



THE FBI STORY

2019

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2019



Director's Community Leadership Awards, p. 18

Welcome to the 2019 edition of *The FBI Story*—a selection of our past year’s work as told through some of the original stories and images from our website. This inside look at our people, programs, investigations, and operations only scratches the surface of the work we highlighted online in 2019 and is just a sampling of the work we do every day to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution of the United States.

You can view the complete versions of the stories featured in this publication, as well as many more, at fbi.gov/stories.



OUR HISTORY, OUR SERVICE

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPECIAL AGENTS

In 1919, an African-American named James Wormley Jones applied to be a special agent of the Bureau of Investigation, the forerunner of the FBI, setting the course for generations to follow.

Through a series of stories and events, the FBI is proud to honor Special Agent Jones and the many African-American pioneers and professionals who have followed in his wake over the past 100 years, serving this organization and our country with distinction. The road has been far from easy for the FBI's minority agents, but their countless contributions over the last century have played an invaluable role in making the Bureau stronger and the nation safer.

As the Bureau marks a century of service by African-American special agents, our commitment to fostering diversity remains a top priority.



THE FBI CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPECIAL AGENTS





Application for Appointment to Position of Special Agent of the Department of Justice.

Washington, D.C.,
November 18, 1917

The Attorney General,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to make application for appointment to the position of Special Agent of the Department of Justice, and for your use in this connection the following information is respectfully submitted:

1. Name in full: James W. Woodriffe Jones

2. Legal residence: 1611 N. Dumfries St., N.W., Wash., D.C.

3. Race and nativity: White

4. Age on last birthday: 35 yrs. Weight: 175 lbs. Height: 5 ft 9 in.

5. Place of birth: Totowa, New Jersey, N.J.

6. Were you ever in the service of the United States? Yes

7. If so, in what department of the service were you employed? Captain of Infantry from 12th Oct. 1917 to 21st Oct. 1918

8. Are you married? Yes

9. Are you physically capable of discharging the duties of the position sought? (Any physical defects should be fully described.) Yes

10. Do you see interesting liquor legislation? If so, to what extent? No

11. General educational training: (When this has the applicant's entire educational training should be given in chronological order, stating the period spent in each institution, degrees taken, etc.) None

12. Age of any languages other than English should be indicated: None

Public schools Cambridge, Mass. one year
Norfolk Normal College three years
Virginia Union University. Did not take one credit



ART CRIME

FBI SEEKS TO IDENTIFY RIGHTFUL OWNERS IN CULTURAL ARTIFACTS CASE



Our ultimate goal in this entire operation has been the respectful repatriation of these objects and these ancestors to the people they were taken from."

Four years ago, after an operation in rural Indiana resulted in the largest single recovery of cultural property in FBI history, the Bureau's Art Crime Team faced an unprecedented challenge: how to identify the rightful owners of more than 7,000 seized artifacts that came from locations spanning the globe.

The efforts to identify and repatriate the cultural property—which included approximately 500 sets of human remains looted largely from Native American burial grounds—are ongoing. The FBI is now publicizing the case, along with an invitation-only website detailing the items, in the hopes of gaining further assistance from governments around the world and from Native American tribes.

The seized artifacts and human remains were part of a much larger collection amassed by Don Miller, whose passion for

collecting spanned more than 70 years and sometimes crossed the line into illegality and outright looting.

"Our ultimate goal in this entire operation has been the respectful repatriation of these objects and these ancestors to the people they were taken from," said Special Agent Tim Carpenter, who oversees the FBI's art theft program and who led the 2014 recovery effort in Indiana. "And we want to do that with some measure of dignity."

The FBI is asking official representatives of Native American tribes and foreign governments that would like to determine whether they have a claim to any of the recovered artifacts to contact the Bureau's art theft program and submit a request via artifacts@fbi.gov.



ADDRESSING THE CYBER THREAT

DIRECTOR DISCUSSES FBI APPROACH AT CYBERSECURITY CONFERENCE

With cyber threats to the United States and across globe reaching unprecedented levels, the FBI uses a full spectrum of expertise, technology, and partnerships to root out cyber criminals, FBI Director Christopher Wray said at the March 2019 annual RSA Conference in San Francisco.

"Today's cyber threat is bigger than any one government agency—frankly, bigger than government itself," Wray said in an on-stage interview at the cybersecurity conference. "But I think no agency brings the same combination of scope and scale, experience, tools, and relationships that the FBI has."

From multinational cyber syndicates to foreign intelligence services, hacktivists, and insider threats, Wray explained that the FBI takes a multidisciplinary approach to combating threats. For example, the Bureau has an elite rapid deployment force and Cyber Action Teams that can respond to incidents anywhere in the world. In addition, the FBI has joined other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies on Cyber Task Forces to coordinate responses. Specially trained cyber agents are also embedded in FBI legal attaché offices in more than 60 countries worldwide.

In addition to law enforcement partnerships, Wray also stressed the importance of public-private partnerships, so prevention and response can be swift and coordinated.

"The key is having the private sector start to form relationships with their local field office beforehand," Wray said.

As the FBI continues to grow its partnerships, we are also developing our workforce's cyber expertise. Wray spoke about the FBI's success in recruiting special agents and professional staff over the past year.

"We're dealing with the most sophisticated, toughest cyber actors in the world, and if you want the ability to take on those people, to be on the front lines of that battle, dealing with incredibly cutting-edge technology ... you would be in the right place," Wray said of FBI cyber careers.







The people involved are vulnerable, and because of their stage in life, they don't have the opportunity frequently to recover. And so these losses are devastating to them."

