

## MODULE 5 – WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

### LECTURE 5 –“CIVVIES” AGAIN, AND SOME FINAL WORDS

#### UNIFORMS, POSH JUMP SUITS, OR CIVVIES?

And while we're upsetting apple carts and **swatting hornet nests** here, we might as well revisit the “plainclothes” issue that started in the LMPD only about 160 years ago. Like, it's not exactly a new idea.

Even **in the military** I wore civilian clothes instead of a uniform for 20 years, primarily because of the good reason to minimize the rank intimidation issue I mentioned earlier. Although I was always proud and honored to wear my military uniform, I also loved and appreciated the freedom and anonymity that civvies afforded me almost daily on the job, especially in overseas areas where US military uniforms were often being shot at. And even in the US during the Vietnam War, where US military uniforms were **being spat upon** by some unappreciative fellow citizens. Nobody ever spat on my civvies, though.

I think we will **always need to wear civvies** in the AFOSI in order to protect our rank and to conduct covert investigations, which we will always need to conduct. But, on the other hand, our higher ranking officers in the organization, who were not directly involved in conducting day-to-day investigations, did wear their military uniforms, because intimidation was not as big an issue in their jobs, among other reasons. So do all local agency detectives always have to wear civvies, no matter what?

On the other hand, what would **FBI and DEA** agents wear instead of civilian clothes? I mean, I've seen some really “**posh**” jump suits that might work – different colors, too, and unisex to boot. But some did have trap doors and zippers in the front as optional choices.

But seriously, I'm just thinking – if we want a COMMUNITY POLICING Detective or federal agent to communicate on a daily basis with the public and in neighborhoods, shouldn't he/she be more **visually distinctive** or recognizable to the public than a detective who is trying to blend in and be discreet and less conspicuous because of the nature of what he/she's doing? Kind of like the blue uniforms the “bobbies” wore in the LMPD to make them visible and distinguish them from the British army redcoats.

Now there's a good argument. But I wonder **what the public thinks**. As I pointed out before, you, KNOWLEDGEABLE and ERUDITE TRAVELER, are a “public” – so what do you think? **Bulletin board** --- go, go, go!

Ever been **scared by a cop's uniform**? Or maybe worse, by a cop not in a uniform? Like the cop lurking behind the billboard looking for speeders - would you rather he/she be standing on a corner, in civilian clothes, 100% visible, just like everybody else? If so, just be sure to keep an eye out so you don't get run over by **speeders**.

You know, I said before that we were free to complain and to disagree in this country. But with that comes a **responsibility** to say just what it is that we want, and what we want the police to do. I mean, if we don't, then who do you think the losers are? If you didn't "think" all those times in the course when I asked you or told you to, then when will you? Maybe later? OK. Good luck with that! See you on the next "repeat?" Oh no, wait, I forgot - I'm retired, and I do have all those **mint juleps** waiting. I just sit and watch these things happen now. So hurry up and get along! I must say, though, I'm real interested to see how you handle the "situation" my generation and I left you~~ Oh, and be sure to do a good job protecting me – **DON'T SCREW UP!!**

### **FINAL WORDS – IDUM, HISTORY'S LESSONS, & THE FUTURE**

We can view research as being a four-step process of (1) **identifying** a problem, then (2) **describing** it, in order to (3) better **understand** it, so we can then try to (4) **manipulate** it to affect an outcome. ID, describe, understand, manipulate – remember **IDUM**?

With a little imagination (or maybe a lot), one could say that **we have tried** to **identify** and **describe** the problem with investigations by looking at where we are, and then we tried to better **understand** it by figuring out how we got here and where we're headed. Now we're at the point of deciding whether we want to (or whether we even can) stick to the old tried and true stuff, or try to **manipulate** some things so we can be better prepared to deal with what we anticipate may lie ahead.

We came up with **some ideas** as to where we might want to go, but sometimes it seems you just can never tell for sure about these things. That's research for you – better than guessing, but not always a slam-dunk, either. Just think of all those empires – maybe we'll get to build **'em** all over again! That'd be fun, don't you think? Only, but at least let's try to do it smarter this time.

You know, that almost sounds like one of those old (or maybe not so old) **detective thrillers** I read years ago (or maybe I saw it on TV last night). Go to the crime scene and see what you got (**identify** your problem). Then talk to people and try to come up with a timeline of events and see what that tells you (**describe** the whole thing). Then see where it all points to (try to **understand** enough to identify potential suspects and

motives). Then figure out how to get what you want (**manipulate**, baby!). **Damn!** So that's what detectives do - IDUM! Great minds and all that, I guess. Not everybody buys into this IDUM thing - but I think it's great, just great!!

But regardless of what may happen in the future (we shall see in any event, won't we?), we can't say that **research** did not help. In general, it has provided clear lessons from the past, and many of the research findings from the 1970s and 1980s have been borne out. Hopefully the guiding research for the development and implementation of more successful criminal investigation strategies and models in all five phases and all five major crime categories, will be as **prescient** going forward as it has been in the past.

I mentioned earlier that somebody said "you can't get respect unless you know your history." By applying the lessons learned from their history to construct an approach that can more effectively meet the challenges of the future, real-world detectives may yet come to **earn more of the "respect"** from the public that they work so diligently and tirelessly to serve, but that seems historically to have been bestowed mostly on their fictional counterparts.

I also mentioned earlier that it was the average **citizen's deep passion for moral rectitude and justice** that inspired the fictional Classical Detective, and that it was the **dissatisfaction of citizens** with the police and the CJ system that generated the three separate eras of policing and the different models of detectives. Now let's just test the **temperature of your feet**. Let's just see if you, CONSUMMATE TRAVELER, still carry that torch of passion with you, or whether your feet have turned cold like some others in our society. Your final quiz is in the next lecture – and it's a **stinker!!**