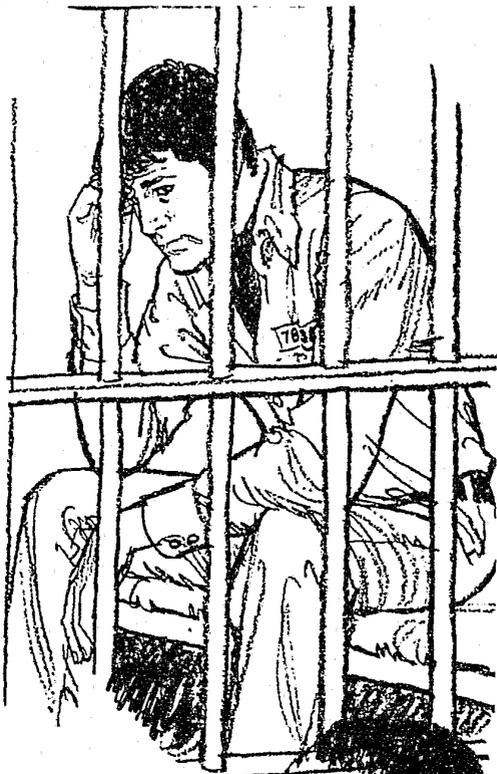




U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation



# Impact of FBI Investigations on Crimes of Violence

## Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Section

131169

U.S. Department of Justice  
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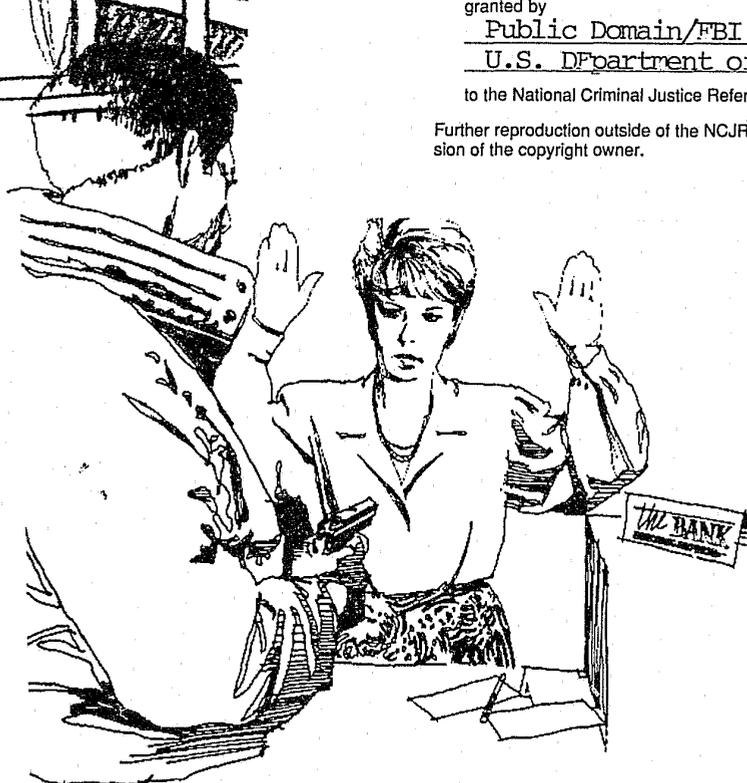
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**IMPACT OF FBI  
INVESTIGATIONS ON  
CRIMES OF VIOLENCE**



Prepared by:

VIOLENT CRIMES AND MAJOR OFFENDERS SECTION

VIOLENT CRIMES UNIT

FUGITIVE/GOVERNMENT RESERVATION CRIMES UNIT

INTERSTATE THEFT UNIT

January 1991

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## FOREWORD

On May 15, 1989, President George Bush outlined a comprehensive program to combat the escalating incidence of violent crimes which are the criminal offenses most feared by the public. The President's program, which is grounded in his belief that greater certainty of apprehension, prosecution, and punishment will help deter crimes of violence, is designed to strengthen the Nation's criminal justice system and the partnership of Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

The President cited four principles which underlie the goals of our criminal justice system:

- (1) A primary purpose of government is to protect citizens and their property. Americans deserve to live in a society in which they are safe and feel secure.
- (2) Those who commit violent criminal offenses should, and must, be held accountable for their actions.
- (3) Our criminal justice system must have as its objective the swift and certain apprehension, prosecution, and incarceration of those who break the law.
- (4) Success in accomplishing our criminal justice system goals requires a sustained cooperative effort by Federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities.

The President proposed a four-part program to accomplish these principles:

- (1) Strengthening current laws.
- (2) Augmenting enforcement.
- (3) Enhancing prosecution.
- (4) Expanding prison capacity.

In regard to the concept of augmenting enforcement, Mr. Bush "proposed to increase funds for the FBI to provide for about three hundred additional positions for the Bureau's Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Program, and Organized Crime Program and to assist states and localities (to) improve their efforts in fighting violent crime through greater Federal/state cooperation."



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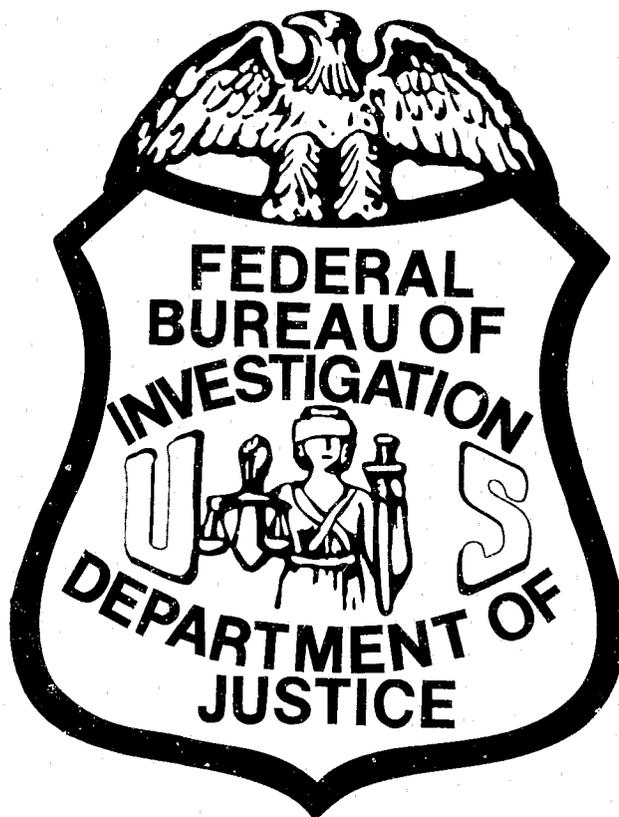
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### Summary

## INTRODUCTION

Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics for the first half of 1990 reveal that crimes of violence increased by ten percent over 1989 figures, and that property crimes as a group decreased by one percent. The specific offenses comprising crimes of violence include: murder, rape, aggravated assault, and robbery. The offenses included in property crimes are: burglary, larceny, arson, and motor vehicle theft. While the violent crime figures are alarming and are indicative of growing urban violence, it is an area where statutory jurisdiction for FBI involvement in investigative and enforcement activities is limited. The types of offenses which comprise the violent crimes enumerated in the UCR, and which account for the substantial increase in crime of violence sta-

tistics, are generally investigated by municipal or county law enforcement agencies and, to a lesser degree, by state police agencies. The FBI investigates some of these same



offenses, such as bank robberies, kidnappings, extortions, drug-related homicides, crimes on government reservations, crimes against certain victims, such as Federal officers, and crimes related to the sexual exploitation of children. Although many violations categorized by the

UCR as violent crimes are not Federal violations, the FBI still provides valuable services to state and local law enforcement to assist them in identifying perpetrators and solving violent crimes. These vital law enforcement services are provided by the Training Division's National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, the FBI Laboratory, the Identification Division, and the National Crime Information Center.

As a result of the Director's initiative to make crimes of violence a national priority, the four separate programs of Violent Crimes, Fugitives, Government Reservation Crimes and Interstate Theft were consolidated into the Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Program (VCMOP). This does not mean, however, that all FBI investigations involving crimes of violence are handled in the VCMOP. Crimes of violence transcend all FBI investigative program boundaries. Drug Program cases often involve