RESULTS OF ELDER FRAUD SWEEP ANNOUNCED

MORE THAN 2 MILLION SENIORS VICTIMIZED IN PAST YEAR

The FBI joined federal partners and Attorney General William P. Barr at a press conference announcing the results of a yearlong effort to capture and prosecute fraudsters who prey on the elderly. Coordinated law enforcement actions in the past year resulted in criminal cases against more than 260 defendants who victimized more than 2 million Americans, most of them elderly. Losses are estimated to have exceeded more than \$700 million.

The number of defendants, victims, and alleged financial losses exceeded last year's figures. The targeted federal efforts were set in motion in 2017 with the enactment of the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act, which included, among other things, enhanced penalties for telemarketers who target or victimize people over age 55.

Former FBI Director William Webster, 95, and his wife, Lynda, attended the press conference, not only as distinguished guests but also as victims of a fraudster who targeted them in 2014. A caller told the Websters they had won millions of

dollars and a new car but they needed to pay thousands of dollars to cover shipping and handling. When the couple hedged, the caller made death threats.

The FBI has opened 66 economic crime investigations related to elder fraud since March 1, 2018, according to the Bureau's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3). Its data shows confidence fraud and romance scams aimed at the elderly accounted for more than \$184 million in losses over the past year.

Criminals target seniors because they tend to be more trusting, polite, and financially secure. They are also less likely to report a crime because of shame or embarrassment. That said, it is important to inform law enforcement, whether by reporting fraud to the FBI's IC3, the Federal Trade Commission, or local or state authorities. That way, law enforcement can spot trends, warn the public about specific scams, and develop strategies to stop the fraudsters.

FOILING AN ELDER FRAUD SCAM

FORMER FBI DIRECTOR WEBSTER ASSISTS INVESTIGATION

The heavily accented caller who promised William Webster a grand sweepstakes prize of \$72 million and a new Mercedes Benz had done most of his homework on his potential fraud target.

"I know that you was [sic] a judge, you was a lawyer, you was in the U.S. Navy," the caller told his elderly mark. "I do your background check. You are a big man."

What the caller, Keniel Thomas, 29, of Jamaica, missed was possibly the most salient detail about his intended victim, who was 90 years old the time: William Webster had served as director of both the FBI and the CIA, and so had a pretty good radar for pernicious criminal schemes—in this case, a Jamaican lottery scam.

Thomas' persistent calls in 2014 to Webster and his wife, Lynda, followed the familiar arc of scams that target the elderly: The caller promises riches but requires some form of payment to move the process forward. The caller demands more and more, and then resorts to intimidation when the cooperation tapers off.

In the Websters' case, the former judge was told he had to pay \$50,000 to get his prize. When the money wasn't forthcoming,

the frequent calls escalated to scary threats, which led the couple to contact the FBI.

Special agents from the FBI's Washington Field Office enlisted the Websters' help in nabbing the caller by recording their phone conversations to build a case and develop a clear picture of the scheme. The legwork ultimately led to Thomas' arrest in 2017 and his sentencing in February 2019 to nearly six years in prison. It also revealed that Thomas and his relatives in Jamaica had successfully scammed others in the U.S. out of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

William Webster said the entire experience—getting calls, working with the FBI, and seeing his tormentor in court last month—is a reminder that seniors and the trusted friends and family who look after them need to be vigilant.

"The average older person doesn't get caught in a bind where they think the screws are turning on them," Webster said. "They think something good is happening. They want to believe it. Whatever it was, they were able to be convinced that they were about to get something good to show they were still in the money."





'REMEMBER THIS DAY'

NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM VISIT ADDED TO FBI AGENT AND ANALYST TRAINING

FBI Director Christopher Wray addressed the newest class of FBI agent and intelligence analyst trainees at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City on March 9, 2019. They are the first class to visit the museum as part of their Basic Field Training Course, and it was an addition Wray felt was important as the years stretch away from that terrible day.

Many of these soon-to-be agents and analysts and those who follow them will learn about the events of 9/11 through history lessons. Wray stressed that the visit will help ensure that fateful day does not become a "mere historical footnote for the people of the Bureau."

The training required for new agents to pass into the FBI is intense. And with a mission to protect the country from both national security and criminal threats while upholding civil rights and the Constitution of the United States, the job of the FBI is as weighty as it is vital.

This addition joins other elements—such as visits to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C.—that the FBI has added in recent decades to the training new agents and intelligence analysts receive. These visits help underscore not just how to do the work but why the work matters and why doing it right matters even more.



FLAG RAISED AT GROUND ZERO ON 9/11

Collection 9/11 Memorial Museum, in grateful recognition of Chubb, and Shirley B. Dreifus, in memory of her husband Simon Rosenthal

On the afternoon of September 11, 2001, FDNY Firefighter Dan McWilliams spotted a flag on a yacht—the Star of America—docked at a marina near the World Trade Center site. McWilliams, along with FDNY Firefighters Billy Eisenstein and George Johnson, raised the flag on a 20-foot pile of debris on the site near West Street. The flag raising lifted the spirits of rescue workers. Several photographers captured the moment, and the images have often been compared to the World War II photograph of U.S. Marines raising an American flag at Iwo Jima.



RAISING THE AMERICAN FLAG AT GROUND ZERO, SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Left: Photograph by Rick Feltz, © The Journal News
Center: Photograph by © Lee Gornall, Corbis Photo Images
Right: Photograph by Thomas E. Hoadley/The Record-Bergen County, New Jersey, AP Photo



THE FLAG LOST AND FOUND

In 2013, the History Channel aired an episode about the missing flag on 9/11. Soon after, the flag was turned in to its authorities in Everett, Washington, by a man as a U.S. Marine. He claimed to be acting on behalf of the widow of a Ground Zero recovery worker. She indicated that she had been unsure that the flag in her possession was the subject of a national search before watching the televised document.

