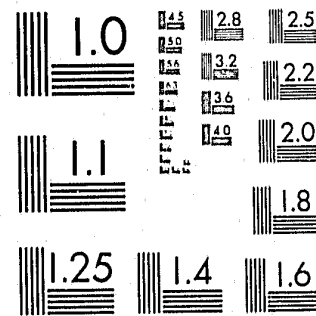


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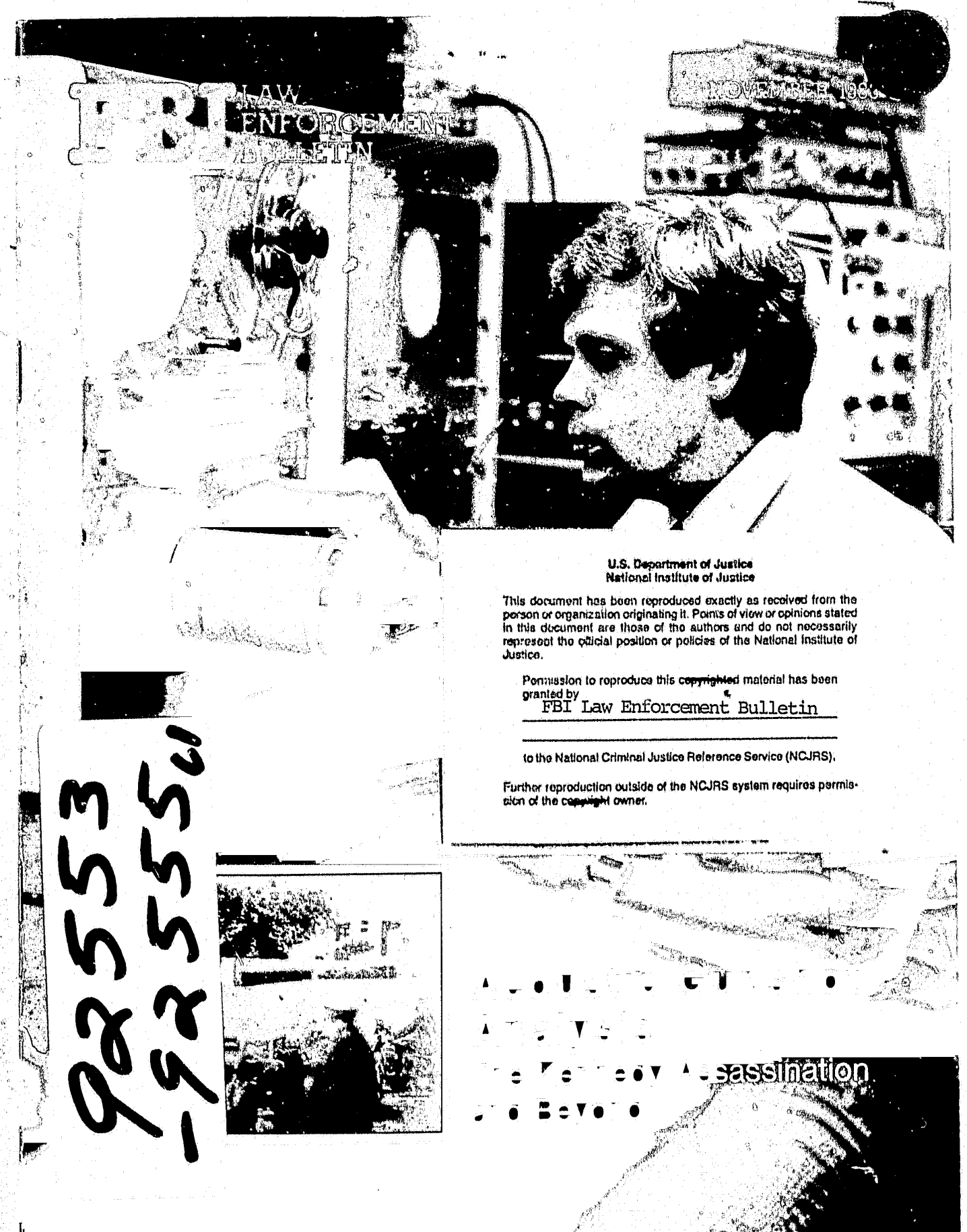
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The Kennedy Assassination

