

**THE PARANORMAL: AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATION**

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ABSTRACT

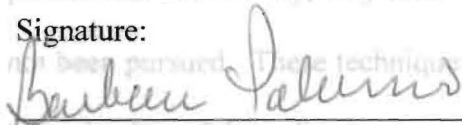
The Paranormal: An Alternative Form of Criminal Investigation

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alternative form of criminal investigation
Barbara L. Palermo

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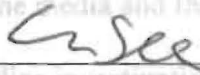


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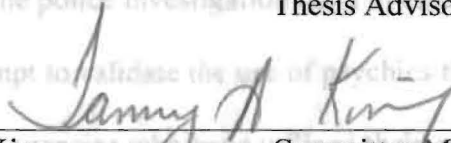


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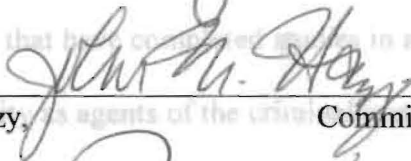


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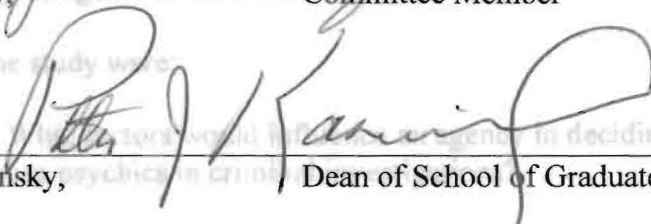


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2) What are police officers perceptions of psychics?

The factors, which would influence an agency in deciding on whether or not to use a psychic in a criminal investigation, centered on several variables. Of the 40

ABSTRACT

This research was conducted in an attempt to validate the use of psychics as an alternative form of criminal investigation.

Police investigations have been traditionally been limited to standard practices and accepted techniques. If this process fails to procure resolution, the case may grow “cold” and become statistically unsolved. PSI, or the use of a member of the paranormal community, may offer new leads and suggest avenues that possibly have not been pursued. These techniques can be used as a tool to enhance the original investigation of the police agency. The utilization of the psychic is to be done in conjunction with the existing investigative team, not as a sole effort by the psychic to resolve the crime alone on their individual abilities. This lack of cooperation is a misrepresentation of the media and the public. The psychic and his/hers abilities are tools that assist the police investigation team in crime resolution. This study was designed to attempt to validate the use of psychics through positive feedback from existing policing agencies who have utilized their paranormal abilities. Discussions from authors that have completed studies in attempts to prove the positive use of the PSI community as agents of the criminal justice arena were reviewed. The research questions of the study were;

- 1) What factors would influence an agency in deciding whether or not to use psychics in criminal investigations?
- 2) What are police officers perceptions of psychics?

The factors, which would influence an agency in deciding on whether or not to use a psychic in a criminal investigation, centered on several variables. Of the 40

investigators surveyed 92.5 percent stated that they would use a psychic if another policing agency recommended one and 37.5 percent of the agencies interviewed, stated that psychics in fact, had credibility in criminal investigation. Of the 40 investigators surveyed, 85 percent stated that the media would not influence their department's decision to use or not use a psychic, indicating that they were comfortable with any decision they or their department made regarding paranormal use.

The investigator perceptions of psychics were centered on believing in the credibility of their criminal use. Statistically, of the 40 departments surveyed, 37.5 percent felt psychics did have credibility in police investigations, 22.5 percent indicated they did not. However, 40 percent had no opinion indicating that the investigators may still be open to paranormal input in an investigation. It can also be stated, that of the 40 investigators surveyed, 47.5 percent stated that they may use a psychic in the future and 92.5 percent stated that they would use a psychic in another police department recommended one to their agency.

An attempt will be made to answer these questions, as well as to address the mindset of the individuals involved in determining the utilization of the paranormal in the criminal justice process.

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank my daughters, Joey and Nicolle, who have been my inspiration, my life, and my friends. The days you both were born were the two best days of my life. You both have encouraged my education and have loved me unconditionally, eliminating expectations and standards set by the "kool aid" moms. After the first five years of your lives, you realized I would never be her. You both hold my heart and have taught me the actual meaning of the word love; a gift many people go through life without ever experiencing. Thank you for my grandchildren, who by their mere presence keep me young. I am very proud of the little girls you were and the women you have become. I would like to thank my brothers, Tom and Gary, for standing strong when we lost our parents and encouraging me always to pursue my dream. Thank you to my sister Joni, we have been through a lot together, the gambit of every emotion sisters can experience, I am glad that I shared those experiences with you. Know Joni, that I will always keep my promise. I would like to thank my parents for always encouraging my craziness while growing up and how you both knew that I would somehow survive the 60s and 70s is still a mystery to me. It was a time of change and growth and I was fortunate enough to have had parents that encouraged both.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Each year in the United States, many families suffer twice from a crime: first when it is committed and secondly if the perpetrator is not brought to justice. Many crimes include child abduction, murders, terrorist acts, and rape continues to go unsolved at an alarmingly high rate. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 37 percent of homicides remain unsolved in large cities and 31 percent in medium sized cities (Fox and Zawitz, 2002 p. 7). According to the Uniform Crime Report, rape is still at an all time high. There are 4,000 unsolved rape cases as of 2003, in the United States (Saia, 2003 p. 1). Currently there are 662,196 missing children reported by local and federal law enforcement agencies (Scripps Howard News Service, 2006).

While police departments utilize accepted standard investigative procedures such as dusting for fingerprints or interviewing, resolution may still be unsuccessful. After all efforts are exhausted, crimes such as homicides are then classified as statistically unsolved crimes (Fox and Zawitz, 2002, p. 7). A possible alternative source of investigation, when all other resources have been depleted may be the use of paranormal criminal investigative techniques. The use of credible criminal psychics, while controversial, may provide information to enhance policing techniques in gathering evidence, which can produce essential leads in procuring resolution.

PARAPSYCHOLOGY DEFINITIONS

Parapsychology (PSI) may be defined as the study of the evidence of psychological phenomena, such as telepathy, clairvoyance or precognition, psychokinesis and telekinesis, which can not be explained utilizing conventional and accepted principles of science (Columbia University Press, 2003). These areas are classified as extrasensory perceptions, which are the center of the majority of parapsychological studies (Columbia University Press, 2003). To comprehend extrasensory perception, understanding the terminology is essential. The following are key definitions associated with the paranormal and most applicable to this study;

- Telepathy is the ability to communicate information and data across space using the power of the mind.
- Telekinesis is the ability to move objects by the power of the mind.
- Clairvoyance or precognition is being aware of future events, which have yet occurred.
- Psychokinesis, or PK is the more commonly used term today for what in the past was known as telekinesis (the Skeptic's Dictionary)

Though there are other techniques often listed as sub-categories (see appendix A), the above groups are the most studied areas of the PSI community. Other terms are directly related to parapsychology and serve to help develop a concise definition of the word itself. These terms include paranormal, parapsychical, psychic phenomenon, and psychical science (see appendix A). While these phrases may be acceptable references, the term parapsychology is the term used most frequently for the greater part of the twentieth century. The actual term "parapsychology" has been credited to psychologist Max Dessoir around 1889. It first appeared in the article, "Di Parapsychologi", written

by Dessoir. In 1927, J. B. Rhine, a research psychologist from Duke University, popularize the term in English, and he was one of the first individuals to pursue intensive and organized studies on the subject (Cline, 2006, p.1).

