
Monthly News and Commentary from ICJE

1 message

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I N S T I T U T E F O R

C R I M I N A L J U S T I C E

E D U C A T I O N

You Decide...



His name is Roger Creasy. He is 102 years old. He lives in Ohio. He flew in the Army Air Corps during WWII as a 20-year-old pilot. He risked his life for our country.

He is one of only a few WW II pilots alive today.

In 2020 he became a victim of a sophisticated ID Theft ring after his home was burglarized. The perpetrators utilized every scheme and technique to leverage his identity to acquire money. He was one of many victims the group targeted.

Over a five-month period they forged checks and emptied his checking accounts, just before an alert bank manager caught on and called the local police. They got away as the police arrived.

- They then made calls to an inmate using his debit card.
- They opened online accounts with the credit bureaus and used that information to take over all of his previously opened credit accounts.
- They figured out how to change his Driver's License online.

- They changed his address five separate times.
- They used his identity to take out auto loans online nationwide.
- They used his identity to open credit card accounts across the country.
- They stole his mail containing anything of value, evading our surveillance attempts.
- They used his closed accounts and tried to reopen them as we were tracking them down.
- They released the fraud alerts and the Credit Freeze we placed on his credit bureaus and continued the fraud by committing auto title theft in three states.

His daughter spent 5 hours a day over a seven-month period as she played "Whack a Mole", trying to close accounts as quickly as the perps opened them across the country.

We went to the FBI for help, as the 8 different local police departments involved said they didn't have the resources to work the complex investigation.

The FBI said the case didn't rise to the level for them to get involved. They didn't have the time or resources for such a crime unless there were losses exceeding \$1 million.

Thankfully, three local detectives from three different departments and the US Postal Inspection Service were willing to step up after the FBI said they didn't have time for one of the few remaining WW II pilots alive today.

Eight defendants were recently indicted in Indiana, with most of the cases now awaiting trial.

Meanwhile, the FBI had time this week to bring the tactical gear and 2 carloads of FBI Agents to arrest a minister leading peaceful protests that are generally pursued as trespassing

cases. While 10 others were arrested, and they have been involved in multiple protests around the US, all of the previous protests were handled by local police.

For reasons yet to be fully articulated, the Tennessee protest (which took place one and a half years ago), became a high priority to the FBI and DOJ.

The same FBI that told a war veteran "Sorry, we don't have time for the crimes committed against you!"

I have always given the FBI the benefit of the doubt when folks banter that the FBI has become part of a police state. Now I'm reconsidering my position.

I'll let you decide if this is the appropriate use of FBI resources, I think it's worth debating.

(Photos below from arrest of Paul Vaughn in Tennessee)



Thank you for your efforts to keep our communities safe, and feel free to respond to this month's lead commentary. ICJE is always open to a free and open discussion of issues facing America.

May God Bless You,

Jim Rechel, Newsletter Editor
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Interesting Podcast on "**Click Here**": Using Social Media to Advertise "Violence as a Service"

Episode 33 is *Throwing Bricks for \$\$\$: Violence-as-a-Service Comes of Age*



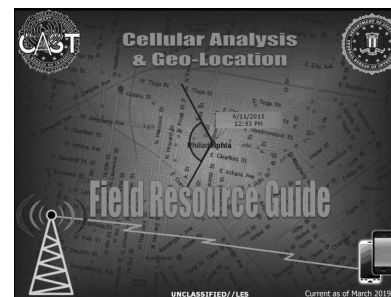
Young people who have been making millions hacking mobile phones - known as SIM swappers - have found a new way to intimidate and harass their rivals. They call it "violence-as-a-service" or "IRL jobs," and it includes a Telegram channel where they can order brickings, firebombings, and even shooting.....

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

Cell Phone Analysis - FBI's CAST

Local and state LEOs can obtain valuable cell phone location data by utilizing the services of the FBI's CAST Certified SA's.

SA Jay Berni (Auburn, AL) recently presented at the 2022 LECC Conference and provided valuable information on the capabilities and resources available to law enforcement for their investigations.



For those interested in more detailed information, a Powerpoint presentation similar to the one SA Berni presented is available on the web at:

Link to Website



Gang Influences in the Workplace

My daughter has worked for 12 years as a Chemical Engineer in eastern Tennessee. Until recently, after a major construction project brought hundreds of subcontractor employees into the workplace, she never had to deal with "gang" type issues in the workplace.

Now graffiti is appearing on walls and elevators, and groups of outside contractor employees are exhibiting behavior indicating that they may be bringing the influence of gang activity into the workplace.

An interesting article regarding the culture of gangs is provided below. Written by Dave Smith, it has some interesting information for those dealing with the growth of gangs in America.

The Gangs of Everywhere (From policemag.com)

Recently, I was reading about the 33,000 gangs in the United States today and their level of criminality. What we used to talk about as an urban crisis has been mismanaged to the point that we have gangs in both urban and rural areas nationwide.

