may not be valuable, e.g., photos, driver's license, real or costume jewelry, etc.):  
 1  Yes (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 2  No  
 99  Unknown

**VIII. CAUSE OF DEATH AND/OR TRAUMA****CAUSE OF DEATH**

If victim is a survivor, go to Item 158.

157. Medical Examiner's or Coroner's Officially Listed Cause of Death:
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Gunshot Wound(s)   | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Burns --- Fire              |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Stab Wound(s)  | 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Burns --- Chemical          |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Cutting or Incise Wound(s)                                       | 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Burns --- Scalding          |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Blunt Force Injury   | 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Hypothermia or Exposure     |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Strangulation --- Manual, Ligature,<br>Undetermined (circle one) | 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Malnutrition or Dehydration |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Smothering   | 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Electrocutation             |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Airway Occlusion --- Internal                                    | 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Crushing Injury             |
| 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Torso Compression  | 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Explosive Trauma            |
| 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Hanging  | 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined                |
| 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Drowning  | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____      |

**TRAUMA**

158. Major Trauma Location(s) (check as many as apply):
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Head / Face / Neck | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Genitalia               |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Arm(s) / Hand(s)   | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Anus                    |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Torso              | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Leg(s) / Feet      | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Determine    |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Breast(s)          |  |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Buttocks           |  |
159. Extent of Blunt Force Injury:
- 1  None
  - 2  Minimal (minor bruising only, possibly caused by offender's slapping to control the victim)
  - 3  Moderate (injury inflicted which in itself could not have caused death)
  - 4  Severe (injury which in itself could have caused death, whether it was the cause of death or not)
  - 5  Extreme (injury inflicted beyond that necessary for death. Overkill)



## VIII. CAUSE OF DEATH AND/OR TRAUMA (cont.)

160. Estimated Number of Stab Wounds: \_\_\_\_\_
161. Estimated Number of Cutting Wounds: \_\_\_\_\_
162. Number of Entry Gunshot Wounds: \_\_\_\_\_
163. Range of Gunfire:
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable                       | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Close (powder residue / tattooing) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Distant (no stippling / tattooing)   | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Contact                            |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate (stippling / tattooing) |   |

### BITE MARKS ON VICTIM

164. Bite Marks Were Identified on the Victim's Body:
- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No (go to Item 166) |
|--------------------------------|--|
165. Location of Bite Marks:
- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Face      | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Groin                   |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Neck      | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Genitalia               |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen   | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Thigh(s)                |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Breast(s) | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Buttocks  |  |

### ELEMENTS OF TORTURE OR UNUSUAL ASSAULT

166. There Is Evidence to Suggest That the Offender Disfigured the Body of the Victim in Order to Delay or Hinder Identification of the Victim (burned body; removed and took hands, feet, head; etc.):
- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
167. Elements of Unusual or Additional Assault upon Victim:
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> None                                | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Offender Explored, Probed, or Mutilated Cavities or Wounds of Victim |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Victim Whipped                      | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____  |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Burns on Victim                     |   |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Victim Run Over by Vehicle          |   |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of Cannibalism / Vampirism |   |
168. Body Parts Removed by Offender:
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> None (go to Item 170) | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Arm(s)                 |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Head                  | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Leg(s)                 |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Scalp                 | 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Breast(s)              |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Face                  | 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Nipple(s)              |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Teeth                 | 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Anus                   |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Eye(s)                | 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Genitalia              |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Ear(s)                | 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Internal Organs        |
| 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Nose                  | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |
| 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Hand(s)               |  |
169. Dismemberment Method:
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Bitten Off                | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Sawed Off               |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Cut — Skilled/Surgical    | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Cut — Unskilled/Rough-Cut |  |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Hacked / Chopped Off      |  |

### SEXUAL ASSAULT

170. Is There Evidence of an Assault to Any of the Victim's Sexual Organs or Body Cavities?
- |                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No (go to Item 178) | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Determine |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
171. Type Sexual Assault, or Attempt (check all that apply):
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Vaginal                               | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): _____ |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Anal                                  |   |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Victim Performed Oral Sex on Offender | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Determine     |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Offender Performed Oral Sex on Victim |   |

172. Semen Identification In a Body Cavity of the Victim:  
 1  No 3  In Anus 5  Unable to Determine  
 2  In Vagina 4  In Mouth
173. Evidence of Other Ejaculation:  
 1  No 3  Elsewhere at the Scene  
 2  On Body of Victim 4  Unable to Determine
174. There Is Evidence to Suggest Postmortem Sexual Assault:  
 1  Yes 2  No 3  Unable to Determine
175. Is There Evidence of Sexual Insertion of Foreign Object(s) (other than the penis) into the Victim's Body?  
 1  Yes 2  No (go to Item 178)
176. Evidence of Sexual Insertion of Foreign Object(s) Still in Body When First Discovered  
 (e.g., rocks, twigs, knife, clothing):  
 (object) (object)  
 1  Vagina \_\_\_\_\_ 4  Mouth \_\_\_\_\_  
 2  Penis \_\_\_\_\_ 88  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 3  Anus \_\_\_\_\_
177. There Is Evidence of Sexual Insertion of Foreign Object(s) into Victim's Body, but the Object Was Not In The Body When the Body Was First Discovered:  
 1  Yes --- \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_  
 2  No (describe object) \_\_\_\_\_ (body cavity)  
 3  Unable to Determine

**IX. FORENSIC EVIDENCE**

**WEAPONS**

178. Weapons Used by Offender in This Assault:  
 1  None 5  Ligature  
 2  Firearm 6  Hands or Feet  
 3  Stabbing or Cutting Weapon 88  Other Weapon (describe): \_\_\_\_\_  
 4  Bludgeon or Club \_\_\_\_\_
179. Assault Weapon(s) Used by Offender:  
 1  Weapon of Opportunity (offender finds weapon at or near scene)  
 2  Weapon of Choice (offender preselects weapon and brings to scene)  
 3  Both 1 and 2 Above  
 99  Unknown
180. Recovery of Assault Weapon(s) (check as many as apply):  
 1  Not Recovered 3  Recovered Elsewhere --- Where? \_\_\_\_\_  
 2  Recovered At Scene \_\_\_\_\_
181. Type Firearm Used:  
 1  Handgun 88  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 2  Rifle \_\_\_\_\_  
 3  Shotgun 99  Unknown \_\_\_\_\_
182. Caliber or Gauge of Firearm(s) Used: \_\_\_\_\_
183. Number of Grooves and Direction of Twist of Recovered Bullet or Firearm: \_\_\_\_\_
184. Size of Shotgun Shell Pellets Recovered or Used: \_\_\_\_\_

**BLOOD**

185. What Is the Offender's Blood Type?  
 1  A 3  AB 99  Unknown  
 2  B 4  O
186. What Is the Rh Factor of the Offender's Blood?  
 1  Positive 2  Negative 99  Unknown





Public Reporting Burden for this collection of information is estimated to average two hours per response, including the time for reviewing the instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: VICAP, FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia 22135; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project: OMB #1110-0011, Washington, D.C. 20503.

## **Appendix C**

Virginia State Police  
Homicide Assessment and  
Lead Tracking System  
Crime Analysis Report  
(HALT)

# VIRGINIA STATE POLICE



# HALT

## HOMICIDE ASSESSMENT AND LEAD TRACKING SYSTEM

### *CRIME ANALYSIS REPORT*



IN CONIUNCTION WITH  
US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE ANALYSIS OF VIOLENT CRIME



VIOLENT CRIMINAL APPREHENSION PROGRAM

## HOW TO COMPLETE THE HALT/VICAP CRIME ANALYSIS REPORT FORM

### SUBMISSION CRITERIA

The HALT/VICAP Crime Analysis Report is designed to be submitted on the following types of crimes, whether or not the offender has been arrested or identified:

- (1) Solved or unsolved homicides or attempts, especially those that involve an abduction; are apparently random, motiveless, or sexually oriented; or are known or suspected to be a part of a series.
- (2) Missing persons, where the circumstances indicate a strong possibility of foul play and the victim is still missing.
- (3) Unidentified dead bodies, where the manner of death is known or suspected to be homicide.

*Cases where the offender has been arrested or identified should be submitted so unsolved cases in the HALT/VICAP system can be linked to known offenders.*

If a crime meets any of the three criteria listed above, the entire HALT/VICAP Crime Analysis Report *must* be filled out, as accurately and completely as possible.