The initial investigation of PSI or paranormal phenomena was first attempted by organizations such as The Society of Research in London, England established in 1882, then ten years later by The American Society for Psychical Research in 1903. These early attempts were targeted to investigate mediums, automatic writing, levitation, ectoplasmic and poltergeist activities (Columbia University Press, 2003). The investigations were not conducted in an attempt to prove that the possibilities of the paranormal were realistic, but to prove in fact that it was not. For example, 'telepathy' might have been explained away in terms of coincidence and spiritualistic seances were explained in term's sleight-of hand orchestrated by fraudulent mediums. However, enough evidence remained to give substance to the belief that the mind may have powers that surpass those of the accepted functions of the brain and body (Beloff, 1993, p.66). Ten years later, The Rhine Research Center in North Carolina in 1927, followed by the duke University Parapsychology Laboratory in 1935, accumulated a large volume of research into possible hidden powers of the mind (Trull, p., 1996).

This type of research continues even today with a target goal of accumulating as much information as possible to give an element of credence to the viability of the paranormal. The existence of the paranormal is not an acknowledged element of science substantiated by accepted data, but instead considered an area pursuing the mental capabilities of the mind (Inglis, 1984.p.20). These studies which are not explained by

standard methods of research, then become questionable by the scientific community. Due to this lack of empirical scientific validation, the PSI community is not commonly accepted and their abilities or possible contributions may be viewed as a form of mysticism with affiliations with the occult. This mindset continues to produce controversy, especially when psychics are used in criminal investigations. Investigative policing units are skeptical of the use of psychics because:

- They do not believe nor can accept the paranormal as a viable form of investigation
- Their faith in their own investigative abilities negate the possibility of the psychics useful input
- Do not want to waste resources or manpower following up on psychic leads
- Concerns of negative media publicity targeted towards department
- Afraid of public opinion due to disbelief, which in turn could affect their credibility(Hibbard, Worrying and Brennan 2002, p. 15)

While in many cases this may be the consensus across the United States, there is evidence that many departments are taking advantage of a reputable psychic's ability. Chief James Basil of the Bucland, Massachusetts Police Department has gone public on the assistance of psychics at his agency. Chief Basil states that "a lot of police departments may use psychics, but will only admit it off the record (Hibbard, Worrying and Brennen, 2002, p. 8). The laws of human nature dictate that people will fear that which they do not understand. For many, all they know of psychics is learned through the media. It is an accepted belief in the PSI community that the media has been credited with aiding in the skepticism of criminal investigators, many times presenting them incapable and the psychic as the hero. This information is inaccurate, as most psychics will attest that their abilities are used as a tool in conjunction with the detective to

enhance the investigation (Hibbard, 1982, p.80). Many times the psychic encourages the officers to rely heavily on their own intuitive feelings, which can be assessed as PSI skill set (Hibbard, Worring and Brennan, 2002, p. 8). The psychics ability to pick up premonitions from personal items of the victims, from visiting crime scenes or dream interpretations involving criminal acts, are mere investigative techniques (Hibbard, 1982, p.81). It is the responsibility of an agency and the right of the public to be assured that all avenues of investigation are exhausted when criminal acts threaten the security and safety of the community. In circumstances of immanent danger, such as that of missing children, the use of a psychic may be able to offer expedited information.

SUMMARY

Chapter one offers a brief introduction into the arena of the paranormal explaining terms and definitions. It also discusses early organizations, which targeted investigations into paranormal activities, as well as the views of the scientific community in regards in accepting this genre as a valid area of science. The contributions of psychics as an investigative tool is approached, as well as view points from both the psychic and the policing agency as to the benefits of using or not using psychic abilities.

To determine how often psychics are actually utilized in criminal investigations and to learn more about the perceptions police departments hold of them, this study will survey 50 departments of various sizes in the United States, one from each state.

The hypothesis to be tested is as follows:

- H1) Most agencies would be reluctant to use psychics as an investigative tool.

The research questions to be examined:

R1) What one factor would influence an agency in deciding whether or not to use psychics in criminal investigations?

R2) What are police officers perceptions of psychics?

The following chapters will provide a historical profile of the paranormal, as well as the evolution of the use of psychics in an investigative format. Discussion will be centered on the popularity of the psychic, as well as the interest from the public in using their abilities in criminal resolutions. Significant studies regarding the paranormal as a field of study will be examined. Data will also be presented by individuals refuting the use of the paranormal in policing and provide the evidence that these critics have used in defending their positions. The review of the literatures in conjunction with the findings from this study will provide an unbiased view of who psychics really are and of what use they can provide in criminal investigations. Departments which are facing increasing amounts of unsolved cases or situations of immanent danger, such as that of missing children, may be able to view these findings and determine if the use of psychics would benefit them.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Defining the paranormal and developing a concise definition is a overwhelming. It is an attempt to explain a phenomenon, which presents data with little explanation, or reasoning (Randles, 1996, pp.1-6). It is a thought process that an individual either believes in or does not. When trying to present information based on evidence to those that do not believe in the paranormal, the primary objective is not to view the evidence as a means of support of the paranormal phenomena, but instead to attack the evidence at all cost, in attempts of disproving it. It appears that there is no middle ground, no gray area with room for possibilities. The mindset or thought process of those that do not believe when considering the paranormal may be influenced by several variables. These variables may center on:

- Religious beliefs
- Lack of what they feel is substantiated scientific evidence
- The idea that the only plane of existence is one that can be seen or touched

The idea that individuals have abilities, which allow them to experience psychic premonitions or visions, to delve into future occurrences is simply not acceptable. It might be added that if these occurrences were religious in content as stated several times in the Bible, in visions, miracles and prophecies, the acts would then becomes accepted under the guise of religious beliefs and therefore in many situations deemed divine intervention. In the realm of the paranormal arena, an agnostic viewpoint is often not

apparent. There seem to be only two perspectives each at the opposite end of the spectrum when evaluating the paranormal. This is the essence of the problem facing psychics who are trying to gain acceptance as a viable member of the criminal justice system.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF PARANOMRAL

A brief history of psychic activity has been provided by authors Jenny Randles and Peter Hough, in their book *Psychic Detectives*, which shows the use of the paranormal being utilized by several ancient civilizations ranging from information obtained from cave writings, continuing to the present. In villages the residents looked to the seers or shamans to make determinations on matters of justice, as well as issues surrounding morality. Many times these determinations were made in an altered state of mind through trance and visions. These altered mindsets were acceptable and they were viewed as tool, which aided in whatever problem the seer, was trying to resolve. These individuals were revered and their psychic gifts promoted wisdom, which in turn elevated them to the status of being close to a higher power. The paranormal was accepted and integrated into the daily lives of all those living in the community. Greek and Roman communities acknowledged the paranormal gifts from unknown ages before 1000BC (Randles and Hough, 2001, pp., 15-18). Oracles such as Sybl in a volcanic grotto near Naples Italy, or the oracles at Delphi in Greece, showed paranormal abilities and were elevated to positions of great power and authority. The practice of using an oracle or prophet is also present in the Bible with accounts of many individuals receiving spiritual visitations that provided messages directly from God. Oracles and prophets were used as spiritual guides for not only kings but the poor as well. Most oracles or shamans receive

their information while in a trance like state. This is very similar to many of the modern day psychic detectives who also receive their information while in an altered state (Randles and Hough 2001 p. 15-18). It may be noted that the first recorded occurrence of a psychic crime solving was in France in 1692, when the French king's procurator sought the services of a dowser. A *dowser* is person using a rod, stick or other device to locate a missing object, person, buried treasures etc. (the Skeptic's Dictionary). Once retained by the throne, the dowser successfully solved the meat cleaver murder of a wine merchant and his wife (Hibbard, Worring and Brennan, 2002. P. 10).

During the sixteenth century one of the most prominent and studied psychics became a well-known figure in the historic evolution of psychics. Nostradamus, a French physician, offered predictions ranging from criminal acts involving murders committed by Richard III in England (1452-1485), to political predictions centered on the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy (Randles, Hough 2001 p.17). It must be added that many of Nostradamus predictions are surrounded by controversy due to the many liberal interpretations of his work; however, his Quatrains are still a source of continued study. Again, it is important to remember that predictions by oracles, psychics or other members of the early paranormal communities were used as a guideline to the possibilities of future events.