At the request of the Everett Police Department, the Washington State Police, and the History Channel, independent researchers from John F. Kennedy University, Berkeley, California, conducted an investigation. They examined the flag, including its authenticity, metal hardware, attached electrical tape, and other details. Shirley Dreifus, a co-owner of the museum, provided additional visual confirmation of the flag's authenticity. Her testimony, along with other evidence, confirmed that this is the flag.



BURIAL PLOTS

UNEARTHING STORIES FOR 20 YEARS

AT THE 'BODY FARM'

The FBI investigators in protective gloves, boots, and coveralls weren't quite sure what they would find behind the padlocked chain-link fence on a wooded hillside in Tennessee, except that there would be lots of dead bodies.

The special agents and analysts were students in the FBI Laboratory's Recovery of Human Remains course, held in March every year by the Forensic Anthropology Center at the Anthropology Research Facility in Knoxville. The outdoor site—popularly known as the "Body Farm"—consists of 2.5 shady acres where human donors are buried, partially covered, or left out in the elements so forensic anthropologists can study how bodies break down and decompose under different conditions. The research facility was established in 1981 with the first body donor. The FBI Laboratory began sending personnel to the Body Farm two decades ago to better understand the intricacies of investigating outdoor crime scenes.

"All of the research that we do out here is to benefit law enforcement and to move forensic science forward in areas such as grave recognition and how best to excavate burials," said Dawnie Wolfe Steadman, director of the Forensic Anthropology Center at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, who manages the research facility. To duplicate real-life scenarios, donors are left to decompose in various states—partially clothed, wrapped in plastic, placed in a car trunk, or in a garbage bin. "These are all things we can test," Steadman said, "and directly help law enforcement figure out their cases better."

March 2019 marks the 20th year of the FBI's sought-after course. During the five-day class, students learn and apply a rigid methodology of probing the ground to find clandestine graves and then unearthing the remains and documenting everything, including clues and potential evidence that might be buried in the surrounding soil. The goal is to collect as complete a picture as possible of the deceased.

That means everything gets thoroughly documented—from the presence of shell casings or other artifacts, which may

have evidentiary value, down to the color and texture of the underlying soil. "We have our narrative notes about what we did out there, and all of that works together to tell the story," said Heather Thew, a special agent on the FBI's Evidence Response Team Unit, who organizes the course. "And someday we need to tell the story to a jury."

For the class, one of the FBI Laboratory's most popular, students are separated into small groups led by Forensic Anthropology Center instructors. Each group is escorted to a separate isolated area on the wooded grounds and provided probes to poke into the soil and feel for anomalies or soft spots. When a potential burial site is discovered, students learn how to map it on a grid of twine and stakes and begin scraping away thin layers of dirt, which is sifted for clues. Students take turns measuring, documenting, and sketching as the contours of a skeleton begin to emerge. In turns, the groups are also pulled aside for seminar-style lessons, including one that shows how heat and fire affect dental work and another on how maggots can unlock some of the mysteries of the recently deceased.

Steadman said managing an outdoor crime scene presents unique challenges for even the most seasoned investigators. "If there's a dead body in the living room of a house, they know how to approach that, they know how to map that—there's an entry and an exit area that they take, and there are very clear ways of processing the indoor crime scene," she explained. "You don't know all the boundaries of this scene. There are no boundaries out here. And you don't know where all the evidence might be. A cigarette butt at an outdoor crime scene—is that evidence or is it garbage?"

By the end of the course, students will have removed the remains from their burial sites and compiled a thick portfolio of documentary materials about their excavations, which in a criminal case would assist prosecutors but here becomes an instructional part of the research facility's large skeletal collection. Students also finish with a broader understanding of crime scenes and evidence collection.



OPERATION SABOTOR

FEDERAL PARTNERSHIPS KEY TO DISMANTLING ONLINE DRUG MARKETS

Drug traffickers are increasingly using anonymous online networks to sell narcotics, including potent synthetic opioids like fentanyl, to buyers who can order and receive the drugs without ever leaving home. What can appear to be a regular e-commerce transaction is one of the delivery channels fueling a deadly nationwide epidemic. The CDC reports that drug overdose deaths have been on an upward climb for several years, across the United States and across all demographic groups. In 2017 alone, 70,237 people in this country died of a drug overdose; two-thirds of those deaths involved an opioid.

As part of a government-wide effort to address the epidemic, the Department of Justice created the Joint Criminal Opioid and Darknet Enforcement (J-CODE) team in 2018 to leverage

the power of federal and international partnerships to combat the complex and deadly threat of online drug sales.

Now in its second year, J-CODE is delivering results through coordinated efforts and the commitment of the nation's law enforcement agencies to address opioid sales on the Darknet. Building on the success of last year's Operation Disarray, the J-CODE team led Operation SaboTor between January and March 2019. These concentrated operations in the United States and abroad led to 61 arrests and shut down 50 Darknet accounts used for illegal activity. Agents executed 65 search warrants, seizing more than 299 kilograms of drugs, 51 firearms, and more than \$7 million (\$4.504 million in cryptocurrency, \$2.485 million in cash, and \$40,000 in gold).



It takes work, but the FBI, USPIS, DEA, and others are laser-focused on tackling the opioid epidemic on the web."

DIRECTOR ADDRESSES COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WRAY SAYS CHINA IS 'STEALING ITS WAY UP THE ECONOMIC LADDER'



FBI Director Christopher Wray called China's sweeping spying and hacking efforts a threat to U.S. economic and national security and said the FBI is working diligently to stay ahead of the diverse and evolving threats our country faces.

