

NCIS Bulletin

United States Naval Criminal Investigative Service

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Summer 2001

ecstasy
exposed

Plus:
**Special Agent
and Civilian
of the Year Honors**

**U.S.S. Cole Explosion
NCIS First on Scene**



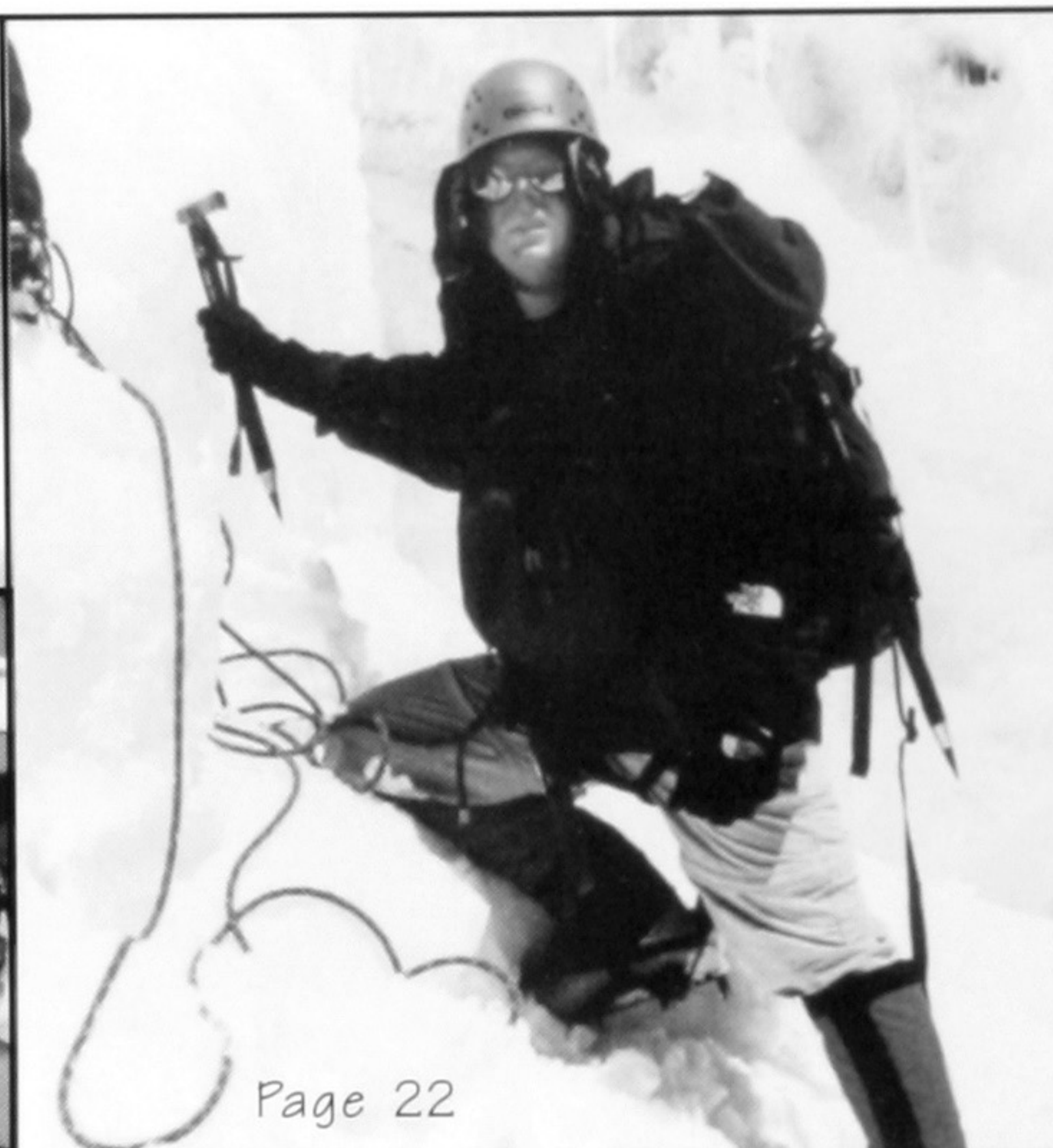


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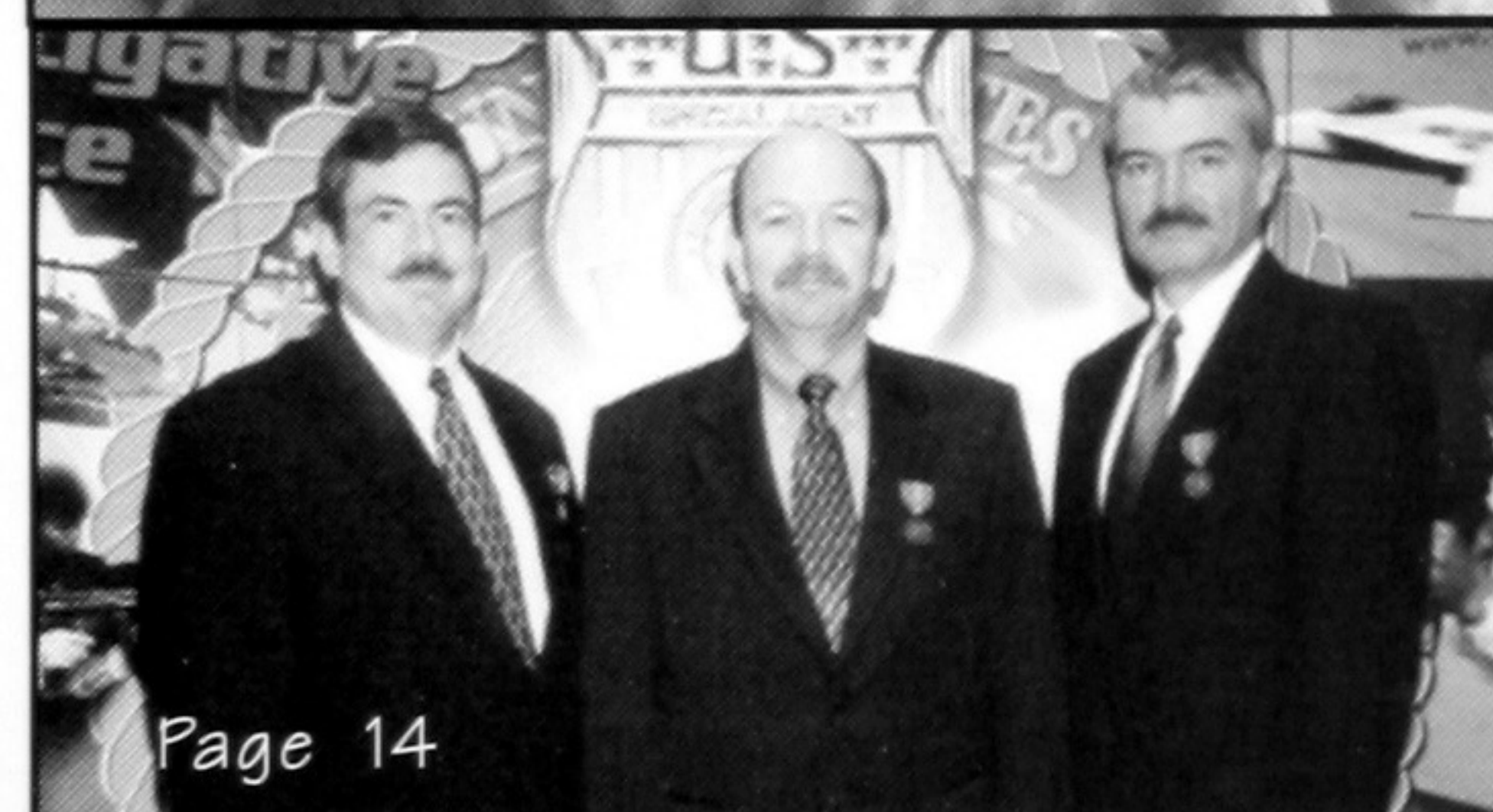
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FROM THE DIRECTOR



The traditional distinctions among terrorism, foreign counterintelligence operations, computer hacking, organized criminal activities, drug trafficking, fraud, and other malevolent enterprises are rapidly blurring. Similarly, the traditional distinctions between foreign and domestic involvement in these enterprises are becoming less relevant in an era of growing globalization and integration of markets, systems, and networks.

As you will see in this issue of *The Bulletin*, NCIS is involved in a broad range of activities to meet these and other unconventional threats facing the Navy/Marine Corps team. In many instances, our mandate to provide critical force protection support to Navy and Marine Corps commanders places us at the cutting edge of law enforcement. The article *Ecstasy Exposed* highlights one case, but anywhere you look you can find other examples, such as the computer forensics involved with the USS COLE investigation or our recent tests of portable barriers to prevent high-speed boat attacks.

In the wake of the attack on the USS COLE, counterintelligence and antiterrorism operations have received dramatically increased focus, yet other security challenges will not simply go away. Meeting the

security needs of the Navy and Marine Corps in the 21st Century demands continual assessment, anticipation, and response so that we can fully bring to bear NCIS' unique collection of capabilities, resources, and talents.

Each and every one of you is critical to ensuring the continued safety of our Sailors and Marines in an increasingly dangerous environment. Your ideas, your ingenuity, your dedication, and often your personal sacrifices are the reasons NCIS is at the forefront of force protection and law enforcement.

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There is a need for enhancing communications between Headquarters and the field elements of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). We satisfy this need and increase our effectiveness in serving the Department of the Navy by selectively publishing information of interest to the members of the NCIS. This *Bulletin* is intended for use by all members of NCIS.



Ecstasy Exposed

By Larry B. Jackson



It's easy to obtain, easy to hide, and easy to take.

It's hard to detect.

It's Ecstasy—also known as E, X, M, Adam, Kleenex, the love drug, the hug drug, bean, clarity, essence, and XTC. And whatever you call it, it's probably the most alarming drug problem for the Navy and Marine Corps since the 1970s.

Once popular only in the fringe elements of American culture, civilian Ecstasy use has been rising for years. In 1999, according to the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), Ecstasy use increased among 10th and 12th graders. An annual study conducted by the Partnership for Drug Free America reported that Ecstasy use doubled over the past five years. And while trends for other illicit drugs are stabilizing or declining, Ecstasy use appears to be spreading beyond the rave setting most commonly associated with its use.

A Disturbing Trend

Reflecting this trend in American society, the Navy and Marine Corps have experienced a significant increase in the detected use of the drug among servicemembers. Since 1998, the Department of the Navy (DON) has experienced an increase of over 1,000 percent. While that translates to a relatively low number of detected users—467 Sailors and Marines tested positive in 2000—the trend is very alarming for a variety of reasons.

First, the drug is hard to detect with current methods due to the speed with which it exits the body. That means that the actual number of abusers may be considerably higher than reflected by the numbers.

Second, drug use trends for other illegal narcotics have been declining in the Navy and Marine Corps.

Third, the widespread perception among the public is that Ecstasy isn't dangerous, and many people believe it's legal. Says DEA Administrator Donnie Marshall, "The only thing spreading faster than the drug itself is misinformation about the drug."

Countering the Trend

NCIS counternarcotics agents and analysts began noting a rise in club-drug related cases—particularly Ecstasy—on the West Coast several years ago. Subsequently, the trend steadily spread eastward, moving out of the big cities into the smaller cities and towns across the nation.

In 1999, NCIS counternarcotics agents and analysts shifted into high gear, studying the drugs and cultural factors leading to their increased use. Armed with this general information, agents in the field studied the problem from a local standpoint and then developed operations to counter the distribution networks springing up on and around DON bases and installations.

But as Special Agent Ernie Simon, formerly As-

sistant Director for Criminal Investigations, notes, "Supply reduction through law enforcement is only one part of a strategy to reduce illegal drug use—demand reduction through prevention and education is crucial."

NCIS analysts learned that current military testing procedures were not well-suited to detecting Ecstasy abusers. They contacted urinalysis program administrators to explain the problem and ways to counter it. As a result, DOD and DON contractors are developing a new screening kit for Ecstasy, and DON is increasing the number of screenings for 2001.

With NCIS well ahead of most other law enforcement agencies in addressing Ecstasy, analysts and agents had to educate a lot of people, starting with senior Navy and Marine Corps leadership. As awareness at senior levels increased, it became clear that there was also a need to counter the widespread misinformation about Ecstasy. In cooperation with CINCLANTFLT Combat Camera and NIDA, NCIS' Communications Directorate produced an awareness video that was mailed to the field in April. Within a month of the video's distribution, outside organizations—from local law enforcement to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy—were calling for copies.

The Love Drug

Technically known as 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine or MDMA, Ecstasy has been around since it was created in Germany almost 90 years ago. It's clear in liquid form; in pill form it looks

like aspirin. The drug can also be in powder or gelatin form, but most of the time, according to NCIS Special Agent Matt Butler, it's sold as a pill.

According to NIDA, physical side effects include muscle tension, involuntary teeth clenching, nausea, blurred vision, rapid eye movement, faintness, and chills or sweating. In the most severe cases, users have suffered from heat stroke and then died from cardiac arrest. Users must drink large quantities of water to keep from dehydrating.

Ecstasy is commonly used at all-night dance parties, known as Raves where the hallucinogen enhances the effects of loud techno music and flashing lights and makes the Ravers "rolling" on Ecstasy feel closer together. Users report that it causes mood changes and loosens their inhibitions; they become more outgoing, empathetic, and affectionate. But Ecstasy is also a stimulant; so, they can party longer, too.

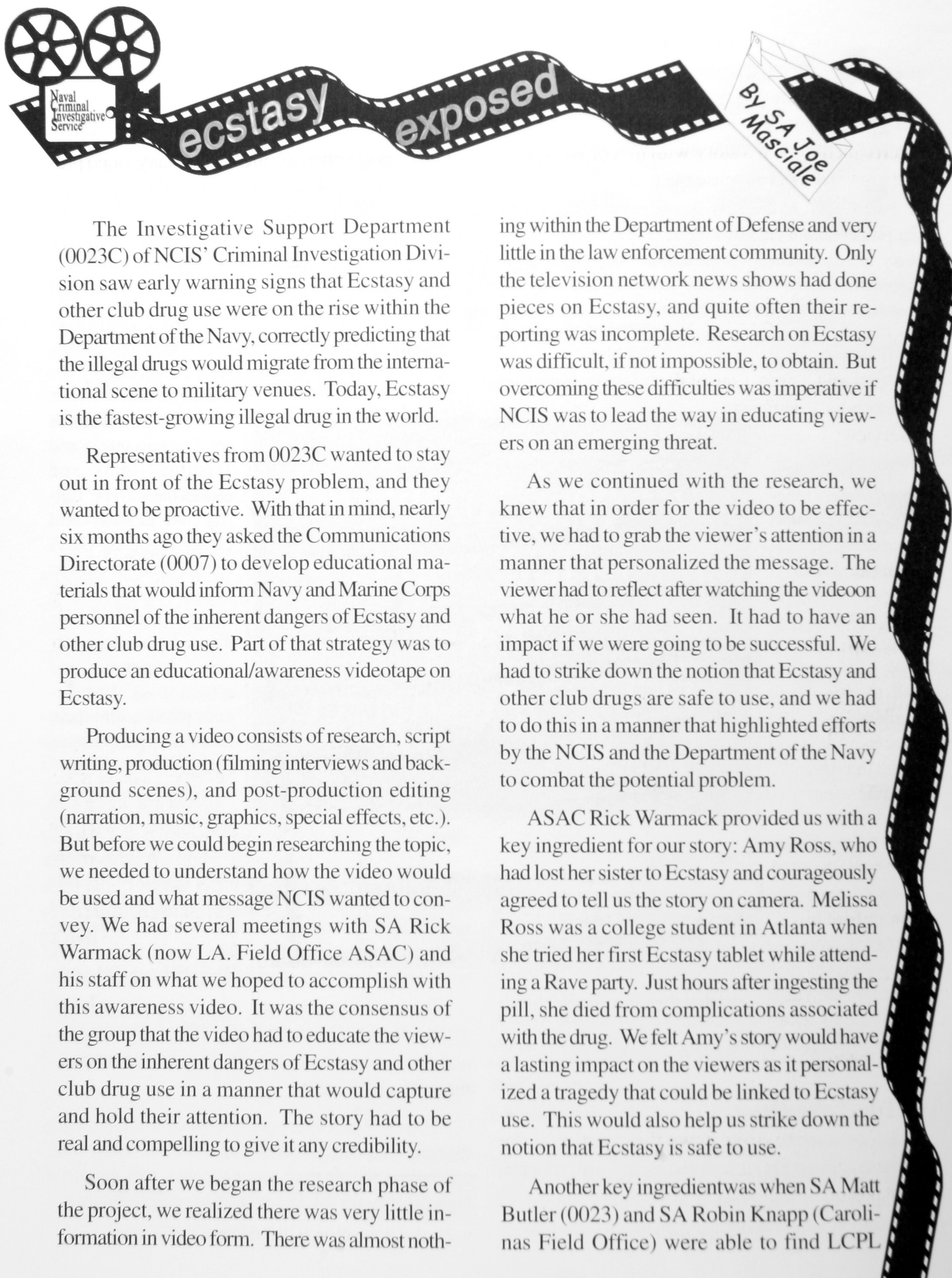
"Ravers keep the pills mixed in with Tic Tacs or Skittles," says

SA Butler, "and the drug is traded openly at the parties. You don't have to know somebody who knows somebody who will make a discreet sale." That certainly makes it easier for sellers to ply their wares, but the real attraction, as with any other drug, is profit.

And the profits are big. Ecstasy is in such high demand that a tablet costing as little as 50 cents to manufacture can be sold to users in the United States for as much as \$40.

"Plenty of people are going to be attracted by profit margins like that," says Butler. And that means that combating the dealers and networks will remain a high priority for NCIS for the foreseeable future.

**It's easy to obtain,
easy to hide, and easy
to take.
It's *hard* to detect.**



The Investigative Support Department (0023C) of NCIS' Criminal Investigation Division saw early warning signs that Ecstasy and other club drug use were on the rise within the Department of the Navy, correctly predicting that the illegal drugs would migrate from the international scene to military venues. Today, Ecstasy is the fastest-growing illegal drug in the world.

Representatives from 0023C wanted to stay out in front of the Ecstasy problem, and they wanted to be proactive. With that in mind, nearly six months ago they asked the Communications Directorate (0007) to develop educational materials that would inform Navy and Marine Corps personnel of the inherent dangers of Ecstasy and other club drug use. Part of that strategy was to produce an educational/awareness videotape on Ecstasy.

Producing a video consists of research, script writing, production (filming interviews and background scenes), and post-production editing (narration, music, graphics, special effects, etc.). But before we could begin researching the topic, we needed to understand how the video would be used and what message NCIS wanted to convey. We had several meetings with SA Rick Warmack (now LA. Field Office ASAC) and his staff on what we hoped to accomplish with this awareness video. It was the consensus of the group that the video had to educate the viewers on the inherent dangers of Ecstasy and other club drug use in a manner that would capture and hold their attention. The story had to be real and compelling to give it any credibility.

Soon after we began the research phase of the project, we realized there was very little information in video form. There was almost nothing

within the Department of Defense and very little in the law enforcement community. Only the television network news shows had done pieces on Ecstasy, and quite often their reporting was incomplete. Research on Ecstasy was difficult, if not impossible, to obtain. But overcoming these difficulties was imperative if NCIS was to lead the way in educating viewers on an emerging threat.

As we continued with the research, we knew that in order for the video to be effective, we had to grab the viewer's attention in a manner that personalized the message. The viewer had to reflect after watching the video what he or she had seen. It had to have an impact if we were going to be successful. We had to strike down the notion that Ecstasy and other club drugs are safe to use, and we had to do this in a manner that highlighted efforts by the NCIS and the Department of the Navy to combat the potential problem.

ASAC Rick Warmack provided us with a key ingredient for our story: Amy Ross, who had lost her sister to Ecstasy and courageously agreed to tell us the story on camera. Melissa Ross was a college student in Atlanta when she tried her first Ecstasy tablet while attending a Rave party. Just hours after ingesting the pill, she died from complications associated with the drug. We felt Amy's story would have a lasting impact on the viewers as it personalized a tragedy that could be linked to Ecstasy use. This would also help us strike down the notion that Ecstasy is safe to use.