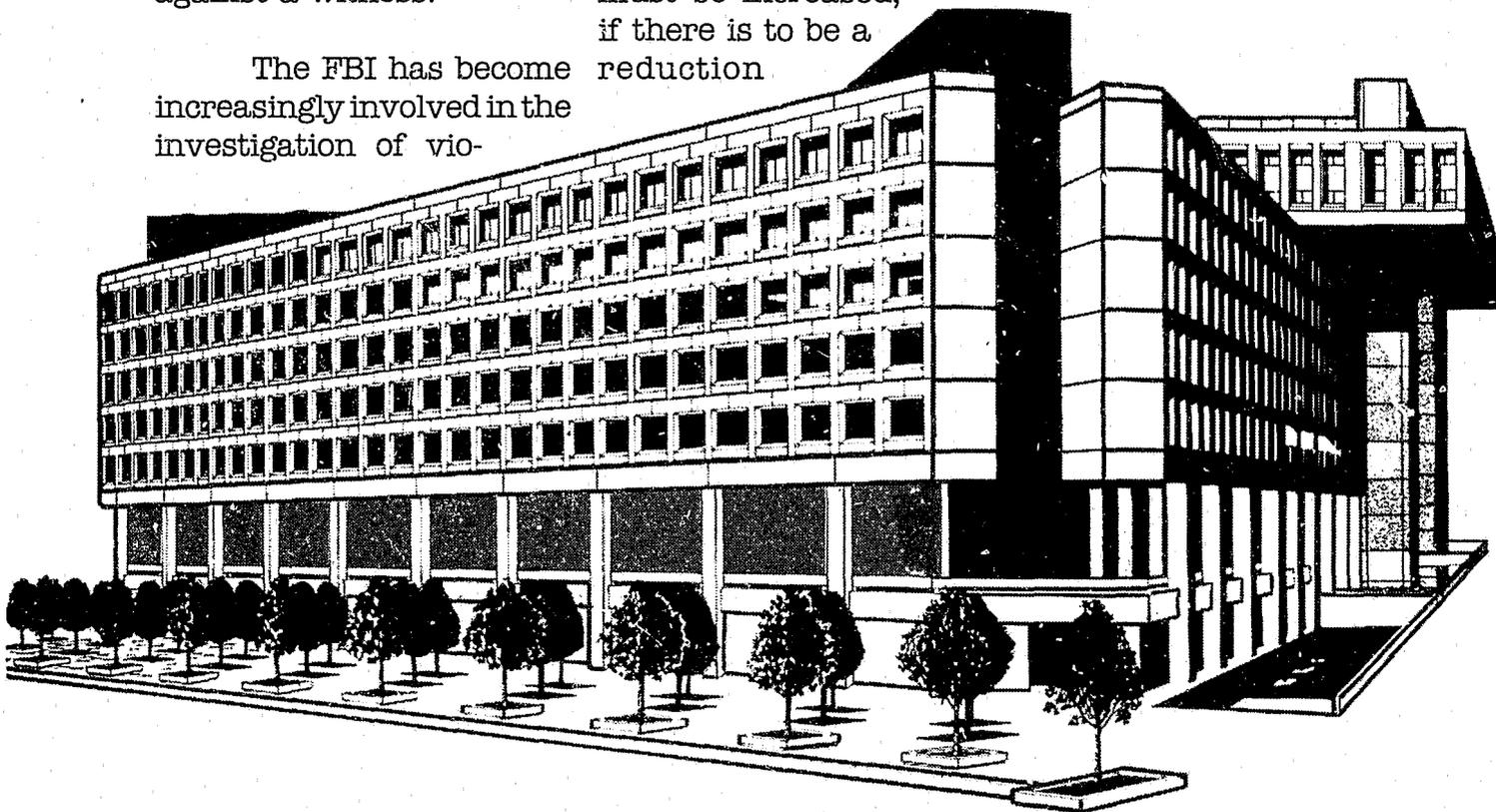
individuals or groups responsible for violent criminal activity, such as Jamaican posses or organized street gangs like the Bloods and Crips. Periodically, Organized Crime Program investigations of the La Cosa Nostra or Asian Organized Crime groups contain violent crime aspects by employing murder for intimidation or retaliation purposes. Civil Rights and Domestic Terrorism cases can also involve crimes of violence as seen in some investigations of hate groups. Even White-Collar Crime cases occasionally include a crime of violence, as in the case of retaliation against a witness.

The FBI has become increasingly involved in the investigation of vio-

lent crimes against persons and property. Even though the FBI has declared the VCMOP a national priority program, in the face of an increasing rate of violent crimes, the VCMOP has not yet received either manpower enhancements or financial augmentation. Innovative investigative strategies and techniques, together with cooperative efforts involving the FBI, other law enforcement agencies and the private sector, cannot totally overcome personnel and budgetary constraints. Rather, it is these very resources that are in need of reinforcement, and which must be increased, if there is to be a reduction

in the incidence of violent crimes.

The following report identifies and describes the crime problems in each of the VCMOP subprograms, as well as selected other investigative programs and certain investigative support programs. The report also details the FBI's investigative and enforcement response to the commission of violent crimes against persons and property by recording recent successes, as well as statistical accomplishments.



**I. VIOLENT CRIMES  
AND MAJOR  
OFFENDERS  
PROGRAM**

**A. VIOLENT CRIMES  
SUBPROGRAM  
(VCSP)**

The FBI's primary objective in the Violent Crimes Subprogram (VCSP) is the preservation of human life through the prompt and effective investigation of violent crimes. Violent crimes that fall within the jurisdiction of the FBI include: kidnaping; assault or assassination of the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, members of the Federal judiciary, and Federal law enforcement officers; extortion; the sexual exploitation of children; bank robbery; crimes aboard aircraft; drug-related homicides; and a number of other violations wherein crimes against the person are an element.

Currently the incidence of violent crimes most heavily affecting the VCSP has continued to increase dramatically. The

FBI stresses maximizing efforts and prioritization by assigning its available resources to the highest priority cases. However, the incidence of high-priority violent crimes continues to increase. The increase in violent crimes can best be addressed by receiving additional resources to combat this crime problem. When looking at the increased incidence of violent crimes reported to the FBI, it is noted that violent crimes increased by 23 percent from 1984 to 1988. Specifically, kidnapings have increased by 7 percent; Assaults on Federal Officers, Congressmen, Federal Judges and other protected officials have increased 8 percent; bank robberies have increased 21 percent; investigations involving Crime Aboard an Aircraft have increased 12 percent; and Hobbs Act-Commercial Institutions and Hobbs Act-Armored Carriers robberies have increased 17 percent.

Despite manpower resources remaining constant, FBI statistical accomplishments increased in Fiscal Year (FY) 1990 compared to FY 1989. These increases have been real-

ized in all areas including investigative matters initiated, arrests/locates, informations/indictments, and convictions/pre-trial diversions.

The following are approaches and successes in VCSP investigations that have occurred since elevating crimes of violence to a national priority in 1989.

**KIDNAPINGS**

Kidnaping cases demand a large manpower commitment from the FBI. During late 1989 and early 1990, several cases involving stranger abductions of children attracted national media attention. In all of these cases, the FBI has played a prominent role. To mention just a few of these cases, 10-year-old Amy Mihaljevic (Cleveland), 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling (Minneapolis), and five-year-old Melissa Brannen (Northern Virginia), all disappeared between late October and December 1989. In all three cases, FBI Agents and police officers have formed task forces in an



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**INTERSTATE  
TRANSPORTATION OF  
OBSCENE MATERIAL  
(ITOM)/SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION OF  
CHILDREN (SEOC)**

In May 1989, the FBI embarked on an investigation code-named WOODWORM focusing on the major producers and distributors of adult obscenity that are primarily located in the Los Angeles, California, area. This effort involved 18 field offices, targeted 22 producers and distributors, and required the service of 28 search warrants. The first indictments in this matter were recently returned in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Two other matters which resulted in successful Federal prosecution provide evidence of the FBI's efforts regarding the Sexual Exploitation of Children (SEOC). The first was initiated by undercover officers of the San Jose, California, Police Department and involved two subjects who intended to either purchase or abduct a minor boy, to hold him

captive and video tape sexual acts with him, and ultimately to murder the child. Approximately 100 FBI Agents joined in this investigation resulting in the arrest and subsequent conviction of the two subjects in Virginia on Federal charges of conspiracy to kidnap and soliciting to produce a child pornographic videotape. The second matter began with the local arrest in Missouri of an adult male taking photographs of a young child wearing diapers in a schoolyard. Subsequent investigation has involved a dozen FBI field offices and the identification of pedophiles throughout the United States. This has resulted in a variety of successful local and Federal prosecutions including the conviction of the initial subject for Interstate Transportation of Obscene Material.

**ASSAULT ON FEDERAL  
OFFICERS**

The FBI has intensified its investigations regarding a rising number of assaults on Members of Congress, Members of the Federal judiciary and other Federal officers. It has

expanded the scope of these investigations by requiring investigating Agents to furnish complete background information on the perpetrators to allow for a more thorough assessment of their threat potential. The information obtained is shared with those agencies that provide physical security for the individual who is the target of the threat. While the information required may go beyond that which is necessary for prosecution it is essential to ensure the safety of those Federal officials who have been threatened or assaulted while in the performance of their duties (or on account of their positions as Federal officers). This additional work demanded of the investigating Agents may not result in additional prosecutions; however, by allowing for more effective threat assessment, injuries or even deaths may be averted.



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**MURDER OF DEA  
SPECIAL AGENT  
EVERETT HATCHER**

Special Agent (SA) Everett Hatcher, a 15-year veteran of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), was murdered on February 28, 1989, in New York. An immediate and extensive investigation was initiated, and the FBI formed a joint task force to investigate SA Hatcher's murder. On March 2, 1989, a Federal warrant was obtained charging Costabile Farace with a Federal drug violation in connection with a previous drug transaction with SA Hatcher. Additionally on March 9, 1989, an Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement warrant was issued based on an outstanding parole violation warrant for Farace by the state of New York in connection with a 1980 manslaughter conviction. Farace was placed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitive List on March 17, 1989. Investigation by the FBI's New York Office centered on Farace's link to organized crime. A great deal of pressure was exerted on organized crime in an effort to enhance the

investigation of the murder of SA Hatcher. On November 17, 1989, Farace was shot and killed by unknown assailants in Brooklyn, New York. This case typifies matters investigated within the VCMOP. These massive labor-intensive investigations often do not have substantial corresponding statistics; however, approximately 20 arrests (harboring, aiding and abetting, false statements, perjury, and parole violations) of Farace's associates have been made. During FY 1989, the FBI's New York Office expended approximately 55 percent of the VCSP resources investigating the murder of SA Hatcher.

**MURDERS OF  
JUDGE VANCE  
AND  
ATTORNEY ROBINSON**

On December 16, 1989, Judge Robert S. Vance, of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, was killed after he opened a package bomb. Two days later, Attorney Robert E. Robinson, Savannah, Georgia, Alderman, died in the same manner. Also, security personnel intercepted a package

containing a pipe bomb that was addressed to the Clerk of Court, Atlanta Federal Courthouse, on December 18, 1989, and another package containing a pipe bomb was discovered at the NAACP office, Jacksonville, Florida, on December 19, 1989.

