

Duties of the First Officer

Dr. Tod Burke

Professor of Criminal Justice

Radford University

Duties of first officer

- Assist the injured
- Protect the crime scene
- Separate witnesses
- Locate evidence (markers)
- Photograph the crime scene
- Measure the crime scene
- Sketch the crime scene
- Mark the evidence for ID
- Collect the evidence
- Log all events

Types of Searches

- Grid/Strip
- Double Grid/Double Strip
- Spiral - inward and outward
- Zone
- Wheel

Reconstruction of crime scene

- Physical Reconstruction
- Description of suspects/witnesses
- Physical evidence collected
- Environmental duplication
- Reenact movement of all parties
- See also: Accident Analysis and Reconstruction:
<http://accidentanalysis.net/>

Reconstruction of crime scene

- Mental Reconstruction
- Discussion of hypothesis/theory testing: pro and null

Photographing Crime Scene

■ Rules

- Must be relevant
- Should not incite
- Free from distortion
- Do not misrepresent crime scene/object

Photographing Crime Scene - continued

- Purpose
- Show relationships between objects
- Have a reference point
- Reveal scene as you saw it
- Tell a story

Photographing Crime Scene - continued

- Method
- General overview
- Clockwise motion
- Photograph body (scars, wounds, clothing, etc.) weapons, evidence
- Use a scale
- Zoom lens approach

Photographs continued

- ID of photo with offense
- ID of photographer
- Position of camera
- Date and time
- Weather and lighting conditions
- Type of camera/film/exposure, etc.
- Video concerns discussed

Crime Scene Measurements

- **Coordinate Method:**
 - **Rectangular** - give the distance from two mutually perpendicular lines (ex) one wall to another wall.
 - **Triangulation** - uses fixed points - use right angles!

Crime Scene Sketching

- Rough draft - made at the scene/not to scale
- Final draft - for courtroom

Crime Scene Sketching- continued

- **Procedure**
- Measurements
- Compass direction
- Only necessary details
- Scale
- Legend
- Title

Types of Evidence

- **Physical Evidence:**
- ---Articles and materials which are found in connection with an investigation and which aids in establishing the identity of the suspect or the circumstances under which the crime was committed. It aids in the discovery of the facts.

Types of Evidence - continued

- **Corpus Delecti** - objects or substances essential to the body of the crime.
- **Associative evidence** - links the suspect to the crime
- **Tracing evidence** - helps locate the suspect

Types of Evidence - continued

- **Circumstantial** - establishes a factor or circumstance from which the court may infer another fact at issue.
- **Direct** - Establishes a main fact in issue
- **Real Evidence** - tangible objects

Chain of Custody

- 1. Date and time evidence was collected
- 2. Location
- 3. Crime scene description
- 4. Name and ID of person who discovered item
- 5. Location where evidence was marked

Chain of Custody - continued

- 6. Case number
- 7. Date and time item was turned over to property room
- 8. Name of person who turned item into property room
- 9. Name and ID of person in property room the item was turned over to

Chain of Custody - continued

- 10. Complete description of item
- 11. Obtain a receipt for item from property room personnel
- 12. If the item is removed from property room, an exact record of movement, people involved, etc. must be maintained