Another key ingredient was when SA Matt Butler (0023) and SA Robin Knapp (Carolinan Field Office) were able to find LCPL

Steven Davis, Jr., USMC. He was just 21 years old and serving 18 years in the Camp Lejeune Brig for possession and distribution of Ecstasy. Steven agreed to be interviewed on tape. We ultimately intertwined Steven's story with that of Amy's, allowing the viewer to sense the tragedy in both stories: How Amy lost her sister to Ecstasy and how Steven lost his military career and will lose many years of his life to the same drug.

We also felt we needed a medical authority for our story. We were very fortunate to get Alan I. Leshner, Ph.D. and Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse. One of the leading authorities in the country on Ecstasy use, Dr. Leshner had been interviewed by numerous network news organizations. We were able to use Dr. Leshner's interview to demonstrate the inherent dangers associated with Ecstasy use. We felt his interview was quite compelling and anticipate that his powerful comments will resonate with our viewers.

We also wanted to focus in on the law enforcement angle. In our research, we devel-

oped information to show that there's a sizable group of teenagers who believe law enforcement agencies don't regard Ecstasy use as a problem, and consequently don't allocate appropriate resources. We use DEA Administrator Donnie Marshall and SA Rick Warmack to strike down those notions. We also use Steven Davis to bolster our law enforcement posture.

Once the research, writing, and production

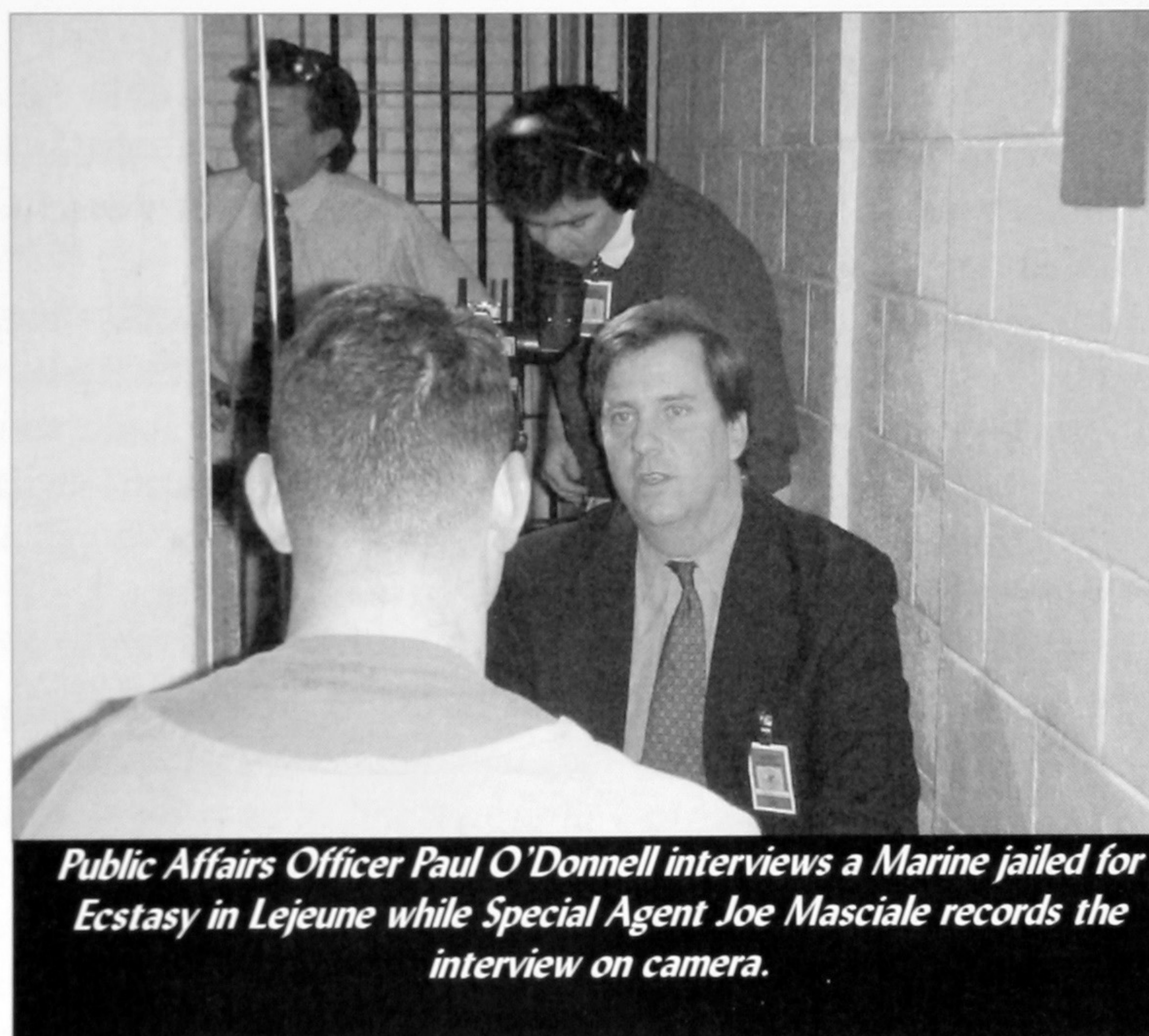
phases were completed, we headed to FLETC to work on post-production editing. FLETC has state-of-the-art editing equipment, and using it allows us to greatly reduce production costs. Editing is where it all comes together, a critical part of any video production. And while outstanding equipment is certainly nice, the real key is the editor. We are very fortunate to have Mr. Philip Hess, an independent editor out of Jacksonville, Florida on our projects. His work on this project was truly outstanding, and it may have even surpassed his remarkable work on the Cold Case video "Perseverance."

Once the two-week editing was completed, Janet Reynolds (0007) designed the perfect video cover to give the project the complete professional look we were after, and we were ready for copying and distribution.

The video was recently distributed to the field by 0023, and we have been both pleased and surprised with the reaction from state and local law enforcement agencies. State and local law enforcement agencies are apparently in dire need of Ecstasy-related material; so, we are ordering 300 additional copies just to keep up with the requests from those agencies.

Just like Amy Ross and Steven Davis, our hope is that this video has a profound effect on our target audience, especially those who may be contemplating the use of Ecstasy.

SA Joe Masciale is assigned to the Communications Directorate and has been with NCIS since 1986. He majored in journalism at the University of Florida.





Operation Desert Fox

By SA Matt Butler

The operation began with a simple telephone call back in January 2001 from Richard W. Warmack, Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC), NCIS Field Office Los Angeles, CA, to NCIS headquarters. "Ecstasy is out of control out here in Twentynine Palms. We have a Group I Operational proposal on its way and we want to kick it off by the end of the month. We need an undercover agent with complete backstopping as soon as possible."

Based on a marked increase in positive urinalysis results and intelligence gained from informants, it was apparent to Special Agent Duane Daly, NCISRA Twentynine Palms, CA, that Marines assigned to Marine Corps Air Ground Task Force Training Command (MCAGTFTC) were becoming more and more involved in the use and sale of illegal "club drugs" including Ecstasy, LSD, Ketamine, and methamphetamines. This emerging threat was beginning to have a negative impact on the Command's readiness and the quality of life amongst the Marines. In response to this threat, SA Daly initiated a Group I Operation code-named "Desert Fox."

It was determined that the most effective investigative method would be through an operation employing an undercover NCIS Special Agent to infiltrate the environment. Special Agent Andra Folescu was selected to fill the undercover role. SA Folescu

not only possessed the traits necessary to fit into the targeted environment, but also had previously displayed a talent for undercover work.

In February 2001, after intensive backstopping (providing an undercover agent with a new identity) and preparation, SA Folescu was placed into the scenario, which gave her access to the Marines suspected of being involved in the illegal drug activity, and the active phase of Operation Desert Fox began.

Almost immediately, SA Folescu began developing intelligence and gathering evidence of the illegal drug use and sales occurring aboard MCAGTFTC Twentynine Palms and surrounding areas. It quickly became apparent we had underestimated the problem. Within the first days of her deep cover assignment, SA Folescu identified five Marines who were involved in significant trafficking of Ecstasy, identified their civilian suppliers, and identified other Marines who were their customers. Ultimately, more than 30 individuals were identified as drug users or dealers to Marine Corps personnel.

SA Folescu, as a part of her undercover assignment, integrated with these individuals and adapted to their lifestyle, which included going to Rave clubs and Rave parties. The difficulty in adapting to this environment, lifestyle and culture for a professional

law enforcement agent cannot be overstated. Many nights entailed attending Rave parties from sundown until sunup, and then attending "after-parties" where many of the suspects would use their recently purchased drugs. The constant challenge of documenting such activity, making controlled purchases of the drugs, and fending off requests to use the drugs, while maintaining her cover, provided a highly stressful environment. On some occasions, due to the locations in which she operated, SA Folescu found herself in the presence of both civilian and Marine suspects without the luxury of having any backup or cover team immediately available.

Operation "Desert Fox" culminated in the apprehension of 15 Marines, who were key drug suspects, following a "reverse sting" scenario in which SA Folescu sold sham LSD and Ecstasy at a hotel in the desert city of Twentynine Palms during the evening of April 25, 2001. Through the combined efforts of Case Agent Daly, SA Folescu, and other agents assigned to NCISRA Twentynine Palms and the Los Angeles Field Office, 12 Marines were implicated in the distribution of illegal drugs such as Ecstasy, Ketamine, LSD, and methamphetamine; five civilians were implicated in the distribution of illegal drugs; and 17 Marines were identified as users of illegal drugs. During her undercover role, SA Folescu effected 18 individual controlled purchases of drugs.

Throughout the entire operation Marine Corps Command at Twentynine Palms was fully informed and supportive. This was crucial to the success of the operation. Brig. General Joseph F. Weber, USMC, Commanding General, MCAGTFCTC Twentynine Palms, was appreciative of NCIS efforts to help combat the spread of Ecstasy on base. "This has been my goal since getting here - to take the fight to the bad guys. Thanks much for your professionalism, attention to duty, and support".

SA Matt Butler is currently assigned as the Acting Supervisory Special Agent for Special Operations (Code 23CI). He has been with NCIS since 1985.

FACTS

Ecstasy (MDMA) is the fastest-growing abused drug in the United States.

Detected use in the Navy is up 600% from 1998 to 2000.

Detected use by Marines is up 1247% from 1998 to 2000.

Ecstasy is easy to hide and hard to detect.

Many youths perceive ecstasy as harmless and legal. It is neither.

Ecstasy has been illegal since 1985, though loopholes still exist in the trafficking laws.

Ecstasy purity varies widely; so, overdosing or adverse reactions are possible.



NCIS Agents effecting arrest on 25 April 2001 during reverse sting at Twentynine Palms, CA.

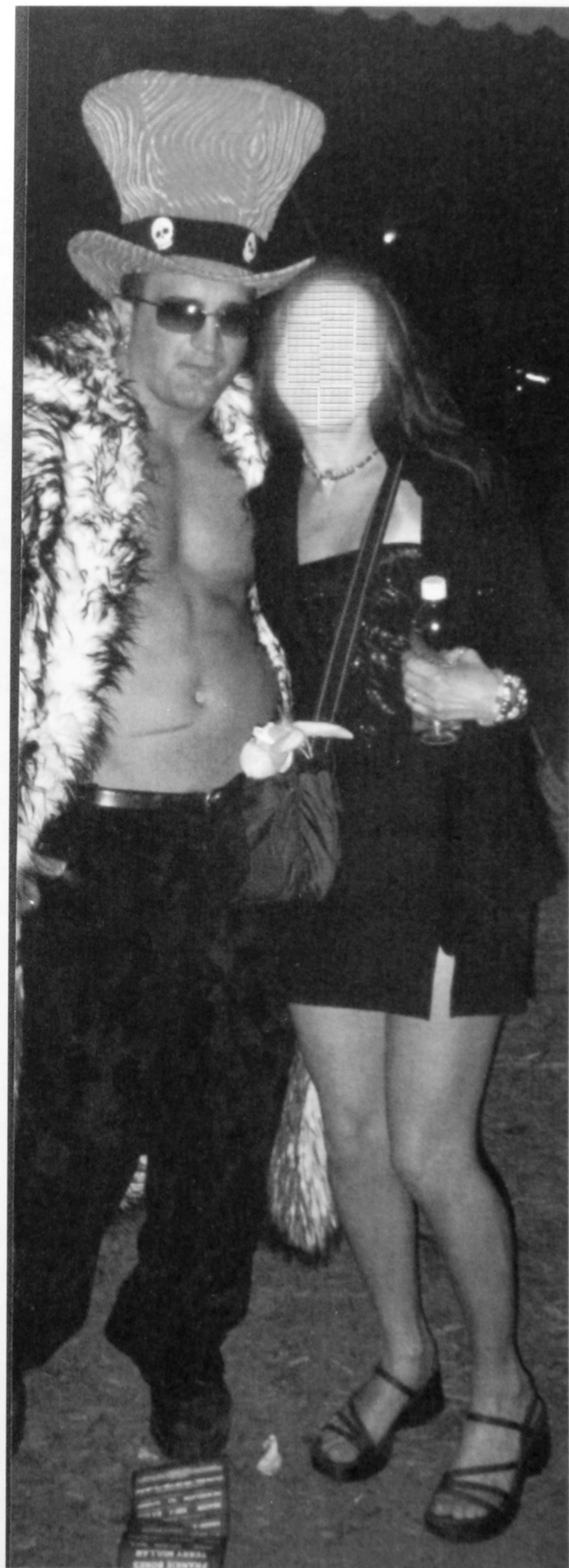


Pictured here are actual promotions for upcoming Raves. Promotional materials frequently understate the entrance fees by 20 dollars or more.



"Some of the toughest things about being undercover are being with the suspects day in and day out for three months, feeling so alone, and working long hours."

SA Andra Folescu

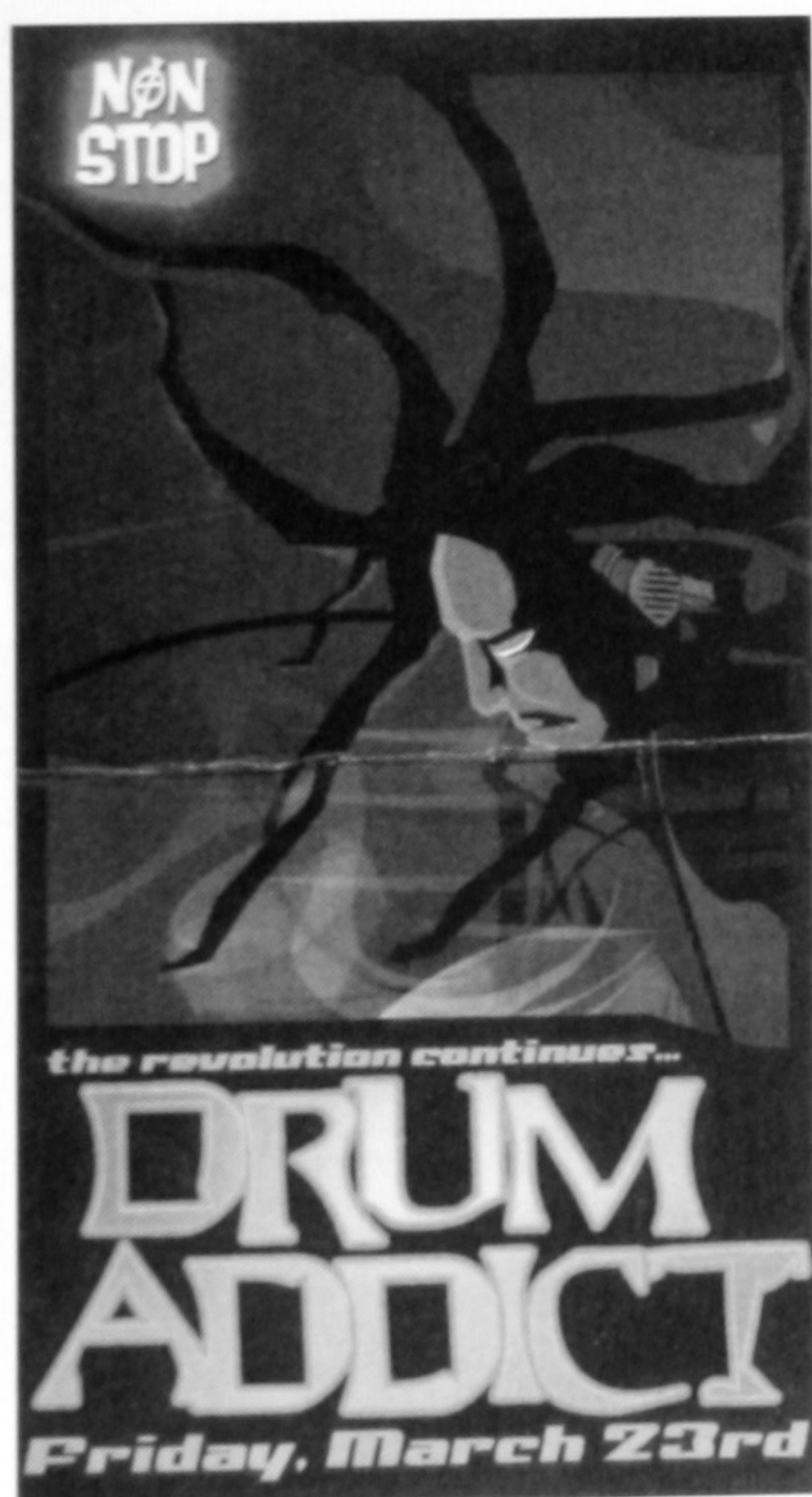


SA Folescu, working undercover at the "How Sweet It Is" rave event on 17 March 2001, Perris, California, is pictured here with the promoter of the event.

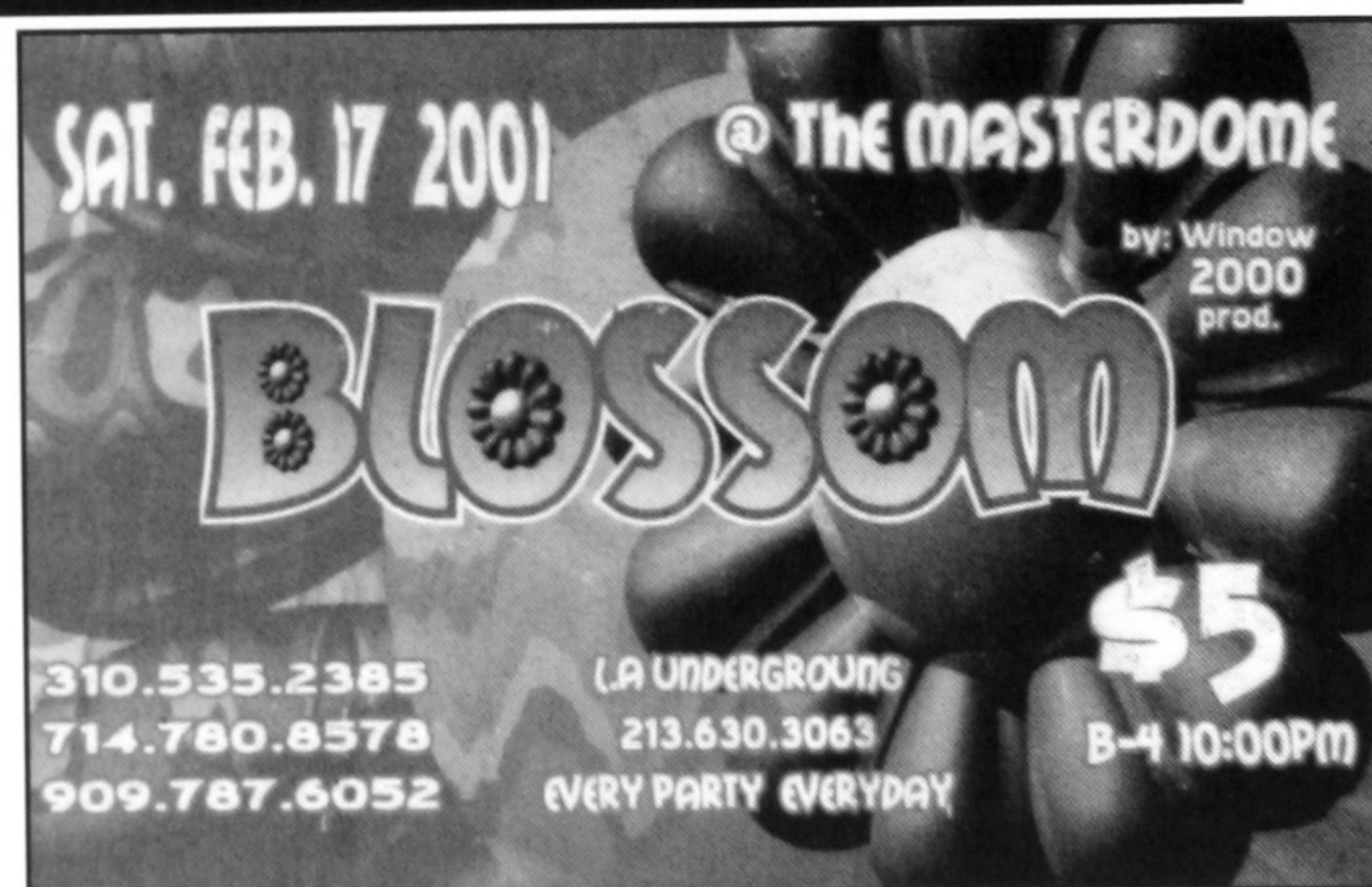


"Three to six hour drives through the desert to Los Angeles, with a bunch of suspects who want to know everything about me - my drug use, my worst trip, how do I like Ketamine, when did I first use x, when did I go to my last rave, create a very stressful situation for the undercover agent."