During the Middle Ages, the mode of thought transfers from acceptance of paranormal to actively viewing the supernatural with fear and having evil connotations and associations. This was largely due to the Spanish Inquisition from the year's 1400 thru 1800 (Worldnet, 2002). Many individuals that were known to have paranormal gifts were tried and prosecuted as witches who called on evil sources which gave them their

paranormal gifts (Randles, Hough, 2001 p.7-10). While the use of the paranormal began to decline as conventional police investigations evolved, dream interpretations and visions were still called upon by some cultures in the pursuit of criminal resolutions. The initial historical perspective may have been based on mysticism and spiritualism but John Beloff author of *Parapsychology a Concise History* confirms that "there was never a time when people were not convinced with phenomena that we now call the 'paranormal' (Beloff, 1993, p. 1).

INSTITUTES FOR INVESTIGATION OF PARANORMAL

Historically the scientific community has always viewed the paranormal as an area deeming little credibility or respect, however there are proponents, or those in the scientific community that are willing to at least acknowledge the possibility of the paranormal and its existence. Brian Inglis author of *Science and Parascience* declares;

I am an unstructured agnostic in these matters, with no beliefs, in the sense of believing in spirits, survival after death and the like; but I accept the evidence for the paranormal on precisely the same basis as I accept the evidence for say, meteorites, or lightening, both of which were once in the supernatural category, but were taken out of it because the quantity of the evidence for them and quality of the sources made continued skepticism impossible (Inglis, 1984, p. 11).

Other members of the scientific community started pursuing the paranormal with an increased level of interest. The Society for Physical Research was founded in England in 1882, and was the first organization to examine paranormal phenomena in a scientific and unbiased format (Beloff, 1993, pp., 64-66). Tests were conducted using volunteers claiming to have paranormal abilities. Research centered on card guessing, hypnotism, thought transference, haunted houses and physical phenomenon. Currently the Society for Research continues with its efforts to explore and understand events and psychic

abilities by supporting and promoting research in areas encompassing the paranormal (The Society for Psychical Research, 2006)

Another early research organization is the Rhine Research Center Institute for Parapsychology, located in Durham North Carolina. It is one of the world's oldest known foundations with a sole concentration of the paranormal. The Institutes centered area of study is applying scientific methods through a research, on the evolution of extrasensory perception and psychokinesis, as a viable human function (Trull, 1996, pp.1-2). The center itself is located near Duke University and was opened in 1927 by Dr. J. B. Rhine who began conducting his studies on the elements of psychic phenomenon at the University's psychology department. Dr. Rhine's main influence into the study of the paranormal was author Conan Doyle, who also pursued paranormal phenomena (Trull, 1996, pp. 1-2). Dr. Rhine's main objectives were:

- To attempt to introduce a progressive program of experimental research into the study of the paranormal.
- Attempt to gain academic status and scientific recognition
- To show that psychic ability was not apparent only in "sensitives", but in everyone (Beloff, 1993, P. 127)

Dr. Rhine established the Duke University Parapsychology Laboratory in 1935 and was responsible for popularizing the term "extrasensory perception". He was also the first researcher to use Zener Cards to perform psychic testing. These cards consisted of five illustrated symbols; a star, circle, square, plus sign and wavy lines, which were, designed for him by Dr. Karl Zener a professor at Duke. In 1962, Rhine developed the Foundation for Research on the Nature of Man (Beloff, 1993, p. 130) again focusing concentrations on the paranormal. It was later renamed in 1995, The Rhine Research Center (Beloff,

1993 p. 137). Dr. Rhine's legacy of proving that psychic sources existed has even earned him the respect of James Randi, a paranormal skeptic that has currently offered one million dollars to any psychic that can prove his or her paranormal abilities (Trull, 1996, pp. 1-2).

The University of Arizona is another facility that is giving credibility and credence to the study of the paranormal and how it intertwines with other disciplines. The Center of Consciousness Study was established at the University in 1998. The focal point of study is a juxtaposition of disciplines, bringing together different perspectives from philosophy, the cognitive sciences, neuroscience and medicine. The University has opened the door for paranormal testing and has conducted experiments on several psychics such John Edwards, Noreen Renier and Allison Dubois who is the primary influence of the television program *The Medium*. The show centers on her true-life experiences while currently working within criminal justice system as a psychic investigator (Center for Consciousness Studies). University of Arizona professor, Dr. Gary E. Schwartz states of Mrs. Dubois, "that over time and in several different types of experiments, she scored high in accuracy and specificity. She is the real deal" (Court TV Crime Library, 2005). The Arizona program has influenced the scientific community, to not dismiss the paranormal as just an area of spiritual study but gives validity to the paranormal being intertwined with several scientific disciplines. Through these organizations the psychic investigators, as well as other areas of the PSI community develops an element of credibility and respect. It is important that paranormal studies be viewed from a scientific perspective.

Universities and Institutes are not the only organizations that are, or have implemented experimental studies in the areas of the paranormal. The United States Government has also warranted investigations into the paranormal, in response to the Soviet investigations into the paranormal centering on remote viewing. Remote viewing can be defined as “one of a broad class of abilities of certain individuals to access by means of mental process and describe information sources blocked from ordinary perception and generally accepted as secure against access” (Smith, 2005, pp.40, 41,58,59). Basically, remote viewing is the alleged psychic ability to perceive places, persons and actions that are not within the range of the senses.

The United States Government reveals that a remote viewer was used in locating a missing Soviet plane in a remote area of Africa. It was also revealed that America was utilizing data and research from The Stanford Research Institute in California beginning in the early 1970's, and continued researching under the CIA which labeled the experiments Stargate. This ability allowed individuals to describe geographical locations, remote objects, or events using something other than the established five senses. Forerunners in the initial phases of remote viewing are Dr. Harold Putoff, Dr. Ingo Swann and Dr. Russell Targ (Smith 2005, pp.151, 152). These experiments centered on training a team of known “sensitives” to utilize and hone their skills to target the practice of remote viewing. These experiments were in response to the ramifications of the Soviet research in the paranormal especially ESP, with the target goal of psychic weaponry and espionage. The results of the initial experiments provided information showing that everyone had an element of psychic abilities, but that they do not know how to utilize the sensor or tap into it.

One of the top remote viewers Pat Price, revealed secrets known only to the CIA and to the Soviets, validating to some degree his level of accuracy. Remote viewing was also responsible for providing information in the 1990's, by tracing and locating contraband or drugs from illegal traffickers (Smith 2005, p. 287). The CIA, due to the lack of available funding, dismantled Stargate and all information and documentation were declassified in 1995. Remote viewers have been credited with finding hostages in Lebanon, assisting in targeting major drug cartel operations and tracking foreign tests of weapons of mass destruction (Smith 2005, p.1-3). This operation, based on persuasive evidence, has led the way for many psychics' investigators to be accepted and respected in the field of criminal justice at all levels. The United States Government with the Stargate program acknowledged that PSI abilities were to be recognized and utilized as a viable source of procuring credible investigative information. This program may have been influential in promoting psychic investigator to pursue affiliations with police units, as possible tools to enhance criminal investigations.

Currently in the United States, crime is still at an extremely high level. The latest Uniform Crime Report shows that the index crimes are decreasing at all levels except rape, however the amount of criminal activity still remains a source of concern for the judicial system, the criminal justice system and the general public as well. Law enforcement agencies have become overwhelmed and in many cases understaffed. Policing and investigative techniques have made huge advancements in DNA testing, and using hypnosis as tool on victims and witnesses, in an effort to combat these criminal acts. However, there is still room for police departments to utilize all tools available to them in ensuring resolution.