Following these incidents, the FBI, along with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Internal Revenue Service, and other local and state law enforcement agencies, immediately instituted a major case investigation. Technical and forensic experts were immediately dispatched from the FBI's Laboratory, Identification, Technical Services and Training Divisions to the crime scenes in direct support of the multiagency investigative efforts.

Within 30 days, significant positive identifications were made by the FBI Laboratory with respect to certain items of evidence. Following this identification, investigators executed numerous search warrants in and around the Enterprise, Alabama, area.

Searches were also carried out in relation to an individual identified by ATF, who had a 1972 conviction for possession of an explosive device.

The focus of the investigation was directed toward one logical suspect. This suspect was developed after more than 5,000 persons were interviewed, 700,000 records analyzed and entered into a database, 14 search warrants executed, and the FBI Laboratory analyzed over 1,253 different evidence specimens.

The prime suspect has been indicted federally for the murders of Judge Vance and Mr. Robinson. He is being held without bond.

### **BANK ROBBERY AND INCIDENTAL CRIMES VIOLATIONS**

In recent years, the number of bank robberies in the United States has increased sharply. There are no easy answers to account for the surge in



bank robberies; however, all factors indicate that the increase is related to the increasing drug problem the country has suffered.

As reported in the FBI's Annual Bank Crime Statistics Report for 1989, Federal Bank Robbery and Incidental Crime Statute violations numbered 7,106 during the 12-month period ending December 31, 1989, an increase over the previous year when 6,695 offenses were recorded. Losses in the 6,691 bank robberies, 273 bank burglaries, and 142 bank larcenies totaled 50 million dollars. Acts of violence were committed during 255 of the 7,106 offenses re-

sulting in 104 injuries, 15 deaths, and 35 persons taken hostage. Firearms or other weapons were used or threatened in 77 percent of the reported offenses. Approximately 1,150 bank robbery subjects were arrested during 1989.

The violence associated with Bank Robbery matters continues to be the investigative violation that has resulted in the most deaths of FBI Special Agents. In 1985, Miami, Florida, FBI Special Agents Benjamin P. Grogan and Jerry Dove were shot and killed and five others wounded while attempting to apprehend armed robbery subjects. In 1990, SA L. Douglas Abraham, St. Louis Division, was shot and killed while Agents attempted to serve a search warrant at the residence of an armed bank robber, and in Las Vegas, SA John L. Bailey was shot and killed following an attempted armed bank robbery.

Bank robbery and incidental crimes violations account for approximately 50 percent of all FBI VCSP cases, and over 50 percent of the VCSP manpower re-

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sources are expended on these investigations. Bank robbery and related offenses account for substantial FBI accomplishments including arrests, indictments and convictions, and FBI arrests remove from the streets the same armed robbers who also terrorize

our community by robbing stores, service stations, and other businesses

During a review of bank robbery and related violations, it was determined that two-thirds of the cases are successfully solved, and

although the number of violations has steadily increased for the past five years, the solution rate has remained relatively constant.

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*A section of the Boeing 747, Pan Am flight 103, that crashed in Lockerbie, Scotland.*

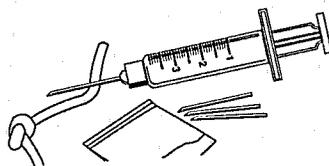
### **CRIME ABOARD AIRCRAFT**

A number of commissions have been tasked with reviewing issues regarding aviation security as a result of the tragic

bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in December 1988. Representatives of the Violent Crimes Unit have been actively involved in these forums which include the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Aviation Se-

curity/Advisory Committee (AS/AC) and several subcommittees and task forces of the AS/AC. Topics under discussion deal with the entire spectrum of security issues in the civil aviation arena.

Even though the number of commercial aircraft hijackings in the United States has dramatically dropped in the last ten years, the FBI has continued its involvement in Crime Aboard Aircraft matters. For example, a U.S. commercial aircraft was recently taken over by an armed Haitian soldier in Haiti. The soldier demanded to be flown to the United States. FBI personnel conducted on-site negotiations with the soldier, which resulted in the surrender of the aircraft with no loss of life. In another example, three crew members of a commercial flight were recently convicted in Federal Court in Minneapolis after having been charged with operating the aircraft while under the influence of alcohol. Further, FBI Agents continue to respond to numerous incidents where passengers interfere with flight crew members, sometimes causing dangerous distractions during a flight.

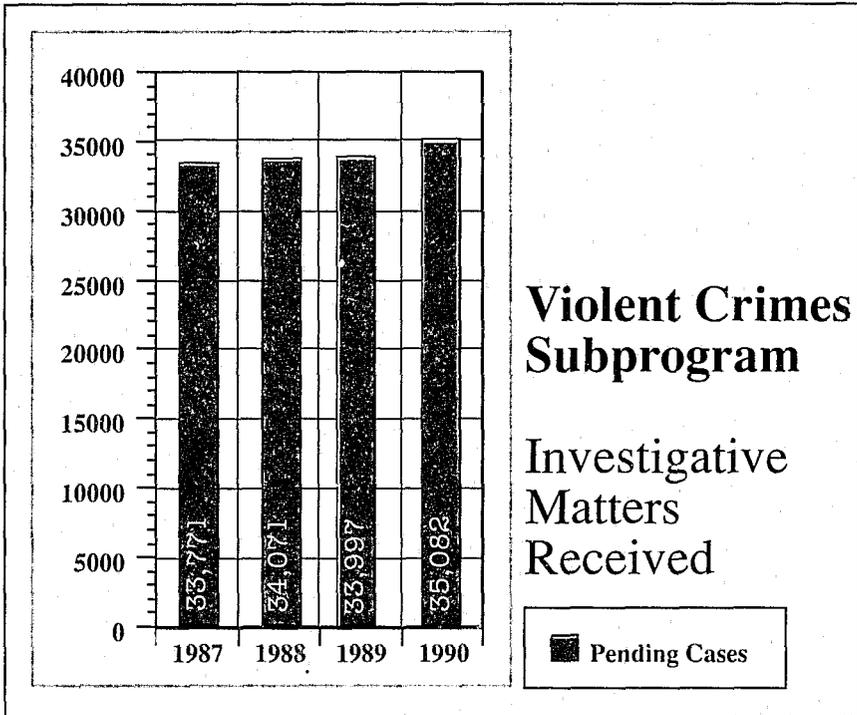


### **DRUG-RELATED HOMICIDE**

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 created a new violation falling under the jurisdiction of the FBI. These investigations are being coordinated with Agents assigned to the Drug Program, as well as with local drug task forces so that full advantage may be taken of available informants, sources, cooperating witnesses, and investigative expertise in the drug area. It is the FBI's intention to use this new jurisdiction to work with local law enforcement in a united front against subjects who kill as part of their drug activities. Several FBI field offices including Richmond and San Francisco are currently conducting drug-related homicide investigations. These cases are being investigated jointly with state and local law enforcement agencies, and the cases are receiving the full support of the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, as well as state and/or local prosecuting attorneys' offices.

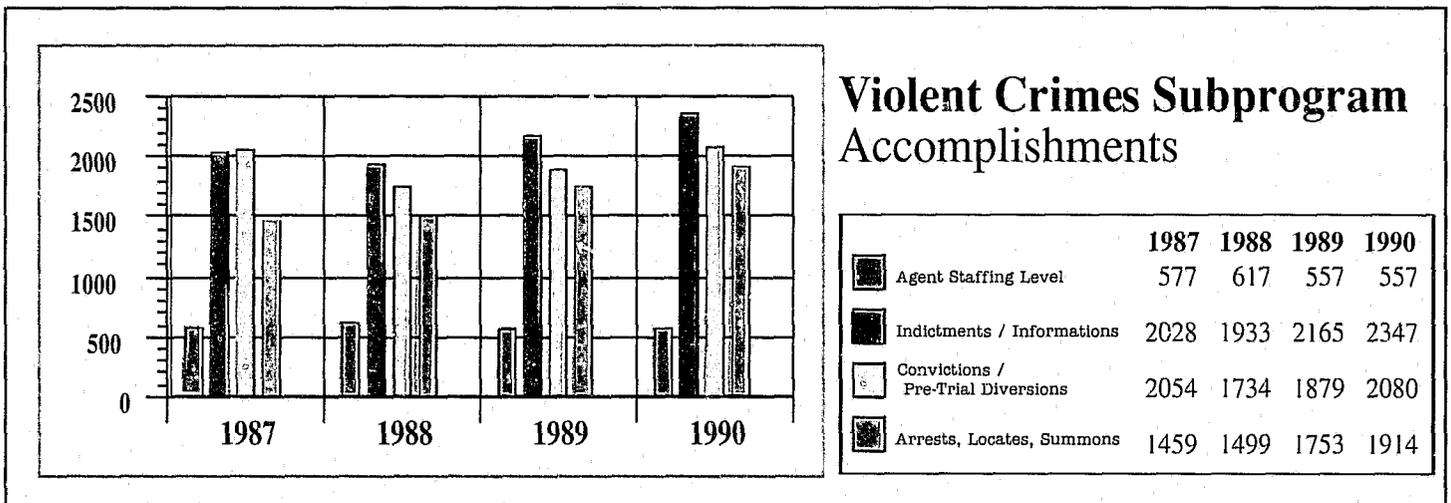
### **TAMPERING WITH CONSUMER PRODUCTS**

As United States drug interdiction efforts become more successful, smugglers are resorting to shipping drugs through commercial channels to get them into the United States. In this regard, the Miami FBI Office is a part of a combined Federal/local task force investigating the importation into the United States of 1,000 cases of a Columbian soft drink, brand name "Pony Malta," of which, 45 bottles were determined to be laced with between 37 and 54 grams of cocaine. A lethal dose of consumption is only 25 milligrams. This case came to the attention of the FBI after a Cuban immigrant in Miami, Florida, died of a cocaine overdose, attributed to the consumption of a tainted bottle of Pony Malta. Aggressive investigation by the FBI has led to the recovery of virtually all of the 1,000 cases of the Pony Malta shipment, as well as the identification of an illegal Columbian who was involved in its importation.