In remarks at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C., Wray described a threat landscape ranging from terrorism to cybercrime to espionage. He specifically called out the Chinese government, which is considered a major counterintelligence threat to the U.S. and other countries. The Chinese intelligence services strategically use every tool at their disposal—including state-owned businesses, students, researchers, and ostensibly private companies—to systematically steal information and intellectual property.

"China has pioneered a societal approach to stealing innovation any way it can, from a wide array of businesses, universities, and organizations," Wray said.

The FBI has China-related economic espionage investigations in nearly all of its 56 field offices and in nearly every industry.

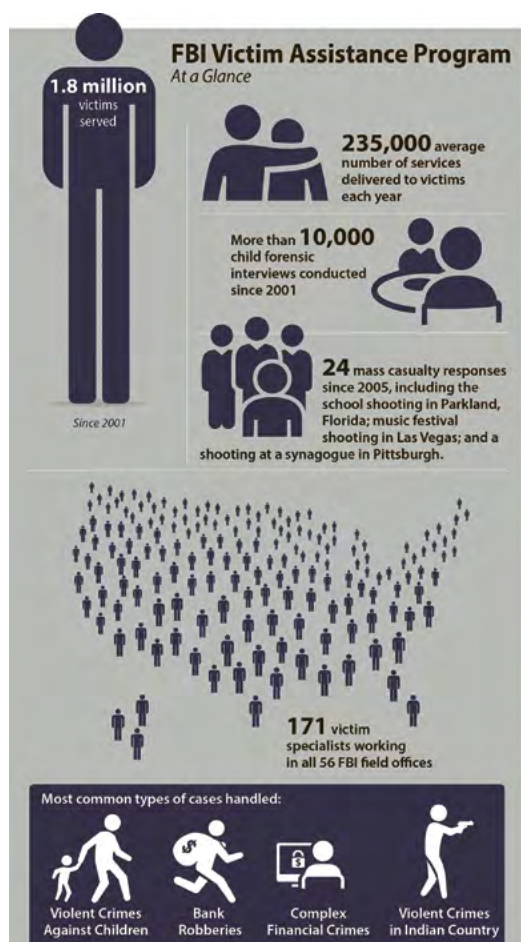
"Put plainly, China seems determined to steal its way up the economic ladder, at our expense," Wray said.

In recent months, the U.S. government charged Chinese tech giant Huawei with theft of trade secrets and other offenses. Chinese government-affiliated hackers have also been subjected to indictments in the U.S.



FBI
VICTIM
ASSISTANCE

A RAPID DEPLOYMENT TEAM FOR VICTIMS FBI'S VICTIM- CENTERED TEAM WORKS MASS CASUALTY INCIDENTS



When the special agent leading the FBI's response to a church shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas, arrived on the scene in 2017 to join local police in assessing the crisis—in which a gunman killed 26 people before being shot dead—he made quick determinations about which FBI assets to deploy.

Special agent bomb technicians and Evidence Response Teams from the FBI's San Antonio Field Office were already on scene supporting the Texas Rangers, the state law enforcement agency leading the investigation. Their job was to secure the crime scene, determine what happened, and collect evidence to support the investigation. And victim specialists from the nearest FBI office were already beginning to coordinate with local agencies in the rural area to support the victims and their families.

But it was quickly evident after the November 5, 2017, shooting that the sheer magnitude of the incident would require a surge of resources to assist survivors, witnesses, and the families of the injured and deceased. So Christopher Combs, the special agent in charge of the San Antonio FBI, called up what he described as one of the Bureau's key "crisis assets"—the Victim Services Response Team (VSRT), a specially trained cadre of FBI personnel whose primary function is to address the needs of victims in mass casualty events.

The FBI's VSRT, which includes victim specialists, agents, and analysts from around the country, was established in 2005 to provide support for victims in large-scale events. Team members generally work their regular jobs within the Bureau but are on call for events like Sutherland Springs or the October 2018 mass shooting at a synagogue in Pittsburgh that left 11 dead.

Once on the ground for a deployment, the team engages with victims and families to assess their immediate needs and provides crisis intervention and other forms of emergency assistance. They work with local agencies to staff family assistance centers and support victims during investigative interviews. VSRT members also work closely with the Bureau's Evidence Response Teams to collect, manage, clean, and return personal effects—items not considered evidence—collected from crime scenes.

Additionally, VSRT works with local agencies to reach out to people who were present but not injured at mass casualty events. They may be eligible to receive services, including counseling, and might also have information that can assist an investigation.

Since its inception in 2005 as the Victim Assistance Rapid Deployment Team, VSRT has responded to 24 mass casualty events, including the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013, the San Bernardino shooting in California in 2015, the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando in 2016, and the Las Vegas shooting in 2017. The team's most recent response was in November 2018, when 13 people were killed at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks, California.

The FBI's Victim Services Division manages the VSRT program and provides specialized training for team members. The Victim Services Division emerged out of the FBI response to the 9/11 attacks with a mission: to inform, support, and assist victims in navigating the aftermath of crime and the criminal justice process with dignity and resilience. VSRT's role is to establish that mission on the ground as early as possible after an incident, to the benefit of victims and investigators.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY SERVICE

2018 DIRECTOR'S COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS RECOGNIZED SELFLESS, CRITICAL WORK

The FBI's Honolulu Field Office chose to recognize Native Hawaiian Veterans, LLC, as the recipient of its 2018 Director's Community Leadership Award. Among its many contributions, the organization has established the Kina'ole Foundation, which provides educational and business development programs primarily in Hawaii, with a special focus on Native Hawaiians.