It is understood that a homicide may meet the general criteria established in (1), above, but, is an apparent singular incident. For example, a domestic homicide, or a bar fight which results in a homicide. If you, the principal investigator, feel that the likelihood of the offender being involved in other crimes is negligible, or the likelihood of the weapon being linked to other crimes is negligible, it is necessary to complete only the *boxed numbers* of the form. To aid in determining whether or not to fill out the complete form, consider such things as the relationship between the victim and the offender, the motive for the crime, or the offender's frame of mind. Strong consideration should be given to filling out the complete form in cases involving a male spouse killer, parents who kill children, or children who kill parents or grandparents.

The HALT/VICAP system is designed to provide usable information to benefit all law enforcement, in addition to gathering specific areas of information. The quality of the benefit returned through the system will be commensurate with the quality of the information entered.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink or pencil. Print legibly.
- Unless stated otherwise, check as many boxes as apply for each item.
- If in doubt about how to respond to a given item, be guided by your experience and good judgement. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is not required, but do not guess, either.
- If there are details of the case that you feel are important but that do not fit well into the items provided in the HALT/VICAP form, describe them in the narrative.



**SUBMISSION CRITERIA con't**

- If you wish to supplement or correct information previously reported, submit a new form, but complete only Items H1, 27 and 36 plus the items(s) you wish to supplement or correct. You need not resubmit unchanged items.
- For advice or assistance regarding this report or its completion, call the Virginia State Police Violent Crimes Investigative Unit at (804) 323-2333 or 323-2326.
- If you are submitting this **HALT/VICAP** Crime Analysis Report in conjunction with a request for a criminal investigative analysis, you **must** contact Virginia State Police Violent Crimes Investigative Unit at (804) 323-2333 or the **NCAVC COORDINATOR** assigned to the FBI Field Division in your area.

■ **Multiple victims & multiple offenders**

If your incident has **MULTIPLE VICTIMS**, you must complete a separate **HALT/VICAP** Crime Analysis Report for each victim. Offender information need not be duplicated.

If your incident has **MULTIPLE OFFENDERS**, submit only one complete **HALT/VICAP** Crime Analysis Report per victim; xerox and attach additional offender page(s) (Items 55 through 84) to each report as needed.

**Examples:**

- 1) For two victims and one offender, you must complete two **HALT/VICAP** Crime Analysis Reports (one for each victim). Do not duplicate the offender information (Items 55 through 84) in the second report.
  - 2) For two victims and two offenders, you must complete two **HALT/VICAP** Crime Analysis Reports. Victim No. 1 and offender No. 1 would go on the first report, and victim No. 2 and offender No. 2 would go on the second report.
  - 3) For one victim and two offenders, you must complete one **HALT/VICAP** Crime Analysis Report. The victim and offender No. 1 would be reported in the body of the **HALT/VICAP** Crime Analysis Report, and offender No. 2 would be reported by copying additional offender pages (Items 55 through 84), completing them, and attaching them to the **HALT/VICAP** Crime Analysis Report.
- Before submitting the **HALT/VICAP** Crime Analysis Report, make a copy for your records.
  - Mail all **HALT/VICAP** Crime Analysis Reports, supplements and/or corrections to:  
**HALT**  
Department of State Police  
P.O. Box 27472  
Richmond, Virginia 23261-7472  
Telephone: 804/323-2333

- Enclosing photographs of the crime scene in the HALT/VICAP Crime Analysis Report will assist the HALT and VICAP staffs in the evaluation of the case.
- A HALT/VICAP Case Number will be assigned to your case when it is processed, and will be provided to you as soon as possible. That Case Number should be referenced in any subsequent correspondence or telephone communications with HALT or VICAP regarding the case.
- The Narrative Summary is intended to provide HALT/VICAP Analysts with a general overview of the case. Minute details of the investigation need not be provided here, the HALT/VICAP Crime Analysis Report will capture most of the detail necessary to complete the analysis. A person unfamiliar with your case, however, should have at least a general idea of what happened after reading your brief narrative.

**Examples:**

- 1) The partially decomposed body of an adult female was discovered in a wooded area of a state park, one-quarter mile from a major highway. There are indications of sexual assault. Victim died of gunshot wounds. It appears that the victim was not killed at the body recovery site. The victim's whereabouts prior to her death have not been established.
- 2) Female juvenile was last seen at school. Investigation indicates that she was possibly abducted at or near the school while en route home. The victim has not returned nor has her body been recovered. Investigation indicates that it is unlikely that the victim is a runaway or that she disappeared of her own accord. This case is strikingly similar to one that occurred approximately 8 months ago in the same vicinity.
- 3) The reported offender entered a locked single-family residence occupied by a man, his wife, and 2 infant children. While the offender was gathering property in the residence, the husband confronted the offender. The husband was shot immediately and died. The wife responded after hearing the gunshot and was physically restrained by the offender. The offender hit her repeatedly with his fists, forced her to commit oral sex, and raped her repeatedly. The wife survived the attack. The children were not assaulted. The offender left the residence, and a vehicle was heard to leave the area. Offender arrested during the commission of a burglary in the same neighborhood one week later.

IT IS ONLY NECESSARY TO FILL OUT A HALT FORM TO HAVE YOUR CASE ENTERED INTO BOTH HALT AND VICAP.

# I. ADMINISTRATION

## CASE ADMINISTRATION

ITEMS H1 THROUGH 4 ARE FOR HALT/VICAP USE ONLY

- H1. HALT Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 1. VICAP Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. FBI Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 3. FBI 00: \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. VICAP/HALT Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

**BEGIN HERE**

5. Reporting Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
 6. Address: \_\_\_\_\_ 7. City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 8. County: \_\_\_\_\_ 9. State: \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 11. Reporting Agency's ORI Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 12. Reporting Agency's Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 13. NCIC Number if victim is Missing or an Unidentified Body: \_\_\_\_\_  
 14. Investigator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 15. Investigator's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 16. HALT/VICAP Report Type:  
 1  Original Submission of this case      3  Correction of previous submission  
 2  Supplemental to previous submission  
 17. Investigating Agency's Case Status:  
 1  Open/Active Investigation      4  Cleared by Arrest  
 2  Suspended/Closed      5  Exceptionally Cleared  
 3  Open - Warrant Issued

## CRIME CLASSIFICATION

18. This HALT Report pertains to the following type case (One only):  
 1  Murder or Attempted Murder--victim identified (go to item 19)  
 2  Unidentified Dead Body where manner of death is known or suspected to be Homicide (go to item 19)  
 3  Kidnapping or Missing Person with evidence of foul play and victim is still missing (go to item H2)
19. Based on your experience and the results of this investigation do you believe this offender has killed before?  
 1  Yes (explain in narrative)    2  No      99  Unable to determine
- H2. Based on your experience and the results of this investigation, check a possible motive:  
 1  Sexual Assault      5  Kidnap for Sexual Purpose      9  Domestic Murder  
 2  During Robbery      6  Kidnap for Ransom      10  Alcohol or Drug Abuse  
 3  During Burglary      7  Revenge      88  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 4  During Arson      8  Contract Murder      99  Unknown/no apparent motive
- H2A. Crime Classification Manual Number: \_\_\_\_\_
20. Is there an indication that this case is related to Organized Drug Trafficking, or Organized Crime (Traditional and Non-traditional)?  
 1  Yes (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_      99  Unable to determine  
 2  No

## DATE AND TIME PARAMETERS

<b>21.</b> Today's Date:	____/____/____ (mo) (day) (yr)	Military Time	Exact	Approximate
<b>22.</b> Victim Last Seen:	____/____/____ (day of wk) (mo) (day) (yr)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>23.</b> Death/Major Assault:	____/____/____ (day of wk) (mo) (day) (yr)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>24.</b> Victim or Body Found:	____/____/____ (day of wk) (mo) (day) (yr)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## II. VICTIM INFORMATION

## VICTIM STATUS

**25.** This is victim number \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ total victims in this incident.

**26.** Status of this victim:

1  Deceased (As a result of this incident)                      3  Missing

2  Survivor of attack

## VICTIM IDENTIFICATION

**27.** Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last, First, middle)

**28.** Alias(es) including maiden name and prior married names: \_\_\_\_\_

**H3.** Exact Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**29.** Resident City: \_\_\_\_\_ **H4.** County: \_\_\_\_\_ **30.** State: \_\_\_\_\_