### TASK FORCE INITIATIVES

The last year has seen an increase in FBI participation in task forces, which combine FBI, and state and local law enforcement agencies in targeting subjects who commit violent crimes. Currently, violent crime task forces are operating in several FBI offices to include Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New York, San Francisco, and others. These groups are targeting bank robbery, kidnappings, child pornography, and drug-related homicide violations.



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## **B. FUGITIVE SUBPROGRAM**

The Fugitive Subprogram has dramatically contributed to the Bureau's ongoing efforts in addressing the escalating violent crime problems in America. This subprogram has the responsibility for locating and apprehending individuals wanted in connection with substantive FBI investigations and the most dangerous and/or badly wanted state and local fugitives for whom unlawful flight warrants have been obtained.

One of the primary vehicles used by the FBI to combat violent crimes is the utilization of the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution Statute to locate and apprehend those individuals wanted for violent local crimes which are not in and of themselves Federal violations. The unlawful flight fugitives, for the most part, are wanted for crimes of violence including such violations as murder, armed robbery, aggravated assault, rape, and drug offenses. Unlawful flight investigations are also utilized to locate and appre-

hend individuals wanted in connection with the abduction of their natural children in defiance of custody decrees.

The number of violent fugitive investigations being handled by the FBI has also dramatically increased as a result of the increased emphasis on drug investigations and drug-related homicides. This is evident in the 41-percent increase in the number of Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution investigations from 1988 to 1990 when the FBI initiated 4,200 Unlawful Flight investigations.

### **FUGITIVE TASK FORCES**

Through utilization of the task force concept, the Fugitive Subprogram has been dramatically enhanced by using such concepts in addressing escalating crime problems in metropolitan areas. Currently, the Bureau is operating eight Violent Crime/Fugitive Task Forces, comprised of Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. The Washington Metropolitan Field Office initiated such a task force

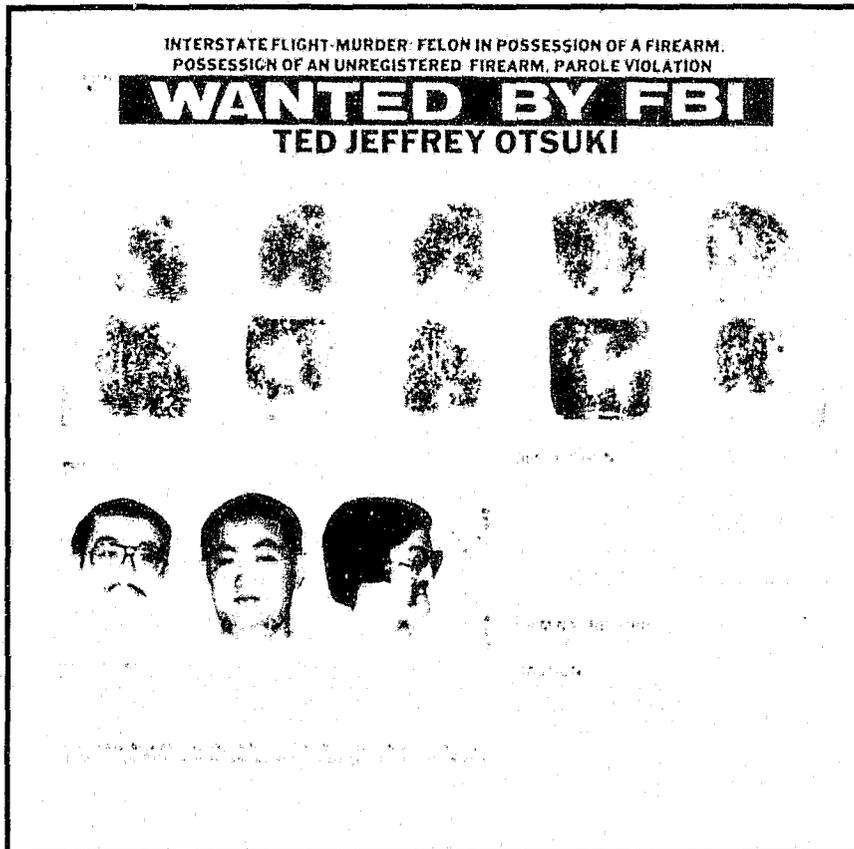
with the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department in August 1989, which has been credited with 711 arrests/locates of which 160 such fugitives were wanted for homicide.

### **FBI'S "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES"**

An integral part of the FBI's efforts to effect the timely apprehension of its most sought after fugitives is the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" and the Identification Order (IO) Programs. Sixteen fugitives who were on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list have been apprehended or located from October 1988 until the present. Additionally, 40 IOs have been issued for Bureau fugitives in Fiscal Year (FY) 1990 as compared to 32 IOs for FY 1988 and 28 IOs for FY 1989. Sixty-seven such fugitives have been arrested during those FYs.

Two examples of violent fugitives apprehended as a result of FBI fugitive investigations are:

(1) Top Ten fugitive Ted Jeffrey Otsuki was apprehended in Guadalajara,



Mexico, on September 4, 1988, by the Mexican Federal Judicial Police. Otsuki was wanted for the murder of a Boston Police Department officer resulting from a shoot-out between Otsuki and Boston Police Department officers. The apprehension of Otsuki was the result of an imaginative effort by the FBI to lure him out of hiding when Otsuki made an effort to contact his father in Mexico.

(2) Top Ten fugitive Kenneth Robert Stanton was arrested by FBI Agents in Rock Hill,

South Carolina, on October 31, 1990. Stanton had been wanted for the molestation of three children in South Carolina, burglary, and impersonating a police officer.

**MEDIA INVOLVEMENT  
 IN FUGITIVE  
 INVESTIGATIONS**

Over the past three years, television programming has played a significant role in assisting the FBI in its efforts to combat violent crimes.

NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries" became a weekly network series on October 8, 1989, and has thus far aired 111 FBI cases resulting in 26 of these cases being resolved, which included the apprehension of one FBI Top Ten fugitive.

The Fox Television Network program "America's Most Wanted" began its association with the FBI on February 7, 1988, and since that time has achieved an impressive success rate resulting in the apprehension/surrender of 133 FBI fugitives of the 206 FBI cases profiled on the program. A total of 121 apprehensions/surrenders were the direct result of information supplied by the viewers.

Two examples of fugitives being apprehended as a result of media exposure are:

(1) Fugitive Wardell David Ford was arrested by FBI Agents on September 17, 1990, at Groton, Connecticut, as a result of leads generated after he was featured on the September 7, 1990, episode of "America's Most Wanted" television pro-

gram. Four calls were received in which Ford's residence and employment location were furnished to the New Haven FBI Office. Ford was a Top Ten fugitive since December 20, 1989, and was sought for the February 22, 1983, robbery and subsequent murder of a Purolator Armored Car Service messenger in Detroit, Michigan. Ford's accomplice was shot and killed during the robbery. Ford had escaped with over \$40,000 in cash.

(2) Fugitive John Emil List was arrested by FBI Agents in Richmond, Virginia, on June 1, 1989, as a result of leads generated after he was featured on the May 21, 1989, episode of "America's Most Wanted" television program. List had been a fugitive since December 20, 1971, and was being sought in connection with multiple murders involving his family.



### **C. GOVERNMENT RESERVATION CRIMES SUBPROGRAM (GRCSF)**

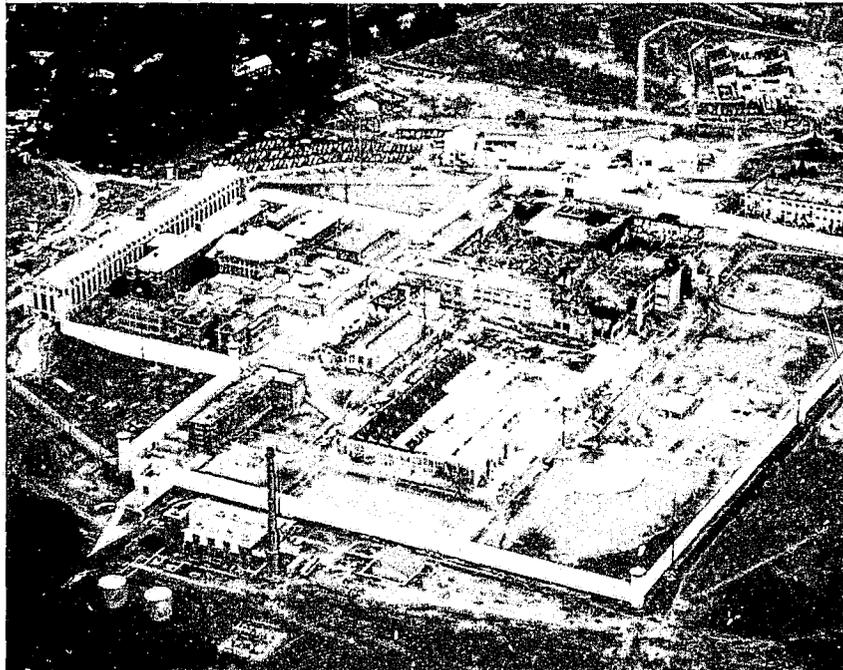
The United States Government, as a property owner, employer, and supplier of goods and services to its constituent agencies, departments, and the general public, is not immune from the reach of criminals. The FBI, through its GRCSF, works to reduce the personal and tax dollar impact of such criminal activity.