SA Andra Folescu



"They (a group of Marines) were addicted to the way they felt and how they responded to the drug. It wasn't a good weekend if they didn't get high on Ecstasy. They were absolutely dependent on that feeling. Nothing - the threat of getting kicked out of the Corps, going to the brig, or any other punishment - would stop them from taking it."



The Times-Picayune

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2000

METRO EDIT

Murder case investigators revived a long-cold trail

By Natalie Pompilio

Staff writer/The Times-Picayune

Director's Note: This is probably the best article about NCIS that I have seen in my career. The article originally appeared on the front page of the New Orleans Times Picayune, and was subsequently released on the wire service to several other papers around the country. I realize that many of you are familiar with this case, since it was the cover story for the last issue of the Bulletin, but I urge you to read this and be proud of our agency, our work, and our mission.

Reprinted by permission.

A fisherman found Marilyn Allen's half-naked body on the morning of Sept. 20, 1992.

She had been tossed hours earlier into a lake in Camp Pendleton, a Marine Corps base in Southern California. Authorities said she'd been murdered, but they weren't sure how. The 30-year-old woman, who was rumored to be a prostitute, left behind a husband, three young daughters and dozens of unanswered questions.

It wasn't an easy case from the start. The water seemed to have swallowed all clues. A search of the area near the lake revealed nothing more than suspected drag marks and a few footprints. In 1994, the investigation was shelved and for years afterward, Allen's killing remained unsolved. The trail, police said, went cold. The FBI has said that although the num-

ber of murders nationwide has dropped, the number of unsolved killings has risen. Allen became a statistic.

But the case that began with a corpse in California in 1992 finally ended in Louisiana this year, with the arrest in February of Roosevelt Bernard Gipson II, 28, of Baton Rouge. Gipson, a former Marine lance corporal, is expected to stand trial for Allen's killing early next year.

What did it take to solve the mystery? An off-duty New Orleans police lieutenant working undercover, a dedicated investigator with a little-known but highly praised federal agency, and an operation code-named Jambalaya.

Only now are the details of the undercover operation being made public. On Wednesday, NOPD Lt. Jeff Winn, a Marine reservist, was honored in New Orleans with a Meritorious Service Medal by the Marine Corps for risking his own life to solve the mystery of Marilyn Allen's death.

Standing next to him was Naval Criminal Investigative Service Special Agent D'Wayne Swear, the investigator who completed the work started eight years ago, and Winn's best friend.

Agency not used to failure

Because Allen's body was found on a Marine base, her murder fell under the jurisdiction of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), the only federal agency with a cold-case homicide squad. Its motto: "To the living we owe respect; to the dead we owe the truth."

Solving the Allen case would be the squad's 29th success in the half decade since its founding, in 1995, to probe a Navy lieutenant's murder in the Virgin Islands.

"We'll go to the end of the earth, literally," NCIS communications director Larry Jackson said. "It may take many, many years, but we're going to dedicate the assets necessary."

In 1999, NCIS decided it needed a cold-case investigator in the New Orleans area. Swear, who was already an NCIS special agent, was its first choice.

A former Jefferson Parish sheriff's deputy who signed on with NCIS in 1985, Swear, 42, is a bear of a man, more than 6 feet tall with a linebacker's build and an undeniable resemblance to Wayne Newton. Swear, of course, denies this, and when he slips on his mirrored sunglasses, he looks more celebrity bodyguard than Las Vegas star. He's a joker, but he takes his job seriously.

"We face the challenge of these cases so we can ensure our victims rest in peace while our suspects don't," Swear said.

In most murder cases, including the Allen investigation, the first 48 to 72 hours are "absolutely crucial" to solving the crime, Jackson said.

But the cold-case squad has been handed homicides that took place more than 30 years ago. That means they need to try a new tack.

"In old cases, actually, time becomes our friend," Jackson said.

Over time, he explained, relationships change. Loyal lovers and friends may not be as faithful a few years after the crime. Sometimes, the strain of hiding the crime actually ends the relationship, he said. Cold-case investigators also have the leisure to study suspects' behavior patterns in the crime's aftermath.

Frequently, Jackson said, "people who have gotten away with murder are unable to live with themselves." Those with a trained eye can follow a trail of broken relationships or job instability.

A former girlfriend was what pointed investigators toward Gipson. In 1997, the woman told Baton Rouge police that her ex-boyfriend had confessed to strangling a woman, placing her in the trunk of his car, and driving around for several hours before dumping the body in the lake at Camp Pendleton.

NCIS and the FBI promptly reopened the Allen

murder case, but within a few months the trail again went cold. In the terse language of the official case summary:

"Attempts to develop additional incriminating evidence on (the suspect) were unproductive." Marilyn Allen's murderer was still free.

DNA evidence was scarce

The following year, NCIS special agent Julie Haney decided to give the Allen case a third look, on the chance that the squad's recent success using the evolving technology of DNA evidence would prove useful. To that end, she spent the winter taking the case apart to see if there was anything that could link the victim and the suspect. She tried to track down the physical evidence, only to find it had been destroyed. Eventually, she found a medical examiner who had saved a single cell from Allen's autopsy.

That scrap of DNA gave Haney hope. Gipson's ex-girlfriend had said he'd driven around for hours with Allen's body in the trunk of his car. Haney thought that if she could find the car Gipson drove in 1992, she could find trace evidence in the trunk proving Allen had lain there. For months, she tried to locate the car. She failed.

Marilyn Allen had been dead for seven years.

Suspect easy to locate

Only one stratagem remained to Haney: going directly to the chief suspect and trying to coax incriminating information from him — a risky ploy at best and, in obvious ways, a dangerous one.

To implement it, Haney tapped into the worldwide network of NCIS agents. She contacted Swear, the squad's man in southeast Louisiana.

Locating Gipson was no great challenge. The Louisiana State Police Intelligence Unit found him working as a maintenance man at a business in the Baton Rouge area, his income supplemented by a veteran's benefit check for a back injury he said was service-related.

Swear decided an undercover operation, one that placed an agent side-by-side with Gipson, would be the best way to get what he was after. But first, he had to get inside the suspect's head and for that he turned to NCIS experts for a psychological profile of Gipson.



Murder case investigators revived a long-cold trail

By Natalie Pompillo
Staff writer

A fisherman found Marilyn Allen's half-naked body on the morning of Sept. 20, 1992.

She had been tossed hours earlier into a lake in Camp Pendleton, a Marine Corps base in Southern California. Authorities said she'd been murdered, but they weren't sure how. The 30-year-old woman, who was rumored to be a prostitute, left behind a husband, three young daughters and dozens of unanswered

questions.

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See **SOLVED**, A-12

New Orleans Police Department Lt. Jeff Winn, right, a Marine Reservist, said he decided to go undercover to solve the murder of Marilyn Allen, above right, when he thought about Allen's three children. 'We had a chance to resolve this thing for her and her family. Victims need that,' Winn said. Roosevelt Bernard Gipson II, above left, of Baton Rouge was arrested after he confessed to Winn.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

NCIS set to work. Soon, they knew what kind of movies he liked, that he was angry toward women but loved his own children, that he was an avid weight-lifter, and that, though only 5-feet, 10-inches tall, he had bulked up from 145 pounds in his Marine days to 220 pounds.

And the one thing Gipson was most proud of, Swear learned, was his service in the Marine Corps.

"The best thing in this guy's life was being a Marine," Swear said. "Marines are very proud. It's a very close group of men and women and not everyone can earn that."

Now the challenge was finding an undercover agent Gipson could relate to. Over dinner one night with Winn, Swear began thinking out loud, using his friend as a sounding board.

"I said, 'I'm looking for a guy to do XYZ,' and that little light came on and I realized I'm looking at him," Swear said.

Winn, he said, "reeks Marine, and I mean that in a good way. We knew the Marine Green bond would bring them together and it would take off from there."

Winn, 38, said his first thought was, "I'm too old for that." Gipson was 10 years his junior.

Winn had another concern. He'd gone undercover numerous times during his 15-year police career and he knew how taxing it could be. But what convinced him, he said, was thinking about Marilyn Allen's three daughters.

"They were little kids when she got killed and I think the oldest is about 17 now," Winn said. "We had a chance to resolve this thing for her and her family. Victims need that."

Going undercover, Winn said, is a lot like acting, in that "you've got to be able to play a role convincingly enough to prove you are who you say you are."

Winn's character in this drama was a former Marine staff sergeant going through a bad divorce. Staff sergeant was a cut above gunnery sergeant, the rank Winn had achieved during his Marine years, but he and Swear wanted Gipson to view Winn as a father figure and thought the elevated rank would help.

To rehearse his role, Winn watched videos of Marine Corps movies and pored over big coffee-table books of Marines in action.

Then there was pretending to be a maintenance worker.

"I'm a terrible handyman," Winn said. "You need something destroyed, ask me. You need something fixed, ask my wife. Duct tape and chewing gum, she can fix it."

But by far the greatest challenge, Winn said, was the more personal business of becoming "a dirt bag," a bitter and raging woman-hater. Like Gipson, Winn's character needed to be full of anger, much of it directed at the imaginary wife, who had forced him to leave the military and who was playing custody games with their children.

"I played up the fact that I was having a hard time with women," the happily married Winn said. "(Gipson) bad-mouthed women all the time. Some moments, he was tender as could be but for the most part he felt (women) needed to be punished."

Last January, Winn and Swear moved their operation, called Jambalaya by their Washington-based bosses, to Baton Rouge.

The buddy system

Undercover work is always stressful, especially the initial contact.

"The first meeting is the unknown and you've got to be thinking real quick. You have to figure this guy out, but also play your role," Winn said. "If you go too hard and too fast all at once, you might lose them. It's kind of like fishing."

Evidently, Winn played his part well: Gipson quickly warmed up to him. They talked Marine Corps, and soon Gipson was asking Winn to join him in a small-scale drug dealing operation. Despite all of the surveillance Gipson had been under, no one knew he was selling marijuana and steroids.

"That caused more problems," Swear said. Specifically, Swear worried about security, as narcotics dealers are always checking up on the people around them. Winn and Swear began changing hotels or apartments every night.

During the day, Winn worked an eight-hour shift with Gipson. Mornings were when they had the most time to bond. A few days into the operation, Gipson removed a bloodied Band-Aid from his thigh, and injected the exposed flesh with what Winn assumed were steroids. That night Winn retrieved the Band-Aid from the trash where Gipson had thrown it and took the stained scrap back to Swear.

"Being a keen investigator and not knowing all the evidence they had, he got the bloody Band-Aid in anticipation of DNA testing," Swear said.

Day by day, Gipson's trust in Winn seemed to grow as they changed light bulbs or made quick repairs. Now Winn was ready to tighten the noose. He and NCIS experts had identified six hot-button topics that might provoke Gipson to self-revealing outbursts.

"You have to be real careful with what you say. You're trying to get somebody to admit to committing a murder," Winn said. "The further you got, the more buttons you had to push, the more dangerous it gets."

"I got to button two or three before I got the whole data dump."

Winn had been wearing a microphone and recording device for days, but he wasn't sure the tape was rolling the day Gipson told him he'd killed a woman in

California in 1992. When he met Swear that night, Winn didn't immediately divulge what he'd learned.

"He was very tense when he came into the room, tightly wired," Swear said. Winn handed him the cassette, snapping out the tabs so no one could record over what he'd gotten from Gipson. They sat down to listen and the confession was crystal clear.

"It was like we won the Super Bowl," Swear said. "We were pumped up after all the work we'd done together. We were going in with an idea that had never been done before, targeting a potential murder suspect, and it was tough and we got it."

But the operation wasn't over. Instead of pulling Winn out, the two investigators decided to develop a drug case against Gipson.

"We're from Louisiana. We go fishing. We don't throw nothing back," Swear said.

After another week and a half, Winn was "arrested" by Louisiana State Police for nonpayment of child support. The next time he saw Gipson was two weeks later, on Feb. 23. That's the day Gipson was arrested in a store parking lot and local television stations broadcast his sullen walk into the East Baton Rouge Parish Lock-Up. He was booked with drug dealing in Louisiana and homicide in California.

Under interrogation, Gipson admitted both crimes, Swear said. He knew Allen, he said, and he'd killed her during an argument over money. Gipson was extradited to California in July.

Marilyn Allen's family called officers at Camp Pendleton after they learned of Gipson's arrest. Her father said he'd long believed his daughter's killer would never be caught. Allen's husband, though estranged from her at the time of her killing, asked that someone "give Special Agent Swear a hug" from him and his three daughters.

Swear said he still gets emotional thinking about that.

"That's why we do it," he said. "We do it for the kids. We do it for the families. It's nice to give them closure."

Special Agent of the Year Honors

By Paul O'Donnell



Pictured l to r: SA Chuck Howard (FCI), SA Rich McCafferty (Fraud), SA James Lofstrom (Crim).

NCIS headquarters staff gathered in the atrium of Building 111 on October 19 to honor the special agents of the year. This year the awardees were Special Agent Charlton (Chuck) Howard for foreign counterintelligence, Special Agent Richard McCafferty for Fraud, and Special Agent James Lofstrom for General Crimes. Two special guests—former directors

Jack Guedalia and Charles Lannom—attended the ceremony. Director Brant made special mention of their presence and cited their long and varied careers as an example to the entire agency.

A Deputy Assistant Director from their respective discipline described the accomplishments of each



Former Deputy Directors Jack I. Guedalia and Charles R. Lannom joined in the celebration.

awardee in detail. Deputy Assistant Director Tom Betro described SA Howard's invaluable role in helping to provide counterintelligence and force protection (CI/FP) support to US Navy and Marine Corps units throughout Southeast Asia. SA Howard was responsible for the Singapore office CI/FP collection program and provided key support during the East Timor crisis in 1999 and during the Cobra Gold exercise in Thailand in 2000. SA Howard's professionalism, in-depth knowledge of CI/FP doctrine, and engaging personality were cited as the major ingredients to NCIS successes in that region.

Deputy Assistant Director Neill Robins highlighted Special Agent Richard McCafferty's efforts as a major procurement fraud investigator, which have resulted in over \$90 million in recoveries. SA McCafferty is the lone investigator in the NCIS office in Tampa and is currently the case agent of five complex major procurement fraud cases. His work recently paid off when the defense contractor, Comsat Radiation Systems, pleaded guilty to cost mischarging and agreed to pay the Navy \$7.5 million in restitution. An additional \$21 million is expected to be recovered in this case. DAD Robins singled SA McCafferty out for his tireless work ethic, professional conduct and outstanding investigative ability in helping to solve these cases.

Deputy Assistant Director Charles Lee then paid tribute to Special Agent James Lofstrom for his brilliant work in solving a murder case while he was as-



signed to Camp Pendleton. Using old-fashioned tenacity and even a few unorthodox methods, such as staging a prayer vigil to rouse the conscience of the suspect, SA Lofstrom solved the murder of a Navy Corpsman's wife. In this effort, SA Lofstrom helped 30 special agents sift through hundreds of leads. SA Lofstrom's uncompromising approach and professional techniques resulted in the Corpsman's guilty plea and a life sentence without parole.

Director Brant also lauded these three special agents for their outstanding efforts, which have brought greater visibility to the great work that NCIS does. At the ceremony's conclusion, attendees and awardees alike celebrated with an NCIS tradition: cake and punch.

A Daughter's Reflection

Editor's Note: The following personal and poignant pieces were written by Dessica McIntosh, daughter of NCIS Special Agent Grant McIntosh, following her exposure to the War Crimes Tribunal. She wrote the first poem in 1996 at age 14 for a class project and the second piece in early October for a college course.

Special Agent McIntosh commented, "We as parents and Special Agents don't always realize or appreciate how much our profession impacts and cultivates the internal fortitude and character of our children."

A Country Divided

*The air is heavy with the sweet scent of
blood,
From broken corpses rotting in the mud.
Screams from the dying echo on the wind,
Hiding from chance bullets around every
bend.*

*Gone now are the bitter sweet dreams of
youth,
Slapped in the face by the cold horror of
truth.
Boys stripped of their childhood, all faces
are blurred,
All are still children, Muslim, Croat and
Serb.*

*Duty, Honor and Glory—only words when
alone,
But when all together ideas tearing them
from home.
Noise and chaos surrounding on all sides,
Nobody caring when somebody dies.*

*Yes this is a war dear, so don't misunder-
stand,
When a government says it's glory they just
want the upper hand!*

*Dessica L. McIntosh
February 1996*

The best pieces to write any kind of analysis on are those which speak to the heart. W.L. Webb's "Bosnian Diary: Who goes home?" is just such a piece for me. When looking at me, a fair skinned blond of obviously Anglo-Saxon descent, it is virtually impossible to grasp the great importance that the war in the former Yugoslavia has had on me personally. It was, however, a driving force in the lives of my parents and me for several years.