**31.** Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ **H5.** A/C Tel. No.: \_\_\_\_\_ **32.** Soc. Sec. No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**33.** FBI No.: \_\_\_\_\_ **H6.** VA SID No.: \_\_\_\_\_

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

**34.** Sex: 1  Male    2  Female    99  Unknown

**35.** Race: 1  Black    2  Caucasian    3  Hispanic    4  Oriental/Asian    5  Other    99  Unknown

**36.** Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_    99  Unknown  
(mo) (day) (yr)

**37.** Age, or best estimate, at time of incident: \_\_\_\_\_    99  Unknown

**38.** Height, or best estimate: \_\_\_\_\_ feet, \_\_\_\_\_ inches    99  Unknown

**39.** Approximate weight: \_\_\_\_\_ lbs.    99  Unknown

**40.** Build (check one only): 1  Small (thin)    2  Medium (average)    3  Large (stocky)    99  Unknown

**H7.** Eye Color: 1  Black    3  Brown    5  Green    99  Unknown  
2  Blue    4  Gray    6  Hazel

**41.** Hair length (check one only):

1  Bald or shaved    3  Collar length    5  Longer than shoulder length  
2  Shorter than collar length    4  Shoulder length    99  Unknown

42. Hair shade (check one only): 1  Light 2  Dark 3  Neither 1 nor 2 99  Unknown
43. Predominant hair color (check one only): 1  Gray and/or white 3  Red 5  Black 99  Unknown  
2  Blond 4  Brown 6  Other

If your victim is either a missing person or an unidentified dead body, respond to items 44 through 48. Otherwise go to item 49.

44. Abnormalities of teeth:
- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> None              | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Decayed             | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____ |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Braces            | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Noticeable Gaps     | _____   |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Broken or chipped | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Some or all missing | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown               |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Crooked           | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Stained             |   |
45. Glasses or corrective lenses normally worn by or associated with victim:
- |   |  |                                     |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> None                   | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Bifocals      | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Rimless  |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Prescription           | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic frame | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Other    |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Contacts (color _____) | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Metal frame   | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |

### SCARS AND/OR BIRTHMARKS

46. Location of noticeable scars or birthmarks (not tattoos):
- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> None               | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Torso          | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Face, head or neck | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Buttocks       | _____                                  |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Arm(s) or hand(s)  | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Feet or leg(s) | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown    |

### TATTOOS

47. Tattoo locations:
- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> None               | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Torso          | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Face, head or neck | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Buttocks       | _____                                  |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Arm(s) or hand(s)  | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Feet or leg(s) | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown    |
48. Tattoo designs:
- |  |  |                                     |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Initials or words | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Picture(s) or design(s) | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Number(s)         | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____             |                                     |

### OUTSTANDING PHYSICAL FEATURES

49. Did the victim have outstanding physical features (crossed eyes, noticeable limp, physical deformity, etc.)?  
(Do not repeat information listed in 44 through 48, above.)
- 1  Yes (describe) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2  No
- 99  Unknown

### SIGNIFICANT IDENTIFIER

- H8. In your opinion, what is the most significant identifier, if the victim is unidentified? \_\_\_\_\_

### CLOTHING OF VICTIM

50. Generally preferred clothing style (This item deals with general style of dress typically preferred by the victim, not a detailed description):
- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Business suit   | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Sport or athletic       | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Casual          | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Western wear            | _____                                   |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Gaudy or garish | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Work clothes or uniform | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown     |
51. Generally preferred predominant color tone of clothing:
- |                                    |  |   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Whites  | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Blues           | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Browns/tans  |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Yellows | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Purples/Violets | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Grays/Blacks |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Greens  | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Reds/Oranges    |   |
52. If this victim is a missing person or unidentified dead, give a detailed description of clothing: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## MISCELLANEOUS

53. Victim's residence (check only one):

- 1  Single family dwelling      3  Temporary or transient housing      5  Street  
 2  Multi-family dwelling      4  Motor vehicle      99  Unknown

H9. Residence location is (check only one):

- 1  Rural      2  Urban      3  Suburban

54. Current occupation(s), legal or illegal (How did the victim earn money?):

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_

H10. Victim's Vehicle Description: \_\_\_\_\_

H11. Marital Status: 1  Single      3  Separated      5  Widowed  
 2  Married      4  Divorced      88  Other

H12. Living with: 1  Spouse      3  Parents      5  Girlfriend  
 2  Children      4  Boyfriend      6  Alone  
 88  Other

H13. Lifestyle (Check as many as apply): 6  Involved - outgoing      12  Runaway  
 1  Heterosexual      7  Frequent socializer      13  Drug Involvement (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 2  Bisexual      8  Infrequent socializer  
 3  Homosexual      9  Introvert-withdrawn      14  Criminal Activity, i.e., Prostitute, Pedophile,  
 4  Day Person - In early      10  Transient      Pornography, Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 5  Night Person - Out late      11  Mentally Ill      88  Other \_\_\_\_\_

H14. Activity when last seen (check as many as apply):

- 1  At residence      7  At restaurant      13  Driving/riding in vehicle  
 2  Sleeping      8  At bar/tavern      14  Jogging  
 3  At school      9  At shopping mall      15  Walking  
 4  To/from school      10  At recreation area      16  Hitchhiking  
 5  At work      11  At party      88  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 6  To/from work      12  In parking lot      99  Unknown

H15. Evidence from victim (This is evidence removed from the victim which may assist in identifying victim or placing the victim at a scene.) Check as many as apply:

- 1  Fingerprints      3  Dental charts      5  Pulled pubic hairs      7  Body X-rays  
 2  Major case impressions      4  Dental X-rays      6  Pulled head hairs      8  Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

H16. Blood type:

- 1  A      2  B      3  AB      4  O

H17. RH Factor:

- 1  Positive      2  Negative      99  Unknown

H18. Subtypes Known: 1  No      2  Yes (List below.)H19. DNA Typing: 1  No      2  Yes (By Who?)H20. Secretor: 1  No      2  Yes

H21. If identity is known, is photograph available?

- 1  No      2  Yes

H22. If identity is unknown, is photograph, composite or reconstruction available?

- 1  No      2  Yes

### III. OFFENDER/SUSPECT INFORMATION

As used in this HALT report, offender includes arrestees, perpetrators, or persons believed to be responsible for the commission of the crime; a suspect

#### OFFENDER/SUSPECT STATUS

55. This is offender \_\_\_ of \_\_\_ total offenders in this incident.
56. The offender/suspect is (check one only):
- 1  Unknown (not seen, go to item 85)      3  Identified (not in custody)      5  Deceased
- 2  Unknown (seen)      4  In custody

#### OFFENDER/SUSPECT IDENTIFICATION

57. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last,first,middle)
58. Alias(es) including maiden name and prior married names: \_\_\_\_\_
59. Exact Street address: \_\_\_\_\_
59. Resident City: \_\_\_\_\_ H24. Resident County: \_\_\_\_\_ 60. State: \_\_\_\_\_
61. Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ H25. Area Code/Tel. No.: \_\_\_\_\_
62. Social Security No.: \_\_\_\_\_ H26. VA SID No.: \_\_\_\_\_ 63. FBI No.: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

64. Sex:
- 1  Male      2  Female      99  Unknown
65. Race:
- 1  Black    2  Caucasian    3  Hispanic    4  Oriental/Asian    5  Other    99  Unknow
66. Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_      99  Unknown  
(mo) (day) (yr)
67. Age, or best estimate, at time of incident: \_\_\_\_\_      99  Unknown
68. Height, or best estimate: \_\_\_ feet \_\_\_ inches (to \_\_\_ feet \_\_\_ inches)      99  Unknown
69. Build (check one only):
- 1  Small (thin)      2  Medium (average)      3  Large (stocky)      99  Unknow
- H27. Approximate weight: \_\_\_\_\_ lbs.      99  Unknown
70. Hair length (check one only):
- 1  Bald or shaved      3  Collar length      5  Longer than shoulder leng;
- 2  Shorter than collar length      4  Shoulder length      99  Unknown
71. Hair shade (check one only):
- 1  Light      2  Dark      3  Neither 1 nor 2      99  Unknow
72. Predominant hair color (check one only):
- 1  Gray and/or white      3  Red      5  Black      99  Unknow
- 2  Blond      4  Brown      6  Other





# IV. IDENTIFIED OFFENDER/SUSPECT INFORMATION

If you have an offender in custody or a suspect identified in this case, complete items 80 through 84. Otherwise go to item 85.