GRCSF investigations are directed toward the identification, investigation, and prosecution of criminal groups engaged in serious personal and major property crimes committed against or on property where the United States Government has jurisdiction. These crimes include theft of Government weapons, explosives, and high value property, as well as acts of violence occurring on Government reservations, that include approximately 430 major Department of Defense installations, approximately 185 Indian reservations and 52 Federal Bureau of Prison (BOP) facilities.

### **FEDERAL PENAL INSTITUTION INVESTIGATIONS**

The anticipated increase of Federal Penal Institution investigations will result in an increased number of Irregularities in Federal Penal Institution matters requiring investigation by FBI field offices. According to BOP officials, their facilities are scheduled to increase from 66 institutions in 1991 to 77 in 1994. The corresponding prison population is expected to increase from 62,450 in 1991 to 79,000 by 1994.

Between November 21 and December 4, 1987, extensive FBI assistance was rendered to quell prison riots at the Federal Detention Center, Oakdale, Louisiana, and the U.S. Penitentiary, Atlanta, Georgia. The FBI played a major role at both institutions by sending in hundreds of Agents, assuming control of tactical operations, conducting vital hostage negotiations, developing significant intelligence, and providing necessary equipment. Negotiations at both institutions were highly effective as evidenced by the safe release of all hostages.



*A view of the Atlanta Penitentiary after the prison riot in 1987.*

### **BOMBINGS OF GOVERNMENT FACILITIES**

During FY 1990, several bombing incidents involving Government facilities were investigated by the FBI. One such incident was narcotics related and involved the Drug Enforcement Administration Resident Agency in Fort Myers, Florida. This investigation resulted in the apprehension and successful prosecution of those involved.

*The Drug Enforcement Administration Resident Agency in Fort Myers, Florida, after the bombing.*



### **INVESTIGATIONS ON MILITARY RESERVATIONS**

Monetary losses from thefts on military reservations continue to escalate. The FBI has successfully used joint investigations with military investigative services. An example is an investigation directed against civilian and military personnel involved in the theft and subsequent sale of military property in

the Salt Lake City, Utah, area. This investigation resulted in the indictment of 75 individuals of which 59 have been convicted to date. Nearly \$14 million worth of stolen military equipment was recovered which included three F-16 jet engines, weapons, and explosives.



*Photograph of stolen F-16 jet engine recovered in a Theft of Government Property investigation in Salt Lake City*

### **CRIME ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS INVESTIGATIONS**

In early 1990, unrest and acts of violence occurred on the St. Regis Indian Reservation in upstate New York, as a result of a joint New York State Police/FBI investigation into illegal gambling activities

on the reservation. The acts of violence were instigated by a group of Indians identifying themselves as the Warrior Society and included beatings, shootings, armed blockades, and fire bombings. Thirteen individuals have pled guilty or have been convicted in U.S. District Court in connection with this investigation.

On March 30, 1990, a National Guard helicopter flying a medical evacuation mission was shot down by rifle fire as it flew over the Ganienkeh Mohawk Indian Encampment in upstate New York. Once again investigative efforts were hampered by the Warrior Society which established blockades and denied law enforcement entrance to the encampment. Thus far, 16 individuals have been charged with various violations of Federal law.

### **D. INTERSTATE THEFT SUBPROGRAM**

The FBI addresses incidents involving the destruction of property, the theft of property and threats to destroy property through the Interstate Theft

Subprogram (ITS). The ITS addresses these incidents by investigating violations of the following Federal statutes:

- Theft from Interstate Shipment
- Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicles
- Crime on the High Seas
- Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property
- Destruction of Aircraft and Motor Vehicles
- Federal Train Wreck Statute
- Destruction of Energy Facilities
- Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act

In FY 1989, as a result of the FBI's involvement in Interstate Theft investigations, 1,204 individuals were convicted and over \$130 million worth of stolen property was recovered. For FY 1990 there were 1036 convictions and \$158 million in recovered property.

The reported number of crimes against property, as a group, declined during the first six months of 1990. These crimes, upon which the Uniform Crime Report

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maintains statistics , include burglary, larceny, arson, and motor vehicle theft, and generally involve either the theft of property or the destruction of property. Although property crimes relating to general theft or destruction matters have declined during the first half of 1990, motor vehicle thefts continue to escalate as they have for many years.

### **VIOLENCE IN PROPERTY CRIMES**

Violence and threats of violence are becoming more frequently employed by the criminal element in the commission of property crimes. Both New York and Los Angeles FBI Offices have reported thefts of motor vehicles at gun point, and have identified members of organized criminal groups as the perpetrators. This kind of brash and brazen criminal behavior is also commonplace in the commission of crimes against property in warehousing businesses, ports and harbors, and cargo carriers. Violence and threats of violence have also been used against jewelry establishments wherein store employees

and customers have been bound and terrorized as thieves smashed display cases and stole millions of dollars' worth of fine jewelry and precious stones. Recent arrests in Los Angeles against a gang which has operated nationwide for years, and the arrest of a lone assailant in Anchorage believed to be responsible for the murder of jewelers in several states, attest to the violence employed in jewelry-related robberies. At the same time, urban gangs have committed many jewelry store robberies where the subjects attack out of state, thereby complicating investigations for local authorities, and necessitating assistance from the FBI.

Violence and terrorism are also the favorite tools of Asian Organized Crime (AOC) gangs who commit property crimes against members of their own nationality, who typically reside and own businesses in ethnic neighborhoods in large cities. AOC groups commit their criminal acts with abandon and often impunity, because of the reticence of their countrymen who do not comprehend our criminal justice

system, who have an inherent suspicion or distrust of our authorities, and who are reluctant to report crimes to law enforcement agencies. One of the newest AOC groups is the Vietnamese whose crimes range from ruthless home invasions, to employee thefts of computer components. Thousands of Vietnamese work in computer component manufacturing facilities, and some steal the computer components they come in contact with on a daily basis. In one case, the memory chips that were stolen from a manufacturing plant in Austin, Texas, were recovered in Garden Grove, California. Vietnamese criminals have also been identified as the perpetrators of armed robberies at factories where chips are made.

A fairly recent case in point occurred at a manufacturing plant in the Austin, Texas, area where a security guard was assaulted by two men who then threatened him with a .45-caliber semiautomatic pistol and bound him with strapping tape, before stealing 6,589 one Megabyte Single Inline Memory Modules. Several suspects, reported to be from Califor-

nia, have been developed in this \$263,560 violent property crime case.

**INTERSTATE  
TRANSPORTATION OF  
STOLEN MOTOR  
VEHICLES  
(ITSMV)**

The FBI is acutely aware of the increasing motor vehicle theft problem in the United States and is attempting to maximize limited investigative resources to address this serious crime problem. From 1985 through 1989, the motor vehicle theft rate increased by 42 percent, and for 1989 alone, there was a nine-percent rise. In 1989, 1,564,800 motor vehicles valued at more than \$8,171,385,600 were stolen. Although motor vehicle thefts comprised only 12 percent of the total number of property crime incidents in 1989, they accounted for 54 percent of property crime costs. During the first six months of 1990, the motor vehicle theft rate increased by six percent.

As the personnel and budgetary resources for the ITS diminish year after

year, the demand placed upon these limited resources becomes greater. Fewer investigators, therefore, are required to produce more results, with less support. Because of the scarcity of FBI resources to attack the ITSMV problem, the FBI is reaching out to all levels of law enforcement and is seeking their assistance to arrest the growth of motor vehicle theft. The FBI is working with Federal, state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies in targeting major motor vehicle theft criminal enterprises to develop strong prosecutable cases against subjects and to dismantle their organizations. The

single most effective technique for investigating ITSMV violations is the undercover operation (UCO). Utilization of joint UCOs has consistently proven that through cooperative investigative efforts, significant statistical accomplishments can be realized. The ITS, accordingly, continues to employ UCOs as its primary investigative tool against commercial motor vehicle theft rings.

Although not routinely identified with violence, ITSMV cases do experience it as the following case illustrates.



*In-progress theft of a bait vehicle used in an FBI sting operation.*

**"REAL DEAL" UNDER-  
COVER OPERATION  
KNOXVILLE DIVISION**

A recently completed UCO entitled "Real Deal" which was operated by the Knoxville FBI Office targeted the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicle-Commercial Theft activities of subject Roy Lee Clark. This UCO utilized the services of cooperating witness Michael Rector, a Tennessee Highway Patrol Officer, who was the brother-in-law of the subject. Upon completion of the covert phase of the UCO, search warrants were executed at Clark's residence and business, which resulted in the recovery of approximately \$500,000 worth of stolen automobile parts. On May 31, 1990, Rector was shot and killed in front of his home. Prior to the shooting, Rector told Clark he cooperated with the FBI and was responsible for the FBI's search of Clark's salvage yard. On November 21, 1990, after a three-day trial, Roy Lee Clark was convicted of two counts of Theft of Government Property involving the theft of FBI "bait" vehicles. While Rector's killer has not been identified, the

Knoxville Division continues to aggressively investigate the murder.