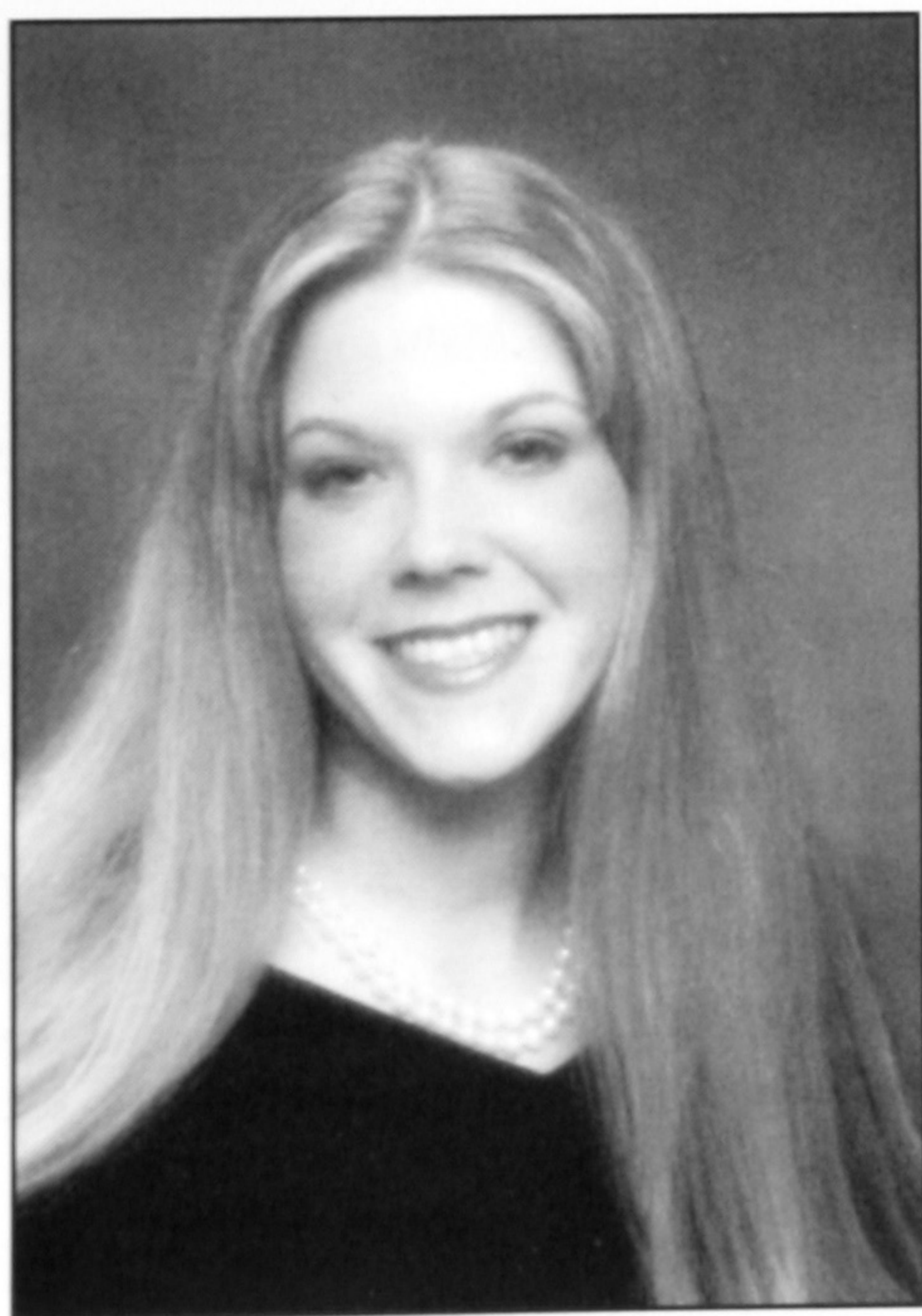
From 1994 until 1997 my father worked as a United Nations investigator for the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague. For three years he traveled constantly in and out of war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as the rest of Europe, interviewing the refugees, displaced persons and witnesses of war atrocities that Webb refers to in his essay. Three more years have passed since my father interviewed his last witness, but his mind is still clouded with their stories. The haunted look in his eyes is clearly visible when he recalls the victims of the "ethnic cleansing" and the atrocities that were inflicted upon them.

Many of the recollections add a human perspective to this essay for me. Webb states: "Not only must you get rid of them, you must make it impossible for them or theirs ever to return and resume what used to be a normal life," a clear goal in any war. This is reminiscent of one of the stories told to my father by one of his witnesses. The man was forced to watch the brutal murder of his family and the torching of his home before being tortured himself, after which he was released. He was allowed the "privilege" of surviving, but at what cost? He had nothing to return to; home could never be "home" again.

I don't see the question as being so much who goes home but rather where is home and what will be waiting there. Cities such as Sarajevo and Tuzla were destroyed from within and without. Many people sensed the steadily rising tension and chose to leave before the decision was taken out of their hands. To leave the country only to return to find smoldering piles of ash and debris where a home used to be can be described as nothing short of devastating.

Going home physically is not destroyed and the hearth is blazing with a welcoming fire, the individual may not always return. This also comes from personal experience; I see it every day in my father. Many people, removed from the situation, might disagree and argue that he was simply an objective observer, an investigator doing his job. I know otherwise. Many times he was placed in life-threatening situations, expected to excavate mass graves and sit through bloodcurdling first person accounts of heinous atrocities. He returned bodily to us after every trip, but it has only been recently that he has truly begun to return emotionally. According to Webb, "Obliterating the memory of a place-making lives and communities as though they had never been-must be one of the ultimate forms of censorship." I agree wholeheartedly with his sentiments. What better way is there to control a people than by destroying their very essence? Returning home is never easy and can sometimes be impossible. So who does go home? I don't believe that there will ever be a clear answer to that question. Only an uncertain "virtual" peace and an unceasing wish for normalcy, whatever that may be.

Dessica L. McIntosh 10/16/00



NCIS GRADUATION OF SPECIAL AGENTS BASIC COURSE

By SA Gloria Whatley

On February 9, 2001, Director Brant presented Special Agent credentials to 44 agents at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynco, GA. Twenty-seven civilians and 17 Marines took their pledge, commencing their service as NCIS Special Agents.

The first half of the training was the Criminal Investigator Training Program, which began on October 5, 2000 and ended on December 19, 2000. After a break over the Christmas holidays, the Basic Add-On began on January 3, 2001. Special Agent Steve Bius, NCISRA Kings Bay, served as the class counselor. Special Agents Joel Gosset, NCISRA San Diego, Ron Beltz, Northwest Field Office, Cheryl DiPrizio, 0025, and Tony Cox, NCISRA Corpus Christi, were the training coordinators for the group. During the conduct of the Basic Add-On Training, notable speakers addressed the group to include, AD Simon, AD Hefferon, AD McCarthy, AD Houston, DAD Robins, DAD Chester, Military Assistant to the Director LTCOL Street, Military Counsel CDR Tuider, and retired Special Agent Darryl Toler.

When asked about the class, DAD Chester remarked "Their time at FLETC provided them with academic and physical challenges. Overall, this class did extremely well. They are ready for their next phase of training in the field."

Graduation day brought many family members, friends, and professional colleagues to FLETC. The Glynn Academy USMC JROTC Unit presented the colors and Director Brant addressed the group. The next Special Agents Basic Course is scheduled to begin at FLETC on June 5, 2001.

One Hundred Sixth Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday,
the twenty-fourth day of January, two thousand*

An Act

'Sec. 7480. Special agents of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service: authority to execute warrants and make arrests

(a) *AUTHORITY* - The Secretary of the Navy may authorize any Department of the Navy civilian employee described in subsection (b) to have the same authority to execute and serve warrants and other processes issued under the authority of the United States and to make arrests without a warrant as may be authorized under section 1585a of this title for special agents of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

(b) *AGENTS TO HAVE AUTHORITY* - Subsection (a) applies to any employee of the Department of the Navy who is a special agent of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (or any successor to that service) whose duties include conducting, supervising, or coordinating investigations of criminal activity in programs and operations of the Department of the Navy.

(c) *GUIDELINES FOR EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY* - The authority provided under subsection (a) shall be exercised in accordance with guidelines prescribed by the Secretary of the Navy and approved by the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General and any other applicable guidelines prescribed by the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of Defense, or the Attorney General.'

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end following new item:

'7480. Special agents of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service: authority to execute warrants and make arrests.'

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Vice President of the United States and

President of the Senate. pro tempore

Arrest Authority; A Look Back

By SA (Ret.) J. Brian McKee



Many of us in the retired ranks have followed closely the efforts by the current NCIS leadership to secure long-needed statutory arrest authority for the civilian special agents of the agency. A sincere “well done” to those responsible for their recent success.

For those of you not with the Naval Investigative Service (NIS) in the 1970’s, I thought that a glance back into our history might be interesting. I don’t have the records to be very specific, but a number of us recall sufficient history to offer the following. Most agree that in the 1970’s, NIS shifted more emphasis and resources to combat felony-level criminal activity in the Department of the Navy worldwide.

It was the era of a much more active narcotics trafficker in the Navy and Marine Corps; crimes of violence were on the rise; homicides on Marine Corps installations seemed to be a weekly occurrence somewhere in the world; and unit commanders were calling on NIS for a much stronger presence in criminal investigations. Heretofore, NIS had dedicated most of its resources to personnel security investigations and counterintelligence.

As NIS Resident Agencies around the world shifted their focus to crime and became more proactive in exposing criminal activity before a complaint was raised, it was inevitable that civilian perpetrators would come to the fore. While NIS Special Agents were long active in apprehending military suspects, there had not been the occasion for arresting civilians except on a very limited basis, and those generally were effected by other law enforcement agencies on behalf of NIS.

As our role in combating narcotics trafficking grew, NIS became a very active and full player in

multi-agency task forces. In addition, the FBI, which had a long history of responding to crimes on government reservation cases involving civilians, began to shift its resources away from such cases. NIS stepped in to conduct the whole case—not just a preliminary investigation for later referral to the FBI. In addition, United States Attorneys modified their thresholds for taking cases into U.S. District Court. NIS began taking civilian cases before U.S. Magistrates and, where appropriate, into state and local courts if the “turf” on which the crime occurred was something other than exclusive federal jurisdiction.

In the beginning, NIS special agents would lay a case before a Federal Magistrate or local or state court and seek an arrest warrant for the civilian perpetrator. Other law enforcement agencies would then effect the arrest. As the civilian 1811 composition of NIS became better known, courts began to address NIS Special Agents in the listing of those capable of effecting the arrest. Slowly, this practice spread. The U.S. Department of Justice issued an Attorney General’s Order identifying the Naval Investigative Service as an agency authorized to seek Federal warrants for arrest and search. In a number of states, the NIS Special Agents were specifically named in the local laws as peace officers. Some states made the more formal identification of NIS Special Agents as possessing full police authority anywhere in the state. A number of NIS members, and especially influential members of the NIS Reserve Units, were directly responsible for these legislative actions.

Still, NIS lacked statutory arrest authority. By the late 1970’s, the NIS had become a full partner with many federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies throughout the world. NIS had become a full

partner in INTERPOL and a full member of the U.S. delegation to the INTERPOL General Assembly. Later, NIS would post a full-time SA at the U.S. National Central Bureau of INTERPOL at Washington, DC.

Our counterpart federal agency heads and many chiefs of state and local police departments were asking why NIS lacked statutory arrest authority. Many, including the Police Commissioner of New York City, wrote letters supporting such action.

Beginning in the 1980's, the NIS leadership made strong efforts to obtain arrest authority. Several shootings involving the active participation of NIS special agents argued for such action. The stumbling blocks were not with our counterpart law enforcement agencies, but actually within the Department of Defense. We had reluctant Secretary of the Navy support, but our initiatives always died when the Department of Defense insisted on agreement among the services.

NIS was essentially a civilian agency by then; whereas, Air Force and Army CID were primarily military organizations. The Secretaries of the Army and Air Force wanted no part of having their criminal investigators with statutory arrest authority. Those agencies did not possess FLETC training, rarely operated in the civilian communities, and their level of involvement in street-level law enforcement operations with local police was not anywhere close to the NIS tempo of operations.

The foregoing stalemate remained until several years ago when the current NCIS leadership continued our efforts of old and were obviously much more successful in gaining full Pentagon approval. It is a huge step forward for the professionalism of this fine agency that has long been at the fore of federal law enforcement.

J. Brian McKee is the former Director/Deputy Commander of NCIS from December 1986 to July 1990. His retirement home is in Malone, NY, where he owns/operates a motel, runs a private investigator business, and is very active in ARNISSA.

Editor's Note:

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has reviewed the NCIS arrest authority guidelines and implementation package that was prepared by NCISHQ and has expressed no substantive concerns. SECDEF Rumsfeld is now awaiting the confirmation of the new Secretary of the Navy and the DoD General Counsel to confer with them before forwarding the package to the Attorney General. The Attorney General must approve final guidelines before arrest authority is implemented.



Congresswoman Tillie Kidd Fowler (middle) with Special Agent Marilyn G. Hourican (left) and Special Agent Virginia Kirk (right). Rep. Fowler was at NCIS Headquarters where Director Brant thanked her for her sponsorship and work on legislation on federal arrest authority for civilian special agents of the military criminal investigative organizations. Special Agents Kirk and Hourican served as Legislative Fellows with Rep. Fowler.

Virginia Gives NCIS Special Agents State Search Warrant Authority

By SA Mark R. Cranfill

On March 14, 2001, Virginia Governor James Gilmore signed House Bill No. 2575 into law, which amended the Criminal Code of Virginia, Section 19.2-56 (To Whom Search Warrants Are Directed...) to provide NCIS Special Agents with the authority to obtain and jointly serve state search warrants. The amendment will take effect on July 01, 2001 and adds NCIS Special Agents to ATF, DEA, and FBI agents as the only federal law enforcement officers who are recognized under the section.

The need for adding NCIS special agents to the search warrant section surfaced in 2000, after agents from the Norfolk Field Office attempted to obtain a state search warrant for seizure of evidence concerning an Internet child pornography investigation. In this incident, a City of Chesapeake Magistrate questioned the authority of NCIS Special Agents to obtain and execute a state search warrant, despite a 1994 amendment to Virginia state law granting NCIS agents state law enforcement status.

The Norfolk Field Office determined that the Magistrate's ruling was correct, and the only way to provide NCIS Special Agents with state search warrant authority would be to initiate a legislative endeavor to amend the law.

State Senator Ken Stolle (Virginia Beach), who had originally sponsored the 1994 amendment, was consulted and began working with the Norfolk Field Office to draft legislation to amend the state law. Senator Stolle, a former NCIS Reserve Special Agent and Virginia Beach Police Department Detective Sergeant, advised Senator Nick Rerras (Norfolk) and State Delegate Robert McDonnell (Virginia Beach) of NCIS' need for search warrant authority. They agreed to sponsor bills to amend the law.

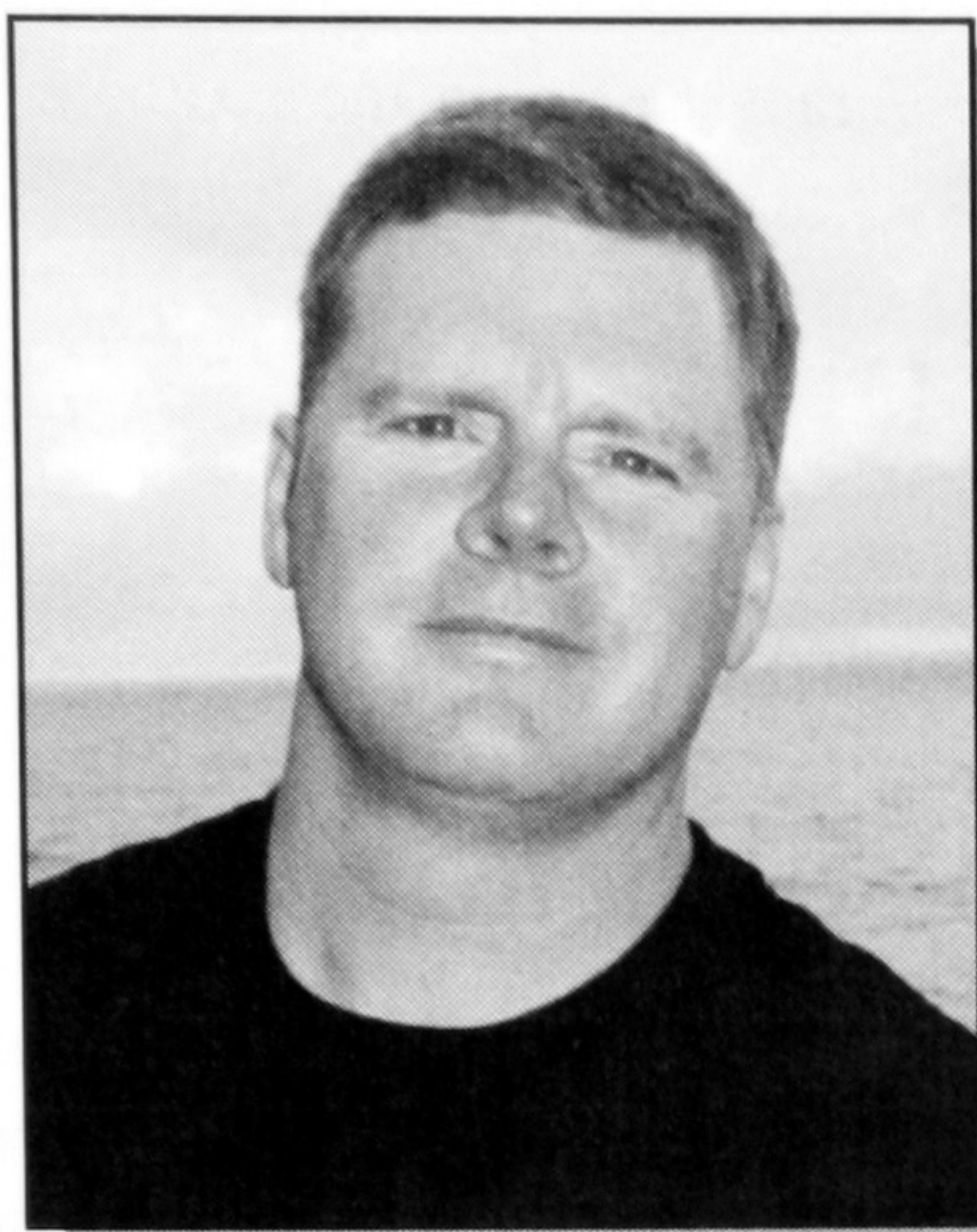
Between January and February 2001, Senator Rerras and Delegate McDonnell called on DSAC Gre-

gory Golden (Norfolk Field Office) and SA Mark R. Cranfill (Regional Fraud Unit) on several occasions to testify before the House of Delegates and Senate Committees for Courts of Justice. Central to the success of this endeavor was the enthusiastic support conveyed to the State General Assembly from the Commonwealth Attorneys and Chiefs of Police from the cities of Virginia Beach and Norfolk.

Of note, during a series of questions from a skeptical committee member, an Assistant Attorney General (AAG), who was a former City of Suffolk, VA, city prosecutor, stepped forward from the spectators gallery and made an unsolicited statement to the committee regarding the fine work NCIS agents did throughout the commonwealth. The AAG eloquently described to the committee the type of criminal investigations NCIS Special Agents are commonly involved in by relaying his personal experience prosecuting a joint NCIS and Suffolk P.D. drug case he had handled years earlier. The doubting legislator relinquished his objections and House Bill 2575 was recommended for passage to the General Assembly.

The passage of House Bill 2575 resulted in the realization of another investigative tool that will be available to NCIS Special Agents within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Of equal importance was the impressive support the NCIS received from prominent elected state representatives, area prosecutors, and police department administrators. This support was obtained through the positive experiences these representatives had with individual NCIS Special Agents they had worked with during their careers. The passage of House Bill 2575 is not only testament to the good work of NCIS agents in Virginia, but also a positive reflection on the entire organization.

SA Mark Cranfill is currently assigned in Norfolk and has been with NCIS since 1987.



SPECIAL AGENT TAKES HOBBY TO NEW HEIGHTS

SA GREG HULL-RYDE

**WANTS TO CLIMB THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN ON
EACH CONTINENT.**

DOB: 10-06-62

NCIS DATE: 05-22-89

HOMETOWN: JACKSONVILLE, FL

MARRIED TO LT LESLIE HULL-RYDE

**(WHO IS ASSIGNED TO NAVAL LOGISTICS COMMAND
WESTERN PACIFIC).**

NEXT CHALLENGE: MOUNT RAINIER - JULY 2001

**BY STEVE LIEWER, STARS AND STRIPES
REPRINTED BY PERMISSION.**

Rational people who read Jon Krakauer's harrowing best-seller "Into Thin Air," about the 1996 storm on Mount Everest that killed five climbers, probably thought the top of the world's highest mountain seemed like a great place to stay away from.

Not Greg Hull-Ryde, a Singapore-based agent for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. He read the tale of storms, misery and death and thought the whole enterprise sounded pretty darn cool.

"It just set something off inside of me," he said.

Four years later, he owns a closet full of pricey mountain-climbing gear and has his first Himalayan ascent under his belt. He's already making plans to climb the Seven Summits: the highest mountain peaks on each of the seven continents.

Many of his family and friends think he's gone crazy.

"I have no interest in sharing this experience with him," said his wife, Lt. Leslie Hull-Ryde, a public affairs officer at Naval Logistics Command Western Pacific. "My idea of paradise is to sleep, sweat and read on the beach. His idea of a good time is risking life and limb."

