



Curriculum Outline

Course Title: *Duties of Responding Officer to a Homicide*

Course Description:

The study of responding to a homicide scene, documenting the investigation, applying investigative techniques and processing and developing investigative information is the emphasis of this course. Classroom instruction will be lecture style using PowerPoint presentations. Hands-on training will be conducted in an indoor or outdoor field environment. Students will be provided a Basic Homicide Investigation Course handbook. Dress for inclement weather is required.

Number of instructional hours: 8

Number of lecture hours: 8

Number of hands-on training hours: 0

Submitted by: *Sgt. Miguel Santiago and Det. Terry Brandon (Ret.)*

Course Objectives Classroom Training:

- **Duties of Responding Officers:** *Learn procedures for requesting additional information, duties upon arriving at the scene, securing the crime scene, making appropriate notifications, conducting a preliminary investigation, dealing with suspects at the scene, and responding to hospitals.*
- **Documenting a Homicide Investigation:** *Learn the basics of documenting, taking notes, the use of detective's field notes, documenting the scene, documenting the victim, witnesses, suspects, documenting and interview/interrogation, documenting weapons, analyzing and organizing notes, debriefing, writing the report, resources for the report, and report review.*
- **Identifying the Victim:** *Learn about information about the victim, scene identification, body description, positive identification, tentative identification, human remains, records to identify victims, postmortem procedures, and methods of identification.*
- **Collection and Preservation of Evidence:** *Learn of the three things that make a strong case, theory of exchange, evidence, physical evidence, location of physical evidence, guidelines to follow, types of evidence, documenting the scene, and collection and storage of evidence.*
- **Area Canvass:** *Learn about and prepare to conduct a canvass, canvass report, the proper way to canvass, Officer's duties, initial canvass, main canvass, follow-*

up canvass, size of area to be canvassed, area maps/overlays, do's and don'ts, and looking for the forgetables.

- **Developing Suspects:** *Learn how to develop suspects, the victim, witnesses, fingerprints, DNA, bite mark identification, polygraphs, video surveillance, memory recall, pattern injuries, cell phone records, jail informants, jail calls/letters, and forensic art.*
- **Case Study:** *Review a real life homicide case to identify the investigative techniques learned during these courses that were utilized during the investigation.*