**JEWELRY STORE  
ROBBERIES  
VARIOUS DIVISIONS**

On August 29, 1990, three men who allegedly masterminded a violent interstate jewelry theft ring were arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit robbery and with the armed robbery of two jewelry stores. Each sub-

of more than \$3,000,000 in jewelry and gems, and on March 13, 1990, Moboco Fine Jewelry and Gems sustained a robbery loss in excess of \$9,000,000. In each instance, the subjects wore halloween masks as they brandished assault rifles and handguns while ordering the employees and customers to the floor and holding them at gun point while committing the robberies. They stole expensive custom jewelry from display cases and loose diamonds and stones from the



*Authorities confiscated these ghoulish masks as well as semi-automatic weapons from suspects in large-scale, interstate jewel thefts.*

ject has an extensive criminal record. The subjects were involved in the armed robbery of two exclusive Fashion Island Mall jewelry stores located in Newport Beach, California. On October 19, 1989, Carol Klein Jewelers was robbed

vaults. In the Carol Klein robbery, the subjects bound the hands and feet of the employees and customers with flex-cuffs. Stolen getaway vehicles were used in both robberies. Two additional subjects have been identified and together with

the three who have already been arrested, have been implicated in five other jewelry store robberies. The offenses which occurred between November 22, 1988, and February 2, 1990, involved cumulative losses exceeding \$3,973,000 and ranged from Florida to Oklahoma.

### **TASK FORCE INVESTIGATIONS**

The FBI has joined forces with other law enforcement agencies throughout the United States to address the problem of property crimes. Property crime is one of the most frequently reported crimes and it affects the average citizen, who can least afford to be a victim. In 1989, there were 12,705,011 incidents of property crime reported to law enforcement agencies. The FBI has addressed this problem through joint investigations with Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, joint undercover operations, and the establishment of formal property crime task forces. To date, property crime task forces are operating in many major cities in the United States, molded

after the Washington Metropolitan Field Office's Roptide Task Force, the Dallas Division's Interstate Theft Task Force, the New York Office's Joint Auto Larceny Task Force and the Los Angeles Division's, Cargo Cats Task Force.

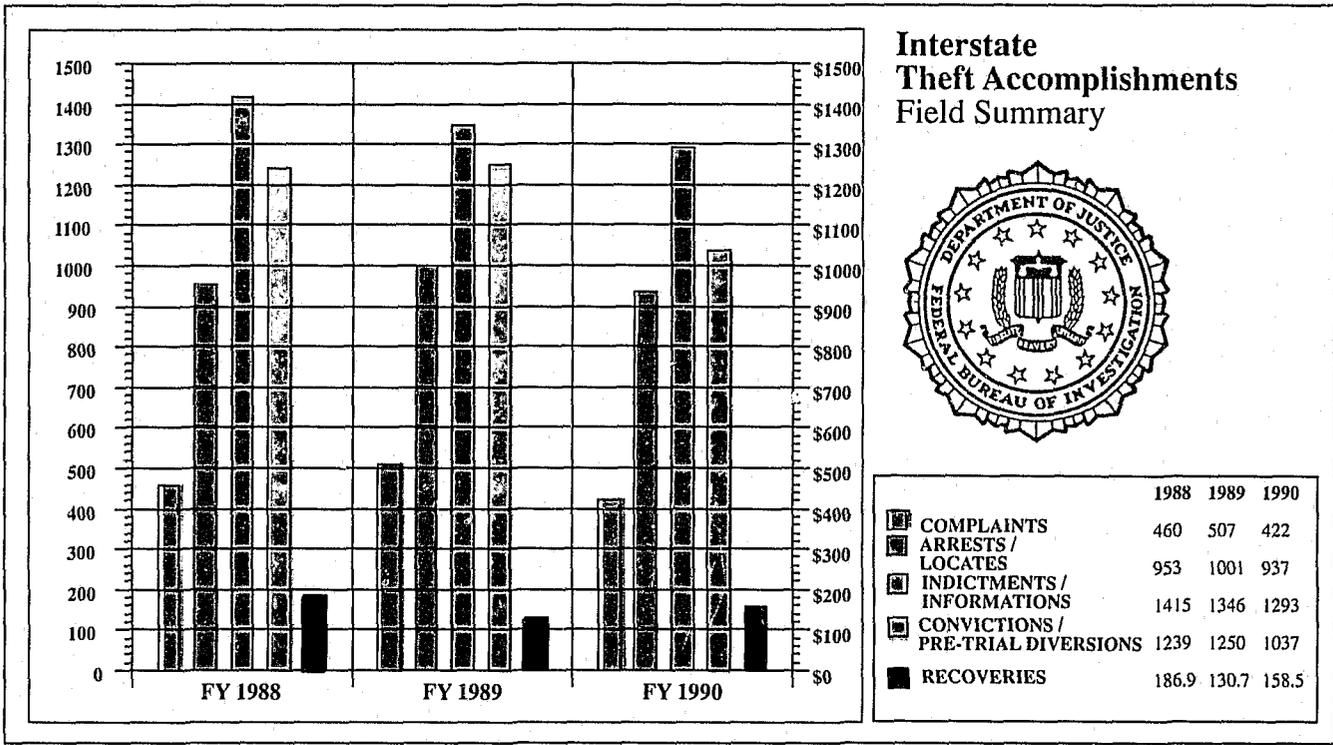


### **UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS**

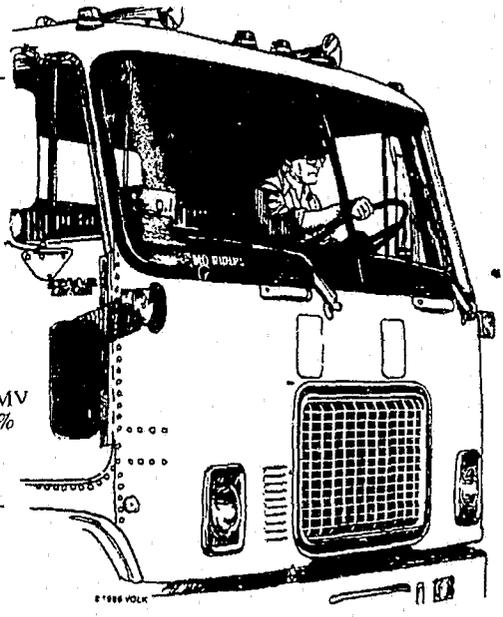
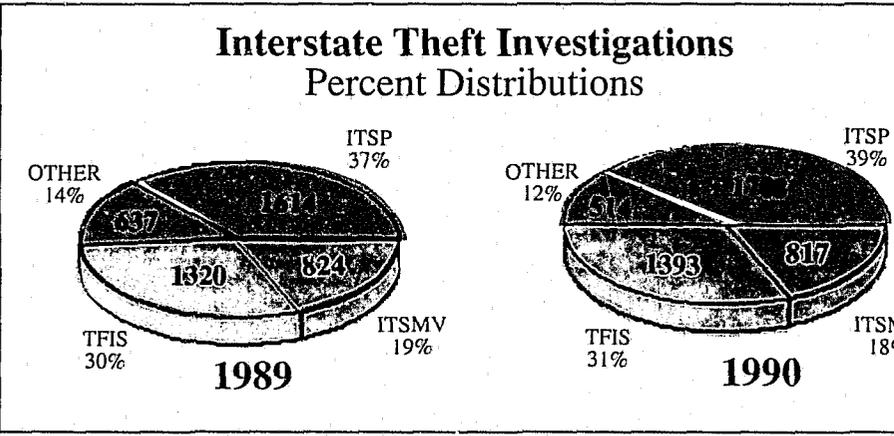
The Interstate Theft Subprogram has relied upon the use of undercover operations (UCO) to address property crime. Due to budgetary constraints involving the undercover budget in FY 1989, the ITS had to restrict the number of UCOS. These UCOS have been shown to be extremely effective in investigating those individuals who have made property crime a way of

life. Since the purchase of evidence in property crimes represents the most significant monetary expenditure in a UCO, property crime UCOS become an expensive technique in combatting property crime. Unlike narcotic UCOS, property crime expenditures are not reimbursable to the FBI, therefore, a reduction in the budgeted funds for UCOS reduces the number of property crime UCOS the FBI can conduct.

Due to limited UCO funds the FBI has frequently resorted to the use of third-party funds, from insurance companies and the National Automobile Theft Bureau, for the purchase of evidence. The use of third-party funds has expanded FBI resources in addressing property crime cases. Fortunately, however, the UCO budget has been significantly enhanced for 1991.



	1988	1989	1990
COMPLAINTS	460	507	422
ARRESTS / LOCATES	953	1001	937
INDICTMENTS / INFORMATIONS	1415	1346	1293
CONVICTIONS / PRE-TRIAL DIVERSIONS	1239	1250	1037
RECOVERIES	186.9	130.7	158.5



## **II. VIOLENT CRIMES IN OTHER INVESTIGATIVE PROGRAMS**

### **A. ORGANIZED CRIME PROGRAM INVESTIGATIONS**

Violence and organized crime go hand in hand. Historically the use of force, up to and including murder, has been the underlying means by which organized crime maintains discipline and ensures the collection of debts. This is exemplified by the following case:

#### **PATRIARCA LA COSA NOSTRA FAMILY**

The Patriarca La Cosa Nostra (LCN) Family comprises the major organized crime problem in the Boston and New Haven Divisions. This LCN Family is actively engaged in various racketeering activities in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island and utilizes violence, including murder, to enforce its will. The Boston and New Haven Divisions have conducted Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) investigations to ad-

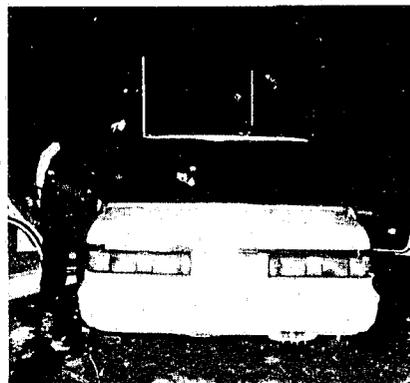
dress the Patriarca LCN Family crime problem which resulted in prosecutable RICO cases against Patriarca LCN Family members.

