
Notes: Available full text from Academic Search Complete

Abstract: This article is based on interviews with "handlers" of informants who are offenders, who supply information and evidence against other criminals, and who may have been former comrades of the criminals. Explores the dilemmas that informers and their handlers face at each stage of the operation from recruitment to operation in the field, until they "finger" their targets and become state witnesses. During each stage of the operation, agents' motivations, fears, sense of betrayal (being betrayed and betraying others), being snitches, the need to protect their identities, as well as their dependency upon their handlers, are the primary issues to be considered and resolved.


Call Number: HV8080 .U5 A77 2005

Abstract: This dissertation examines the perceptions and perspectives of law enforcement officers regarding the influence and effects of working in an undercover capacity in comparison to other assignments. The study focused specifically on the stressors, negative emotions, reactive behaviors, and coping strategies associated with various duty assignments with the policing profession, and the subsequent impact on the personal, social, and professional lives of the officers involved.


Call Number: HV8080 .U5 M25 2003

Notes: This report identifies 25 principles and supporting commentary, to act as a guide in the psychological management of undercover police officers. The principles are grouped under four sections: selection and training, operational management and deployment, reintegration and other (the other group contains drug testing of undercover officers, part-time practices, post-injury management, medical & psychological consents and others).


Notes: Available full text from Proquest Criminal Justice Periodicals

Abstract: This study assessed the attitudes and experiences of female vice police officers who posed as decoy prostitutes.


Abstract: With careful planning, police supervisors can help undercover officers overcome the pitfalls associated with undercover investigations. Some of the common causes of undercover stress and how they can be alleviated are discussed.
Call Number: HV8080.U5 D63 2009
Abstract: The first federal agent to infiltrate the inner circle of the Hells Angels, Dobyns finally tells the inside story of the 21-month operation that almost cost him his family, his sanity, and his life.

Call Number: HV7936 .P75 P78 1986
Abstract: Two experiments with current and former undercover officers with the Honolulu Police Department identified psychiatric symptoms for the officers before, during, and after the undercover assignment and produced recommendations for how the department can relieve the stress on UC officers.

Abstract: Reactions to an undercover police officer selection system were analyzed for 271 officers. Officers given undercover assignments had higher procedural justice perceptions and outcome satisfaction than others awaiting assignment in a qualified applicant pool

Call Number: KF9665 .F584 2007
Abstract: Based on recognized practices and case law, this book examines frequently encountered informant issues and provides guidance on how to successfully operate an informant. It identifies informants as one of the most unstable components of the criminal justice system but emphasizes the value of a closely controlled informant in a criminal investigation. With case studies and appendices, this text also examines the US Marshal's Witness Security Program and reviews current local, state, and federal cases for best practice protocols.

Call Number: HV8080 .U5 H36 2008
Abstract: Bob Hamer is a 26-year veteran of the FBI. In undercover operations Hamer posed as everything from a drug dealer to an aging pedophile. His last undercover assignment-and his hardest-was infiltrating NAMBLA, the North American Man/Boy Love Association.

Call Number: HV7936 .P75 P653 1995
Abstract: Addresses the risks of undercover operations from the perspective of a United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations special agent who is also a psychologist. The article also covers selection of undercover agents, training of undercover personnel, operational preparations and planning, deployment, end of operations, and reintegration into routine law enforcement duties.

Call Number: HV8144 .F43 K73 2009
Abstract: This paper provides an overview of the events leading to the emergence of the FBI's Undercover Safeguard Program, the role of psychologists in this process, and the challenges facing the internal and external consultants that have shaped this program.
Abstract: Noted in this article is that the selection, management and retention of effective undercover employees (UCEs) poses significant challenges to local, state, federal, and international law enforcement agencies. Recommendations are made to be considered as critical functions and features of the undercover safeguard process. Critical functions include: selection, education, inoculation, support and monitoring, debriefing and reintegration, and risk management. The article states that seven critical features should be adhered to and displayed, to include use of research based information, organizationally imbedding the safeguard mission, and maintaining a mindfulness of the legal issues potentially generated by the information generated. Effective implementation of an undercover safeguard program was stated to depend largely upon organizational commitment to the primary well-being of UCEs and understanding of the well-documented consequences and correlates of undercover work.