CURRENT USE OF PSYCHICS

One of the more controversial investigative tools being utilized by many police departments across the United States is the use of the paranormal or psychics. Law enforcement agencies are utilizing the use of psychics based on several variables. They are as follows; (Hibbard, Worring, and Brennen, 2002, p.7)

- The high level of interest encountered by authors around the country.
- The increasing use of psychics by law enforcement officers and victims families as psychic investigators.
- The recent interest in remote viewing, which has been developed by the United States Government.
- The formation of non-profit groups and organizations composed of former law enforcement personnel and psychics dedicated to promoting the use of the paranormal.
- The appearance of numerous television shows and popular books on psychic crime detectives.
- The teaching of seminars to law enforcement personnel on how to develop Their own ESP skills
- The conducting of several studies on the effectiveness of psychics in major criminal investigations, including two by the Los Angeles Police Department.
- The publication of several articles on the subject in professional law enforcement journals and criminal justice texts.
- The founding of the Psychic Sleuths Project in 1980, whose purpose is to serve as an international clearinghouse for data on the use of psychics by police.

The use of psychic investigators is still not an openly accepted option. Police departments do not want to be affiliated with a controversy that would or could reflect negatively on their department. The investigative team becomes apprehensive because;

- many investigators do not believe in the paranormal;
- many investigators feel they can solve the crime themselves;
- they do not want to waste time or resources following unsubstantiated leads given by psychics;
- when psychic call with information they do not know whom they are speaking with, so information is easy to dismiss;
- negative publicity (Hibbard Worring, and Brennen, 2002 p.3).

While all of these are genuine factors the biggest fear lies with the media.

Investigators fear the community will view them incapable of doing their job. It must be affirmed that positive newspaper accounts about psychic investigators far outnumber critical ones targeted towards the department and for the most part, their involvement is confidential (Lyons, and Truzzi, 1991, p.3).

The media may misrepresent the use of psychics, as well as how the psychic initially becomes entwined in the investigation. In most cases, the psychic's involvement with an investigator involves;

- Them calling the police department or sheriffs office with information they may have pertinent to a pending investigation;
- They usually have no contact within the department and initial reception from investigators in many cases, is unsympathetic or shows little interest;
- Psychics are sometimes hesitant for fear of being targeted as a potential suspect if information is accurate or may be considered and labeled as an unstable prankster (Hibbard, Worring and Brennen, 2002, pp. 11-13).

It is just as important to remember that the fear of an investigative team using a psychic is almost paralleled to the fear of the psychic approaching an investigative team.

While the following case study does not meet all the above criteria, it does meet the most important targeting the psychic as a suspect.

CASE STUDY

In 1980, Etta Louise Smith, a mother of three and an employee of Lockheed Aircraft with psychic abilities approached the Los Angeles Police Department's Foothill Division declaring that she had a psychic vision of a murder. At the time the investigative team was working on a missing person case involving a nurse named Melanie Uribe, who worked at the local hospital and who had disappeared while on her way to work the previous night. Mrs. Smith's vision included several key facts surrounding the case that were known only to the police themselves. In her vision, Mrs. Smith saw a canyon where a woman's body had been thrown. She pointed out the location on a map in the vicinity of Lopez Canyon. She explained to the detectives that she felt that the victim had been raped and murdered with a lethal blow to the back of the head. Controversy surrounded Mrs. Smith accurate description of certain fact involved in the case. She was given a polygraph, and then was informed she was being booked for murder. She was held for four days and was released without formal charges, as there was not evidence that associated Mrs. Smith to the victim outside of her vision. Three men were arrested and convicted for the murder of Melanie Urbide. Mrs. Smith sued the City of Los Angeles for the trauma she had suffered at the hands of the LAPD and in March of 1987 was awarded \$24,184.00 for lost wages, attorney fees and pain and suffering (Lyons, and Truzzi, 1991, p.8).

It is apparent from this case study that Mrs. Smith was not providing this information for publicity or personnel gain, but in a sincere effort to help the police department solve a violent crime. Her efforts and intention were misinterpreted by a very skeptical police department and this cost the city Lost Angles monetarily, as well as negative publicity. This attitude on several occasions is the general reception from the policing community, however at some level this outlook is changing.

Blue Sense, a current phrase dubbed by Arthur Lyons and Marcello Truzzi, Ph.D., refers to investigative criminal psychics. Dr. Truzzi, states that “the key question for most police officers is not whether psychics are ‘real’ but whether or not they can help in furthering solution of cases. The issue is one of the blue senses utility, rather than its validity” (The Journal of Parapsychology, author’s name not found. 1995).

In order for a policing unit to use a member of the psychic community as an investigative tool, certain avenues should be addressed. The most important factor for an agency contemplating using a psychic, is to seriously evaluate the psychics contributions as an investigative tool (Hibbard, Worrying, and Brennen, 2002, p.65). In reality, if the investigator does not believe in a psychic’s ability, a sound working relationship would then be non- productive. So an open-minded investigator would then add credibility in working with a member of the paranormal, giving the assumption that psychics could possibly be an added addition to an investigative unit. However, the norm is for a member of the department to use a psychic known to them already. When identifying and recruiting investigative psychics, the authors of *Psychic Criminology*, Whitney S. Hibbard, Raymond Worrying and Richard Brennen suggest that each community has a

number of potential psychics that could actually be recruited on a volunteer basis. The authors further suggest that the use of a psychic should be utilized when the case is fresh, but only if needed when there are no clues or suspects. The investigative team needs to develop their own game plan in approaching the crime, and the psychics would be a secondary source for investigation (Hibbard, Worring, and Brennen, 2002 pp. 49-50). The authors also suggest using the technique of networking to find individuals that have been utilized on other police investigations with a level of success. It is also important for an investigator to dismiss stereotypes associated with psychics, as most of them are completely wrong. In most instances, "psychics are very normal people, living in very normal towns, with very normal jobs and lives" (Hibbard, Worring, and Brennen, 2002 p.56). However, there are warning signs exhibited by some alleged psychics, which should promote the investigator to view them with caution. These individuals may be cultists, attention-seeking seers, self-appointed 'superpsychics' who seek legitimacy and publicity, and most of all those that charge money. It must be said that some reputable psychics do in fact charge for their time, however many do not, as it is the family of the victims that pays for their services (Hibbard, Worring, and Brennen, 2002, p. 59).

The investigator may ask for a form of testing, by presenting the psychics with some solved cases, which may provide insight as to the skill level of the psychic. The investigator would place a photo of a crime scene, name of victims and addressees, and maybe an article of psychical evidence in a bag. The bag would then be given to the psychic and without opening it they would be asked question concerning the contents, as well as what determinations they may make concerning the case itself (Hibbard, Worring and Brennen, 2002, p.60). While this is just one way an agency may test the abilities of a

psychic, many already have a successful record with other police departments where information on the psychic's ability may be obtained. Currently in the United States, about one hundred police departments are working with paranormal investigators openly. Other police departments who consult psychics are off the record. Even Federal Agencies keep psychic affiliations quiet, however, most have used a psychic at one point or another (Schwartz, p. 12-14)