## OFFENDER/SUSPECT BACKGROUND

- 80.** List cities and states of residence during last 5 years. Include exact street address, City, County, State, and telephone number if known. (exclude current residence):
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- 81.** List all states the offender/suspect has visited during the last 5 years. (Attach separate sheet if necessary):
- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 1 _____ | 3 _____ |
| 2 _____ | 4 _____ |
- 82.** List foreign countries lived or traveled in:
- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 1 _____ | 3 _____ |
| 2 _____ | 4 _____ |
- H34.** Marital status:
- |                                    |                                      |                                     |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Single  | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Separated | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed  |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Married | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced  | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |
|                                    |                                      | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
- H33.** Living with:
- |                                     |                                      |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse   | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Parents   | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Girlfriend |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Children | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Boyfriend | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Alone      |
|                                     |                                      | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other     |
- H36.** List types of employment by offender/suspect within the last 3 years:

## PROPERTY OF OTHERS

- 83.** Offender/suspect was in possession of property of others (check all that apply):
- |                                       |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Body parts | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card(s), checks or other ID | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Photo(s)               |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing   | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry                            | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |
- (Include brief description of property in narrative, item 189)

## OFFENDER/SUSPECT ADMISSIONS

- 84.** Offender/suspect admits other similar crimes of violence:
- 1  Yes (attach details)      2  No

# V. VEHICLE DESCRIPTION

- 85.** Is a vehicle known to have been used in this incident?
- 1  Yes      2  No (go to item 96)

NOTE: Complete vehicle information if: (1) a vehicle was used by the offender/suspect in this incident, or (2) this is a missing person case and the vehicle is missing, or (3) this is an unidentified dead case and the vehicle has been connected with the victim, or (4) the vehicle is any way significant in this case.

- 86.** Did the vehicle belong to or was it under the control of the victim? 1  Yes      2  No
- 87.** The vehicle would normally be described as being:
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptionally well maintained (sharp) | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Neither 1 nor 2 |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not generally well kept (beat up)     | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown        |

**88.** The vehicle would normally be described as being:  
 1  Newer/late model    3  Neither 1 nor 2  
 2  Older model    99  Unknown

**89.** License number: \_\_\_\_\_ **90.** License state: \_\_\_\_\_

**91.** Vehicle year: \_\_\_\_\_ **92.** Make: \_\_\_\_\_ **93.** Model: \_\_\_\_\_

**94.** Body style:  
 1  Passenger car    3  Pick-up truck    5  Tractor-trailer    88  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 2  Van    4  "Jeep" type (i.e., Bronco)    6  Motorcycle    99  Unknown

**95.** Color: Top \_\_\_\_\_ Bottom \_\_\_\_\_

**H37.** Distinctive features of vehicle:  
 1  Missing parts (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 2  Loud/No muffler: \_\_\_\_\_  
 3  Lettering (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 4  Paintings (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 5  Rust (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 6  Damage (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 88  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 99  Unknown

**H38.** List other vehicles owned or registered to offender/suspect or vehicles to which he has had access.    Include State and Registration Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

## VI. OFFENSE M.O.

### OFFENDER'S APPROACH TO VICTIM AT TIME OF INCIDENT

96. The victim or a witness reported that the offender's approach to the victim was:
- 1  No living victim or person witnessed the offender's approach to victim. (go to item 100)
  - 2  By deception or con: openly, with subterfuge or ploy (e.g., offers assistance or requests directions.) (go to item 97 and then go to item 100)
  - 3  By surprise: lay in wait or stepped from concealment. (go to item 98 and then go to item 100)
  - 4  By "Blitz": direct or immediate physical assault. (go to item 99)
97. If the offender initiated contact with the victim by means of deception, indicate type of deception below:
- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Posed as authority figure             | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Implied family emergency/illness | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Phony police traffic stop       |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Posed as business person              | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to show (something)       | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation for sex           |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Asked victim to model/pose for photos | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Asked for/offered assistance     | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Offered ride or transportation |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Offered job, money, treats or toys    | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Caused/staged traffic accident   | 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Other deception                |
98. If the offender initiated contact with the victim by means of surprise, indicate the type of surprise below:
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Lay in wait--out of doors | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Victim sleeping |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Lay in wait--in building  | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Other surprise  |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Lay in wait--in vehicle   |  |
99. If the offender initiated contact with the victim by direct and immediate physical assault, indicate the type of direct and immediate physical assault below:
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Immediately and physically overpowered victim (picked up, carried away, etc.) | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Choked victim        |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hit victim with hand, fist, or clubbing weapon                                | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Stabbed victim       |
|  | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Shot victim          |
|  | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Other direct assault |

### EXACT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

100. Last known location of identified victim or location of unidentified dead body recovery site:
- |                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. Street address _____ | b. City/Municipality of _____ |
| c. County of _____      | d. State _____                |
|                         | e. Zip Code _____             |

## LOCATION OF EVENTS

### *BODY RECOVERY SITE*

101. Description of general area of the body recovery site (one only):  
 1  Rural    2  Suburban    3  Urban    99  Unknown
102. The neighborhood of the body recovery site is predominantly (check one):  
 1  Business, industrial or commercial    3  Residential    99  Unknown  
 2  Farm or agricultural    4  Uninhabited or wilderness
103. The body recovery site was (check as many as apply):  
 1  Any residence    5  In a vice area    9  On public transportation  
 2  At or near a school or playground    6  A densely wooded area    88  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 3  In a retail shopping district    7  In an open field  
 4  On a public street    8  In a vehicle    99  Unknown
104. The body recovery site was the victim's residence:  
 1  Yes    2  No    99  Unknown
105. The body recovery site was the victim's workplace:  
 1  Yes    2  No    99  Unknown
106. Potential witnesses at the time the offender left the body recovery site:  
 1  Other people were present in the immediate area    99  Unknown  
 2  Area was essentially deserted

### *MURDER OR MAJOR ASSAULT SITE*

107. Was the murder or major assault site the same as the body recovery site?  
 1  Yes (go to item 113)    2  No    99  Unknown
108. Description of general area of murder or major assault site (check one):  
 1  Rural    2  Suburban    3  Urban    99  Unknown
109. The neighborhood of murder/major assault site is predominantly (check one):  
 1  Business, industrial or commercial    4  Uninhabited or wilderness  
 2  Farm or agricultural    99  Unknown  
 3  Residential
110. The murder or major assault site was (check as many as apply):  
 1  Any residence    5  In a vice area    9  On public transportation  
 2  At or near a school or playground    6  A densely wooded area    88  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 3  In a retail shopping district    7  In an open field  
 4  On a public street    8  In a vehicle    99  Unknown
111. The murder or major assault site was victim's residence:  
 1  Yes    2  No    99  Unknown
112. The murder or major assault site was victim's work place:  
 1  Yes    2  No    99  Unknown
113. Potential witness at the time of the murder or major assault:  
 1  Other people were present in the immediate area    2  Area was essentially deserted  
 99  Unknown

### *SITE OF OFFENDER'S INITIAL CONTACT WITH VICTIM*

114. Was the site of the offender's initial contact with the victim the same as the murder or major assault site?  
 1  Yes (go to item 120)    2  No    99  Unknown
115. Description of general area of initial offender/victim contact (check one):  
 1  Rural    2  Suburban    3  Urban    99  Unknown

116. The neighborhood of initial contact is predominantly (check one):  
 1  Business, industrial or commercial    3  Residential    99  Unknown  
 2  Farm or agricultural    4  Uninhabited or wilderness
117. The initial offender/victim contact was (check as many as apply):  
 1  Any residence    5  In a vice area    9  On public transportation  
 2  At or near a school or playground    6  A densely wooded area    88  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 3  In a retail shopping district    7  In an open field  
 4  On a public street    8  In a vehicle    99  Unknown
118. The offender/victim contact was victim's residence:  
 1  Yes    2  No    99  Unknown
119. The offender/victim contact was victim's workplace:  
 1  Yes    2  No    99  Unknown
120. Potential witness at the time of the initial offender/victim contact:  
 1  Other people were present in the immediate area    99  Unknown  
 2  Area was essentially deserted