A Connecticut Federal Grand Jury returned an 11-count RICO indictment in March 1990 against the Connecticut faction of the Patriarca LCN Family and a member of the New York-based Genovese LCN Family. The Patriarca LCN racketeering activities charged in the indictment were originally conducted at the direction of Patriarca LCN Underboss William P. Grasso. On June 16, 1989, Grasso was found dead in Connecticut with one bullet wound to the head. On June 16, 1989, four assailants attempted to kill Patriarca LCN Soldier Francis P. Salemme, Sr., in Saugus, Massachusetts. Grasso and Salemme were part of the "old line" Patriarca LCN faction.

### **B. DRUG PROGRAM INVESTIGATIONS**

The wanton violence associated with illegal drugs is well known. A Miami, Florida, case typifies this violence.

On October 25, 1990, FBI, Miami conducted a planned arrest scenario of four extremely violent Jamaican "Posse" members which resulted in a shootout. Two of the "Posse" members were killed and two were severely wounded. No Agents or other persons, were injured.



*Getaway vehicle that belonged to the gang ringleader is being searched by FBI Agents.*

Investigation indicated that these "Posse" members were responsible for numerous violent crimes, such as house break-ins and drug "rip offs" in the Miami area. These subjects committed their crimes by impersonating police officers.

An arrest scenario was staged, with information "leaked" to the posse members of an opportunity to "rip off" poten-

tial drug traffickers (FBI arrest team). The meeting was arranged to occur at a warehouse, selected for its configuration, which tactically favored a successful arrest. The shoot-out occurred when the FBI SWAT team identified themselves in an attempt to effect an arrest of the subjects who pointed their weapons at the Agents. One of the subjects was using an AK-47 assault rifle, another a Mac-10 machine pistol with silencer, and the remaining two were using handguns. At the time of the shoot-out, all of the subjects were in possession of counterfeit Metro Dade County Police identification.

**C. ASIAN ORGANIZED CRIME**

Asian Organized Crime (AOC) has emerged as a major force within the criminal community and has displayed a considerable degree of violence in perpetrating crimes, such as murder, extortion, kidnaping, gambling, prostitution, weapon smuggling, drugs, money laundering, home invasions, and property crimes. AOC, which is challenging tradi-

tional La Cosa Nostra (LCN) organized crime in many areas of criminality, employs the same kind of tactics as LCN, including murder, terror, and intimidation, in the conduct of its business. Because of the degree of formalized structure in these AOC groups, they have the potential to develop into LCN-type organizations. Examples of AOC violence abound, but no violence is more feared than that which is employed during home invasions. In such cases, AOC gangs burglarize homes and terrorize the inhabitants by threatening the lives of children and sexually assaulting the women, while stealing the personal possessions of the homeowners. County and local law enforcement files are replete with cases involving home invasions, which are perpetrated by many of the AOC gang members who also commit other criminal violations both Federal and state. It is these groups which have become the targets of FBI, state, and local law enforcement cooperative ef-

forts. The three primary AOC groups with which the FBI and other law enforcement agencies have been concerned are the ethnic Chinese Triads, Japanese Boryokudan, and Chinese and Vietnamese gangs.

**CHINATOWN GANG WAR**

**Born To Die**

**3 Members Of Vietnamese Crime Group Found Slain**

Stories on Pages 4-5

**Chinatown Gang Execution**

*3 from Born to Kill gang slain; cops point to rivals*

## **D. CIVIL RIGHTS PROGRAM INVESTIGATIONS**

In FY 1990, the FBI initiated approximately 5,000 investigations of Civil Rights complaints, over 90 percent of which were alleged color-of-law violations by law enforcement personnel. During this period, 120 convictions were obtained as a result of FBI investigations. Sixty-five felony and 29 misdemeanor convictions were achieved in Federal court and civil cases investigated by the FBI. Approximately three-fourths of these convictions occurred in racial violence cases.

In one Civil Rights case, the San Antonio FBI Office conducted an investigation into the rape of a woman by a Laredo, Texas, Police Department officer which occurred in the back of a patrol car. Investigation by the FBI resulted in the indictment and conviction of the police officer. An additional subject was also arrested and convicted in a plot to kill the rape victim to keep her from testifying.

In another investigation, the Dallas FBI Office conducted an investigation concerning several acts of vandalism directed against the Temple Shalom in Dallas, Texas. The vandalism included spray painting swastikas and shooting bullets through the Temple windows. The FBI identified members of the Confederate Hammer Skins, a local Skinhead organization, as being responsible for the vandalism. Seventeen subjects were found guilty for their participation in this criminal act.

### **III. OTHER FBI INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS CRIMES OF VIOLENCE**

#### **A. NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE ANALYSIS OF VIOLENT CRIME**

The National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime (NCAVC) is comprised of the Behavioral Science Services Unit, the Investigative Support Unit, and the Special Operations and Research Unit. The NCAVC is a law-enforcement-oriented re-

source center that consolidates research, training, investigative, and operational support functions to provide assistance to law enforcement agencies confronted with unusual, high-risk, vicious, or repetitive crimes. The NCAVC consists of eight programs: Training, Research and Development, Criminal Investigative Analysis, Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP), Arson and Bombing Investigative Services, Crisis Management, Crisis Negotiation, and Tactical Coordination.

#### **Behavioral Science Services Unit (BSSU)**

The mission of the BSSU is to develop and provide programs of training, consultation, and information in the behavioral and social sciences for the law enforcement community that will improve their administrative and operational effectiveness. This work includes conducting research and presenting a variety of courses on topics such as interpersonal violence, death investigation, applied criminal psychology, sexual exploitation of children, terrorism, hyp-

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nosis, law enforcement stress and personal problems, crime prevention, community analysis, police-community relations, and futuristics. The BSSU conducts specialized training in the above disciplines as they pertain to law enforcement for New Agents and In-Service classes, as well as for the National Academy classes, specialized one- and two-week police schools at the Academy, and police schools throughout the country. Additionally, the BSSU coordinates with the Investigative Support Unit to provide consultation services for local police and Bureau Agent personnel in specific areas of expertise, such as the use of hypnosis, stress awareness/management, and in other matters where a behavioral science perspective is needed.

The BSSU administers two of the NCAVC programs: the Training Program and the Research and Development Program. The Training Program maintains a cadre of trained NCAVC coordinators in each FBI field office, acquaints the criminal justice community with the

resources available in the NCAVC, and provides training for Federal, state and local law enforcement and other selected professionals who deal with violent criminal matters. Fellowships are extended to selected investigators from state, local, Federal, and foreign law enforcement agencies.

The Research and Development Program focuses on developing new and innovative investigative approaches and techniques for the solution of violent crime cases by studying the violent criminal's modus operandi, motivation, and victims.

#### **Investigative Support Unit (ISU)**

The ISU has primary responsibility for all violent crime cases analysis and consultation. It provides administrative control over the investigative support functions of the Criminal Investigative Analysis Subunit, Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP) Subunit, and the Arson and Bombing Investigative Services Subunit.

In the Criminal Investigative Analysis Subunit, profiles of unknown offenders are constructed through a detailed analysis of violent crimes and aberrant behavior. In addition, consultation is provided that may include investigative strategy, interviewing and proactive investigative techniques, search warrant information, personality assessments, and prosecution strategy. Special Agent crime analysts are available for on-site major case analysis and consultation with law enforcement officials involved with major violent crime investigations.

VICAP is designed to collect, collate, and analyze information regarding many aspects of violent crimes; through computer analysis and data processing, violent crimes can then be compared, identified, and charted. Experienced Major Case Specialists and Crime Analysts review violent crime cases and provide their investigative and analytical expertise to the submitting law enforcement agencies. Through this process, suspects can be identified,

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crimes can be linked, and widespread law enforcement agencies can combine their resources to focus on a common criminal.

The Arson and Bombing Investigative Services Subunit has the primary responsibility for providing assistance in arson, bombing, terrorism, computer intrusions, and related violent crimes submitted to the NCAVC by Federal, state, local, and foreign law enforcement agencies. The subunit provides consultation, on-site crime scene assessments, courtroom testimony, training programs, and research interviews on matters it reviews. It also maintains the Arson Information Management System (AIMS) Project, which detects temporal and geographic patterns found in serial arson and bombing incidents.

### **Special Operations and Research Unit (SOARU)**

The SOARU provides training and research in all of the various components of crisis management and major case management. Spe-

cifically, the unit handles all FBI training in Crisis management, Special Weapons and Tactics, Observer/Sniper Operations, Tactical Air Operations, Crisis Negotiations (hostage, barricade, suicide), Major Case Management, and Special Events Management. The SOARU also advises FBI field offices in both training and operational scenarios, assists FBI Headquarters and field offices in designing and implementing command post/field training exercises, monitors and assesses FBI field crisis management capability, and provides liaison with other domestic and foreign members of the crisis management community.

### **B. FBI LABORATORY**

Since its inception over 50 years ago, the FBI Laboratory has been heavily involved in the solution of violent crimes by providing a full range of forensic services to Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. These services include examinations by the Hairs and Fibers Unit, Chemistry Unit, Firearms and

Toolmarks Unit, Gunshot Residues and Metals Analysis Unit, Materials Analysis Unit, Serology Unit, DNA Unit, and the Document Section.