She believes her husband inherited a streak of derring-do from his father, a Navy fighter pilot who flew combat missions over Vietnam.

"He's definitely a live-on-the edge kind of guy," Leslie said.

Greg Hull-Ryde is a quiet, burly fellow with reddish hair and a taste for risky sports like rugby and

bungee-jumping. When he's not climbing, he's a counterintelligence agent. He travels around the world, and much of the time he can't tell even his Navy wife what he's up to.

"Knowing Greg, [his mountain-climbing] wasn't a big surprise. He likes challenging and dangerous things," said Bob Grow, 66, of Tarpon Springs, Fla., a Navy buddy of Hull-Ryde's father who remains a family friend. "I believe he will get to the top of Everest someday."

Still, nothing in Hull-Ryde's childhood suggested a future in the world's highest places. His nominal home is pancake-flat Jacksonville, Fla. His father's Navy service took the family to Cuba, the Philippines, California, Virginia and Italy.

"I never lived near the mountains," he said. "I always lived near the beach."

He played soccer and rugby and ran track at Florida State University, and spent a year and a half working in law enforcement for the state of Florida after graduating in 1987. He's worked the last 12 years for NCIS, including postings in Washington, D.C., and Rota, Spain, as well as Singapore.

He sees his recent hobby as anything but reckless thrill-seeking. He's approached it methodically, with safety in the front of his mind.

Before he put on a pair of crampons, he spent a year reading about mountain-climbing, studying climbing techniques, physiology, survival skills and reading biographies of famous climbers.

Then Hull-Ryde signed up for a two-week class in the Cascade Mountains of Washington.

And he's chosen his climbs carefully, to build his skills gradually. He did his first high-altitude ascent in the Himalayas last fall, of Imja Tse (Island Peak) in Nepal. At 20,305 feet, the mountain was twice as high as any he had climbed before.

Hull-Ryde said he chose Imja Tse because it was not too difficult, technically, yet high enough that he could feel and learn the effects of altitude.

Hull-Ryde suffered from altitude sickness when he got above 14,000 feet. He was forced to leave the rest of the team and descend to 12,500 feet.

"I didn't think I'd be able to recover in time to catch up with them, but I did."

At 18,000 feet, he said, there is less than half the oxygen at sea level.

"At that altitude, you take a step, stop, take a deep breath and repeat the process, hopefully — eventually — making it to the summit," he said.

Two months later, he climbed Mount Cook in New Zealand. Cook is pint-sized at 12,340 feet.

But Cook is steep and technically demanding, covered with treacherous crevasses. Everest pioneer Sir Edmund Hillary, a New Zealander, trained there for his historic 1953 expedition with Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay.

This summer he will climb Washington's Mount Rainier, one of the highest peaks in the continental United States.

Next year he plans to summit Mount McKinley in Alaska, the tallest peak in North America and the first of his "Seven Summits." (The others are Vinson Massif, in Antarctica; Mount Aconcagua, in South America; Mount El'brus in Russia's Caucasus; Mount Kosciuszko, Australia; Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa; and Mount Everest.)

Then, in the fall of 2002, he plans to climb his first elite 8,000-meter peak: 26,905-foot Cho-Oyu, in Nepal, the world's ninth-tallest peak. For the first time, he'll

need to carry bottled oxygen.

The biggest barrier to climbing the Seven Summits could be the Hull-Ryde family budget. Mountain climbing is not a poor man's sport. Greg spent more than \$5,000 on his two climbs last year, and took three weeks of unpaid leave from work.

Though he can save money by pooling costs with friends who are skilled climb-

ers instead of hiring guides, he still figures the Seven Summits would cost him \$200,000.

Leslie said she might venture as far as base camp if he tackles Everest some day.

"That's as close as I ever want to go," she said.



GREG WAVES HIS NCIS SINGAPORE BANNER AFTER CLIMBING TO THE TOP OF IMJE TSE, ALSO KNOWN AS ISLAND PEAK, IN NEPAL. AFTER MORE THAN TWO WEEKS ADJUSTING TO THE ALTITUDE, HULL-RYDE SPENT 11 HOURS ON THE DAY OF HIS SUMMIT CLIMBING THE 20,305-FOOT MOUNTAIN.



SPECIAL AGENT GIVES INSIGHT TO U.S.S. COLE INVESTIGATION

By Paul O'Donnell



SA Cathy Clements, an 11-year veteran of NCIS and presently assigned to the European Field Office, has a history with NCIS. Her father, Special Agent Harry Schanz, served the Agency from 1963 until he died in the line of duty in 1972 in a fire aboard the USS Saratoga. Cathy's husband, Lee, is also an agent, assigned to the European Field Office. It was these extraordinary ties to NCIS that helped Cathy face one of her biggest investigative challenges: the USS Cole investigation.

Early in the afternoon of October 12th, SA Clements received the call to assist an NCIS team already on the ground in Yemen with the investigation on the attack on the USS Cole. The next day, she and fellow agent Donival Thompson boarded a Lear Jet and flew four hours to Aden, Yemen. On the morning of the following day, October 14, she was briefed by the NCIS agents already on the ground: ASAC Mike Dorsey, Special Agents Mike Marks, Larry Mullins, and Harry Richardson, and Physical Security Specialist Gary Chamberlin. They had been assembled from

the Bahrain Field office and selected for their knowledge of Yemen and their ability to conduct post-blast investigations. In addition to their investigative duties, the team had begun the all-important task of liaison with Navy command, with the local officials and with the other investigative entities, such as the FBI. They also worked to secure hotel rooms for the hundreds of officials now pouring into Yemen.

As a member of the MCRT (Major Case Response Team), SA Clements had the task of assisting in the extraction of the bodies from the ship and of working the post-blast investigation. She described her reaction as she boarded the Cole for the first time:

The Cole Investigation In Brief

- Explosion on October 12 at about 1122L
- 17 confirmed dead, 40 injured
- NCIS special agents first on the scene. Team composed of agents from Middle East and European Field Office and CONUS. Purpose: bring FCI, language, geographical, crime scene, and physical security expertise.
- NCIS special agents with FBI conduct crime scene examination, evidence collection, recovery of remains, interviews of injured and other witnesses, intelligence analysis, and provide force protection support to Joint Task Force.
- Full Integration –NCIS, FBI, and Country Team—in coordination with Joint Task Force Determined Response.

"Ships are usually clean and the crew is generally upbeat. What struck me was how dirty the Cole was—the deck was covered with diesel fuel. The mood of the crew was somber. It was a very somber atmosphere. In spite of all this, I observed that the Cole was listing, but not badly. She was still afloat, and whatever had occurred wasn't bad enough to put her down in the water."

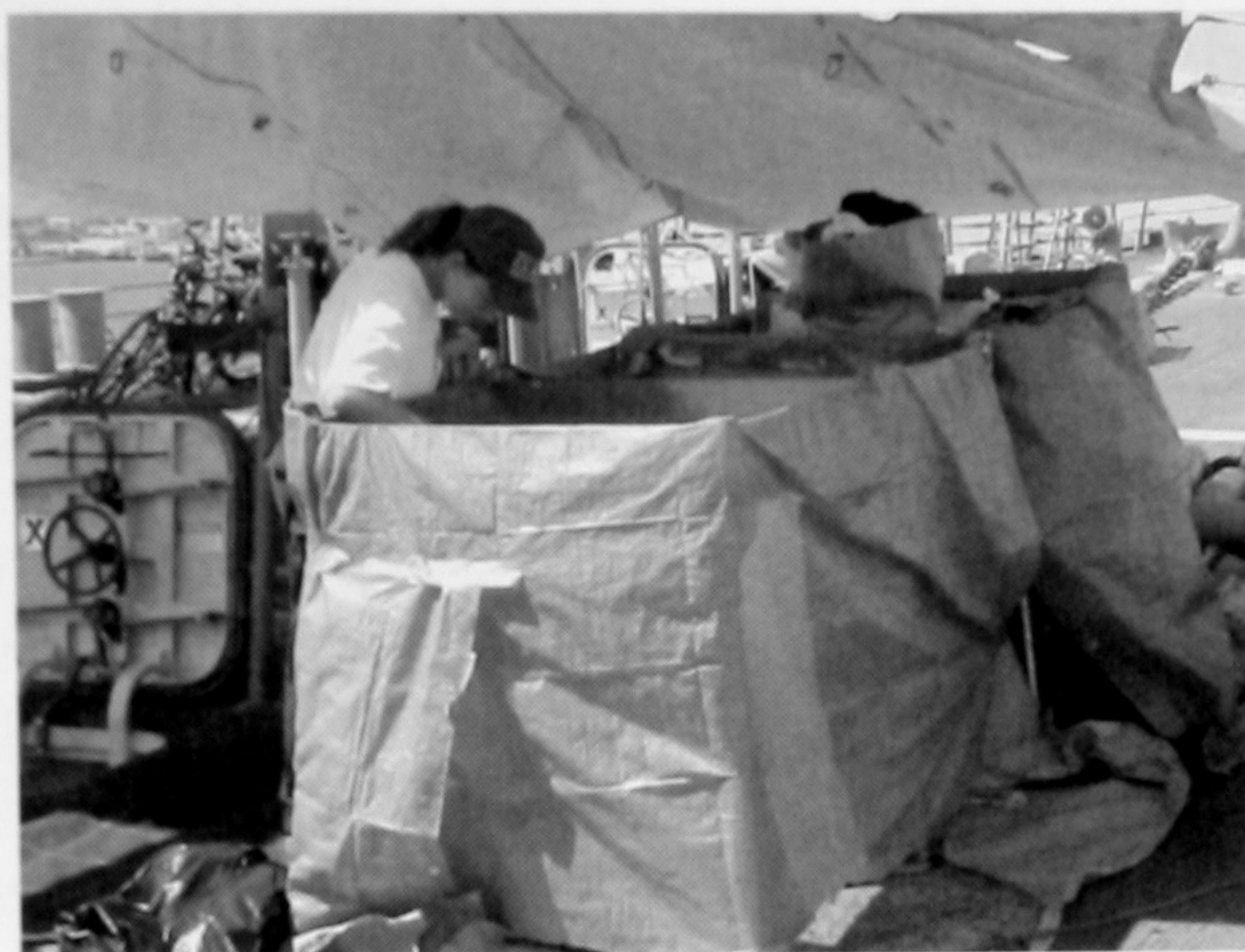
SA Clements then described the progression of events. "The Commanding Officer himself took us on a tour of all the affected areas, gave us a space to work from, and provided Sailors to assist us. He was extremely cooperative. From there, we began to work the scenes. The ship was swept from the top deck to the main deck to collect evidence. Metal pieces, fiberglass, and some biological material were collected. The assistance of the ship's crew was invaluable. We needed the help of the Sailors to tell us if the things we were collecting were part of the ship or foreign to it. We collected only the foreign material."

As a member of the NCIS investigative team that worked the investigation of the USS Cole, SA Clements was in a unique position to assess the advantages of the agency's presence abroad.

"In less than 12 hours, we had five people on the ground. Within, 24 hours, the entire NCIS team with equipment was assembled. Furthermore, NCIS has a wealth of knowledge about the different foreign cultures and different countries that we operate in. The information that the Special Agents from the Bahrain Field Office had of Yemen assisted immensely in how quickly we were able to find out things on the ground and in how quickly things were made available."

SA Clements also commented on how NCIS's knowledge of the military was especially useful.

"We understand Navy protocol, how ships operate, and that they are operating vessels. In understanding that, you can understand what the commanding officer of the ships wants."



SA Cathy Clements searches for forensic clues aboard USS Cole.

19 October 2001 - SAs Don Housman and Kris Peterson process evidence at Dover Air Force Base.



On November 30, SA Clements visited Washington and briefed Navy Secretary Richard Danzig on the ongoing investigation. Impressed with Cathy's work, the Secretary asked her how she was able to function in such an extraordinary environment. SA Clements responded without hesitation: "NCIS trained me to do the job and I tried to do it as best as I could."

Director David Brant added his own observations after the meeting with Secretary Danzig. "The Cole investigation really shows how versatile and deep an organization NCIS is. We were the first to respond to the scene and continued to provide support from various locations throughout the world. The heroic dedication and superlative professional skills of all the NCIS

personnel involved in the investigation were impressive to behold. Secretary Danzig and other Navy officials in meeting after meeting echo this same sentiment and add their personal gratitude. I have always been proud to be the Director of NCIS, but now more than ever because of our performance during this challenging investigation."

FIELD NEWS

SA Naylor Recognized by Japanese Narcotics Control Office

On November 16, 2000, NCISRA Okinawa was a major participant in the 26th U.S. and Japan Narcotics Control Conference held in Naha, Okinawa.

Following the conference Special Agent Kevin J. Naylor, NCISRA Okinawa was commended for his "deep understanding with the operations of the Narcotics Control Agents since your arrival in Okinawa..." Mr. Yasunori Tsuruta, Director of the Narcotics Division, Pharmaceutical and Medical Safety Bureau, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Government of Japan, presented SA Naylor with a letter of appreciation in both Japanese and English, and a beautiful memento.

This is the first time in the 26-year history of this conference that any individual, either Japanese or American, has ever been recognized for their efforts.

SA Naylor, in his acceptance of the prestigious award, recognized his NCIS colleagues who assisted in the many investigations, as well as his partners from the Narcotics Control Office who he cited as equally deserving of recognition.

The conference was hosted by the Okinawa Sub-Region, Kyushu Regional Narcotics Control Office, and included representatives from the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Sanitation Division, Welfare and Health Department, Okinawa Prefectural Government; Narcotics Division, Pharmaceutical and Medical Safety Bureau, Ministry of Health and Welfare; Kyushu Regional Narcotics Control Office; Kanto-Shin'etsu Regional Narcotics Control Office; Naha District Prosecutor's Office; and the Naha District Public Prosecutor's Office Okinawa Branch.

Along with NCIS Okinawa, U.S. representatives invited to attend included the Drug Enforcement Administration Tokyo Country Attaché; U.S. Customs Service Office of Investigations Attaché; American

Consulate General Naha, Army Criminal Investigation Command Okinawa, Army Provost Marshall, Army MI Detachment, Marine Corps Provost Marshall, Marine Corps Criminal Investigation Division, Air Force Office of Special Investigation, and the Air Force Security Forces Squadron.

The conference consisted of numerous briefings conducted by many of the attending agencies as well as the keynote presentation on the "General Situation on Narcotics and Stimulants Offenses in Japan" and the "Iranians' Syndicate Engaged in Illegal traffic in Drugs in Japan."

The reception for SA Naylor featured NCIS participation in karaoke by SA Chris Cote, as well as a troupe—allegedly consisting of three NCISRA Okinawa personnel—who brought the house down with their rendition of a "Spice Girls" type of dance routine which can only be described as "heart-stopping."

Mayport Update

On December 8, 2000 the SAC of the Jacksonville Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mr. Thomas Kneir, took the opportunity to acknowledge NCIS agents assigned to the Mayport Field Office for their participation in the investigation known as "Aquaknot."

The joint investigation revealed ship repair fraud in several metropolitan areas throughout the country that was costing the Navy millions of dollars. The investigation lasted several years and produced convictions of a number of principals.

SAC Brian Stamper received a letter from FBI Director Freeh expressing his gratitude for the fostering of the close relationship between NCIS and the FBI. Mr. Kneir also recognized the six NCIS Special Agents for special recognition of their efforts during the investigation.

FIELD NEWS

Certificates were presented to: Fraud ASACs Kevin Dodds and John Gehri (retired) who provided hands-on management, resources, technical support, and expertise. SA Kevin Ashcroft excelled as co-case agent and undercover agent. SA Mark Barstow created databases and a file retrieval system to aid in the investigation. SA Gary Logan developed scenarios and strategies to direct the course of the investigation. SA Gloria Whatley was the primary undercover agent and her superior performance was invaluable as she brought her experience and maturity in her "hundreds of contacts with the subjects of the investigation."

In comments before and after the acknowledgments, both Mr. Kneir and Mr. Stamper praised the spirit of the investigative efforts of agents and provided a preview of current and future joint investigative efforts. Mr. Kneir said, "The FBI no longer has cases they work in isolation. Because of limited resources, all of our federal agencies must work together to ensure that crimes are investigated in a most professional manner. This case was an excellent example of that working together that our organizations pledge to continue."



Left to right: SA Kevin Ashcroft, SAC Brian Stamper, SA Gary Logan, ret. SA John Gehri, SA Gloria Whatley, ASAC Kevin Dodds.

Forensic Lab Training Team Goes to Europe

By Marc Jaskolka

Recently, SA Kevin Toevs (RSI-EUNA) and Lab Director JoAnn Given (NFZN) coordinated their efforts to send examiners of three forensic disciplines on a training support mission hosted by the NCIS Field Office, Europe.

Senior Chemist Harry Finley, Fingerprint Examiner Bruce Dutcher and Questioned Document Examiner Marc Jaskolka provided two days of lectures and hands-on training. Topics included a historical background of the NCIS laboratory system, current drug trends in the U.S. and abroad, fingerprint developing, lifting and rolling techniques, and all facets of questioned document evidence.

The first two days of training kicked off with at least 27 Special Agents and Investigators in attendance. Class attendees represented the following commands, components and elements: NCIS Field Office-Europe; U.S. Navy Command Investigation Division-Naples IT, Gaeta IT, Sigonella IT, Souda Bay GR, Keflavik IC; U.S. Army-Provost Marshall's Office NATO, Naples IT; Italian Investigative Section, Security Department, NAVSUPACT Naples and Gaeta IT; and the Icelandic Defense Force, Keflavik IC.

Captain Ricciardello, Commanding Officer Trial Service Office, and staff were invited to attend a special session tailored to meet the specific needs of trial attorneys. Topics presented included discussion on the various methods of analysis employed by the examiners, understanding reports of analysis and opinion terminology, and the expert witness in the courtroom setting. Needless to say, some lively discussion ensued.

The keen interest, personal insight and professionalism shown by all of the attendees made the lecture series a huge success.

FIELD NEWS

NCIS Tech Services Kicks Off MP-5 Course

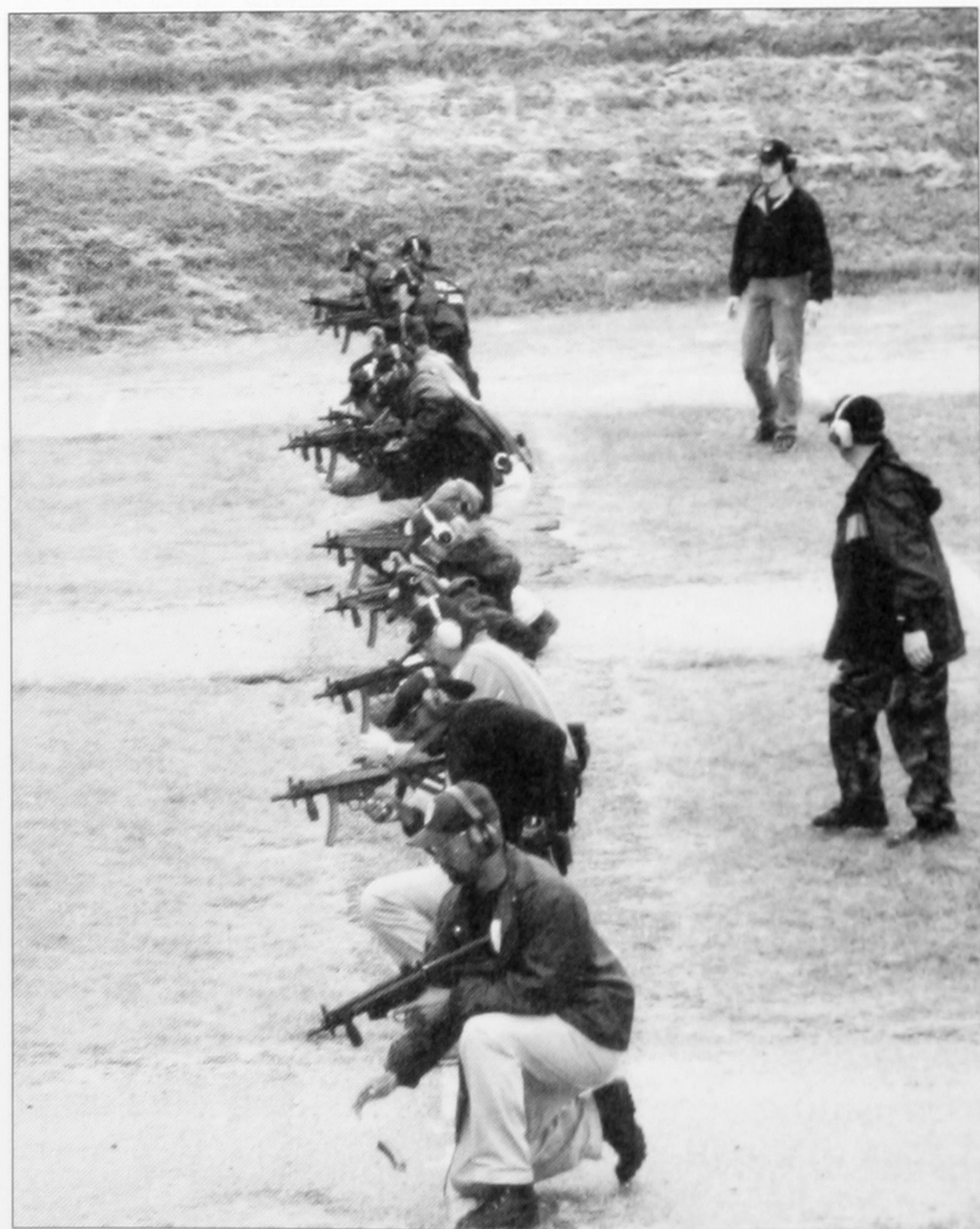
By SA Greg McKamey

During the week of September 18, 2000, NCIS graduated its first class of HK MP-5 Personal Defense Weapon (PDW) Operators. The training was conducted at the FBI Academy, Quantico, VA, and was modeled after the HK International Training Divisions MP-5 Operator Course. Students undergoing this training have been assigned Protective Service Operations for the DCWA FO or NCISHQ.