**VICTIM'S LAST KNOWN LOCATION**

121. Was the site of the victim's last known location the same as the site of the initial contact between victim and offender?  
 1  Yes (go to item 127)    2  No    99  Unknown
122. Description of general area of victim's last known location (check one):  
 1  Rural    2  Suburban    3  Urban    99  Unknown
123. The neighborhood of victim's last known location was predominantly (check one):  
 1  Business, industrial or commercial    4  Uninhabited or wilderness  
 2  Farm or agricultural    99  Unknown  
 3  Residential
124. The victim's last known location was (check as many as apply):  
 1  Any residence    5  In a vice area    9  On public transportation  
 2  At or near a school or playground    6  A densely wooded area    88  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 3  In a retail shopping district    7  In an open field  
 4  On a public street    8  In a vehicle    99  Unknown
125. The victim's last known location was victim's residence:  
 1  Yes    2  No    99  Unknown
126. The victim's last known location was victim's workplace:  
 1  Yes    2  No    99  Unknown

**EVENTS AT ASSAULT SITE**

127. There is evidence that the offender disabled the telephone, other utilities or security devices:  
 1  Yes    2  No    99  Unknown
128. The property at the crime scene(s) was ransacked, vandalized or burned:  
 1  Yes (specify) \_\_\_\_\_    2  No    99  Unknown
129. There are indications that the offender took steps to obliterate or destroy evidence at the scene:  
 1  Yes    2  No    99  Unknown

**OFFENDER'S WRITING OR CARVING ON BODY OF VICTIM**

130. Writing or carving on body:  
 1  Yes (describe) \_\_\_\_\_    2  No
131. Instrument used to write or carve on body:  
 1  Knife or other sharp instrument    3  Lipstick    88  Other (specify)  
 2  Blood    4  Writing instrument (pen, etc)

**OFFENDER'S WRITING OR DRAWING AT THE CRIME SCENE**

132. Writing or drawing at crime scene(s):

1  Yes (describe) \_\_\_\_\_ 2  No

133. Instrument used to write or draw at crime scene(s):

1  Knife or other sharp instrument 4  Writing instrument (pen, etc.)  
 2  Blood 88  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 3  Lipstick

**SYMBOLIC ARTIFACTS AT CRIME SCENE**

134. Was there evidence to suggest a deliberate or unusual ritual /act/thing had been performed on, with, or near the victim (such as an orderly formation of rocks, burnt candles, dead animals, defecation, etc.)?

1  Yes (describe) \_\_\_\_\_  
 2  No  
 99  Unknown

**OFFENDER'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Item 135 deals with communications initiated by the offender with respect to the crime. Examples would be: an offender sending a letter or a tape recording to the police or media claiming responsibility for the crime; a ransom note; or a suspicious communication received by the victim prior to the crime.

(This item does not refer to conversation between the offender and victim during commission of the crime.)

135. Was there any communication from the offender before or after the crime?

1  Yes (enclose a copy or synopsis of the communication) 2  No 99  Unknown**VII. CONDITION OF VICTIM WHEN FOUND**

136. There is reason to believe the offender moved the body from the area of the death site to the area of the body recovery site:

1  Yes 2  No 3  Unable to determine

137. Evidence suggests the offender disposed of the body in the following manner:

1  Openly displayed or otherwise placed to insure discovery 3  With an apparent lack of concern as to whether or not body was discovered  
 2  Concealed, hidden, or otherwise placed in order to prevent discovery 99  Unable to determine

138. It appears the body of the victim was intentionally placed in an unnatural or unusual position after death had occurred (e.g., staged or posed):

1  Yes 2  No 3  Unable to determine

139. Body was discovered:

1  Buried 5  In a container (e.g., box dumpster, refrigerator)  
 2  Covered 6  In a vehicle  
 3  In a body of water (stream, lake, river, etc.) 7  Scattered about (body parts)  
 4  In a building 8  None of the above

140. If the body was discovered in water, was it weighted?

1  Yes (with what?) \_\_\_\_\_ 2  No**RESTRAINTS USED ON VICTIM**

141. Was the victim bound?

1  Yes 2  No (go to item 146)

142. Article(s) used to bind or restrain the victim or the body:

1  An article of clothing 4  Chain  
 2  Tape 5  Hand or thumbcuffs  
 3  Cordage (e.g., rope, string, twine, wire, leather thong, etc.) 99  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

143. The evidence suggests that the restraining device(s) was (check one only):

1  Brought to the scene by the offender 3  Both 1 and 2  
 2  An article found at the scene by the offender 99  Unknown

144. Parts of body bound (check as many as apply):
- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Hands or arms          | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Neck                | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Hands and ankle(s) bound together |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Feet, ankle(s) or legs | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Arms bound to torso | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____            |
145. The bindings on the victim were excessive (much more than necessary to control victim's movements):
- 1  Yes    2  No    3  Unable to determine
146. The body was tied to another object:
- 1  Yes    2  No
147. Was a gag placed in or on the victim's mouth?
- 1  Yes (describe) \_\_\_\_\_    2  No
- 99  Unknown
148. Was a blindfold placed on or over the victim's eye's?
- 1  Yes (describe) \_\_\_\_\_    2  No
- 99  Unknown
149. Was victim's entire face covered?
- 1  Yes (describe) \_\_\_\_\_    2  No
- 99  Unknown

**CLOTHING AND PROPERTY OF VICTIM**

150. Clothing on victim when found:
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Fully dressed       | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Nude                   |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Partially undressed | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |
151. There is evidence the victim was re-dressed by the offender:
- 1  Yes    2  No    3  Unable to determine
152. There is evidence to suggest that any or all of the victim's clothing had been ripped or torn:
- 1  Yes    2  No    3  Unable to determine
153. There is evidence to suggest that any or all of the victim's clothing had been cut from the body:
- 1  Yes    2  No    3  Unable to determine
154. Items of victim's clothing were missing from the body recovery site:
- 1  Yes (identify) \_\_\_\_\_    2  No
- 99  Unknown
155. Victims clothing (not on the body) recovered at the recovery site:
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Piled neatly | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Hidden         |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered    | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable |
156. Based on the investigation, there is evidence to suggest that the offender took small personal items (other than clothing) from the victim. These items may or may not be valuable, (e.g., photos, driver's license, real or costume jewelry, etc.):
- 1  Yes (specify) \_\_\_\_\_    2  No
- 99  Unknown

**VIII. CAUSE OF DEATH AND/OR TRAUMA**

**CAUSE OF DEATH**

If victim is a survivor, go to item 158.

157. Medical Examiner officially listed cause of death:
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Gunshot wound(s)  | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Drowning                    |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Stab wound(s)   | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Burns (fire)                |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Cutting or incised wound(s)                               | 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Burns (chemical)            |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Blunt force injury  | 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Burns (scalding)            |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Strangulation (circle one-manual, ligature, undetermined) | 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Hypothermia or exposure     |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Smothering  | 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Malnutrition or dehydration |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Airway occlusion (internal)                               | 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Electrocution               |
| 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Torso compression   | 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Crushing injury             |
| 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Hanging   | 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Explosive trauma            |
|  | 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined                |
|  | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____       |

**TRAUMA****158.** Major trauma location(s) (check as many as apply):

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Head/face/neck | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Leg(s)/feet | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Genitalia              |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Arm(s)/hand(s) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Breast(s)   | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Anus                   |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Torso          | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Buttocks    | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |
|   |  | 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to determine   |

**159.** Extent of Blunt Force trauma ONLY:

- 1  None
- 2  Minimal (Minor bruising only, possibly caused by offender's slapping to control the victim)
- 3  Moderate (Injury inflicted which in itself could not have caused death)
- 4  Severe (Injury which in itself could have caused death, whether it was the cause of death or not)
- 5  Extreme (Injury inflicted beyond that necessary for death. Overkill)

**160.** Estimated number of stab wounds \_\_\_\_\_**161.** Estimated number of cutting wounds \_\_\_\_\_**162.** Number of entry gunshot wounds \_\_\_\_\_**163.** Range of gunfire:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable                     | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Close (powder residue/tattooing) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Distant (no stippling/tattooing)   | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Contact                          |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate (stippling/tattooing) |   |

**BITE MARKS ON VICTIM****164.** Bite marks were identified on the victim's body:

- 1  Yes                      2  No (go to item 166)

**165.** Location of bite marks:

- |                                    |                                      |   |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Face    | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Breast(s) | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Genitalia              |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Neck    | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Buttocks  | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Thigh(s)               |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Groin     | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |

**ELEMENTS OF TORTURE OR UNUSUAL ASSAULT****166.** There is evidence to suggest that the offender disfigured the body of the victim in order to delay or hinder identification of the victim (burned body; removed and took bands, feet, head; etc.):

- 1  Yes                                      2  No

**167.** Elements of unusual or additional assault upon victim:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> None                       | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of cannibalism/vampirism                                    |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Victim whipped             | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Offender explored, probed, or mutilated cavities or wounds of victim |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Burns on victim            |   |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Victim run over by vehicle | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____   |

**168.** Body parts removed by offender:

- |  |                                       |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> None (go to item 170) | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Ear(s)     | 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Nipple(s)             |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Head                  | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Nose       | 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Anus                  |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Scalp                 | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Hand(s)    | 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Genitalia             |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Face                  | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Arm(s)    | 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Internal Organs       |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Teeth                 | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Leg(s)    | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Eye(s)                | 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Breast(s) |   |

**169.** Dismemberment method:

- 1  Bitten off
- 2  Cut - skilled/surgical
- 3  Cut - unskilled/rough cut
- 4  Hacked/chopped off
- 5  Sawed off
- 88  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_







H59. Foreign saliva:

- 1  No  
 2  Yes (list type(s) A, B, AB, O if secretor) \_\_\_\_\_

H60. Seminal fluid:

- 1  No                                      2  Yes

H62. Secretor, if answer to H60 is "Yes:"

- 1  No                                      2  Yes (list type(s)) \_\_\_\_\_

H62. Subtype(s) available, if answer to H60 and H62 are "Yes:"

- 1  No                                      2  Yes (list types) \_\_\_\_\_

H63. Spermatozoa present:

- 1  No                                      2  Yes (if yes, are tails intact? \_\_\_\_\_)

H64. DNA typing done, if answer to H63 is "Yes:"

- 1  No                                      2  Yes (list where done) \_\_\_\_\_

### OTHER PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

H65. Are unidentified tire tracks present at the scene?

- 1  No                                      2  Yes

H66. If answer to H65 is "Yes," are wheelbase or track width measurements available?

- 1  No                                      2  Yes

H67. Do measurements suggest or indicate size or type of vehicle?

- 1  No                                      2  Yes (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

H68. Was a cast made or scaled photographs taken of tire impression?

- 1  No                                      2  Yes

H69. If answer to H68 is "Yes," was any tire identification function performed?

- 1  No                                      2  Yes (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

H70. Were any unidentified footwear impressions present at the scene?

- 1  No                                      2  Yes

H71. If answer to H70 is "Yes," was a cast or scaled photograph taken?

- 1  No                                      2  Yes

H72. If answer to H71 is "Yes," was any identification function performed?

- 1  No                                      2  Yes (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

H73. List any other physical evidence available, and its significance:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





## **Appendix D**

Letter of Inquiry Concerning  
Cold Case Squads

**FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**10600 PAGE AVENUE, FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-4081**



Colonel M. Douglas Scot  
Chief of Police

May 22, 1995

Dear Supervisor:

Greetings from Fairfax County, Virginia!

Please let me explain why I am writing to you. Recently, our department formed a "Cold Case Squad." The Cold Case Squad is a branch of our Homicide Section and is tasked with the responsibility of reinvestigating old, unresolved homicides.

It is my understanding your agency has a Cold Case Squad. I am conducting thesis research for a Masters of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Virginia Commonwealth University. My thesis research involves Cold Case Squads and I am requesting any information you may have available. I am specifically interested in:

- Closure rate data
- Number of cases handled
- Solvability factors
- Any other information you believe may help add validity to my research.

Information may be mailed to the above address. I can be reached at [REDACTED] from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday. I am thanking you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Rodney L. Gohn, Lieutenant  
Supervisor, Crime Scene Section

## **Appendix E**

Summary of Study Population  
With Completed  
Solvability Factors Work Sheets

YEAR 1986

1. Victim: CRUTCHFIELD, Allen W/M/22  
Case No: 86042000002  
Date: 2/11/86  
Location: 3018 Virginia Dare Court, Chantilly, VA  
Synopsis: Victim was walking down the street in front of his house when the suspect came up behind him and shot him.  
Motive: Possibly drugs.  
Weapon: Firearm  
Suspect: Yes

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●



2. Victim: CAMPBELL, James G. W/M/26  
 Case No: 86220150630  
 Date: 8/8/86  
 Location: 3105-B Groveton Street, Alexandria, VA  
 Synopsis: Victim was found on the floor of his home by co-workers when he failed to show up for work. He was beaten to death.  
 Motive: Unknown  
 Weapon: Hammer  
 Suspect: Yes

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

3. Victim: BARROWS, Cindy W/F/19  
 Case No: 86050212630  
 Date: 2/19/86  
 Location: Beulah Park  
 Synopsis: Victim was at a party and did not return home. Victim was reported missing by her mother on 2-19-86. Victim's remains were found on 4-10-87. Exact cause and manner of death unknown. It is believed the victim was dumped in the park.  
 Motive: Possibly sexual  
 Weapon: Unknown  
 Suspect: Yes

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?		●
Has the scene location been determined?		●
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?	●	
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

YEAR 1987

1. Victim: HOFFMEYER, William A. W/M/50  
Case No: 87020135522  
Date: 1/20/87  
Location: 4861 Randolph Drive  
Synopsis: Victim was found by a co-worker after he failed to show up for work. Victim was shot several times.  
Motive: Unknown  
Weapon: Firearm  
Suspect: Unknown

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

2. Victim: WONG, Yin Ling Lo O/F/41  
Case No: 87114224216 - Non UCR-Herndon PD  
Date: 4/24/87  
Location: 703 Archer Court, Herndon, VA  
Synopsis: The victim was home with her 2 yr. old son. An unknown subject(s) entered the home, tied up the victim and locked the son in bathroom. The house was ransacked. The victim was shot.  
Motive: Robbery  
Weapon: Firearm  
Suspect: Unknown

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

3. Victim: SOBER-ADLER, Eige W/F/43  
Case No: 87251000364  
Date: 9/8/87  
Location: 2200 Centreville Road, Days Inn Motel  
Synopsis: Victim was found nude near parking  
lot. Victim was sexually assaulted.  
Victim was mentally disturbed.  
Motive: Sexual  
Weapon: Rock  
Suspect: Yes

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

4. Victim: HERHOLTZ, Jeannie A. W/F/32  
Case No: 87351001746  
Date: 12/17/87  
Location: 7558 Telegraph Road, Hayfield Shopping Center  
Synopsis: The victim made a cash withdrawal from an ATM at the SC. She went shopping in several stores. The victim was found strangled in her car that was parked in the SC lot. Her purse and other personal items were missing.  
Motive: Robbery  
Weapon: Strangled  
Suspect: Yes

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

YEAR 1988

1. Victim: TOLAND, John W/M/31  
Case No: 88220000436  
Date: 8/7/88  
Location: Brim Lane off Bull Run Post Office Rd.  
Synopsis: The victim was found in his vehicle shot several times. The victim was a homosexual and was known to frequent the I-66 rest stop area to meet other men.  
Motive: "Gay Bashing"  
Weapon: Firearm  
Suspect: Unknown

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?	●	
Have there been leads in the last six months?	●	

2. Victim: DUNBAR, John E. B/M/41 (Jamaican)  
Case No: 88292000357  
Date: 10/18/88  
Location: 8800 Block Georgetown Park  
Synopsis: Victim was found in the parking lot of Difficult Run Stream Valley Park. He was shot several times. His hands were bound in electrical cord. It appeared he was executed at an unknown location and dumped along the road.  
Motive: Drug related  
Weapon: Firearm  
Suspect: Unknown

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?		●
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●



3. Victim: LEWIS, Leader Jr. B/M/27  
Case No: 88303000828  
Date: 10/29/88  
Location: Alban Road  
Synopsis: Victim, from Montgomery, Alabama, was found along the road with multiple stab wounds. The victim was wanted in Alabama for murder and has served time for robbery. It appears the victim was dumped at the Alban Rd. location.  
Motive: Unknown  
Weapon: Knife  
Suspect: None

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?		●
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