The first official use of a psychic in the United States, was in 1845, when a clairvoyant during a trance, identified a juvenile who had committed a crime, consequently the juvenile confessed and the psychic's information was accurate. However, the details of the case were not documented accurately enough to give the psychic full credit (Court TV Crime Library, 2005 p. 3) Another early use of a psychic in the United States was a criminal investigation conducted in 1901 in the murder of Nell Cropsey. The family called in Madame Newman a medium who announced that Nell's husband had committed the crime. He was later tried and convicted on some of the information that was provided by Madame Newman (Court TV, Crime Library, 2005. p. 1-5). These early criminal psychics paved the way for the current interest in the abilities of a good psychic investigator. Some of the criminal psychics with solid reputations for success which are currently being utilized are; Irene F. Hughes from Chicago, Illinois who has helped solve several murder cases for the Illinois police. Dorothy Allison, a New Jersey housewife has been used by families and police and sheriffs departments since 1967. She has consulted on high profile cases such as the Son of Sam, John Wayne Gacy and serial killer Wayne Williams. Chief Robert De Litta, of the Nutley Police Department stated that "there are many police departments out there that have used her successfully and

really think that she does have the ability to come across with valid information. The number of agencies that use her a second time and third time are numerous” (Hibbard, Worrying, and Brennen, 2002 pp.12-14). Noreen Renier, lectured at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia in 1981. She is a well-known psychic investigator who claims to have worked on hundreds of cases with county, state and federal agencies. A fairly unknown psychic Annette Marten of Campbell, California is considered one of the most highly qualified psychic investigators today. She has kept her psychic investigations very quiet, as she does not like the publicity, nor does she like to be in the public eye. Detective Sgt. Richard Keaton, a thirty five-year veteran of the Marin County Sheriffs Office, has worked with her since 1975. He uses Annette Marten “not only because she was so good, but because she was not publicity hound, and could be trusted with details of the investigation” (Hibbard, Worrying, and Brennen, 2002, p. 15).

While these are just a few of the investigative psychics that are out there, it is apparent however that they are being used. Dr. Truzzi and Arthur Lyons, authors of *The Blue Sense: Psychic Detectives and Crime* state that with many of the high profiled psychics; it can be difficult sorting out facts from fiction, reality from self-promotion. Both authors feel there is a tendency for psychic investigators to take credit when none is deserved (Hibbard, Worrying, and Brennan, 2002 p. 11). While both Truzzi and Lyons attitude towards some of the more famous psychic investigators may be somewhat negative. They do declare that “discounting fabrications and confabulations by psychics and their biographers, media distractions, and cases of outright fraud, there remains a considerable body of documented cases in which psychic sleuths have scored impressive

and seemingly inexplicable success.” The case for the blue sense (psychic ability) may not be totally convincing, but it is far more substantial than many critics have presumed.

This chapter concentrates on the historical background of the paranormal, institutes that have concentrated areas of study on this subject and the use of psychics by some police agencies. Views are presented from both the psychics’ perspective, as well as the investigators perspective centering on the use of a psychic as an investigative tool. These topics are supported by authors who have written articles, books, as well as research institutes, which have explored the use of the paranormal in the field of criminal justice. Also discussed, are psychics that have already been used successfully in an investigative

To determine how often psychics are actually utilized in criminal investigations and to learn more about the perceptions police departments hold of them, this study will survey 50 departments of various sizes in the United States, one from each state.

The following chapter will concentrate on describing the research methods used through out the project. It will describe the use of the designed survey, as well as who the respondents will be. The chapter will also describe the form of assessment being utilized and how the data will be entered in SPSS program to determine frequencies and any correlations.

Each response to the survey was assigned a numeric value allowing for accurate assessment from all collected data. Once the surveys were completed results were then recorded and SPSS/PC+ were used. Correlations and frequencies were then completed

Chapter III

METHODS

The purpose of this research is to understand how police departments view psychics as a potential member of an investigative team. In an attempt to understand the general opinion of the policing community, an exploratory research method will be conducted. First, fifty police departments were selected, one representing each state; the methods used in the selection of police departments for the survey concentrated on the capital city of each state. Second, each department was contacted via telephone. A member of the investigative team from each police department was asked a series of both closed and open-ended questions, regarding the use of psychics, as well as the respondent's perception of psychics. Some questions will be presented in the form of a Likert Scale with possible responses ranging from strongly disagreeing to strongly agreeing.

The hypothesis to be tested is as follows:

H₁) Most agencies would be reluctant to use psychics as an investigative tool.

The research questions to be examined are:

R₁) What factors would influence an agency in deciding whether or not to use psychics in criminal investigations?

R₂) What are police officers perceptions of psychics?

Each response to the survey was assigned a numeric value allowing for accurate assessment from all collected data. Once the surveys were completed results were then recorded and SPSS/PC+ were used. Correlations and frequencies were then completed

showing how often the sample group responded in similar patterns. The data collected provided insight as to what factors are influencing police departments in determining the positive or negative use of psychic investigators.

Methods and Findings

The first step in the research process was to identify the variables that would be measured. The variables were identified based on the literature and the research objectives. The variables were then operationalized into measurable items. The data were then analyzed using statistical methods.

The first finding was that...

1.1.1. The first finding was that...

The second finding was that...

1.1.2. The second finding was that...

1.1.3. The third finding was that...

The results of the study indicate that... The data were analyzed using statistical methods. The findings suggest that... The results of the study indicate that... The data were analyzed using statistical methods. The findings suggest that... The results of the study indicate that... The data were analyzed using statistical methods. The findings suggest that...

Chapter IV

Results and Findings

This chapter centers on how often psychics are actually utilized in criminal investigations and to learn more about the perceptions detectives or primary investigators hold of them, as a tool in assisting in a crime resolution. Fifty police departments from the capitol city of each state, in the United States were contacted.

The hypothesis tested was as follows:

H₁) Most agencies would be reluctant to use psychics as an investigative tool.

The Research questions tested were as follows:

R₁) What factors would influence an agency in deciding whether or not to use psychics in criminal investigations?

R₂) What are police officers perceptions of psychics?

This research was a descriptive study. All data for this research were obtained by utilizing a telephone survey administered to police departments from the capital cities of each state in the United States. All information from survey were anonymous no identifying information was collected. All respondents involved in the survey were 18 years or older (See Appendix B).

Respondents

Respondents to the survey were either detectives or a member of the cities' investigative team. As some police departments were larger than others, some states had complete investigative departments, while the smaller police departments had one or more detectives. All 50 police departments were contacted, with 40 departments (n = 40, 90%) selecting to participate and successfully completed the survey. The 10 departments that chose not to participate were left messages on several occasions and never responded. Due to the time limitations of study, research continued using the 40 police departments that did participate. The following paragraphs contain the questions asked on the survey and addresses the detectives responses (See Appendix B).

1. Has your agency ever used a psychic in a criminal investigation?

Of the 40 police departments that did respond to the survey, only 15 percent reported that they had used a psychic in a criminal investigation (n = 6, 15%) and 85 percent indicated that they had not (n = 34, 85%).

Satisfaction with the Experience

The first question of the survey asked respondents; Has your agency every used a psychic in a criminal investigation? Respondents were open and showed a willingness to respond and address the following three sub-categories of question below.

1b) Was your experience successful, why or why not?

Three of the six respondents answered that they in fact did have a positive experience (n = 3, 50%), and three respondents answering no they did not (n = 3, 50%). One of the departments that did respond to a successful experience felt that the psychic

positive leads, which aided in the location and arrest of an individual accused of child molestation. Another of the departments that answered no to the psychic experience stated that the psychic led them to a well, which did not produce a body in a pending homicide case. The investigator did make a point to add that all that showed was that the body was not there at that time of the search. He had no knowledge if the body was there prior to the search.

1c) How many times have you used a psychic?

Two of the police departments answered that they had used a psychic on one occasion (n = 2, 40%). Three of the police departments answered that they had used a psychic on at least two separate occasions (n = 3, 50%). The remaining department would not respond to the question (n = 1, 10%).

1d) Would you recommend the use of a psychic to another policing agency, why or why not?

When asked this question, five out of six respondents said that they would recommend the use of a psychic to another policy agency (n = 5, 90%). The individuals that responded positively to this question agreed that their experience with the psychic offered enough valid output that they would advise other departments to utilize paranormal abilities if the investigation warranted additional input, in the attempt to seek resolution in a criminal investigation.