Joe Bevo

FBI LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN

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ACQUISITIONS



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Washington, D.C. 20535

William H. Webster, Director

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Forensic Science



"Forensic analysis of tape recorded gunshots and other transient or impulsive sounds . . . has been an important factor in the disposition of a number of widely publicized . . . investigative matters in the past 20 years . . ."

By
BRUCE E. KOENIG
Special Agent
Technical Services Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Acoustic Gunshot Analysis

The Kennedy Assassination and Beyond

(Part I)

92554

Law Enforcement Role

Family Disturbance Intervention Program

By
DALE RICHARD BUCHANAN

Director
Psychodrama Unit
St. Elizabeth's Hospital
Washington, D.C.

and
JANET M. HANKINS

Liaison Officer
Family Disturbance Intervention
Program
Metropolitan Police Department
Washington, D.C.

In 1978, a great deal of public and media criticism was being hurled at police departments across the Nation for their lack of concern in the area of domestic violence. The Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C. (MPDC), initiated a study to determine whether departmental procedures for handling domestic disputes were effective in meeting the needs of the community while providing optimum protection for officers. The initial study revealed a significant proportion of homicides involved domestic relationships, and nationally, more police officers were being injured while responding to disturbance calls than in any other type of call for service.

Further, there appeared to be no clear-cut departmental policy regarding the enforcement of criminal laws relating to domestic offenses, in addition to the confusion that prevailed as to the criteria necessary for prosecution of cases of this nature brought before the U.S. attorney's office. It appeared that this lack of definition, coupled with the potential for life-threatening violence, promoted indecision among even the most concerned officers. No formal training beyond the basic steps of separating the combatants and defusing the situation was provided to the officers, thus forcing the individual to rely upon his own personal experience, attitudes, and prejudices in dealing with domestic disturbances. There was no reason to believe that police officers, as a group, possessed special insight into this problem without receiving appropriate training.

As a result of this study, the MPDC initiated the family disturbance intervention program (FDIP) in January 1979. With the primary goals of reducing injury to officers, providing better service to citizens, and collecting data on this particular type of service call, the FDIP was designed to address three main areas: Training, data gathering, and referral.

Training

In lieu of training a limited group of officers to comprise a special unit to handle family violence, as had been done in other police departments, it was determined that all street officers would receive this training, since any one of them might be the initial officer responding to the scene. The actions of that first officer would determine the escalation or deescalation of the potentially volatile or already violent situation he would encounter. Therefore, it was believed that officers should be equipped with all the necessary skills to provide the highest level of service, while eliminating as much danger to himself as possible.

In order to develop and conduct the most effective training program, the MPDC decided to go outside the walls of the police training academy, as crisis intervention within domestic disturbances took the police officer beyond his traditional role. In the past, an officer was given specific steps to accomplish his job, whether it was writing a traffic ticket, taking a report, or making an arrest. With crisis intervention calls, there are no specific steps since no two situations are alike. The officer is required to recognize and evaluate the emotional dynamics involved in a given situation, whether it is a disturbance or criminal call. Then, based on that information, he must determine the best method of handling the problem. Providing the officer with the necessary tools to accomplish this task would require the expertise of trainers skilled in the area of human dynamics.



Mr. Buchanan



Officer Hankins

The MPDC approached the Psychodrama Unit of Saint Elizabeth's Hospital (SEH), a federally run mental health facility located in the District of Columbia, to determine the feasibility of a joint training project. With the cooperation and guidance of SEH, together with the combined efforts of the MPDC training staff and such local community agencies as the Woman's Legal Defense Fund's Task Force on Abused Women and the Family Stress Services FACT hotline, a 40-hour crisis intervention training course was developed and provided at no cost to MPDC.