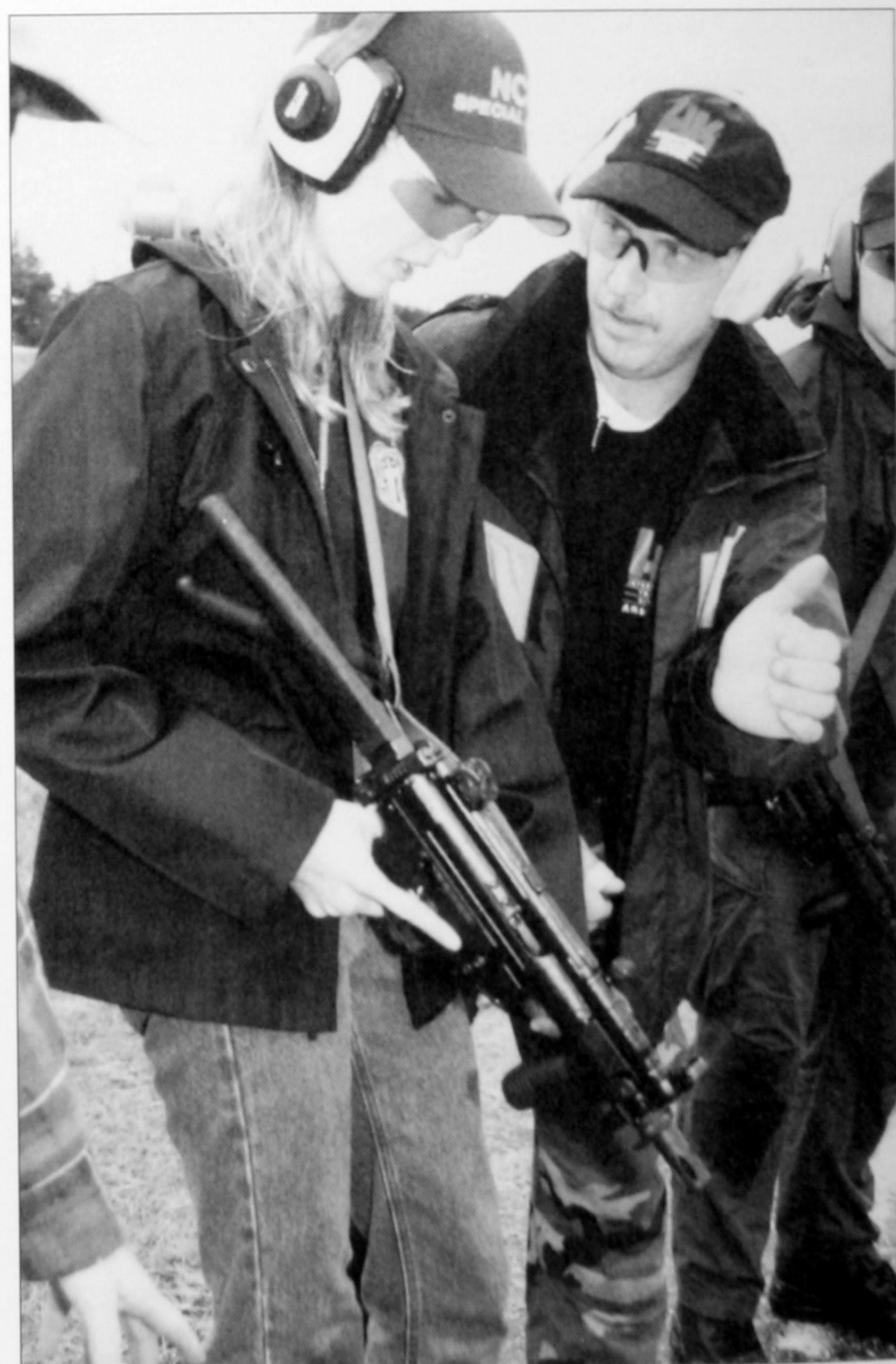
The weather—from extreme temperatures to pouring rain—added to the reality of the rigorous course, and further challenged the students as they learned to maneuver and fire the submachine gun. Each student became intimately familiar with the

workings of the MP-5, achieving operational proficiency in both semi-automatic and full automatic modes. Students were required to pass an extensive series of tests, culminating in a night-fire qualification exercise.

Class attendees included SA's Chuck Alderman, Shelly Amsden, Mike Austin, Craig Covert, Joe Denahan, Darryl Gilliard, Wayne Goldstein, Andrea Hosken, Joe Hudock, Mark Luketic, Greg Mack, Eric Mann, and John Salazar. Instructors for the course were SA's David Bay, Greg McKamey, and Dan Symonds.



Students conducting a reloading drill on the range.

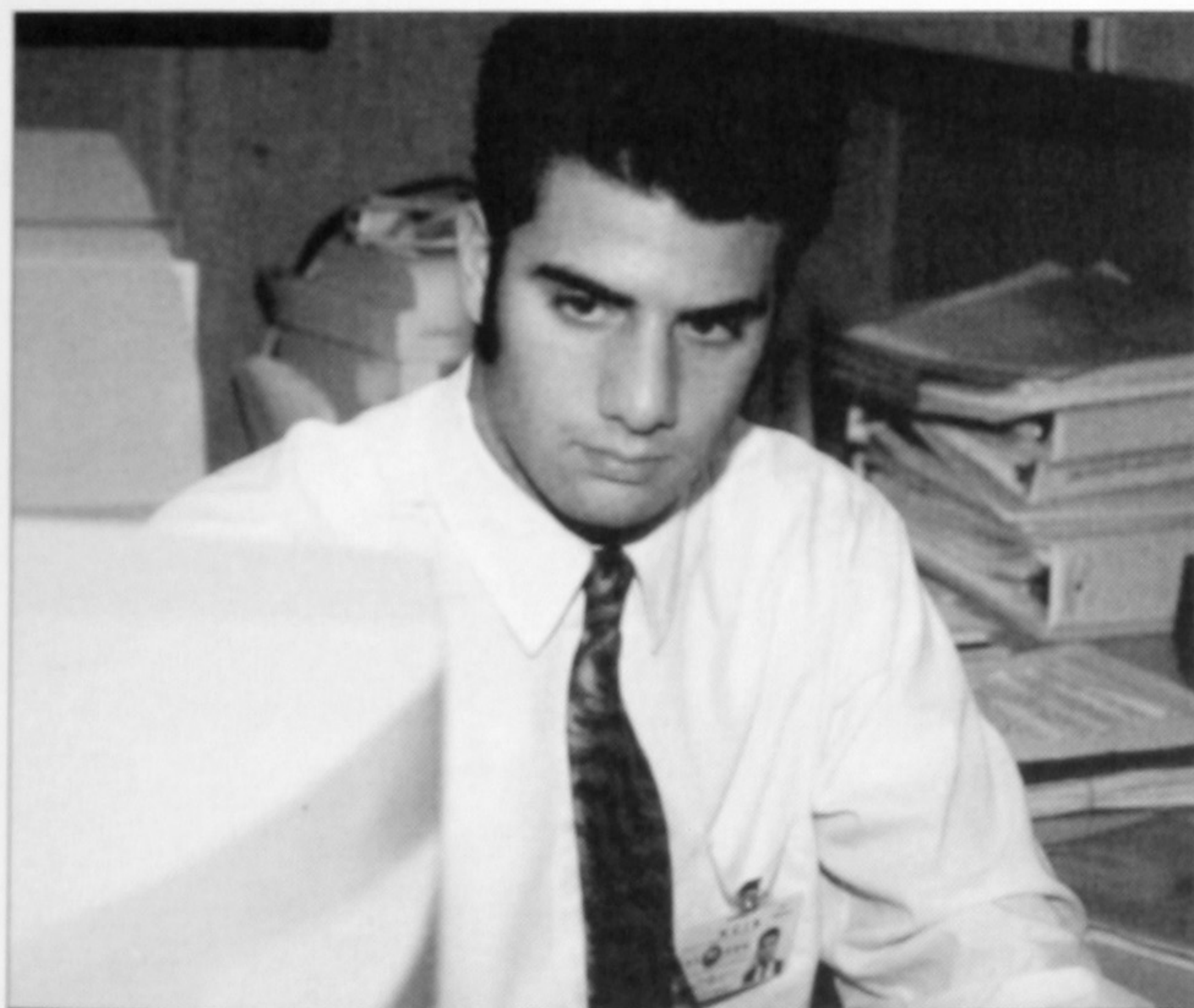


SA Andrea Hosken being instructed by SA Greg McKamey.

FIELD NEWS

RECRUITING AND INTERN PROGRAMS

Since the fall of 2000, the Career Services Department has assumed an aggressive recruiting mission to identify and hire an experienced, talented and diverse cadre of new Special Agents for 2001. To accomplish this mission all 13 NCIS Field Offices have significantly increased their attendance at targeted universities, area job fairs and recruiting events. This new and invigorated recruiting mission has spread throughout the agency with enthusiasm as approximately 1,200 applications are processed annually. Newly appointed Field Office Recruit Coordinators have been provided necessary displays and recruiting tools to further enhance the NCIS public image as a worldwide federal law enforcement, counterintelligence, and security organization. This combined HQ and Field Office recruiting effort will hopefully streamline the application process.



Avner Mizrahi, a rising junior at Johns Hopkins University, is an International Studies and Philosophy double major. He's an intern in Code 07 and has been reviewing cases for production companies for possible TV movies or series.

Another highly successful endeavor is the NCIS Student Intern Program. This program is designed to 1) provide educationally-related work assignments for students in a non-pay status, 2) build a stronger relationship between the efforts of educators and the occupational needs of Federal employers, and 3) identify outstanding talent for future NCIS hiring requirements. The current program was initiated in 1995 with the acceptance of one student from the George Washington University and has grown steadily, largely due to "word of mouth" advertisement by former interns and officials of the participating institutions. During calendar year 2000, NCIS sponsored 69 internships at NCISHQ and in various field offices. Approximately 11 % of former interns have been hired as NCIS criminal investigators or intelligence specialists.

Due to the expansion of the program, a full time Intern Program Specialist billet was created and staffed during the first quarter FY2001. The position is located in the Career Services Department, Special Agent Assignment Division. Responsibilities include collaborating with colleges and universities regarding the recruitment and placement of interns within NCIS worldwide, developing initiatives to recruit interns with foreign language proficiencies and computer science-related majors, and developing recruitment strategies to attract a diverse pool of talented interns.

Coordination efforts to establish ongoing internship positions in additional field offices have increased and student internship assignments are pending in the following field offices and/or FO components: CALE, DCWA, FEYK, HIHN, LAFC, MPMP, NENP, NWBG, SDND. In addition, recruiting efforts for the internship program have increased at specific target universities, resulting in an overwhelming number of intern applicants. Based upon the interest in this program, NCIS can expect to sponsor approximately 100 interns during 2001.

FIELD NEWS



SA Tom Coyle, pictured left, is standing near a guard post manned by a Company of Republic of Korea (ROK) Army infantrymen who remain there on a three-month tour of duty. The fence is called the Forward Fence Line, and it is the small area that serves as the final buffer between the two countries. The small road depicted in the top left of the photo is in North Korea and is approximately two kilometers away. SA Coyle accompanied the United Nations Command Guard Post Inspection Team in April 2000 during a scheduled inspection by a Combined U.S./ROK military team. The Post is located within the ROK Army 7th Division area of operations in the central portion of the Republic.

The Camp Lejeune Field Office hosted the 4th annual Eastern North Carolina Law Enforcement Charity Softball Tournament 19-20 May 2001 at Northeast Creek Park in Jacksonville, NC. The tournament raised over \$15,000 for three local organizations: Onslow Women's Center, Special Olympics of Onslow County and the M.E.N.T.O.R.S. NCIS fielded two teams, one from Headquarters and one from the Lejeune Field Office, pictured together below.

Front Row (left to right): Jeff Baker; Tom Mahlik; Rick Warmack; Ken Morse; Robin Knapp; Tom Orzechowski; Matt Butler; Jim Grebas; Mike Austin; Cheryl DiPrizio; Tracy Lempke.

Back Row (left to right): Michelle Dykes; Maris Jaunakais; Jim Spencer; Rick McCue; Jim MacFarlane; Les - the umpire; Ralph Blincoe; Bob Overcast; Blake Belcher; Blaine Thomas; Scott Milburn; Wayne Brown; Schuyler McLaughlin; Ted Nycz; Steve Neher; Jeff Latham; Boyce Floyd; Mark Spainier; Jimmy Hutson.



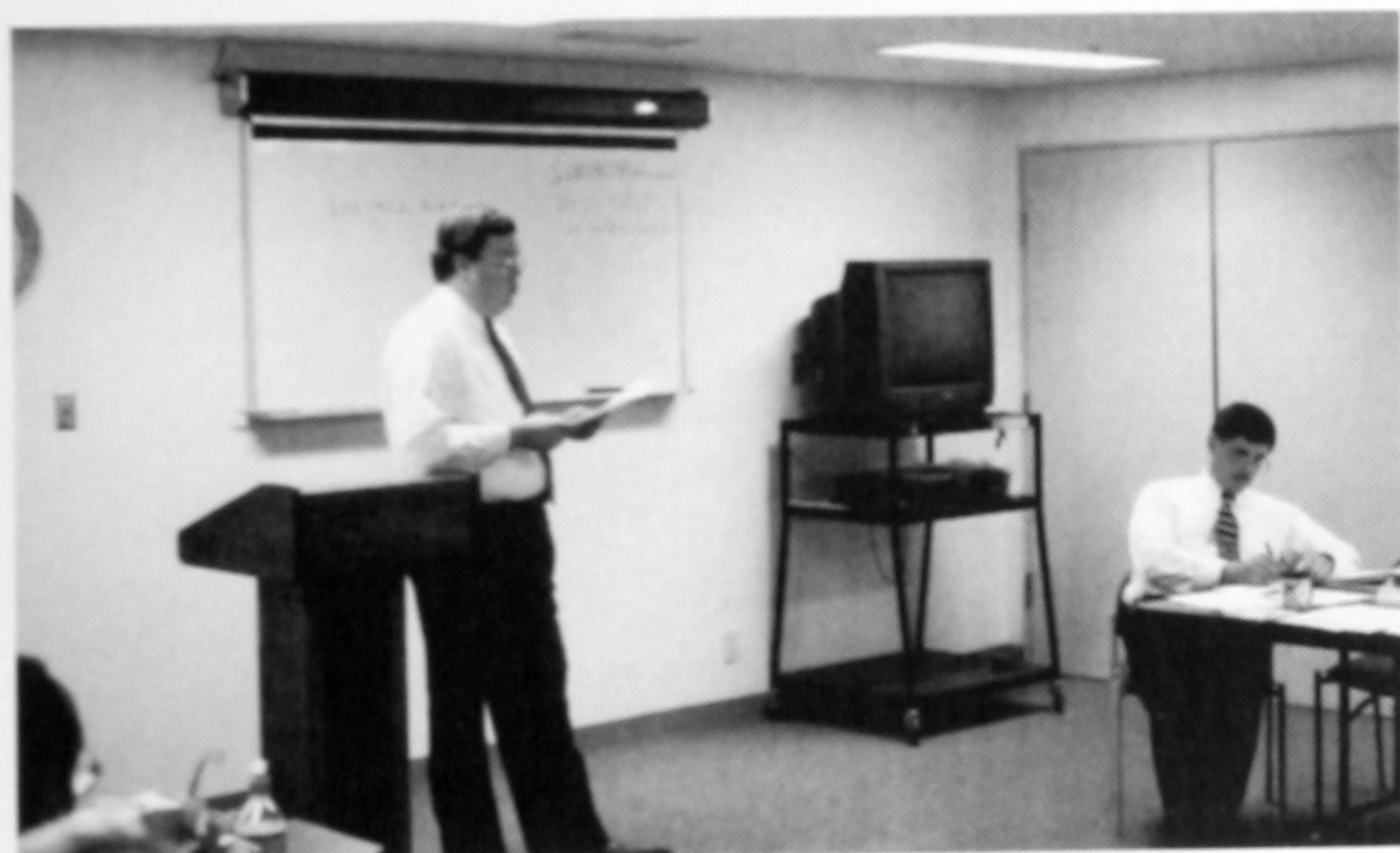
FIELD NEWS

Career Services Visits Field

By Thomas Blount

As part of an ongoing program to maintain contact with field components, three staff members from the Career Services Department visited the Far East Field Office this past fall. Ms. Linda Beadle, Ms. Mary Cameron, and Mr. Thomas Blount traveled from Headquarters to provide their expertise in payroll, benefits and entitlements to the first-ever Administrative Conference at FEYK.

Along with Laura Wilson, Office Manager of the San Diego Field Office, a representative from each office in the Far East met for three days of training and identifying areas of mutual concern. The meetings offered the opportunity to fine-tune Headquarters' requirements and understand the needs of the field, particularly critical overseas entitlements.



The various presentations allowed colleagues face-to-face discussions of policies, procedures, and improvement areas. A technical review of the relationship between NCISHQ, the Secretariat/Headquarters Human Resources Office, and the Human Resources Service Center-Capital was enlightening. The many changes in how the Department of the Navy processes personnel actions and recruits for employees were discussed in great detail. An overview of retirement requirements and issues was well attended by all hands of the field office.

All participants of the Administrative Conference were invited guests of Special Agent in Charge Michael Barrett at his official "wetting down" at the Yokosuka Officers Club. A special thanks goes out to our host IOS Akime Fujio. Akime led the way on a fun-filled final evening of traditional Japanese culinary delights and a spirited Karaoke contest.

The trip was a unique opportunity to experience Japanese culture as well as the particular operational demands of an overseas location. The lines of communication established during the trip will go far into the future to ensure the best quality support to the field.

Director Brant presents a framed NCIS poster to ASAC Robert K. Cromwell of the FBI Jackson, MS on September 19, 2000 at NCISRU Pascagoula, MS. ASAC Cromwell, a 16-year veteran of the FBI is a former NCIS Special Agent who was assigned to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME. The Director recognized SA Cromwell for the excellent working relationship he has built between NCIS and FBI in Mississippi.