6. If your department has used a psychic, how did you make the initial contact?

Out of the six police departments that responded to question number one, two state that their department contacted the psychic (n = 2, 34%), and four state that the psychic contacted the department (n = 4, 66%). The two respondents that contacted the psychic

used an individual that had been recommended to them, or that they were familiar with. The four respondents that used psychics who contacted their departments considered the information that the psychic presented to the investigator credible enough to continue using their abilities (See Table 1).

Table 1
Initial Contact

How Contacted	Frequency	Percent
Department contacted Psychic	2	34%
Psychic contacted department	4	66%
Total	6	100%

Willingness to use or not use psychics

This category of the survey allows the police officers to address questions as to;

- Credibility of psychics in police investigation,
- The use of a psychic, if a trusted department recommended one,
- Media influence on a department's decision to use or not use a psychic; and
- Would a department consider using a psychic in the future?

These statements encompass questions two through five on the survey. The categories agree/strongly agree were collapsed into one category and disagree/strongly

disagree were also collapsed into one category so that comparative statistics could be calculated.

2. I believe psychics have credibility in police investigations?

When the respondents were asked if psychics have credibility in police investigations, 37.5 percent agreed, (n = 15, 37.5%), 22.5 percent (n= 9, 22.5%) disagreed and 40 percent (n = 16, 40%) had no opinion (See Table 2). The 40 percent of the police officers that responded no opinion, indicate that this group has not ruled out the possibility of paranormal input, but as of yet are currently undecided.

3. If a police department recommended a psychic, I would consider it an option.

When the respondents were asked, if another police department recommended a psychic would the investigators consider it an option 92.5 percent agreed (n= 37, 92.5%) (See Table 2), 5 percent disagreed (n = 2, 5%) and 2.5 percent (n= 1, 2.5%) had no opinion (See Table 2). The 92.5 percent of the police officers that agreed indicated that the departments might use psychic once they know that other departments have had success with their abilities.

4. Our department would never use a psychic, as the media would portray the officers as being incapable of doing their jobs without psychic assistance.

When the respondents were asked if the media influences their decision to use or not use a psychic, as they may be portrayed as incapable of doing their job without psychic assistance, 10 percent agreed (n = 4, 10%), 85 percent disagreed (n = 34, 85%) and 5 percent, (n = 2, 5%) had no opinion (See Table 2). The 85 percent of the respondents that disagreed to this question indicate that the police departments who were given the

survey were comfortable with their department and their own investigative tools. These investigators were not intimidated as to what the media would report if their department made the decision to use paranormal assistance.

5. My department may use a psychic in the future.

When the respondents were asked if their department might use a psychic in the future, 47.5 percent agreed (n = 19, 47.5%), 30 percent disagreed (n = 12, 30%) and 22.5 percent had no opinion (See Table 2).

Table 2

Police Opinion on Psychic Input in Criminal Investigations

Questions/Statement	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
I believe psychics have credibility in police investigations	N = 15 37.5%	N = 9 22.5%	N = 16 40.0%
If police department recommended psychic I would consider it an option	N = 37 92.5%	N = 2 5%	N = 1 2.5%
Would never use psychic as would be portrayed negatively by media as incapable of doing our jobs	N = 4 10%	N = 34 85%	N = 2 5%
My police department may use psychics in the future	N = 19 47.5%	N = 12 30%	N = 9 22.5%

The close parity in the responses may indicate that the respondents were not willing to take a complete stand when speaking for the department. While 47.5 percent did agree, the remaining responses may have showed some hesitancy on the part of the respondents to speak for the complete agency

Of the 40 departments that were questioned 7.5 percent (n = 3, 7.5%) reported that they knew of an unofficial use of a psychic in their department and 92.5 percent (n = 37, 92.5%), reported that they had no knowledge of an unofficial use of a psychic (See Table 3). This may indicate that if psychics are being used, they are not discussed openly within the department. It may also reaffirm that the respondents were stating that they did not have any working knowledge that the use of a psychic was involved in any unofficial manner.

Table 3

UNOFFICIAL USE OF PSYCHIC

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid Yes	3	7.5	7.5	7.5
No	37	92.5	92.5	100.0
Total	40	100.0		

7. What factors would influence an agency in deciding whether or not use or not use a psychic in a criminal investigation?

When the police departments were asked what factors influence the agency in

determining whether or not to use a psychic in a criminal investigation, they responded accordingly. Out of the 40 police departments that were questioned, 45 percent stated they would use a psychic if case went cold ($n = 18, 45\%$). Out of the 40 police departments questioned, 10 percent said that they would use a psychic as a last resort ($n = 4, 10\%$). Out of the 40 police departments questioned, 15 percent said they would use a

Table 4
Factors that Influence the Use of Psychics

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Cold Case	18	45.0	45.0	45.0
Last Resort	4	10.0	10.0	55.0
Creditability	6	15.0	15.0	70.0
Referral	2	5.0	5.0	75.0
Administration	6	15.0	15.0	70.0
Other	4	10.0	10.0	55.0
Total	40	100	100	

psychic if the psychic was credible, ($n = 6, 15\%$). Out of the 40 police departments questioned 5 percent said that they would use a psychic if the psychic was referred to their department ($n = 2, 5\%$). Fifteen percent said it would be an administrative decision

to use a psychic (n = 6, 15%). Out of the 40 departments questioned 10 percent said other (n = 4, 10%). The other category-encompassed responses such as would never use a psychic or the agency trusted their police department's own investigative tools (See Table 4). The responses from this section of the survey indicate important variables if the investigators department ever contemplated the notion of using a member of the paranormal in criminal investigations. The low number of the other category may indicate that the use of psychics as a tool by investigative teams has not been completely dismissed.

Correlation between psychic credibility and psychic use in future investigations

It was not possible to conduct comparative statistics between the departments that reported using a psychic and those that did not since there were only 6 (n=6, 15%) investigators who said they would use a psychic. However, there was statistical significance between the departments that reported that they thought psychics were credible and those that did not. The departments that thought that psychics were credible and all who responded no opinion to this question indicated that they would use a psychic in the future. (See Table 5). This information may imply again that the respondents that answered no opinion are still open to the concept of using a paranormal investigator in crime resolution.

Table 5**Categorical Significance Between Psychic Credibility and Future Psychic Use**

		Believe psychics have credibility in police investigations			Total
		Disagree	Agree	No Opinion	
My Police Department may use psychics in the future					
Disagree	Count	7	1	4	12
	%	77.8%	6.7%	25.0%	30.0%
Agree	Count	2	10	7	19
	%	22.2%	66.7%	43.8%	47.5%
No Opinion	Count	0	4	5	9
	%	.0%	26.7%	31.3%	22.5%
Total	Count	9	15	16	40
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

($\chi^2=14.81$, $df=4$, $p \leq .05$)

Correlation between credibility of psychics and
recommendations of a psychic by a trusted department

The Departments that think psychics were credible, and all who responded no opinion to this question, indicated that they would use a psychic if, he/she were recommended by a department that was trusted, department that was trusted ($\chi^2=11.7$, $df=4$, $p \leq .05$).

Summary of Findings

Based on the results of the research, the following conclusions were made:

1. Of the 40 police departments that did respond to the survey, 15 percent reported that they had used a psychic in a criminal investigation.
2. Of the 15 percent of investigators that used a psychic, 50 percent agreed that the experience was successful, and 50 percent felt that it was not.
3. Of the 15 percent of investigators that used a psychic, 40 percent used a psychic on one occasion, 50 percent used a psychic on two or more, and 10 percent would not respond to the question.
4. Of the 15 percent of investigators that used a psychic, 90 percent said that they would recommend the use of a psychic to another police agency, and 10 percent said they would not.
5. Out the 15 percent of investigators that used a psychic, 34 percent stated that the department contacted the psychic and 66 percent said the psychic contacted the department.
6. Of the 40 police departments that did respond to the survey, 37.5 percent stated that they believed psychics have credibility in criminal investigations, 22.5 did not and 40 percent had no opinion.