Kina'ole founder Raymond Jardine, Jr. says the name of the foundation comes from an old Hawaiian word that speaks to a tradition of putting the absolute best into your work or service. "It means doing the right thing, in the right way, at the right time, in the right place, to the right person, for the right reason, with the right feeling," according to Jardine.

Based on that definition, kina'ole is reflected in abundance in the 57 individuals and organizations recognized in March 2019 during a ceremony at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Director's Community Leadership Awards (DCLA) honor those who are meeting a need, answering a call to serve, and working to make communities safer and stronger.

"You've identified some of the toughest problems that are out there," FBI Director Christopher Wray told the awardees, who gathered with friends, coworkers, and family to be honored by the FBI community. "And you haven't waited for someone else to fix them."

For addressing needs small and large and working to tackle both national issues and neighborhood-specific concerns, the recipients of the DCLA truly represent kina'ole and the best of community service and community building.

"You're out in our neighborhoods," said Wray. "You see what's happening in our communities every day. And you're taking action to make it better."





You're out in our neighborhoods. You see what's happening in our communities every day. And you're taking action to make it better."





HONORING THE FALLEN

NINE FBI AGENTS REMEMBERED IN NATIONAL POLICE WEEK TRIBUTE

The FBI honored nine of its own during a special memorial service held May 14, 2019, at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The solemn event occurred on the eve of Peace Officers Memorial Day, which honors law enforcement officers from around the country who made the ultimate sacrifice.

“Nothing is more worthy of a dedicated moment of our time than honoring our FBI Family members who sacrificed everything to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution,” Director Christopher Wray said in remarks to FBI employees, special guests, and family members of fallen agents, whose names were added this year to the Bureau’s Wall of Honor.

The private FBI memorial followed a public candlelight vigil held the night before on the National Mall that was attended by thousands of people, including family members of the fallen and law enforcement officers who traveled from across the country for the annual event. The tribute, sponsored by

the non-profit National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, included a reading of the names of 371 fallen law enforcement officers—including 158 who died in 2018. The names were added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., which now bears the names of 21,910 fallen officers.

The focus of National Police Week is always on the sacrifices made by those whose names are carved each year into marble. According to the FBI’s *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* (LEOKA) report, released earlier in March, 106 law enforcement officers were killed last year in the line of duty—55 as a result of felonious acts. The average age of officers feloniously killed in 2018 was 37.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which that day falls as National Police Week.



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Nothing is more worthy of a dedicated moment of our time than honoring our FBI Family members who sacrificed everything to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution."



STILL IN THE FIGHT

THE FBI AND MARINE CORPS WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT JOIN IN A DAY OF SWEAT AND NETWORKING



Although set up as a friendly training and networking event, the Marines and FBI National Academy students who gathered at the field house of the FBI Training Academy—which is situated on the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia—on May 22, 2019, were put through their paces during grueling high-intensity exercise challenges.

The remarkable display of strength, endurance, teamwork, and grit was made even more remarkable by the Marines who

participated. As members of the Wounded Warrior Regiment, each had suffered an injury or illness in the line of duty and was working through a process of recovery.

Held on their shared land in Quantico, the event was designed to celebrate the partnership and common values of the FBI and the Marine Corps while exposing members of the Wounded Warrior Regiment to career opportunities in law enforcement and national security agencies.





FIGHTING FOR THE DOGS

CIVIL FORFEITURE SPEEDS RECOVERY FOR DOGS RESCUED FROM FIGHTING RINGS

A New Mexico man's long journey through the legal process for his extensive role in a dogfighting network—from his arrest in 2016 to his guilty plea in 2018 to his recent sentencing—raises a logical question: What happens to the rescued dogs as the case is wending its way through the courts?

Robert Arellano, of Albuquerque, was sentenced April 4, 2019 in federal court in New Jersey to four years in prison for his involvement in a multi-state dogfighting network. When he and others were arrested in a coordinated operation spanning five states and the District of Columbia, investigating agencies, including the FBI, rescued 85 dogs.

What happened next was a tightly orchestrated process involving the U.S. Marshals Service, animal rescue organizations, federal agents, and a small cadre of prosecutors and federal forfeiture attorneys from the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD). Their collective goal, refined over years, is to get recovered dogs screened, treated, rehabilitated when feasible, and, if appropriate, adopted out to new families as soon as possible.

Most dogs found in fighting operations used to be euthanized, in part because they could not be adopted until a criminal case ran its lengthy course, leaving the animals to languish. But in recent years, the recovery and placement process has been streamlined by using a legal technique commonly associated with drug dealers, fraudsters, and terrorist financiers—civil forfeiture, in which property involved in a crime can be legally seized before an indictment or a conviction (in this case, the dogs).

FBI operations involving animal seizures are well planned, with ENRD lawyers and the U.S. Marshals—who contract with animal rescue organizations—notified well in advance so they are prepared to sweep in after arrests. The process allows for qualified vendors who specialize in animal care and management to assist with the on-site seizure of the animals; provide veterinarian care, kenneling, and adoption services; and support investigators and prosecutors on their case. Meanwhile, ENRD works closely with federal agencies, such as the FBI, to efficiently complete the forfeiture so the adoption process can start.



OPERATION INDEPENDENCE DAY

MONTHLONG SWEEP TARGETED SEX TRAFFICKERS, RECOVERY OF MINORS

A monthlong FBI-led operation to identify and arrest sex traffickers and recover child victims resulted in dozens of arrests across the country and the identification and recovery of more than 100 juveniles.