4. Victim: RAVER, Rachael A. W/F/22  
 FULTON, Warren H. W/M/22  
 Case No: 88341000663  
 Date: Between 12/4/88, 0030 12/5/88, 2400  
 Location: Wooded area, 1800 Blk Hunter Mill Rd  
 Synopsis: The victims met friends at a bar in  
 Washington, D.C. They left the bar at  
 approx. 12:30 a.m. and stated they  
 were enroute to victim #1's residence.  
 On 12/6/88 at 9:30 a.m., a citizen  
 found the victims in a wooded area off  
 Hunter Mill Rd. Victim #1 was nude  
 from the waist down and had been  
 sexually assaulted. Victim #2 was  
 found approx. 50 yds. away, fully  
 clothed, shot once. Wallets were  
 missing from both victims. Victim  
 #1's gold jewelry was still on the  
 corpse. A weapon was not recovered.  
 Victim #1's vehicle was recovered in  
 Queens, NY 1/30/89. PERK from Victim  
 #1 indicates a B/M (head hair/pubic  
 hair).  
 Motive: Robbery/Sex  
 Weapon: Firearm  
 Suspect: Unknown B/M

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victims been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?	●	

YEAR 1989

1. Victim: BAKER, Amy W/F/18  
Case No: 89090000728  
Date: 3/29/89  
Location: Route 95 and Backlick Road  
Synopsis: The victim was originally reported missing on 3/31/89, to the Stafford County Sheriff's Department after she failed to arrive at her parent's home on 3/29/89, from a trip from a relative's residence in the Falls Church area. Her vehicle was located, and towed by Virginia State Police Department, abandoned on I95 Southbound, in the area of Backlick Road during the early morning hours on 3/30/89. The victim's body was discovered on 3/31/89, partially clothed in a wooded area adjacent to Southbound 95 and the off-ramp to Backlick Road.
- Motive: Sexual  
Weapon: Ligature  
Suspect: None

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?	●	
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?	●	

2. Victim: BONILLA, Jose I. H/M/46  
Case No: 89099000443  
Date: 4/9/89  
Location: Basement of 6006 Knollwood Drive  
Synopsis: The victim was found stabbed to death in basement laundry room of apartment building. There was approximately \$2,000.00 missing from the victim.  
Motive: Robbery  
Weapon: Knife  
Suspect: Yes

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?	●	
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

3. Victim: GORDON, Riannon R. W/F/9  
 Case No: 89183001286  
 Date: 7/2/89  
 Location: Bentonbrook Drive  
 Synopsis: On 7/2/89, the victim was abducted from Lake Braddock Drive. The victim was discovered deceased on 7/4/89, under a group of pine trees off of Bentonbrook Drive. It appears the victim was dumped at this location. The cause of death was asphyxiation. Sexual assault was involved and the victim had been bound.

Motive: Sexual  
 Weapon: Physical Force/Suffocation  
 Suspect: Unknown

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?		●
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

4. Victim: GRAY, Daniel E. B/M/36  
Case No: 89272000194  
Date: 9/29/89  
Location: 6801 Clowser Court  
Synopsis: Victim was shot as he exited his townhouse to go to work at approx. 0530 hours. He had recently terminated an extramarital affair with a co-worker after his wife found out. Co-worker had been harassing the victim prior to death.  
Motive: Domestic  
Weapon: Firearm  
Suspect: Yes

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?	●	
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

5. Victim: ADIYEH, Ali W/M/35  
Case No: 89296000342  
Date: 10/23/89  
Location: 6436 Springfield Plaza  
Synopsis: Victim was found dead in car in front of People's Drug Store at approx. 0730 hours. Victim was shot several times. Victim had been in Peoples at approx. 0200 hours. Robbery does not appear to be a motive.  
Motive: Unknown  
Weapon: Firearm  
Suspect: None

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

6. Victim: DO, Nhan Thong O/M/56  
 Case No: 89326000321  
 Date: 11/21/89  
 Location: 3217 Apex Circle  
 Synopsis: The victim was shot while sitting in his vehicle parked at the curb outside his residence by an unknown assailant.  
 Motive: Political  
 Weapon: Firearm  
 Suspect: Unknown

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●



YEAR 1990

1. Victim: DARAB, Sheila N. W/F/28  
Case No: 90125000978  
Date: Unknown - Found on 5/6/90  
Location: Vienna Metro  
Synopsis: The victim was found by Metro Police in her vehicle (V.W. Rabbit) badly decomposed on 5/6/90. Autopsy revealed victim was strangled by ligature. Victim was last seen by her boyfriend in Stafford County, on 2/16/90, enroute to visit her children in Vienna. Investigation shows that victim's husband and children left the country for India on 2/17/90.  
Motive: Domestic  
Weapon: Strangulation  
Suspect: Husband

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?		●
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?	●	
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

2. Victim: HARLEY, Paul S. W/M/24  
 Case No: 90243002045  
 Date: 8/31/90  
 Location: 9606 Hagel Circle, Lorton, VA  
 Synopsis: The victim was visiting with friends.  
 Two suspects entered the home posing  
 as police officers and tied up all  
 persons present. The victim was shot  
 after being tied up.  
 Motive: Possibly drugs  
 Weapon: Firearm  
 Suspect: Yes

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?	●	
Have there been leads in the last six months?	●	

3. Victim: DANG-TRAN, Tuyett A/F/52  
 Le, Triet A/M/61  
 Case No: 90265001660  
 Date: 09/22/90  
 Location: 3615 Dannys Lane  
 Synopsis: The victims were shot in the driveway  
 of their home by unknown assailants.  
 Motive: Political  
 Weapon: Firearm  
 Suspect: Unknown

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victims been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

YEAR 1991

1. Victim: WEBSTER, Joann P. W/F/44  
Case No: 91047000522  
Date: 02/16/91  
Location: 8601 A Sacramento Drive  
Synopsis: The victim was found by P.D. at approximately 0900 hours after being requested to check on her well-being by her boss. The victim did not report to work on time, and her phone was ringing busy. The victim was found on her bed, fully clothed, and bleeding from the head. There was an obvious struggle in the living room and it appears the killer attacked her when she opened the door to leave for work. Victim was stabbed multiple times.  
Motive: Domestic  
Weapon: Knife  
Suspect: Boyfriend

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

2. VICTIM: RA, Yhun S. A/M/55  
 Case No: 91226000035  
 Date: 08/13/91  
 Location: 7002 Evergreen Court  
 Synopsis: The victim was found beaten in the  
 foyer of his place of business by his  
 wife. The victim died of blunt force  
 to the head, after returning from a  
 business meeting.  
 Motive: Unknown  
 Weapon: Blunt object  
 Suspect: Unknown

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?	●	

3. VICTIM: GRAHAM, Walter, J. W/M/59  
 Case No: 91222001464  
 Date: 08/12/91  
 Location: 2000 Huntington Avenue  
 Synopsis: Victim was found in his living room after a friend requested the PD to check on his well being. The door was unsecured and the victim was found nude and strangled. The victim was known to frequently pick up young black males as sex partners, and he was last seen alive on Thursday, August 8, 1991.

Motive: Unknown  
 Weapon: Lamp  
 Suspect: Unknown

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

4. VICTIM: MENJIVAR, Amilcar W/M/25  
Case No: 91240000553  
Date: 08/28/91  
Location: Wendy's, 7391 Lee Highway  
Synopsis: Two black males entered the restaurant after closing at the rear of the business as the victim and a fellow employee exited to clean around the dumpster. The victim was forced back inside where suspect one, brandishing a firearm, rounded up the other employees and demanded to know where the manager was. Suspect two told the employees to get on the floor. The victim was then shot by suspect one as he was being led to locate the manager.  
Motive: Robbery  
Weapon: Firearm  
Suspect: Yes

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?	●	
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?	●	
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

5. Victim: BENNETT, Roderick B/M/25  
Case No: 91271000432  
Date: 09/28/91  
Location: 5905 Mount Eagle Drive  
Synopsis: The victim was discovered at approx. 0730 hours, laying on the ground next to the fence separating Belle Haven Towers from the Montibello Condos. The victim was shot. Investigation revealed that eight vehicles in the parking lot had been tampered with sometime during the night and it appears the victim had property from one of these vehicles in his pocket. The victim, who was identified through NOVARIIS, had a criminal history including robbery and auto theft.