Director Honored by Secretary of the Navy

By SA Joseph M. Masciale

Acting Secretary of the Navy Robert Pirie presented the Distinguished Civilian Service Award to Director David L. Brant in a ceremony held in the atrium of the NCIS Headquarters building on February 20, 2001. In presenting the award, Secretary Pirie acknowledged Director Brant for leading NCIS through a challenging period of rapid change and formulating the agency into a model for other law enforcement agencies to emulate.



Robert B. Pirie, Jr. congratulates Director Brant after presenting him with the Distinguished Civilian Service Award.

"NCIS has come through with flying colors during my seven years in the Department of the Navy. I have no reason to think that you will not continue to be the flagship institution of our Navy," Secretary Pirie said. "Through Director Brant, we recognize the con-

tributions of NCIS, an organization we look to for internal integrity and protection from increasingly complex and difficult external challenges."

Acting Navy General Counsel William Molzahn praised Director Brant for his untiring leadership in leading NCIS into the 21st century.

"There is not another civilian organization that has more of a global reach and global accomplishments than NCIS," Mr. Molzahn said.

Former Navy General Counsel Steven Preston noted that NCIS has been successful in meeting significant challenges through the strong leadership of Director Brant. "Dave was focused and driven as he was constantly seeking to define and redefine the mission of the agency so it could serve the Navy and Marine Corps in a much broader perspective," Mr. Preston said.

Mr. Preston also noted that Director Brant always concentrated on the rank-and-file of the agency, especially in dealing with budgetary issues and obtaining future funding.

"This is one healthy organization," Mr. Preston said. "In the Five-Year Defense Plan, the NCIS is scheduled to get increased top line funding for its emerging missions."

In his acceptance remarks, Director Brant said the award actually recognizes the outstanding accomplishments by the dedicated men and women of the NCIS, saying "The thrill of my job is to take what you do and represent that to the seniors within the Department of the Navy."

Civilian of the Year Awards

At a recent Headquarters ceremony, NCIS Deputy Director John McEleny presented the 2000 Civilian of the Year awards to David M. Young of the Norfolk Field Office and Carleen Gwinn of the Norfolk Technical Services Detachment.

Mr. Young, a Field Computer Specialist, was recognized for his work in Norfolk and in the European Field Office, where he was assigned prior to June 2000. In Europe, he managed seven networks in six countries, upgraded the email system to MS-Exchange, and handled computer-related evidence. In Norfolk, Mr. Young has drastically improved the Field Office's computer network and computer usage in investigations, thereby enhancing the efficiency of everyone in the office.



Ms. Gwinn received the Administrative Support Civilian Employee of the Year award for her work in virtually every facet of the Technical Services Division. As the sole administrator for the entire division, her duties spanned numerous areas, including: managing the budget for the entire division, implementing and maintaining the NEXTEL contract for all of NCIS, and initiating and tracking equipment acquisitions worth millions of dollars.



Ms. Gwinn recently completed her Bachelors degree, and after 18 years of service with NCIS she has accepted an internship at the Redstone Arsenal as a Personnel Management Specialist in Huntsville, Alabama.

Force Protection, Albanian-Style

By SA Ray Carman

"OK then, I'll have a driver and bodyguard pick you up at the airport," concluded the voice on the other end of the phone.

I had just finished talking to my friend, Matt Dooley, the Regional Security Officer at the American Embassy in Tirana, Albania. I thought his comment about the bodyguard was, well, interesting. I'm much more familiar with being the bodyguard, not the bodyguard. In Albania, a bodyguard would be guarding a bodyguard. Go figure.

We were in Albania performing advance force protection liaison for a military exercise called Cornerstone 2001. During Cornerstone 2001, from April 01 to July 31, 2001, the U.S. military, along with the militaries of seven other coalition nations, would build a road in Albania. The NCIS role was to establish liaison with host nation counterparts to ensure that no incidents detrimental to the U.S. military would occur.

Flying into Tirana, my first impression was that the countryside was sparsely populated, full of mountains, and quite rugged. Upon landing at the airport, we were met by our bodyguard and driver. I noticed that there seemed to be a lot of people with guns walking around. Most were in uniform, so I hoped they were assigned to the Albanian police or NATO forces in Albania. However, one never knows in Albania.

As we drove from the airport to the city of Tirana, it became readily apparent that the traffic laws, if any, were merely suggestions. Along the road, I noticed a lot of round, cement structures protruding from the ground. Each structure had a round cement top with what appeared to be gun ports on the side. I asked our bodyguard what these structures were, and he said they were bunkers. These were built during the communist regime and number over 10,000. They can be seen all over the countryside. Some were tactically placed next to highways. I saw a few built next to walls with the gun ports facing the walls, and I had to surmise that the wall was built well after the bunker. Many bunkers were grouped together, six to

10 in a group, in the middle of a field far from any road. The tactical advantage there eludes me.

I later learned that one bunker was built for every family in Albania. The families were supposed to man these bunkers and fight to the end if the country were ever invaded. I suppose the families were lucky no one ever wanted to invade Albania.

Tourist that I am, I bought two small, marble ashtrays shaped in the form of bunkers.



An Albanian tank battalion commander poses with the author.

Police tactics in Albania are significantly different than what we learn at FLETC. One day, I was walking down the street when I saw a motorcycle patrolman pull a vehicle over. The driver must have done something to upset the patrolman because he yanked the driver out of the car and started to deliver some pretty hefty punches. Then he pushed the driver back into the car and made the driver follow him somewhere, probably to the police station. Somehow, I didn't think things were going to get any better for the driver that day.

I decided to rent a car to drive around for area familiarization. Now, as background I have to tell you that Albania is the poorest country in Europe. However, there are a lot of Mercedes navigating the dusty roads here. My friend Matt told us that many, if not

most, of the Mercedes have been stolen from other European countries and smuggled into Albania.

When I went to the car rental agency, the manager said he just rented his last car. This was disappointing because this was the only car rental agency in Albania. Still, NCIS Special Agents have many tools and skills available to obtain that which is denied. Over the years, I have discovered that tact, diplomacy, logic, force, and threats don't work nearly as well as whining.

After whining for a while, the manager told me to return at 4:00 PM. He said he would have a special car for me.

I did.

He did.

It was a Mercedes. The interesting thing about this car was that it had a steering wheel from another make of car. I decided not to bring this up to the manager. It was a car. The upholstery was torn; the engine overheated; the driver's seat belt didn't work, nor did the emergency brake. All in all it was one of the better rental cars in Albania. We took it.

And it turned out to be a good car for the roads of Albania. The best roads here have organ-jolting potholes everywhere. The roads of lesser quality (i.e. 99.9% of Albanian roads) are a fine test for vehicle strength and endurance. Most cars don't endure long here, and a favorite means of transportation is the donkey and cart. If I had a license to drive a donkey and cart I might have switched to that mode of transportation. Slower, yes, but not by much—and much more reliable. I could see why they would want a new road.

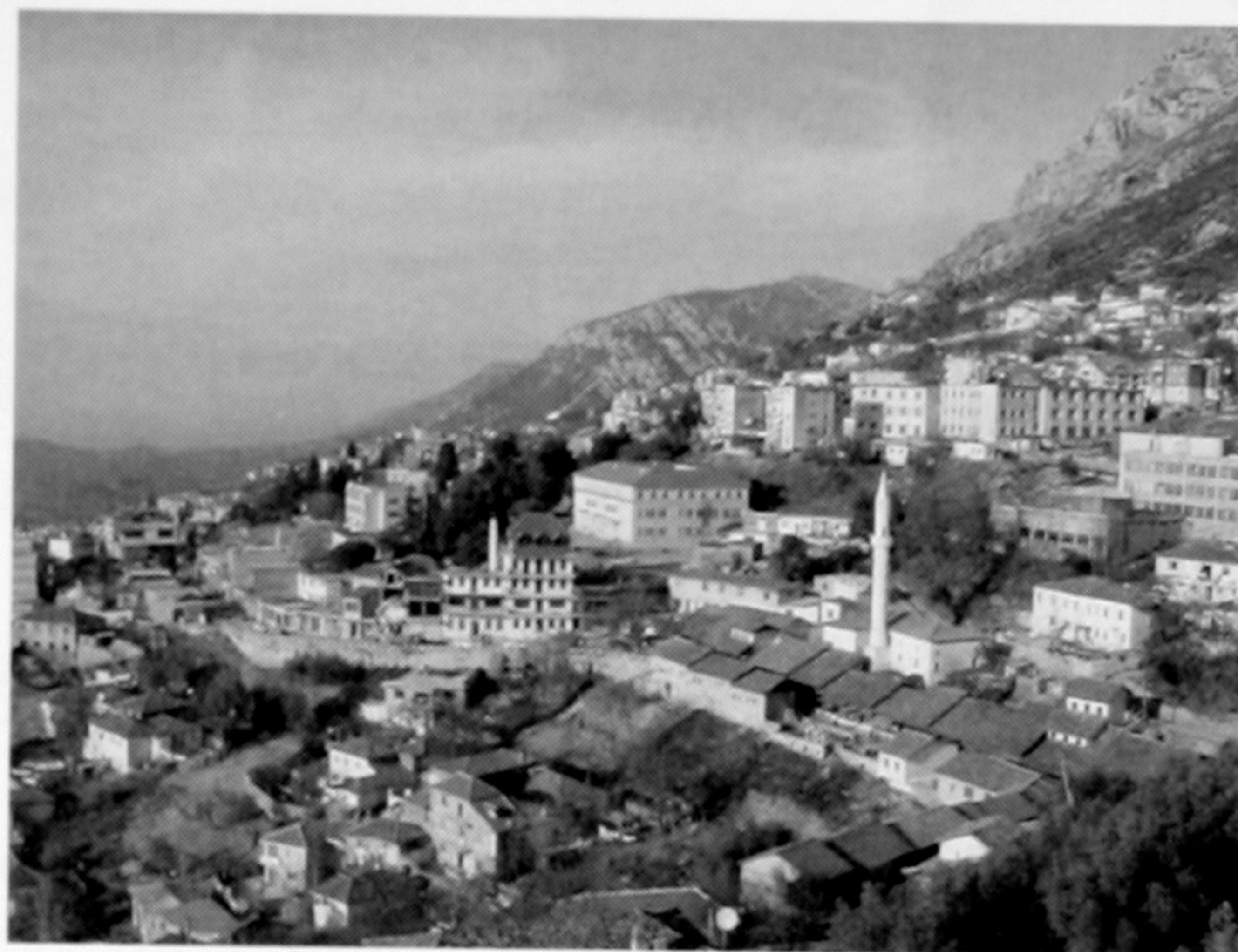
Now lest you think I'm being overly negative in my description of our brief stay in Albania, I must tell you that we stayed at a fine, four-star hotel: the Rogner Hotel. This was truly an oasis in a sea of noise, confusion, dust, and litter. Except for the nightly gunfire, it was pretty relaxing.

Did I mention that there were weapons everywhere and we were going to be on a force protection mission?

Well, in case you don't remember your Albanian history, in 1997 there was a countrywide pyramid scheme. Many Albanians invested all of their money

in an attempt to get rich quick. Not surprisingly, most people lost their scarce money when the scheme collapsed. People were upset and demonstrated their displeasure. One way they demonstrated their displeasure was to loot the government's military armories of over 700,000 weapons and tens of thousands of land mines and hand grenades.

Occasionally, maybe even often, these weapons are displayed and used to great effect during traffic accidents, arguments, male testosterone contests, weddings, birthdays and the like. Hearing gunfire as we walked down the street during daylight wasn't uncommon. Earlier in the week there had been a shooting on the street next to the American Embassy—the Albanian police had fired a “warning” shot at someone.



The Albanian mountain-side city of Kruje, viewed from a rented Mercedes.

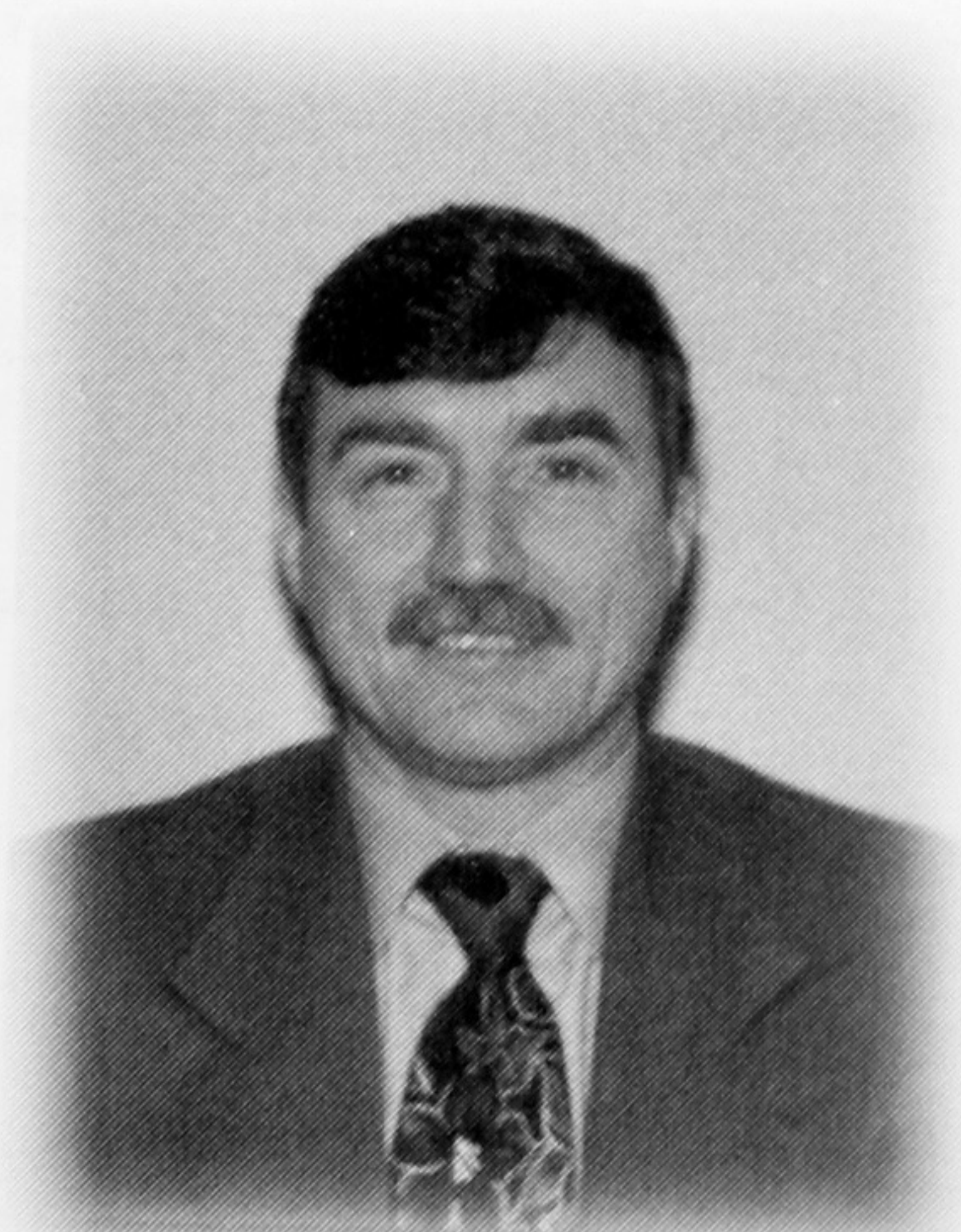
All of the Albanian military and police officials with whom we have talked have expressed their sincere desire to work with us to protect U.S. military personnel and equipment and to make the Cornerstone 2001 exercise a success. The force protection challenges will be many, but working with our Albanian counterparts will be interesting and rewarding.

Force protection isn't fun unless it's a challenge. The force protection mission here is going to be, like, way fun.

SA Ray Carman is currently assigned to Naples and has been with NCIS since July 1974.

PLANK OWNERS' LIST

1. Gewerth, Joseph F.	NFNF	Dec 18, 1972
2. Landin, Joseph C.	NFFM	May 13, 1974
3. Muggleworth, Charles D.	DCWA	June 24, 1974
4. Coyle, Charles K.	GCPF	July 22, 1974
Rossman, Harlan S.	HQs	July 22, 1974
5. Nigro, Robert M.	NENP	July 25, 1974
6. Carman, Ray A.	EUNA	July 26, 1974
6. Logan, Gary	MPJX	July 26, 1974
7. Bradley, Vaughn M.	DCBA	July 29, 1974
8. Smart, Bruce A.	SDND	July 31, 1974
9. Bruce, Donald R.	GCPF	August 5, 1974
10. Harris, Michael W.	MPMP	August 6, 1974
11. Barrett, Michael L.	FEYK	August 29, 1974
12. Orzechowski, Thomas J.	CALE	September 3, 1974
13. Robins, Neill R.	HQs	December 9, 1974
14. Smithberger, Mark E.	HQs	January 5, 1975
15. Lamont, Leo S.	HQs	February 10, 1975
Symonds, Daniel R.	HQs	February 10, 1975
16. Watson, David E.	GCDA	March 6, 1975
17. Miller, Rodney B.	HQs	May 18, 1975
18. Carballo, Allen S.	HQs	October 6, 1975
Dutko, Milton R.	EUNA	October 6, 1975
Simon, Ernest A.	SDFO	October 6, 1975
19. Lawing, F. Leonard	HQs	October 20, 1975
20. Dipilato, John M.	NFNF	January 26, 1976



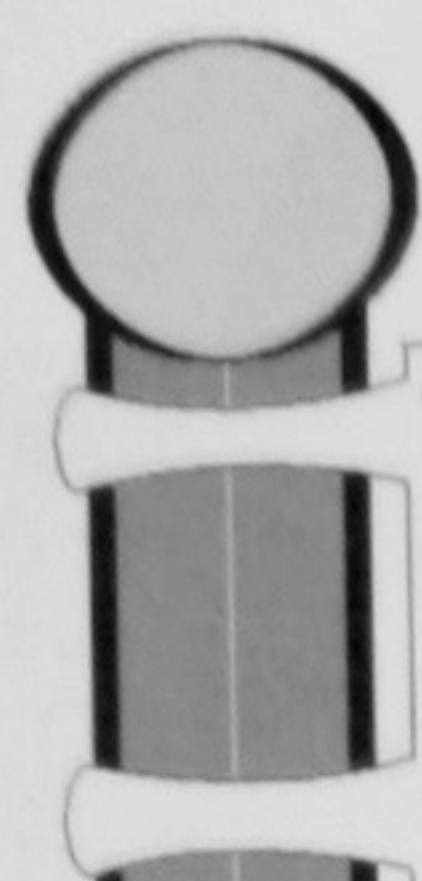
SA Joe Gewerth



SA Joe Landin



SA Dave Muggleworth



Top 20 List

1. Allport, Sandra D.	HQs	August 8, 1965
2. Jones, Charles R.	Norfolk	June 13, 1966
3. Lee, Brenda S.	HQs	August 22, 1966
4. Hooker, Nancy G.	Mayport	May 12, 1969
5. Kelly, Elaine B.	Pensacola	July 1, 1971
6. Hamand, Jerilynn	San Diego	March 27, 1973
7. Green, Donna C.	HQs	June 24, 1974
8. Cross, Deborah R.	Memphis	August 5, 1974
9. Rommes, Barrie A.	Pensacola	August 12, 1974
10. Lucy, Donna J.	St. Louis	December 2, 1974
11. Anderson, Mary A.	HQs	March 3, 1975
12. Griffith, David R.	London	July 14, 1975
13. Carter, Jan C.	Lejeune	Sept 2, 1975
14. Parham, Deborah L.	Norfolk	October 20, 1975
15. Reynolds, Janet D.	HQs	November 17, 1975
16. McGuin, Gary A.	HQs	March 3, 1976
Tanahara, Masaki	Okinawa	March 3, 1976
17. Bradury, Barbara J.	HQs	May 10, 1977
18. Koeh, Joyce A.	Los Angeles	June 20, 1977
19. Morris, Joyce E.	HQs	November 14, 1977
20. Eldridge, Jeanette E.	Norfolk	October 1, 1978