The initiative during the month of July, dubbed Operation Independence Day, relied on more than 400 law enforcement agencies working on FBI Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Forces in each of the Bureau's 56 field offices. The sweep included undercover operations and has led to the

opening of five dozen federal criminal investigations. Agents and analysts at FBI Headquarters and in the field worked closely with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) to identify young runaways, missing kids, and juveniles who may have been subjected to human trafficking.

In all, 103 juveniles were identified or recovered and 67 suspected traffickers were arrested. The sweep resulted in 60 new federal investigations.



"The FBI is fiercely focused on recovering child victims and arresting the sex traffickers who exploit them," FBI Director Christopher Wray said in a statement. "Through operations like this, the FBI helps child victims escape the abusive life of sex trafficking."

In past years, the FBI initiated weeklong coordinated nationwide sweeps under the name Operation Cross Country to arrest traffickers and recover underage victims. This year, FBI field offices had a longer window to plan and execute operations as part of the national initiative, with the goal being to develop richer leads and intelligence and more robust cases.

The FBI and NCMEC, along with the Department of Justice Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, launched the Innocence Lost National Initiative in 2003 to combat sex trafficking of children in the U.S. Today, the initiative includes 86 Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Forces that work year-round on efforts like those conducted during Operation Independence Day. To date, the collaboration has led to the recovery or identification of more than 6,600 child

victims and more than 2,700 criminal convictions of traffickers.

The FBI-led Operation Cross Country sweeps, which were held annually between 2008 and 2017, recovered more than 900 child victims and arrested nearly 1,400 traffickers.

A major element in all the FBI's trafficking cases is the placement of victim specialists on operational teams. Their mission is to provide victims with resources to help them in their situations. But they also frequently serve as intermediaries between victim-witnesses and investigators.

The task forces in the recent operation included federal, state, local, and tribal partners, with efforts in every state and some U.S. territories. A single operation in early July led by the FBI's office in Guam (part of the Honolulu Field Office) included nearly 20 investigators from the FBI, the Guam Police Department, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Coast Guard Investigative Service, and Homeland Security Investigations. The effort resulted in a federal case against a 33-year-old man who allegedly trafficked a minor girl to a 48-year-old man in exchange for cash and drugs.







OPERATION SUMMER

A LOOK INSIDE THE FBI HONORS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Every year, a select group of undergraduate and graduate students embark on an internship with the FBI. To earn a spot in this highly competitive, paid 10-week program (more than 13,000 students applied for 1,200 positions this year) each applicant must pass a complete background investigation—which includes a polygraph examination and drug test—before receiving a top secret clearance and beginning a summer of in-depth experience and a close-up look at the FBI and its mission.

Honors interns have diverse academic backgrounds—including public relations, legal studies, biology, and computer science—and bring valuable skills to an agency with an equally diverse variety of positions, from accountants and engineers to helicopter pilots, psychologists, and more.

One former intern, Brian, was offered a full-time position after his 2018 summer internship and now works for the FBI as an operational support technician in the Philadelphia Field Office. Brian is one of more than 300 interns who were hired by the Bureau last year. “I knew that I wanted to work for an organization that helped people and the country, and I wanted to do something meaningful,” he said.

Victoria was one of this year’s interns. She was assigned to the Newark Field Office, where she worked with the Violent Crimes Against Children and Human Trafficking Unit. She applied for the internship because she was interested in law enforcement and always thought the FBI would be a great place to work. Her internship has inspired her to become a special agent or a victim specialist. Her advice to future interns: “Always put your full self into your work, because this is the most rewarding job anyone could ask for.”

This year was McKinley’s second as an intern in the Counterintelligence Division. She has always wanted to work at the FBI, and the internship opened that door for her. She was looking for a workplace that helps people and pushes its employees to think critically, and she found that at the Bureau. “I love being a part of something that is going to make a difference in the long run,” she said.

Students interested in the FBI’s internship program can learn more and apply at fbijobs.gov.



STOP SEXTORTION

YOUTH SHOULD BE ON GUARD ONLINE



The FBI is seeing a growing number of cases involving young people who are manipulated, threatened, or coerced into creating explicit content by an adult online.

To help raise awareness of this threat, the FBI has launched a campaign to inform students about sextortion so they know how to avoid risky situations online and to ask for help if they are being victimized. The campaign also seeks to educate parents, caregivers, and educators about the crime.

Sextortion begins when a predator reaches out to a young person over a game, app, or social media account. Through deception, manipulation, money and gifts, or threats, the predator convinces the young person to produce an explicit video or image. When the young person starts to resist requests to make more images, the criminal will use threats of harm or exposure of the early images to pressure the child to continue producing content.

The cycle of victimization continues because the child is afraid. By the time a child is a victim, they have done something that may be generating deep feelings of shame and embarrassment. The criminal may also be telling them they have produced child pornography and will be prosecuted for it. In addition, they may fear their access to their phone or computer will be taken away from them as a result of their actions.

FBI agents and forensic interviewers who deal with this crime say that if a child admits that they are experiencing this type of coercion, parents, educators, and caregivers should move first to help the child and try hard to put aside any anger or desire to punish.

If you are the adult a child trusts with this information, comfort them, help them understand they have been the victim of a crime, and help them report it to law enforcement.

WORLDWIDE SWEEP TARGETS BUSINESS EMAIL COMPROMISE

CRIMINAL CASES SHOW NEED TO VERIFY BEFORE WIRING FUNDS



The FBI and federal partners announced scores of arrests in the United States and overseas in a coordinated law enforcement sweep targeting perpetrators of an insidious scam that tricks businesses and individuals into wiring money to criminals.

