

# ***Criminal Investigation,***

Seventh Edition

Chapter Seven

Follow-Up Investigation

# *Investigative Follow-Up and Solvability Factors*

- Solvability factors are based on research that shows what factors should be present in order for an investigator to solve crimes.
- Important factors in determining if a case should be assigned for investigation include:
  - Can the identity of the suspect be established through (1) the discovery of usable fingerprints? (2) the finding of significant physical evidence? (3) victim/witness/informant information? (4) the license number of or a useful description of the vehicle known to have been used in the offense?

# *Investigative Follow-Up and Solvability Factors*

- Is there serious physical harm or threat of serious physical harm or threat of serious physical harm to the victim? (Generally bomb threats and obscene phone calls would not be assigned for follow-up. However, aggravated circumstances may cause the offense to be assigned.)
- Did the suspect use a deadly weapon or dangerous ordinance (for example explosives)?

# *Investigative Follow-Up and Solvability Factors*

- Is there a significant method of operation that will aid in the solution of the offense?
- Is it a sex offense in which the victim and suspect had physical contact?
- Can a suspect be named?
- Can a suspect be identified?

# *Example of a Screening Decision Model - Burglary*

Weight	Information Element
10	<b>1. Suspect Information</b> a. Positive Identification b. Tentative Identification c. Poor Identification
8	
6	
10	<b>2. Vehicle Information</b> a. Positive Identification b. Definitive Description c. Poor Description
8	
6	
4	<b>3. Estimate Time Between Incident – Report</b> a. Less than one hour b. One to twelve hours c. Twelve hours and over
3	
2	
2	<b>4. Method of Reporting</b> a. Witness and/or victim b. Officer on-view
1	

# *Example of a Screening Decision Model - Burglary*

Weight	Information Element
	<b>5. Information Received</b>
10	<b>a. Confidential Informant and/or victim</b>
8	1) Definite information
6	2) Possible Information
	3) Poor Information
	<b>b. Information Shared from other investigator and/or agency</b>
10	1) Definite Information
8	2) Possible Information
6	3) Poor Information
	 <b>6. Modus Operandi</b>
5	<b>a. Definite Pattern</b>
4	<b>b. Possible Pattern</b>
3	<b>c. Poor Pattern</b>
	 <b>7. Fingerprints</b>
10	<b>a. Identified with suspect</b>
1	<b>b. Without suspect</b>
_____	<b>Total Cut Point for case activation is 10</b>
	<b>Note: This scale is to be used as a guideline only and is not intended to override nor interfere with the good judgment of a superior in assigning cases where there may be considerations not included in the scale.</b>
	<b>Case Number:</b> _____ <span style="float: right;"><b>Investigator:</b> _____</span>
	<b>Date:</b> _____ <span style="float: right;"><b> Screener:</b> _____</span>

# *Crime Analysis*

- Crime analysis takes information from several cases or information about a case and attempts to use this information to determine leads in the case(s).

# *Stages of Crime Analysis*

- Data Collection:
  - Collect a wide variety of information from a wide variety of sources.
    - Use external sources such as school records, bail information, probation information, furloughed prisoners, other police agencies, census data, and other sources.
    - Use internal sources such as offense reports, field interview reports, calls for service, arrest reports, traffic citations, teletypes from other agencies, statements from individuals, intelligence files and others.

# *Stages of Crime Analysis*

- Additional:
  - Experienced crime analysts report that much of their work can not be accomplished by computers due the need for an ability to compare data or information that is not easily qualified.

# *Informants*

- Informants are a critical source of information for investigators. While they are valuable, there are also some risks involved in using informants. A partial list of rules or concepts for dealing with informants is provided.
  1. Investigators must never make promises they can not or do not intend to keep.

# *Informants*

2. When talking with a plea-bargaining informant investigators cannot promise a lenient sentence or reduced charge; they can promise only support in seeking it.
3. Meetings with informants should be held outside of police buildings, and in places where informants will not be identified as having an association with an investigator.

# *Informants*

3. Investigators should never meet informants by themselves. This can put them in a disadvantageous position, since the informant can allege that promises and threats were made when in fact they have never been made.
4. Investigators should corroborate all information provided by informants.

# *Informants*

5. Investigators should never socialize with informants.
6. Investigators should never pay an informant without obtaining witnessed signed statements.
7. Payment for the expenses of informants should only be paid with a receipt, if possible.
8. Payment should not be made until reliability of the information is verified.

# *Informants*

9. Proper and complete names should never be used in reports.
  10. Access to informant files should be limited.
  11. Informants should never be allowed to act illegally.
  12. Informants should know the rules of entrapment.
- Officers making use of informants need to understand that the life of the informant is in the hands of the officer and the officer should guard the informant and information accordingly.

# *Surveillance*

## Terms:

- Subject – the person being observed.
- Surveillant – the investigator.
- Burn – to be recognized as an officer.
- Covert – secret or hidden.
- Overt – apparent.
- Tail – surveillant.
- Visual – surveillant can see the subject.
- Loose surveillance – discreet distance to avoid being burned.

# *Surveillance*

Terms:

- Tight surveillance – close, or careful.

# *Objective of Surveillance*

- Establish the existence of a violation
- Obtaining probable cause for a search warrant
- Apprehending violators in the commission of illegal acts.
- Identifying violator associates.
- Establish informant reliability
- Provide protection for an undercover investigator or informant

# *Objective of Surveillance*

- Locate person, places or things.
- Prevent crime
- Gather intelligence on individuals and premises prior to the execution of a search warrant.
- Gathering intelligence on illegal groups activities.

# ***Mechanical Lie Detection***

- Polygraphs – courts do not accept the results or the fact that an individual took a polygraph as evidence in court.
  - Polygraphs can be used to seek investigative leads.
  - Sometimes remove an individual from suspicion.
  - Urge a suspect to tell the truth and for other purposes.

# *Relationships with Victims and Witnesses*

- Investigators need to carefully evaluate the relationship of victims and witnesses with the suspect(s).
- Victims and witnesses may alter their stories told to investigators for many reasons, some of this may be based on the relationship with the suspect/offender.

# *Guidelines for Conducting Lineups*

- All persons should be of the same general age and race and have similar characteristics.
- Clothing should be similar.
- Participants should not be asked to make statements unless suggested by the witness or the statement is an integral part of the crime.

# *Guidelines for Conducting Lineups*

- Photographs of the lineup should be taken.
- Witnesses should not be allowed to see the suspect prior to the lineup.
- Witnesses should not be shown a photograph of the suspect prior to the lineup.
- Witnesses should view the lineup individually.

# *Guidelines for Conducting Lineups*

- No actions should be taken to suggest where or who the suspect is in the lineup.
- Witnesses should be provided with a form to identify the individual, should they select an individual.
- There should be at least six individuals in the lineup.
- If the suspects attorney is present the attorney should be allowed to make suggestions.

# *Guidelines for Conducting Lineups*

- Witnesses should be asked for a detailed description of the suspect, prior to the lineup.
- Investigators should seek advice from the prosecuting attorney when lineups are held.
- Investigators should be aware that lineups are complex and very time consuming.

***The End***