And watching our intellectual, political, and chattering classes dance a little sidestep to avoid even talking about it would be almost amusing if it wasn't so incredibly tragic. It's tragic in that their discussions of America's crime problems focus on the discussion on "ghost guns" and "gun violence" without ever actually talking about the root problems of the gang culture.

Years ago, I read an article by POLICE Advisory Board member and retired Los Angeles County Sheriff's gang investigator Richard Valdemar titled "**Street Gangs Have Their Own Criminal Culture.**" In that article, he describes the gang culture far better than most so-called anthropologists or sociologists, who can't even seem to find a link between gangsta rap music and gang violence.

He articulated what he calls "Valdemar's Axioms," which are the following:

- 1) Gangs are not part of the Hispanic, black, Asian, or white culture.
- 2) All gangs are part of a criminal culture.
- 3) It is the nature of criminals to band together.
- 4) All gangs are formed in defense, and later prey on their own kind.
- 5) Gangs multiply by dividing.
- 6) Gangs develop their own "code of conduct."
- 7) To a gang member, the gang comes before God, family, community, friendship, and the law.

Understanding these principles, you can improve your interrogations when dealing with gang members; and they should give lawmakers and social workers insight into how to re-anchor such individuals back into their communities and neighborhoods.

The criminality of gangs is obvious on its face, and alienated individuals who do not have the ability to see consequences or have the ability to defer gratification will be drawn to them, as both a defensive position and a powerful reward system. For the law enforcement community, the recent trend to demonize police, defund or disband gang enforcement teams, and engage in political discourse that further divides individuals into alienated groups, has only increased the deadly nature of gangs.

And now researchers in the nearly useless social sciences seem to spend more time justifying a sense of oppression than looking for solutions to societal problems. Sociologists can't even agree that rap music that glorifies gang violence, drug use, misogynistic behavior, and the quick financial rewards of criminality, are contributors to the problem. Which reveals the lack of their intellectual depth. As far back as ancient Greece it was recognized that controlling the content of music was critically important to ensure the mental, emotional, and moral health of the young.

In "Republic," Plato wrote, "And of all these influences the greatest is the education given by music, which finds a way into the innermost soul."

Unfortunately, for modern minds it seems the imperative of political correctness has made researchers hesitant to critique social influencers. The movie and music industries and most other institutions fail to condemn gang culture and it is doubtful this will change until times get far worse. A society so distracted by "glittering generalities" such as "gun violence," "institutional racism," and "police violence" has little chance of doing anything constructive to address real world crises.

Modern legal theory has demonized traditional criminal justice actions that punished criminality and replaced them with "reparations" that seem to punish the victims and reward the criminals. This has only increased the power of gangs, and it remains to be seen if a political sea-change is coming.

Remember "Valdemar's Axioms." **If fear increases the recruiting of gang members, then we are in for a really bad future, as fear appears to be a dominant feature in today's world.** Disease, war, financial crisis, and social conflict have always been with us, and the law enforcement community is always thrust into

the nexus of all of these concerns when fear turns into actions that are criminal and hurt others.

The key for those of you in law enforcement today is to put your heads down and keep fighting. Read Valdemar's article on gangs and keep faith with your mission. If freedom is going to survive into the future, it is always the burden of the warriors to preserve it, to reinforce it, and to believe in it. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is not dead as long as there are those like you who put on the badge, answer the call, and keep the faith.

Training Information from ICJE Website

[Visit the ICJE Website](#)

October 27, 2022 - 2022 Alabama Attorney General's Law Enforcement Summit - Montgomery, Alabama

[More Information and Registration](#)

October 31 - November 4 - Southeastern Leadership Executive Development Seminar - Opelika, Alabama

[More Information and Registration](#)

November 14-18, 2022 - FBI LEEDA Command Leadership Institute - Fultondale, Alabama

[More Information and Registration](#)

January 9-13, 2023 - FBI LEEDA Supervisor Leadership Institute - Columbiana, Alabama

[More Information and Registration](#)

February 27-March 3, 2023 - FBI LEEDA Executive Leadership Institute - Fultondale, Alabama

[More Information and Registration](#)

March 13-17, 2023 - FBI LEEDA Command Leadership Institute - Columbiana, Alabama

[More Information and Registration](#)

May 15-19, 2023 - FBI LEEDA Executive Leadership Institute - Columbiana, Alabama
More Information and Registration

Other Training Opportunities:

AUM Continuing Education and Community Engagement

FEMA Emergency Management Institute

APOST Law Enforcement Training Academy - Tuscaloosa

Jefferson County Sheriff's Department Training Center

Northeast Alabama Law Enforcement Academy

Ozark Police Department Training Division

University of North Alabama Public Safety Institute

[Link to Visit the ICJE Website for Registration and More Dates](#)

Additional Resources



How to buy investigation software (eBook)

Advancements in investigation software have been game changers for law enforcement agencies. With the click of a few buttons, investigators can now access data and insights they never before dreamed possible, leading to cases being cracked in minutes rather than years.

[Read More](#)

Thought of the Month

“Never be too proud to get down on your knees and pray.” ~ Bear Bryant

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