Operation reWired, a monthslong, multi-agency effort to disrupt and dismantle international business email compromise (BEC) schemes, resulted in 281 arrests, including 74 in the United States, officials announced. Arrests were also made in Nigeria, Turkey, Ghana, France, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, and the United Kingdom. The sweep resulted in the seizure of nearly \$3.7 million and the disruption and recovery of approximately \$118 million in fraudulent wire transfers.

These sophisticated cyber-enabled scams often target employees with access to company finances and—using methods like social engineering and computer intrusions—trick them into making wire transfers to bank accounts thought to belong to trusted partners. The accounts are actually controlled by the criminals.

The effects of this crime are far-reaching, and the dollar amounts involved are staggering. Since the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) began formally tracking BEC (and its variant, email account compromise, or EAC) in 2013, it has gathered reports of more than \$10 billion in losses from U.S. victims alone. The worldwide tally is more than \$26 billion.

“The FBI is working every day to disrupt and dismantle the criminal enterprises that target our businesses and our citizens,” said FBI Director Christopher Wray. “Through Operation reWired, we’re sending a clear message to the criminals who orchestrate these BEC schemes: We’ll keep coming after you, no matter where you are.”

Victims of business email compromise schemes are encouraged to contact law enforcement immediately and file a complaint online with the IC3 at bec.ic3.gov. The IC3 reviews complaints, looks for patterns or other indicators of significant criminal activity, and refers investigative packages of complaints to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.



THE KILLING FIELDS

DECADES LATER, INVESTIGATORS STILL SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS IN MURDERS OF FOUR WOMEN

The women seemingly had little in common. One was just a teenager. Another was a local bartender. One was a 30-year-old mechanic. The fourth was a young mother.

But their lives appear to have ended in the same place—a rural field off a dirt road in League City, Texas, between Houston and Galveston. It was a desolate space, dotted by little more than oil rigs and dirt roads. If they cried for help, it's unlikely anyone heard.

Years after finding the bodies of Heidi Fye, Laura Miller, Audrey Lee Cook, and Donna Gonsoulin Prudhomme in that field near Calder Road—part of an area that became known as “the Killing Fields”—investigators are still trying to find their murderer(s).

Leads have come and gone. There are no known witnesses to any of the killings, and no common person connects all four. Investigators have scoured missing-persons databases. And with each passing year, the case gets tougher to crack.

A key part of the investigation is appealing to the public for help. Law enforcement needs to talk to anyone who can provide additional information. Details as simple as where the women worked or the names of friends who haven't been interviewed could be key to solving these murders.

If you have any information on these cases, visit tips.fbi.gov or call your local FBI field office.





PRACTICED AND PREPARED

SCENARIO TESTS FBI HOSTAGE RESCUE TEAM TRAINEES AND FIRST RESPONDERS

The Hostage Rescue Team (HRT), a selective and specially trained unit within the Bureau, is called in to support the field with complex tactical situations. The Mobility Team within HRT is charged with delivering the people and equipment needed to execute any operation in any location under any conditions. HRT also has a team of tactical bomb technicians who are trained to handle explosive devices under tense and time-sensitive conditions.

A three-day exercise in South Carolina in August 2019 tested and honed the skills of HRT's tactical special agent bomb technician and mobility operator trainees in a land, water, and air-based training operation involving a dozen state and local agencies. The training also supported the efforts of the FBI's Maritime Liaison Program, which works with local and state agencies to enhance the security of the maritime environment.

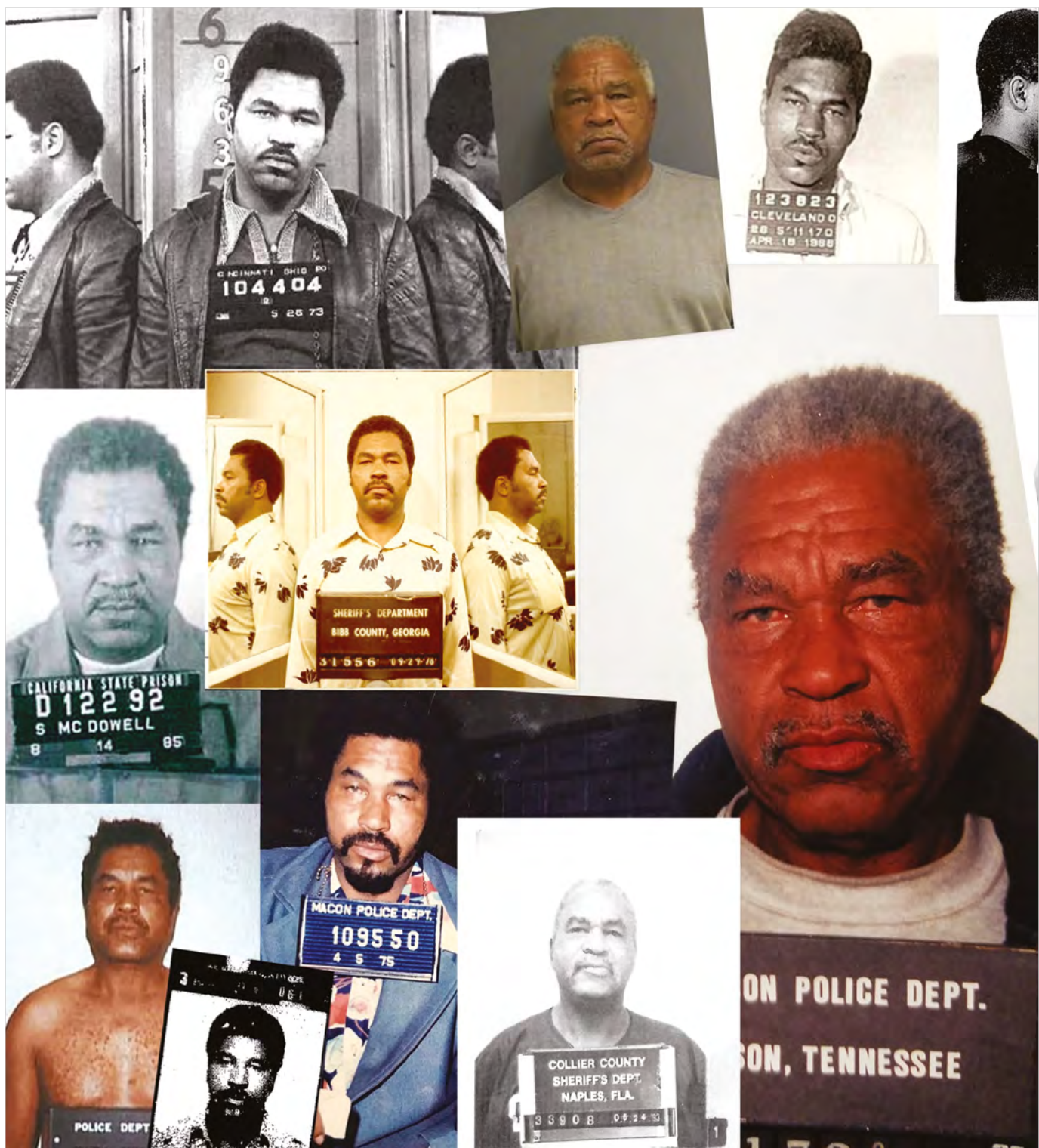
"The goal was to build a realistic scenario to exercise a range of techniques," said a former HRT Mobility Team member who is now a special agent with the FBI's Columbia Field Office and serves as one of the division's maritime liaison agents. By involving a large number of local first responders, he said an exercise of this type builds strong relationships and creates greater trust.