7. Of the 40 police departments that did respond to the survey, 10 percent stated that they would be hesitant to use a psychic because they would be portrayed negatively by the media, 85 percent felt the media would not influence their decision and 5 percent had no opinion.
8. Of the 40 police departments that did respond to the survey, 47.5 percent stated that their department may use a psychic in the future, 30 percent felt that their departments would not and 22.5 percent had no opinion.
9. Of the 40 police departments that did respond to the survey, 92.5 percent said they had no knowledge of an unofficial use of a psychic and 7.5 percent said they had knowledge of psychic use.
10. Of the 40 police departments that did respond to the survey the factors that would influence them to use a psychic were if a case went cold, as a last resort, creditability of psychic, if psychic was referred by another department, and if it were an administrative choice.
11. There was statistical significance between departments that reported that psychics were credible, and those that stated they would use psychic if another recommended by another department.
12. There was statistical significance between departments that reported that psychics were credible, and those that state they may use psychic assistance in the future.

Hypothesis and questions posed by the this study

The hypothesis tested was as follows:

H₁) Most agencies would be reluctant to us psychics as an investigative tool.

The Research questions tested were as follows:

R₁) What factors would influence an agency in deciding whether or not to use psychics in criminal investigations?

R₂) What are police officers perceptions of psychics?

Based on the results of this research, the hypothesis and questions posed by this study can now be examined.

Hypothesis

As presented in the findings, the hypothesis was supported. Of the 40 department surveyed, 15 percent of the investigators supported that they had used a psychic in a criminal investigation ($n = 6$, 15%), and 85 percent ($n = 34$, 85%) indicated that they did not.

Research Question 1

The factors, which would influence an agency in deciding on whether or not to use a psychic in a criminal investigation, centered on several variables. Of the 40 investigators surveyed 92.5 percent stated that they would use a psychic if another policing agency recommended one and 37.5 percent of the agencies interviewed, stated that psychics in fact, had credibility in criminal investigation. Of the 40 investigators surveyed, 85 percent stated that the media would not influence their department's decision to use or not use a psychic, indicating that they were comfortable with any decision they or their department made regarding paranormal use.

Research Question 2

The investigator perceptions of psychics were centered on believing in the credibility of their use in solving cases. Statistically, of the 40 departments surveyed, 37.5 percent felt psychics did have credibility in police investigations, 22.5 percent indicated they did not. However, 40 percent had no opinion indicating

that the investigators may still be open to paranormal input in an investigation. It can also be stated, that of the 40 investigators surveyed, 47.5 percent stated that they may use a psychic in the future and 92.5 percent stated that they would use a psychic in another police department recommended one to their agency.

Summary

Introduction

Chapter four addresses the results and findings of the research centered on this study. The information produced from this research indicates the complexity of the topic and the variables that are involved when a police agency decides to use or not use a psychic. While the research does show psychics being used at a minimal level, it does suggest openness by the investigative teams across the United States to consider the possibilities of utilizing paranormal investigators.

When initiating my research on this topic, my expectations were limited, as I did not really know what I was getting into. The areas of the paranormal are uncharted waters as far as its implications in criminal justice and law enforcement have been researched. This limited my ability to conduct quality studies on the subject itself.

However, I was quite surprised at the interest level expressed by the investigators, as I conducted my research. However, I was studying a low number of officers who were willing to respond to my research. Surprisingly, it is generally very illusive and expressed a lot of interest in becoming the best. It is possible that the number of police agencies that have a team of paranormal investigators are low (n = 117) and that the majority of the police officers level of interest. Out of the 10 departments that participated in the study, 10 officers did agree that psychics do have

Chapter V

Discussion

Introduction

After finishing the research surrounding the use of the paranormal in criminal investigations, it became apparent just how much information was available surrounding the topic. As my topic was embodied in the use of psychics in criminal investigations, discussion in other areas and paranormal influences were limited. However, there is enough information surrounding parapsychology and its influence on criminal resolutions that further studies are warranted.

When initiating my research on this topic, my expectations were limited, as I did not really know what I was going to find. The areas of the paranormal are uncharted waters as far as its implications on criminal justice, and the topic has been minimally researched. This limited my ability to consult existing studies on the subject itself. However, I was quite surprised at the interest level expressed by the investigators, as I conducted my interviews. Initially, I was expecting a low number of officers who were willing to respond to a telephone survey. Surprisingly, the respondents were talkative and expressed a sincere interest in discussing the topic. I do realize that the number of police agencies that have utilized the abilities of paranormal investigators are low ($n = 6, 15\%$), this number is not indicative of the police officers level of interest. Out of the 40 departments that completed the survey, 37.5 percent did agree that psychics do have

credibility in criminal investigations and 47.5 percent stated that they may use them in the future (See Table 2). Again, while all of these investigators have not utilized the abilities of a psychic investigator, overall they were not dismissing the possibility of potential use, their credibility, or future use. The level of interest alone supports my statement, that this area offers enough interest and information to support further studies.

I was also not convinced as to the minimal influence of the media in the investigative decision to use or not use a psychic investigator. I think that the survey is not indicative of what the officers actually thought, but rather what they perceived departmental policies to be. Out of the 40 police officers that completed the survey, 85 percent stated that the media would not influence this decision (See Table 2). I think that the media would play a larger role in the decision making process at the administrative level. I think the officers that asked if I wanted their opinion or the department's opinion support this suspicion. I feel the media would contribute to the apprehension of the administrative branch of the department and their willingness to take the risk of becoming a target for community ridicule.

Overall, I found that the possible use of the paranormal in the field of criminal just future reality. I think this is due to the interest level and the attitude of investigators to do what ever it takes to resolve a criminal investigation. This alone may make psychics an accepted member of an investigative team and a future tool in crime resolution. One officer supports this statement by asking me to e-mail him a list of credible psychics, which he could reference, if the need presents itself. The interest may also stem from the popularity of the television show The Medium.

Limitations

As with any research project, there were limitations involved in this study. Due to budget restraints, I was unable to talk to the individual investigators in person, as I was unable to fly to each capital city in the United States. As I was making the phone calls I realized how willing the investigators were in discussing the topic. One investigator described the whole crime scene and explained how the psychic advised him in an ongoing homicide case, that the female was dead and located in a well out side of town. To quote the investigator, "I went to that well, and there was no damn body in it." In this particular circumstance, the investigator may have expected immediate results from the psychic's input, not factoring in that it is not an exact science. This negativity could also have been influenced by the current television shows depicting psychics at the crime scene, acting as a CSI investigator, and this notion is not a reality, but a misconception. The investigators overall attitude demonstrated that he expected instant CSI results and may have expected too much from the psychic. It also shows that the investigator could have had a pre-conceived opinion of psychics prior to the psychic's actual input.

As in any phone survey, identity does become a factor. One investigator would not speak with me until I assured him that I was not affiliated with the media. I reassured him that I was not and gave him the Criminal Justice Departments number so if necessary he could validate my identity. This attitude makes me feel strongly that the media plays a larger part in departments decision to use a psychic, than what the investigators led me to believe. This is not indicative in my survey and contradicts

many responses. I also feel strongly that I could have obtained more information as to the opinions of the investigators, if I was able to conduct a face- to- face interview.