Motive: Unknown  
Weapon: Firearm  
Suspect: Unknown

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●



6. Victim: HILL, Michael C. B/M/32  
Case No: 91327000228  
Date: 11/23/91  
Location: Parking lot of Belle Haven Towers  
6034 Richmond Highway  
Synopsis: Victim was discovered in the parking lot with multiple gun shot wounds after units responded to the area to investigate reports of "shots fired." The victim was wearing three pagers and was carrying false identification. He was wanted for murder in the District of Columbia for a drug related killing and in Montgomery County, MD for Probation Violation. Identification was made through NOVARIS.  
Motive: Drug related  
Weapon: Firearm  
Suspect: None

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

7. VICTIM: MITCHELL, Brian G. W/M/35  
 Case No: 91362001543  
 Date: 12/28/91  
 Location: 9100 Richmond Highway  
 Synopsis: Victim was involved in an altercation at Belvoir Grill and was stabbed multiple times. Fates Assembly Motorcycle Club involved.  
 Motive: Gang related  
 Weapon: Knife  
 Suspect: Unknown

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?	●	
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

YEAR 1992

1. VICTIM: BRACKENN, Richard E. - W/M/53  
Case No: 92036000652  
Date: 02/05/92  
Location: 148 River Park Drive  
Synopsis: Suspect states she retrieved a pistol from her closet so her husband could give her lessons on gun safety. The husband was sitting at his desk in the master suite of their bedroom. As the wife was carrying the pistol in the palms of her hands to give deliver it to her husband, the pistol "accidentally" went off. The wife claims she did not have her finger on the trigger. Her husband was struck in the rear lower left portion of the head above the neck and the projectile exited in the hairline area above the left eye. He was medivaced to Fairfax Hospital where he was pronounced dead. There was a multi-million insurance pay off for the "accidental" death. Because of several inconsistencies in the wife's statement and physical evidence that is inconsistent with the wife's statement, this incident is still unresolved. The Commonwealth's Attorney will not prosecute this case unless a provable motive and criminal culpability is found against the wife.

Motive: Unknown  
Weapon: Pistol  
Suspect: Wife

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?		•
Has the scene location been determined?	•	
Has the victim been identified?	•	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	•	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		•
Is the evidence still available?	•	
Are there named suspects in the case?	•	
Are there witnesses in the case?		•
Have there been leads in the last six months?		•

2. VICTIM: BANDERA, Marilyn M. W/F/45  
 Case No: 92078000972  
 Date: 03/18/92  
 Location: 6405 Tenth Street  
 Synopsis: Victim's husband returned home from work to find his wife on family room floor. A struggle took place. Victim sustained multiple stab wounds and head trauma. Victim appears to have been sexually assaulted. No signs of forced entry.  
 Motive: Sexual  
 Weapon: Knife  
 Suspect: None

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

3. VICTIM: MCKAGAN, Jerome W/M/46  
 Case No: 92295000435  
 Date: 10/21/92  
 Location: 2017 George Washington Boulevard  
 Synopsis: Victim discovered deceased on kitchen floor. The victim is a known drug dealer and user. He was shot in the head. No signs of forced entry.  
 Motive: Possible drug related.  
 Weapon: Firearm  
 Suspect: None

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

4. VICTIM: HEAD, Michael L. B/M/19  
 Case No: 92315000975  
 Date: 11/10/92  
 Location: Motel at 6140 Richmond Highway  
 Synopsis: Victim was found in bed with gun shot wounds. The victim was wanted in Westmoreland County on drug charges.  
 Motive: Drugs  
 Weapon: Firearm  
 Suspect: None

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?	●	
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

5. VICTIM: AKBAR, Ghulam H. W/M/49  
Case No: 92349000056  
Date: 12/14/92  
Location: 8513 Bauer Drive  
Synopsis: Victim, a cab driver for Arlington Yellow Cab, was found dead on sidewalk in front of his apartment. His pockets were turned inside out. Cause of death was massive head trauma.  
Motive: Robbery  
Weapon: Unknown  
Suspect: None

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

YEAR 1993

1. VICTIM: RICCA, Tina R. W/F/27  
Case No: 93310001723  
Date: 11/06/93  
Location: 14750 Conference Center Drive  
Synopsis: Victim was performing duties as security guard at the construction site for Rockwell International. She was found in a temporary office trailer by a fellow security officer. She had been shot numerous times.  
Motive: Unknown  
Weapon: Firearm  
Suspect: None

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●



2. VICTIM: WHITE, Barbara E. W/F/18  
Case No: 93334001265  
Date: 11/30/93  
Location: 7234 Fairchild Drive  
Synopsis: Victim failed to report to work. Her father went to her apartment to check on her well being. The victim was found in bathtub stabbed numerous times. The 18 month old grand-daughter was in the apartment unharmed.  
Motive: Domestic  
Weapon: Knife  
Suspect: Yes

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?	●	

3. VICTIM: Unknown  
Case No: 93340000646  
Date: 12/06/93  
Location: Wooded area near Sharpsburg Road  
Synopsis: The remains of a white female, 27-34 years, 5'2", was found. The victim was stabbed to death. It appears the victim was dumped at this location. Victim entered into VICAP and NCIC.  
Motive: Unknown  
Weapon: Knife  
Suspect: Unknown

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?		●
Has the victim been identified?		●
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?	●	

4. VICTIM: KHUSHNOOD, Mohammed W/M/20  
Case No: 93365001587  
Date: 12/31/93  
Location: 2920 Southgate Drive  
Synopsis: Victim was the lone attendant working at the Citgo Self-Service Station. Citizens reported to police that no one was in the cashier's booth to turn on the pumps. Responding units located the victim at the rear of the building. He had been shot several times.  
Motive: Robbery  
Weapon: Firearm  
Suspect: None

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?		●

YEAR 1994

1. Victim: YOUNG, Charlotte W/F/57  
Case No: 94009000755  
Date: 1/9/94  
Location: 7951 Audubon Ave., Alex., Virginia  
Synopsis: The victim was found on the floor of her apartment with a shower curtain covering her face.  
Motive: Unknown  
Weapon: Strangulation  
Subject: Yes

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?	●	

2. Victim: ROCHE, Joann L. W/F/63  
 Case No: 94091000538  
 Date: 3/28/94  
 Location: 4641 Holly Avenue  
 Synopsis: The victim was discovered in her house by a family member who responded to check on her. The victim was stabbed several times.  
 Motive: Unknown  
 Weapon: Knife  
 Subject: Yes

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?	●	

3. Victim: GREENWELL, Marvin B. W/M/55  
 Case No: 94130000580  
 Date: 5-10-94  
 Location: 5840 Cameron Run Terrace  
 Synopsis: The victim had not shown up for work and his estranged wife went to check on him. In police presence the victim was discovered stabbed in the bedroom.  
 Motive: Unknown  
 Weapon: Knife  
 Suspect: Yes

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?	●	

4. Victim: JONES, Gail W/F/36  
 Case No: 94168001234  
 Date: 6-17-94  
 Location: 11777 North Shore Drive  
 Synopsis: The victim was discovered having a convulsion on the floor by her mother. Rescue was called and the victim transported to the emergency room. There was evidence around the neck that the victim had been strangled. The victim implicated her boyfriend before she died from the injuries.  
 Motive: Domestic  
 Weapon: Hands  
 Suspect: Yes

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?		●
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?		●
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?	●	

5. Victim: LAWRENCE, Robin B/F/38  
Case No: 94324000742  
Date: 10/20/94  
Location: 8646 Reseca Lane  
Synopsis: Victim was found dead in her home from multiple stab wounds. Her two year old child was in the home, but unharmed.  
Motive: Unknown  
Weapon: Knife  
Suspect: Unknown

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?		●
Are there witnesses in the case?		●
Have there been leads in the last six months?	●	



6. Victim: ROBLES, Joseph W/M/24  
Case No: 94285000744  
Date: 10/12/94  
Location: 7208 Neuman Street,  
Synopsis: Victim was shot numerous times by two  
black males who had come to his house  
to deliver drugs. Victim was  
transported from local hospital to his  
family in Texas for care. Victim  
succumbed to his wounds on 11-25-94 in  
Texas.  
Motive: Drug related  
Weapon: Firearm  
Suspect(s): Yes

SOLVABILITY FACTORS	YES	NO
Has the death been ruled a homicide?	●	
Has the scene location been determined?	●	
Has the victim been identified?	●	
Is there physical evidence that can identify a suspect?	●	
Can any evidence be reprocessed to yield further clues?		●
Is the evidence still available?	●	
Are there named suspects in the case?	●	
Are there witnesses in the case?	●	
Have there been leads in the last six months?	●	