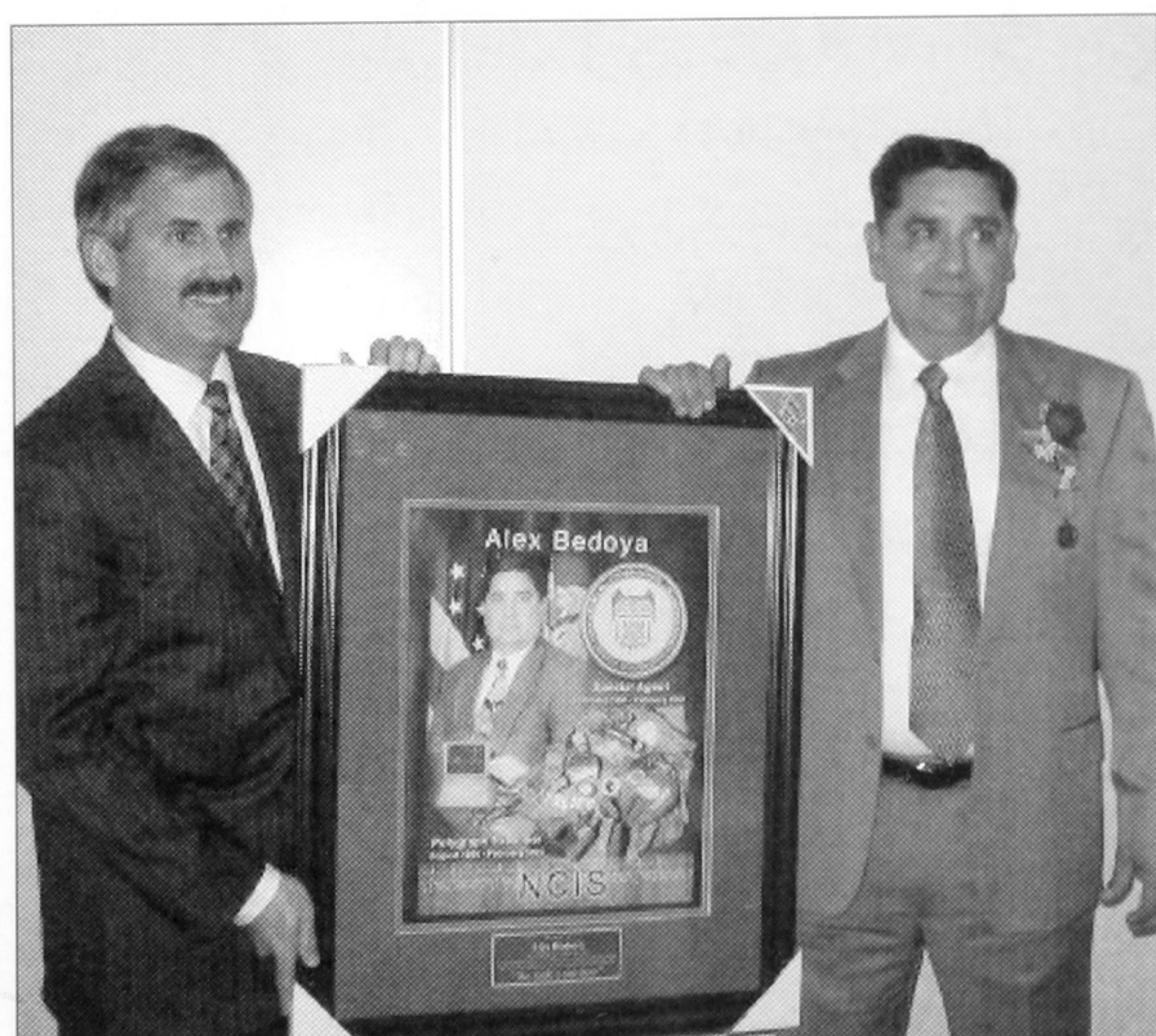


Dan Butler recently left NCIS and joined AFOSI as the Executive Director - but not until he was appropriately roasted.

Alice Suhosky left NCIS on May 31, 2001 to become a stay-at-home Mom to her three sons after 20 years of service.



Recent Retirements



SA Alex Bedoya, who retired on February 3, 2001, is presented a personalized plaque by ASAC John Cooper. Alex is currently working for DOE as a polygrapher in Albuquerque, NM.



SA John Harris retired after 29 years of service and was presented his shadowbox by the Director.



SAC Leon Carroll retired on 2 March 2001. He and his wife Jackie will spend their time between the Whidbey Island area and southern California.



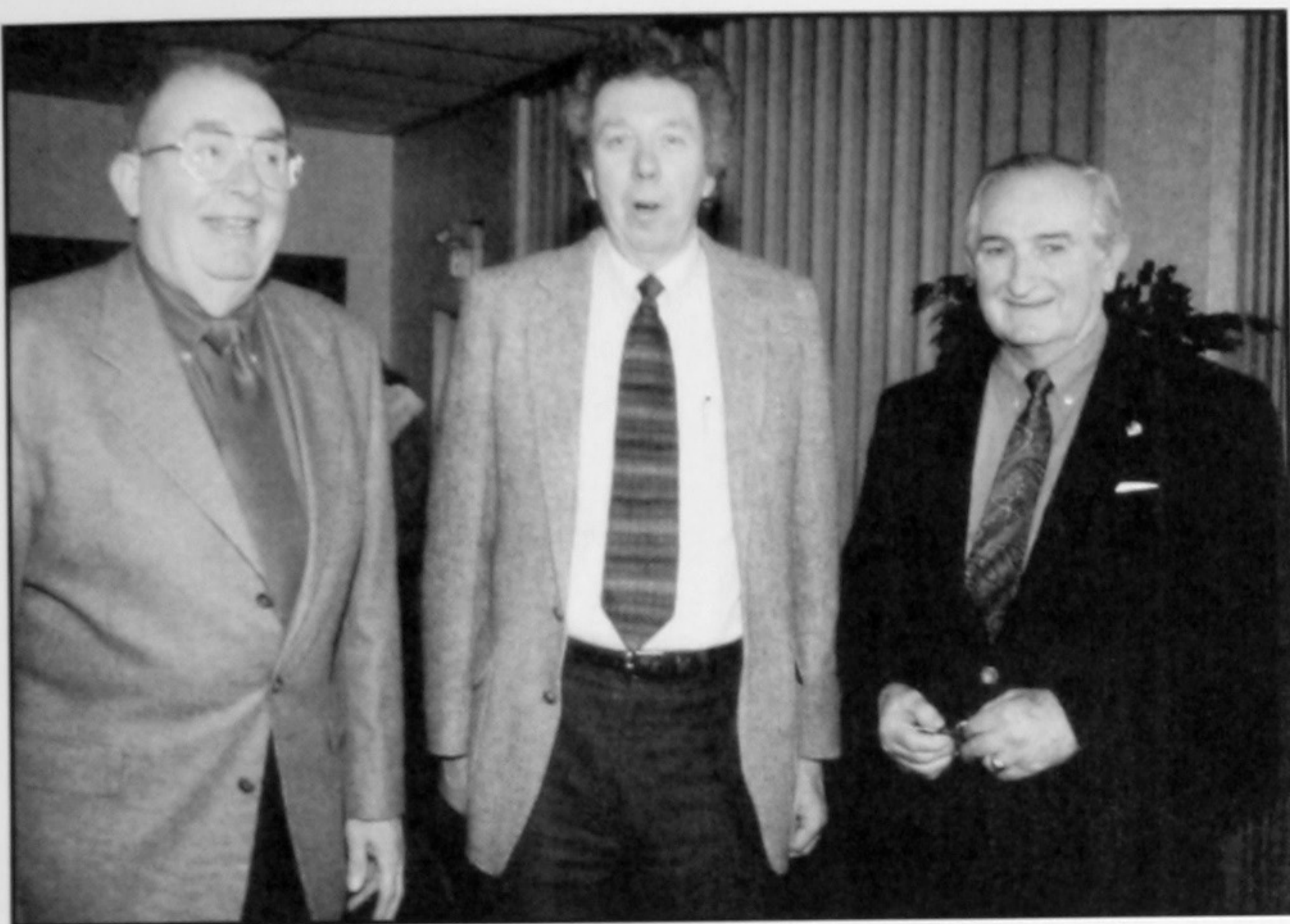
SAC Loch Kelly retired after 28 years of service, receiving an award from Mr. Dave Burt.



Mrs. Jean Conover - THE Plank Owner - retired after 36 years of service, pictured here with her husband, Leon. Jean's first retirement project is to remodel her kitchen. She and Leon will remain in Annandale, Va.



Attending the ceremony for retiring SA Karpowich is a complete inspection team. Left to right: John Harris, Tom Fischer, Dave Karpowich, and Frank Kauffman.



Former Deputy Director Earl Richey, former Polygraph Program Manager Milt Addison, and Former RDO Lou Herber were among the 150 at Jean Conover's retirement luncheon.



SA Dave Karpowich was honored at a ceremony at HQs after 28 years of service. He is pictured here with his family, including his grandson Noah and latest granddaughter, Hanna.



DAD Charles Lee makes presentation to retiring Marine CID Agent Mike Chandler.

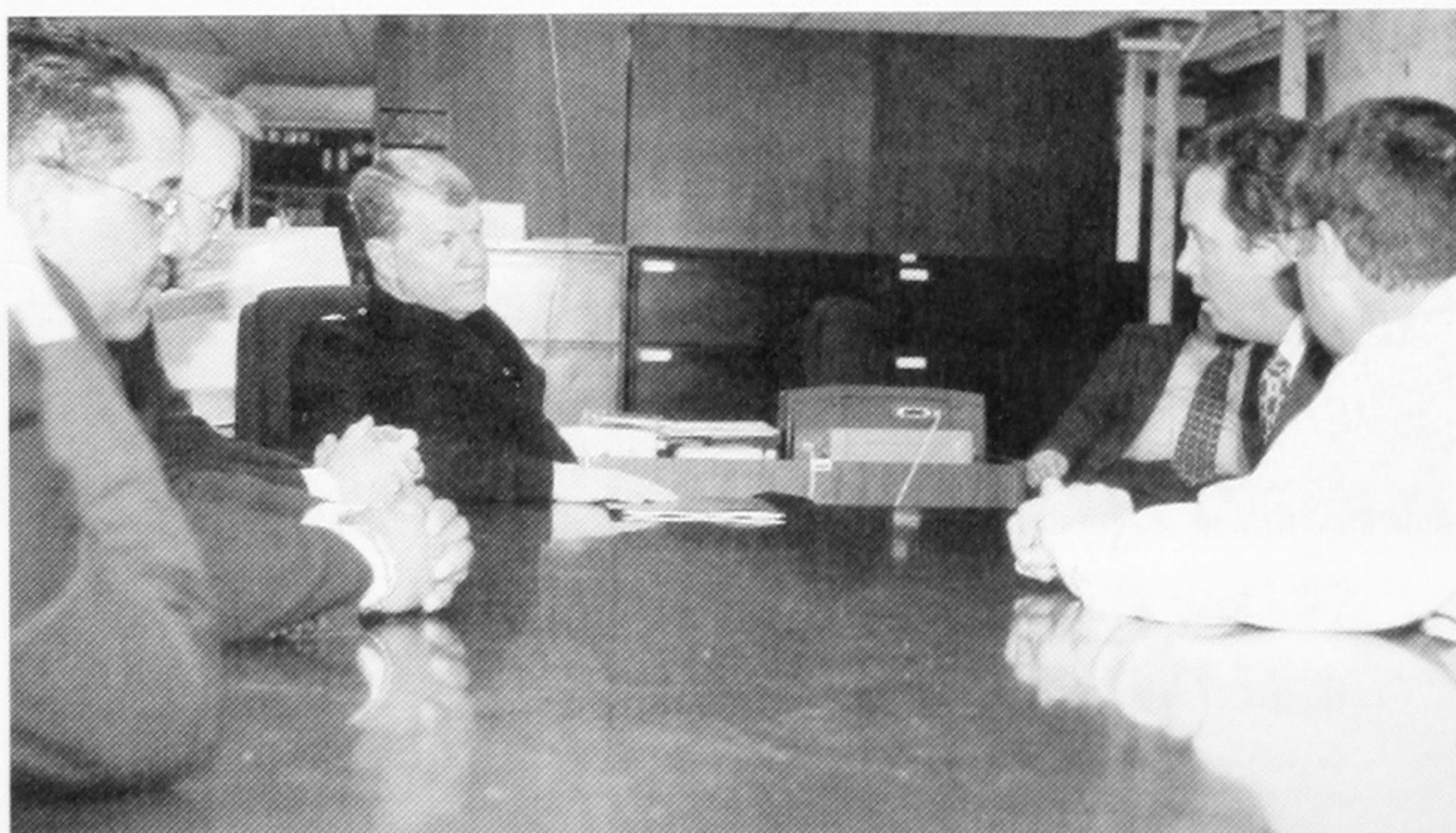


Marc Dirisio is flanked by his wife Betty and DAD Doug Cavileer at a retirement ceremony honoring his 35 years of government service.

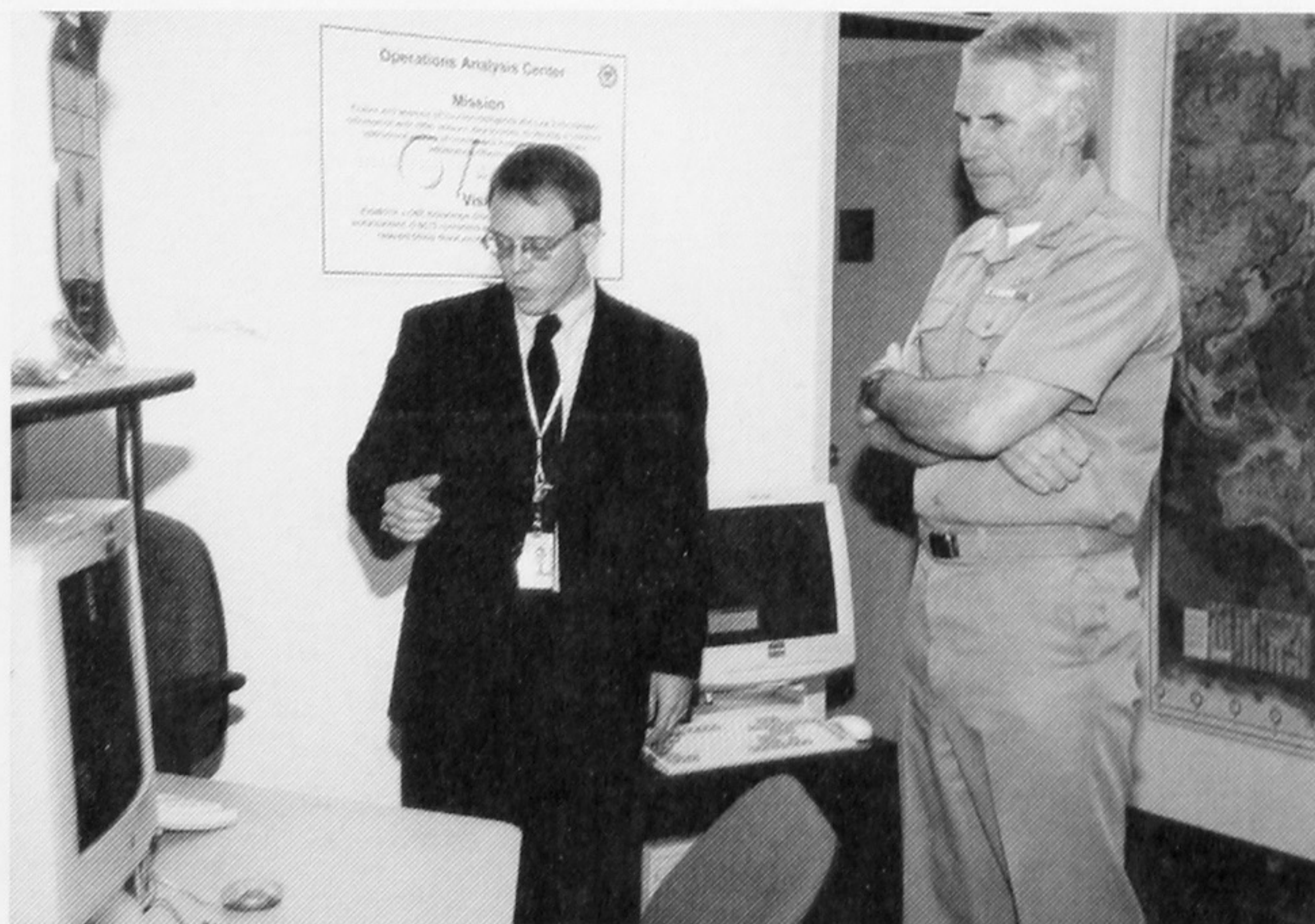
Recent Visits



Congressman Jim Saxton (R-NJ), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities, recently visited and was briefed by Code 22. AD Tom Houston is a former Chief of Staff for Congressman Saxton.



Admiral Roughead, Office of Legislative Affairs, is briefed by Analyst Mike Sullivan and Louis Eliopulos.



Admiral Fallon, VCNO, recently visited HQ and was briefed by Analyst Jim Finley of our Computer Investigations and Operations Department.



SA James Reed (left) recently met with Senator Trent Lott (R-MS) accompanied by SA Marilyn Hourican and AD Tom Houston (who is a former member of Sen. Lott's staff). SA Reed was a star football player at Ole Miss, Senator Lott's and Houston's alma mater.



Members of Yemen law enforcement investigating the explosion aboard the USS Cole recently visited the U.S.



Producer and Directors of the show "Arrest and Trial" recently met with Director Brant to discuss the possibility of a weekly television series based on NCIS.

LATE BREAKING NEWS:



SA John Crimmins presented with the Intrepid Distinguished Service Award

USS Intrepid Press Release:

On May 27, 2001 aboard the USS Intrepid (now the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum in New York Harbor) SA John Crimmins was presented the Intrepid Distinguished Service Award. Over the course of the years, John has extended his support and friendship to everyone at the In-

trepid Museum. His unwavering dedication for the past 14 Annual Fleet Week celebrations, two International Naval Reviews and other various events held at the Museum has been superb.

The award, a framed photo of the US Flag, symbolizes the values and spirit that the Museum holds dear. We thank him for all his support as well as the numerous Naval Criminal Investigative Service agents that have assisted the Museum in "honoring our heros, educating the public and inspiring our youth about the price of freedom."

This award has been presented to only five people previously:

The Honorable George W. Bush, 41st President, United States

The Honorable Rudolph W. Giuliani, Mayor, City of New York

Zachary Fisher, Founder, Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum

Admiral Michael C. Tracy, USN, Commander, Submarine Group 2

LtGen Martin R. Steele, USMC (Ret.), President and CEO, Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum

SA Franz Schwarm retired on June 1, 2001 after 35 years in law enforcement. He was presented with his shadow box at a breakfast ceremony held at Headquarters. His wife Lorrie attended and is pictured here with Franz. They will remain in the Washington area for the near term while they search for a retirement home on the west coast. Lorrie will continue teaching for Fairfax County Schools while Franz will pursue travel, wine, and golf interests.





Row One: Catherine Grinder, Nathaniel Knowles, Joel Gossett, Tony Cox, Cheryl DiPrizio, Ronald Beltz, Jennifer Surwilo, Rachel Dunne
Row Two: Fidel Arroyo, Christopher W. Diem, Tracy Higgs, Caroline Thoms, Shane Colvin, Katherine Smith, Lee Ann Palomino, Michael Williams, Ivan Acosta, Julie McGuire
Row Three: Barbara Jackson, Amanda I. Carlson, Angela D. Dunwoodie, Michelle R. Dykes, Steven McMains, Mark Jones, Jason Doyle, Edward Denion, Jorge J. Garza, Vasco R. Sutton
Row Four: Byeong J. Kang, Katherine B. Parsons, Eric E. Powers, Shannon C. Wilson, Mario A. Palomino, Christopher A. Macaluso, David J. Jensen, Michael J. Corricelli, Denise R. Harding, Rick Rendon
Row Five: Josue M. Bellinger, Krista Pixley, Samuel E. Cubberly, Matthew Timmons, James Nettleton, Patrick Meyer, Travis Winslow William Garrison, Michael Daywalt, Thomas Mockler