The training program is designed to meet a hierarchical training approach to crisis intervention. The skills of safety, defusion, communication, resolution, and referral are taught in ascending order during the 5-day period. The program includes lectures, films, panel discussions, small group seminars, self-defense techniques, psychodrama, and role-playing simulations.¹

While the training resembles most others conducted in the country, there are several significant differences.² The foremost is that this program relies more heavily on action methods of training (role playing, psychodrama, and simulations) than any other program.³ In addition, one of the co-leaders of the training program is highly skilled in psychodramatic and action methods and is certified as a psychodramatist by a national certifying agency.

J. L. Moreno, M.D., the founder of psychodrama and a pioneer in role playing, devised a set of theoretical, philosophical, and technical concepts and constructs to use in conducting role-playing exercises.⁴ For example, in most other programs, officers have interacted with trained actors, using canned scripts to create the role-playing exercises. In this program, only the second role-play situation is one where various psychodrama trainees portray the roles of families in crises and the officers interact with them. All other role plays are developed spontaneously by police officers, who play the roles of both the family members and the police. This results in increasing empathy among the police officers for families in trouble and directly addresses each officer's specific concerns in family disputes.

There is strong participation from community members who interact with the officers in explaining their programs and answering questions on topics such as drug abuse, spouse abuse, counseling agencies, and the like. The training is designed to increase both role perception (understanding) and role enactment (doing). The primary consideration is not the training of a set role, but equipping the officer with listening, observational, and empathy skills so that he will be able to diagnose a crisis situation quickly and determine how the role he assumes will alleviate the crisis situation.

While there is no such thing as a typical scenario for the psychodrama/role-playing exercises, they have focused on such domestic disturbances as arguments between spouses, parent/child problems, alleged spouse or child abuse, love triangles, visiting in-laws, and property line difficulties.



William H. Dobbs, M.D., Superintendent
St. Elizabeth's Hospital



Maurice T. Turner, Jr., Chief of Police,
Washington, D.C.

The subjects of these role plays have been gay, lesbian, black, Hispanic, Asian, African, Indian, old, young, middle-aged, of high-income or low-income status, high on drugs, and temperance workers. Over the past 4 years, officers have portrayed every conceivable disturbance which can and does happen involving potentially every type of citizen.

Data Gathering

From the very beginning, lack of information regarding family disturbance calls has hampered efforts to define clearly the scope of the problem. In an attempt to build a data base for future study, a report form was designed to capture sociological information. This report contained subjective opinions of the officer, and therefore, could not be used as a public document. Additionally, street officers found it to be cumbersome and compliance was low. Because these reports provided no beneficial information to the MPDC, they were eliminated. Essential information such as the date, time, and location of the incident, along with the name of the complainant and responding police unit, is recorded through our Computer Assisted Dispatching System. By using this method, the officer is not required to take a report unless an arrest is made, and all information is current and easily retrievable. The capability is there for a district commander to look at repeat calls for family disturbances in his area of concern in order to target potential assaults or even possible homicides.

Total Assaults on Police Officers for the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia (1979-82)

	Trained	Un-trained	Total
1979 (April-December)			
Assaulted... Not	0	133	133
assault- ed	142	1,172	1,314
Total ...	142	1,305	1,447 ¹
X ² =Insufficient number in each cell to compute			
1980 (January-December)			
Assaulted... Not	29	186	215
assault- ed	342	925	1,267
Total ...	371	1,111	1,482 ¹
X ² =(1) 17.86 p<.005			
1981 (January-December)			
Assaulted... Not	39	171	210
assault- ed	620	602	1,222
Total ...	659	773	1,432 ¹
X ² =(1) 74.63, p<.005			
1982 (January-December)			
Assaulted... Not	38	117	129
assault- ed	651	638	1,289
Total ...	689	755	1,444 ¹
X ² =(1) 37.43, p<.005			
¹ Average number of police officers, sergeants, detectives, and investigators in a 24-hour period who represent "on the street strength." These individuals come from the Criminal Investigation Division, Youth Division, Special Operations, and the seven police districts.			