*DNA strand*

The most recent addition to the Laboratory's arsenal of weapons to fight violent crime is DNA profiling. In December 1988, the FBI laboratory began conducting DNA analysis on evidence in rapes and murders, as well as other serious violent crimes. Since then, 2,400 cases have been received and over 1,450 Laboratory reports have been issued. In approximately 65 percent of the reported cases, the DNA analysis method has confirmed that the investigators had targeted the correct suspect. In the remaining 35 percent of the reports issued, the DNA profile found in body fluids at the scene of the crime or on the victim,

tended to exculpate the suspect who was associated with the crime.

The Laboratory, through its Bomb Data Center, operates the Hazardous Devices School at Huntsville, Alabama. This is the only school in the United States affording training in disarming and rendering safe explosive devices to Federal, state, and local law enforcement officers. This school, through its graduates, plays a critical role in supporting law enforcement response to crimes of violence involving bombs.

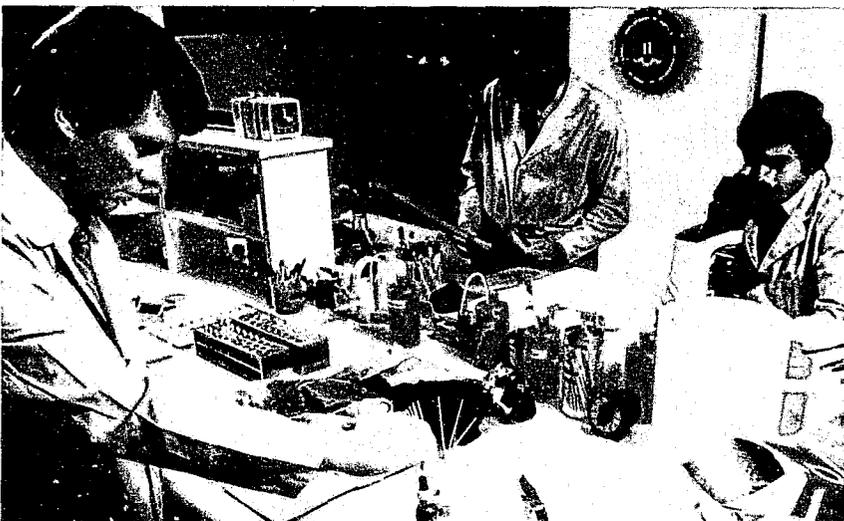
A good case example of the use of the Forensic Services occurred in Corry, Pennsylvania, in June 1988, when a victim was kidnaped from a church

parking lot and later found shot to death. A joint Federal, state, and local investigative effort was initiated. A team of crime scene experts made up of Pennsylvania State Police and FBI Special Agent examiners effected the seizure of 134 items of physical evidence, which included two loaded semi-automatic pistols.

A total of ten FBI Laboratory examiners and a latent fingerprint examiner along with a computer specialist from the Pittsburgh Division were utilized to examine the physical evidence and testify at the murder trial. Also utilized were personnel from the Special Projects Section and Special Photographic Unit who helped prepare trial exhibits. Employed during

the Laboratory examinations of evidence were such techniques as fluorescent staining of sex chromatin (sex-typing) of human tissue found on the suspect's trousers, sophisticated metals analysis techniques, pyrolysis gas chromatography, mass spectrometry, infrared spectrometry, microspectrophotometry, comparison microscopy, and special photographic and computer retrieval techniques.

The cooperation of law enforcement agencies and the expeditious processing of the physical evidence greatly enhanced this successful investigation. As a result of this effort, the assailant was convicted of kidnaping and murder and sentenced to death.



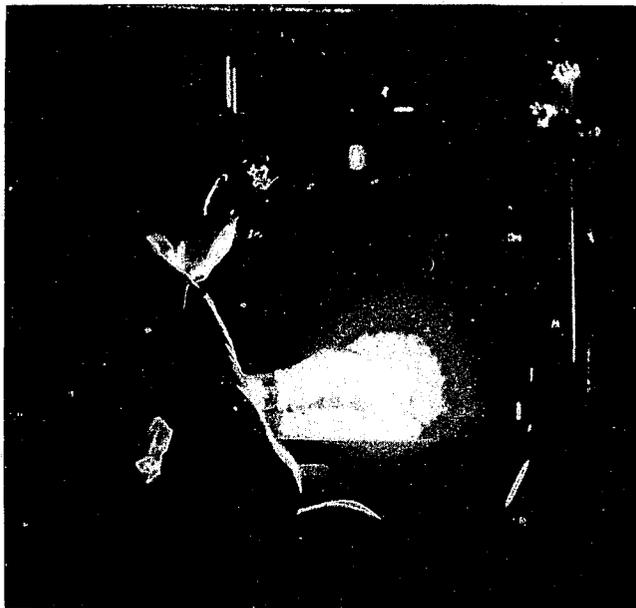
*FBI Laboratory personnel examine evidence of a violent crime for blood stains, which are used in DNA testing.*

### **C. THE IDENTIFICATION DIVISION**

The FBI Identification Division (ID) supports violent crime and other criminal investigations through the processing and examination of latent fingerprint evidence developed at the scene of a crime or subsequent to a criminal event taking place. Under current operations, approximately 15 percent of the cases received for fingerprint examination result in an identification. Computer technology has opened a whole new door to assist in solving crimes.

Many crimes which previously remained unsolved can now be solved through the use of fingerprint computer technology. Based upon the crime-solving success rate experienced by many states through the use of this state-of-the-art technology, it is projected that the number of crimes which the ID will be able to solve through latent fingerprint

identifications alone will double from 15 percent to 30 percent. The possibility of identifying a serial murderer before he has the opportunity to commit another murder will save lives. In addition, finger-



*Laser used to locate latent fingerprints.*

print identification is one of the strongest items of evidence that can be presented during any prosecution.

In addition to the automated capability of searching crime scene latent fingerprints against a repository of criminals' fingerprints, other search techniques can also result in solving violent crimes.

One such capability is to store the latent fingerprints of unsolved crimes in the computer. This will allow for a search of all incoming fingerprints against all latent fingerprints from unsolved cases. An identification from this type of search could solve a previously unsolved violent crime in which all other areas of investigation had proved futile. Still another automated technique to assist investigations is to search latent fingerprints from one crime scene against the latent fingerprints of unsolved crimes. An identification of this type would

identify the same person being responsible for two or more crimes. This type of automated search capability has significant appeal for early detection of serial type crimes, such as, homicide, rape, and arson.

For decades, latent print development on evidence has been limited to just a few pro-

cesses. Recently, through discoveries by the FBI, new methods have been developed that will greatly enhance the ability to detect high-quality latent prints. Some of the processes require complex chemical mixtures. One of these processes is ideally suited for detection and development of latent blood prints commonly found at violent crime scenes. This process has been successfully used by many law enforcement agencies in identifying the perpetrators of homicides. Also, the FBI is developing an International Fingerprint Information Service in which worldwide fingerprint research would be maintained and exchanged through a computer network. The development of more latent prints and the ability to search them against known prints through automation will greatly increase the number of identifications effected in violent crimes and all other types of crime.

**D. NATIONAL CRIME  
INFORMATION  
CENTER (NCIC) ROLE  
IN  
VIOLENT CRIME  
INVESTIGATIONS**

The NCIC is the information lifeblood of the law enforcement and criminal justice community. NCIC, managed by the FBI, is a cooperative system, consisting of a host computer and a supporting telecommunications network linked to state-operated systems in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Access is provided to twelve information data bases which are maintained on wanted and missing persons, foreign fugitives, unidentified persons, persons posing a threat to the United States Secret Service protectees, stolen property, and criminal history information.

By extending the reach of law enforcement across jurisdictional and interstate boundaries, NCIC is directly responsible for the apprehension of more than 136,000 persons yearly. More than 24,000 individuals

charged with violent crimes are arrested each year as a result of NCIC inquiries by law enforcement agencies.

NCIC also provides essential information to the criminal justice process through a subsystem known as the Interstate Identification Index (III). By using III, judges and prosecutors can instantly obtain criminal history record information on more than 13 million persons. This information is essential to judges and prosecutors when making the decision whether a subject should be released on bond.

Perhaps more importantly, NCIC is vital to the protection of law enforcement officers throughout the country. By maintaining a file of stolen vehicles and vehicles involved in recent felonies, NCIC alerts law enforcement officers to potentially hazardous situations each time that a vehicle is stopped for a traffic violation or suspicious circumstance.

NCIC is vital in the war against drugs. One recent arrest highlights

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the effectiveness of NCIC. On February 16, 1990, an individual was indicted in Maui, Hawaii, for the sale of dangerous drugs. Since the whereabouts of the subject was unknown, his name and description were entered into the Wanted Person File. A special new NCIC program, known as the Delayed Inquiry Program, determined that the San Diego County Sheriff's

Office (SO) had made an inquiry on the same subject three days previously. An FBI analyst noted the information, and contacted both the Maui Police Department and the San Diego County SO. The subject, who was being held in the San Diego jail on a minor drug charge, was scheduled for a bond hearing where he would have been released on his own

recognizance. As the result of the NCIC program, the Maui Police Department was able to place a detainer against the subject and have him extradited to stand trial on their drug charge.

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## SUMMARY

**As evidenced by the information contained in this report, the FBI has become even more involved in the investigation of violent criminal acts, and by elevating crimes of violence to a national priority, the FBI has assumed an integral role in law enforcement's response to this crime problem. Through its Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Program, and excellent investigative support services, the FBI is positioned to work cooperatively with other Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in their collective endeavors to reduce the escalating incidence of violent crimes which terrorize neighborhoods and entire communities. With the support of an appreciative citizenry, and the assistance of necessary and appropriate legislation, the FBI and its law enforcement associates will continue with steadfast determination to reduce the incidence of violent crime.**