

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS



Topic: ***Resilient Operational Training: Confronting the Quiet Dangers of What You Can't Forget***

| by Chris Suitt

Chris Suitt took his experience, and the research skills gained from earning a master's degree to create the *Resilient Operational Training: Confronting the Quiet Dangers of What You Can't Forget* - it is a non-religious, science-based course with its FREEdom First Aid ProcessSM debrief checklist card.

The checklist card has been field-tested to be effective as it is used in real time on yourself or with others at the scene, before the next call, at your station, or at home. It allows you to confront, prevent and/or heal from the quiet dangers you wish you could forget while successfully doing your job.

Topic: ***Don't Miss Out On Your Life: A Forensic Professional's Perspective***

| by Erin West

In a profession defined by precision, responsibility, and high stakes, it is easy to let the work take center stage. But what happens when life outside of work changes everything?

In this keynote, Erin West shares her personal and professional journey through forensic science, shaped by an unexpected and profound loss early in her career. Through her experience, she reflects on how that moment altered not only the course of her life, but also her perspective on work, priorities, and what truly matters.

This session explores the often-overlooked intersection of forensic work and mental health, highlighting the importance of building a life outside of the profession. Attendees will be encouraged to reflect on their own balance between personal and professional commitments, and to consider how they can create space for both.

With honesty and insight, this keynote offers a powerful reminder that while the work we do is important, it should never come at the cost of the life we are living.

Topic: ***Re-examination Strategies Using Digital Enhancement Techniques & AFIS***

| by John Guzzwell

Download reference slides for the conference workshop [here](#)

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Topic: **The Hidden Complexities of the Overdose Death Scene**

| by Suzette Young

This lecture highlights a double fatal overdose case that occurred in Brea, California. The case study begins with the initial scene investigation and concludes with the trial that followed. Included are facts that reveal what went right and what went wrong during this investigation. The presentation will also touch upon additional cases to emphasize the hidden complexities that may accompany a drug overdose scene; specifically, the importance of documentation as well as attention to detail.

Topic: **How to Crush It As a Supervisor**

| by Gap Science

Stepping into a supervisory role can be both exciting and challenging. This workshop explores how to establish clear expectations at every level—what you expect from your team, what they expect from you, and how to align with your own leadership. Participants will gain insight into DISC behavioral styles to better understand communication preferences, strengthen team dynamics, and minimize conflict. The session also highlights the importance of building strong relationships through intentional one-on-one meetings, creating a productive workspace, and developing connections across the organization to support your success. Whether you are new to supervision, preparing to step into a leadership role, or looking to strengthen your current approach, this workshop provides actionable strategies to help you build trust, communicate effectively, and succeed as a supervisor.

Topic: **Following the “Lead”: *The Reconstruction of an Officer-Involved Shooting***

| by Dr. Heather Heider

Shooting incident reconstruction uses the physical evidence located at the scene and later laboratory analyses to determine what happened during a shooting event. This has the potential to reveal details about the incident such as who fired, the sequence in which the shots were fired, and the location of the involved parties. This presentation walks through a reconstruction from start to finish. It begins with a review of the scene documentation, including bullet-related defects, the positions of recovered firearm-related evidence, autopsy findings, and the results of laboratory analysis performed on said evidence. The physical evidence can support or refute an account of events. The presentation stresses what reconstruction can and cannot determine. It follows the reconstruction of an officer-involved shooting that resulted in civil litigation and demonstrates how a single projectile became central to the reconstruction.

Topic: **One Murder, Two Victims**

| by James Campos

In 1998 The body of Terry Cheek was discovered dumped along side a remote road in Corona California. The investigation revealed Terry was recently separated from her husband and had a new boyfriend, Horace Roberts. Ultimately, Horace was arrested and convicted of 2nd degree murder and sentenced to 15 years to life. In 2018 (20 years later) new DNA evidence exonerated Horace Roberts and showed that 3 other persons, Terry's husband, step-son, and nephew were responsible for Terry's murder. Terry's husband, Googie Harris Sr received the death penalty, while Joaquin Leal III received Life without the Possibility of Parole and Googie Harris Jr received one year in prison for his participation in this murder.