Capturing information on the service calls that were classified as "family disturbances" still did not give an accurate accounting of family-related calls, since many situations had gone beyond the dispute and were being recorded as various types of assaults. There were also crimes unrelated to assaults that originated as domestic disputes, i.e., larceny, burglary, and unauthorized use of a vehicle. In order to get a clearer picture of the total problem, the MPDC intends to alter the standard offense form to enable the reporting officer to indicate whether the crime originated as a family dispute, no matter what the classification of the offense. This additional information may provide the basis for development of related programs to address crime prevention/reduction of Part I criminal offenses.

Referral

While the police are usually the first to be called to the scene of a domestic dispute, in many cases, the police department is not the proper agency to handle the citizen's underlying problem. Recognizing this fact and being aware of the many government and community services available in the District of Columbia, the MPDC developed a network of agencies that became not only involved in the crisis intervention training but also provided considerable input in regard to the direction the FDIP should take.

To provide the officer with readily accessible information about these agencies and to assist the citizen further, a referral card was developed to inform the officer of what agency might best assist the individual. The card could be left with the citizen for later reference. Due to the frequent changes that take place in community

organizations and the desire to have all referral information current, it was later determined that better service could be provided if the card contained limited, but specific, information.

The FACT hotline, a 24-hour crisis and referral service which is a program of Family Stress Services of D.C. with contract support from the Department of Human Services, was selected to be the key referral for all matters other than criminal child abuse and neglect, mental health problems, and borderline criminal/civil complaints. In effect, the FACT hotline has become our "brokerage house," directing calls to any of the approximately 700 agencies, programs, and services available throughout the metropolitan area. By using this method, the citizen is less likely to become frustrated in his efforts to seek help. Not only does the FACT hotline provide referral information, but persons can also act as advocates for the needy citizen by following through until a source of help is located. For example, instead of a battered woman who is seeking emergency shelter from being informed that the shelter she has contacted has no room, the FACT hotline will call several shelters until space is located. At a time of great stress, this extra step can mean the difference in the woman continuing to seek help or giving up and becoming another statistic.

Having a referral system provides the officer with unlimited resources to assist the citizen. Instead of feeling frustrated for not being able to provide help, which might account for the lack of enthusiasm in handling domestic disputes, an officer can now walk away from the call knowing he has provided an open door.

Total Assaults on Police Officers in Disturbance Situations for the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia (1979-82)

	Trained	Un-trained	Total
1979 (April-December)			
Assaulted... Not	0	10	10
assault- ed	142	1,295	1,437
Total ...	142	1,305	1,447 ¹
X ² =Insufficient number in each cell to compute			
1980 (January-December)			
Assaulted... Not	3	3	6
assault- ed	368	1,108	1,476
Total ...	371	1,111	1,482 ¹
X ² =Insufficient number in each cell to compute			
1981 (January-December)			
Assaulted... Not	5	27	32
assault- ed	654	746	1,400
Total ...	659	773	1,432 ¹
X ² =(1) 12.19, p<.005			
1982 (January-December)			
Assaulted... Not	2	13	15
assault- ed	687	742	1,429
Total ...	689	755	1,444 ¹
X ² =Insufficient number in each cell to compute			
¹ Average number of police officers, sergeants, detectives, and investigators in a 24-hour period who represent "on the street strength." These individuals come from the Criminal Investigation Division, Youth Division, Special Operations, and the seven police districts.			

“... today's officer is finding that a major portion of his work... necessitates his dealing directly with the many and varied emotional dynamics of the community.”