"The local agencies gain a better understanding of the FBI's capabilities and special equipment," the agent explained. "The HRT trainees see how incredibly important it is to seek out the local expertise and collaborate with regional and state partners."



“The goal was to build a realistic scenario to exercise a range of techniques.”







CONFESSIONS OF A KILLER

FBI SEEKING ASSISTANCE CONNECTING VICTIMS TO SAMUEL LITTLE'S CONFESSIONS

Five years after analysts with the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP) began linking cases to convicted murderer Samuel Little—and nearly 18 months after a Texas Ranger began to elicit from him a breathtaking number of confessions—the FBI has confirmed Little to be the most prolific serial killer in U.S. history.

Little has confessed to 93 murders, and FBI crime analysts believe all of his confessions are credible. Law enforcement has been able to verify 50 confessions, with many more pending final confirmation.

Little says he strangled his 93 victims between 1970 and 2005. Many of his victims' deaths, however, were originally ruled overdoses or attributed to accidental or undetermined causes. Some bodies were never found.

"For many years, Samuel Little believed he would not be caught because he thought no one was accounting for his victims," said ViCAP Crime Analyst Christie Palazzolo. "Even though he is already in prison, the FBI believes it is important to seek justice for each victim—to close every case possible."

The FBI is asking for the public's help in matching the remaining unconfirmed confessions. ViCAP, with the support of the Texas Rangers, has provided additional information and details about five cases in hopes that someone may remember a detail that could further the investigation.

If you have any information linked to Little's confessions, please contact the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI or submit a tip online at tips.fbi.gov.

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

FBI'S MANY 'AMBASSADORS' ARE KEY TO OUTREACH MISSION



The FBI operatives staged themselves discreetly outside the hospital entrance before going in. There was a special agent bomb technician, a SWAT supervisor, two crisis negotiators, and nearly a dozen others from the FBI's Knoxville Field Office.

Their coordinated operation had been weeks in the planning. Entry would be through the lobby. Then up the elevator and down the hall. Their target: the pediatric hematology/oncology clinic at East Tennessee Children's Hospital. Their mission: to deliver toys and games to children battling cancer and provide them a brief respite from their long, difficult journeys.

For the kids, it was a chance to see FBI agents up close and to ask them about their jobs and their gear. For the Bureau, occasions like this are an opportunity to peel off the badge and protective vest and meet with members of the community they serve.

Outreach is a big part of the FBI's mission, which relies on building and maintaining the public's trust. One of the Bureau's most successful outreach efforts is its Citizens Academy, a six- to eight-week hands-on program that gives civic, business, religious, and community leaders an inside look at the FBI. Organized and run by the Bureau's 56 field

offices, the academy gives participants an opportunity to learn from agents and FBI staff about how the Bureau investigates crimes and national security threats. Subjects may include FBI tools, challenges, policies, structure, and legal jurisdiction.

More than 35,000 people have participated in the FBI Citizens Academy since its creation more than two decades ago. Former students comprise the 60 non-profit FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association chapters around the country. The service-oriented organizations operate independently from the Bureau, but their goal is to bridge the gap between law enforcement and communities. In Knoxville, members of the local chapter donated games and toys for the kids at Children's Hospital and then joined the FBI in passing them out.

"Events like this give us the opportunity to interact directly with the citizens whom we protect and serve," said Joseph Carrico, special agent in charge of FBI Knoxville. He called the Citizens Academy and its alumni a force-multiplier for the Bureau. "The Citizens Academy Alumni Association provides additional ambassadors for the FBI Family to serve our communities."

For more information about the FBI Citizens Academy, contact your local FBI office.



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