Notes: Available full text from SwetsWise
Abstract: This article describes and analyses the implementation and results of undercover operations in the Netherlands.

Abstract: A descriptive study of the presence of 54 psychological, physical, behavioral, and emotional symptoms was completed using 3 samples of police officers: current undercover officers, former undercover officers, and officers without undercover policing experience. Symptom patterns were reviewed and explained in terms of adjustment/readjustment to the undercover assignment, denial of symptoms, and buffers to the impact of potential occupational stressors.

Abstract: Providing a rich picture of past and present undercover work, and drawing on unpublished documents and interviews with the FBI and local police, this penetrating study examines the variety of undercover operations and the ethical issues and empirical assumptions raised when the state officially sanctions deception and trickery and allows its agents to participate in crime.

Notes: Available full text from Proquest Criminal Justice Periodicals Index
Abstract: In this article the author discusses the legality of criminal entrapment, where persons are lured, usually by law enforcement agents or someone working with them, such as an informer, into committing crimes they might not have otherwise contemplated. There are some legal scholars who claim that there is no such thing as the entrapment defense. The author makes a detailed analysis of entrapment. He describes the entrapment defense. He critiques three possible justifications for the defense, arguments that have been used in the past. He also presents two new rationales for the defense.

Notes: Available full text from SpringerLink
Abstract: This article describes the role of psychological services in team formation, selection and training of undercover officers (UCOs), preparation for undercover operations, deployment and monitoring, termination and reintegration, and managing deployment stress and post-operation psychological syndromes.

Abstract: This study examines the consequences of working undercover for police officers. In-depth personal interviews were conducted with 40 present and former undercover officers representing three federal law enforcement agencies and eight municipal police departments located in the greater Denver metropolitan area. Focusing on role dynamics and situated identity in undercover assignments, the study explored the impact of work experiences on officers with respect to their interaction with informants and suspects, interpersonal relations with family and friends, and readjustment to routine police duties.


Notes: Available full text from Praeger Security International Online

Abstract: The FBI may engage in undercover activities and undercover operations pursuant to these Guidelines that are appropriate to carry out its law enforcement responsibilities, including the conduct of preliminary inquiries, general crimes investigations, and criminal intelligence investigations. These guidelines do not apply to investigations utilizing confidential informants, cooperating witnesses or cooperating subjects, unless the investigation also utilizes an undercover employee.


Call Number: HV8080.U5 V36 1996

Abstract: VanCook focuses on the concerns of the undercover officer, providing clear step-by-step instructions for developing an alternate identity. The book covers topics including handling informants, developing your memory, how to handle mistakes, choosing the appropriate weapons, and presenting yourself properly in court.


Abstract: Law enforcement management should use undercover operations only under certain circumstances and must formulate and carry out organizational guidelines and procedures to choose, train, and monitor the activities of undercover operatives properly.


Notes: Available full text from SwetsWise

Abstract: This article examines internal and external policies that guide the use of undercover law enforcement methods, followed by consideration of court cases that had a major impact on undercover officers’ behaviors.

Abstract: Despite the fact that undercover police work can be especially dangerous, most undercover officers learn about undercover work while on the job or through limited training. Charlie Fuller, a retired ATF Special Agent, founded Covert Operations Programs Specialists (COPS), a consulting firm providing week-long undercover training programs to Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies around the country. The article discusses the traits and characteristics that embody a good undercover agent, including flexibility, strong moral fiber, discipline, intelligence, and the ability to think quickly. It is easy for undercover officers to get caught up in their work and the psychological demands of the job are enormous. The article mentions that the key to success as an undercover officer lies in the officer’s ability to adopt a convincing role. In fact, the COPS programs often have a professional actor teach a role-playing course. All undercover officers are supported by skilled teammates who make up either the surveillance team or the cover team and are responsible for blending in and ensuring the safety of the undercover officer. Undercover officers, however, must never forget that they are responsible for their own safety in undercover operations.

Compiled by Nzinga Holley-Harris, 5/11.

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