Evaluation

Once the MPDC decided to embark upon a series of training classes in family disturbances for all police officers, it was preceded by an intensive educational and informational process. All officers were initially informed of the danger of intervening in family disturbance situations and encouraged to use safety skills when interacting with families in stress. Second, the project gained high visibility through newspaper accounts, internal police newsletters, and a program on a local television show.⁵

During the past 4 years, over 1,000 officers have been trained to handle family disturbances. The training program's effectiveness is verified by the evaluation studies that have been conducted. An empirical investigation demonstrated that trained officers receive higher ratings for handling and defusing simulated domestic disturbance calls than do untrained officers.⁶ The officers' own evaluations of the training continue to remain high, with evaluation scores actually increasing after the officers have returned to street duty. Officers' attitudes toward intervening in domestic disputes also improve after training. Scores on pretests have consistently improved over the past 4 years until the scores on the pretest are now as high as the old scores on the post-test.⁷

Most significantly, trained officers are less likely to be assaulted in responding to disturbance calls than untrained officers.⁸ In fact, assaults against police officers in all categories is significantly lower for trained officers than untrained officers. The strong effect which psychodramatic crisis intervention training appears to have on officers in all violent situa-

tions gives credence to the speculation that officers trained in crisis intervention will better observe those situations and use force with more control and authority than untrained officers. For example, it is hypothesized that an officer with a greater role repertoire and increased interpersonal skills will have greater options in coping with a crisis situation than an officer who must rely upon authority and force alone. Training in such areas as nonverbal communication and observation skills may also lead an officer to be more cognizant of subtle verbal and nonverbal cues which may be a prelude to violent behavior. Consequently, the trained officer may be more alert, expecting the violence, and thus better able to deal with aggression or attempted assaults by others.

The program has continued to maintain high visibility in the department through regular press releases and informational articles, as well as continued word-of-mouth from officer to officer. While 48 percent of all street officers have been trained, the actual figures of officers trained in responding to family disturbance calls may actually be twice as high. Since officers are not usually trained in their regular team, it is quite probable that in most family disturbance calls, one of the two responding officers will have been trained. During the past year, the department has focused on new recruits and upper echelon personnel for the training (230 student officers and 76 captains and above were trained). The department is committed to providing full family crisis intervention training to all its street officers and new student officers.

Conclusion

The FDIP has demonstrated to the MPDC that a new role is evolving for the police officer. The stereotype officer no longer exists. Where, in the past, the label "social worker" was clearly distasteful to police, today's officer is finding that a major portion of his work, whether it be enforcement or prevention, necessitates his dealing directly with the many and varied emotional dynamics of the community.

While police administrators are reluctant to make this change from their traditional concept of the police officer's role, police trainers must begin to address the needs of the officer by providing him with the skills to deal effectively with socially related problems.

FBI

Footnotes

- ¹ Harper and Row Media Program, *Officer Survival—An Approach to Conflict Management* (New York: Harper and Row Publishers, Inc.).
- ² Morton Bard, *Training Police in Family Crisis Intervention* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1973).
- ³ Dale Richard Buchanan, "Action Methods for the Criminal Justice System," *Federal Probation*, March 1981.
- ⁴ Jacob Levi Moreno, *Psychodrama: Volume One* (Beacon, N.Y.: Beacon House, Inc., 1948).
- ⁵ "Bosses, Cops, G-Men Prepare for Crisis by Acting Them Out," *PM Magazine*, WDVM TV, Washington, D.C., January 10, 1980; "Dramatic Teaching Techniques Enhance Coping Ability," *Security World*, February 1982.
- ⁶ Carole Bandy, Dale Richard Buchanan, and Cynthia Pinto, *Love and Angst in the Home: Evaluating Police Officers' Performance in Simulated Family Disturbance Calls*, unpublished manuscript, 1983.
- ⁷ Dale Richard Buchanan, *Evaluation Overview of the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C.—Saint Elizabeth's Hospital Family Crisis Intervention Training Program*, unpublished manuscript, 1983.
- ⁸ The only other training program to report a decrease in assaults on police officers (APO's) on trained police officers was Bard's pioneering study which consisted of 18 officers.



**Enforcing Environmental Laws—
 A Modern Day Challenge**

By
WILLIAM M. MURPHY
*Environmental Enforcement
 Supervisor
 Law Enforcement Division
 Department of Natural Resources
 Lansing, Mich.*

END