Another limitation I experienced was distinguishing the investigator opinion from the department's opinion. One investigator implied that it was unimportant as to what their opinion may be about paranormal input. In essence, if their department were against using a paranormal investigator, they would not be used. The investigator further stated that the department would control any decisions surrounding paranormal application. It in some ways hampered my research, as in some cases the investigator responded in a fashion that represented the department and not themselves as a criminal investigator. If this occurred, I was not receiving accurate information as to what the investigator personally thought about paranormal investigators. The option of surveying retired investigators, may have allowed for more honest answers to the survey. The investigator would have no responsibility in answering to the administration, or care about representing the administration's opinions.

Another limitation was the nature of the survey itself. With anonymity, I could not obtain information pertaining to the psychics that were used. I was unable to get any names, their locations, as well as their level of credibility. I was also unable to obtain the names of the departments that made psychic referrals. However, I do feel that it was because the survey was anonymous that the ratio of the investigators that did responded was a high as it was. If the survey itself had been "on the record", my response rate may have been at a considerable lower level, which would have affected the results.

A final limitation is the amount of television shows that are representing paranormal criminal investigators. While it was one of the factors that made me choose the topic

because of their popularity, in some ways it was derogatory to my research. In fact, one new television show focuses upon a fake psychic who scams and tricks the police in his role as a private investigator. Some investigators stated that the representation of the psychic portrayed on television and the idea that investigators are running around taking psychics to crime scenes and contacting them immediately was “crazy”. In essence the television shows shed negativity in some of the investigators mindset and influenced the way they responded to the questions. The shows created a pre-conceived notion as the expectations of the psychics.

Future Recommendations

Research on this topic needs to be furthered explored, as I feel there is enough information available that would validate that psychics are being used in the criminal justice arena. Some suggested research needs are:

- ❑ A study on other countries that allow psychic investigators to testify in a court of law may bring credence to their use in this country.
- ❑ Research on how psychics are being tested and what scientific studies are being conducted with successful results, may also illustrate the positive effects their abilities could have on becoming investigative tools in the criminal justice field.
- ❑ Research centering on departments that have psychic instructors that are conducting classes teaching police officers to tap into their own intuitive abilities.

For a research project centering on a similar method as this one,

- ❑ I would recommend a smaller sample group, which would allow for direct interviews with respondents versus a phone survey.
- ❑ I would also recommend qualitative questions because of the willingness to discuss the topic, which I experienced.
- ❑ I would also recommend that a clearer distinction is qualified as to what opinion the researcher is seeking, the individual departments or the individual investigators. The use of retired investigator would eliminate this problem. The utilization of this group of retired investigators may provide totally different responses to the survey.

Summary

As long as criminal activity remains at a high level, it is important for the criminal justice field to pursue and utilize any means or techniques available to them, in order to seek resolution of criminal acts. It is the responsibility of law enforcement to ensure society that personal opinion or closed-minded ideals will not influence their decision to utilize a psychic investigator, especially if a credible psychic can act as a tool to assist in an investigation. The criminal justice field has experienced advancements in forensics that 50 years ago would have been viewed as impossible. If we in this field can put so much faith in computers, machines, detection devices etc., then is it so impossible to put the same amount of faith in people? Prophets have been an accepted part of every culture globally, if a psychic can locate the Amber's of the world, stop the Ted Bundy's of the world and the David Berkowitz's, is it not worth the shot. Would it be so ludicrous to use a remote viewer to aide in locating terrorist cells if they helped

save lives, especially when the United States warranted investigations into their abilities.

Is it that impossible to believe that the human brain can not develop a sixth sense when we accept without hesitation that we have five? Crime is real, and as long as there are human elements, criminal activity will continue. Acknowledging this reality should be enough to accept, no, demand that every available tool be utilized to ensure the safety and protection of our children, our families and our communities.

terence

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VPPF

Appendices

PAR

is a form of dependence upon external forces or agents. It is a form of dependence upon external forces or agents. It is a form of dependence upon external forces or agents.

is the action of a person taking the responsibility of the work of others. It is a form of dependence upon external forces or agents. It is a form of dependence upon external forces or agents.

Extraneous Psychology is a form of dependence upon external forces or agents. It is a form of dependence upon external forces or agents.

APPENDIX A

PARANORMAL DEFINITIONS

- Parapsychology is the search for psychic phenomena and psychokinesis.
- Psychic Phenomena is psychic knowledge of something occurring.
- PSI is a term used by psychologists to refer to psychic phenomena which psychokinesis taken together.
- is the action of a person taking the responsibility of the work of others. It is a form of dependence upon external forces or agents. It is a form of dependence upon external forces or agents.
- is a form of dependence upon external forces or agents. It is a form of dependence upon external forces or agents.
- Remote Viewing is a form of dependence upon external forces or agents. It is a form of dependence upon external forces or agents.
- Telekinesis is a form of dependence upon external forces or agents. It is a form of dependence upon external forces or agents.

PARANORMAL DEFFINITIONS

1. Clairvoyance – Is an alleged psychic ability to see things beyond the range of the power of vision.
2. Divination - Is the attempt to foretell the future or discover occult knowledge by interpreting omens or by using paranormal or supernatural powers.
3. Dowsing - Is the action of a person- called the dowser using a rod, stick or other device to locates such tings as underground water, hidden metal, buried treasure, oil, lost personal items.
4. Extrasensory Perception (ESP) – Is perception occurring independently of sight, hearing, or other sensory processes. People who have extrasensory perception are said to be psychic.
5. Parapsychology – Is the search for paranormal phenomena, such as ESP and psychokinesis.
6. Precognition- - Is psychic knowledge of something in advance of its occurrence.
7. PSI - Is a term commonly used by parapsychologists to refer to both extrasensory perception and psychokinesis taken together.
8. Psychokinesis – Is the process of moving or otherwise affecting physical objects mind only, without making any physical contact.
9. Psychic- As an adjective, refers to forces or agencies of a paranormal nature. As a noun, psychic refers to a medium who has paranormal powers.
10. Remote Viewing- Remote viewing is the alleged psychic ability to perceive places, persons and actions that are not within the range of the senses. Remote viewing might well be called psychic dowsing. The individual uses psychic powers alone.
11. Telekinesis - Refers to the psi ability, to influence the behavior of matter by mental intention (or possibly some other aspect of mental activity) alone.

4) How many times have you used a psychiatric hospital in the last 12 months?
 (a) how many times have you used a psychiatric hospital?
 (b) would you recommend the use of a psychiatric hospital to other police officers? Why or why not?

- (c) how many times have you used a psychiatric hospital?
 (d) how many times have you used a psychiatric hospital?
 (e) would you recommend the use of a psychiatric hospital to other police officers? Why or why not?

APPENDIX B

YOU ARE GOING TO BE ASKED TO RESPOND TO A SERIES OF STATEMENTS
 PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING SURVEY QUESTIONS

2. In general, I believe that police should use psychiatric hospitals.

SD _____ N _____ A _____ SA _____

3. If a police department had a budget that was unlimited, I would then consider it an option.

SD _____ N _____

5. My police department may use psychiatric in the future?

equipment no

8. What factors would influence an agency in deciding whether or not to use psychiatric?

Psychic Investigation Survey

All information reported from this survey will remain anonymous as no identifying information is being collected. By answering the questions on this survey, you have agreed to participate in this project and that you are 18 years or older.

1. Has your agency ever used a psychic in a criminal investigation? If yes,

Yes _____ No _____

1b) was your experience successful, why or why not? _____

1c) how many times have you used a psychic? _____

1d) would you recommend the use of a psychic to another policing agency, why or why not? _____

YOU ARE GOING TO BE PRESENTED WITH A SERIES OF STATEMENTS,
PLEASE RESPOND SD, D, NO, SA, A.

2. In general, I believe psychics have credibility in police investigations?

SD _____ D _____ NO _____ A _____ SA _____

3. If a police department that I trusted recommended a psychic, I would then consider it an option?

SD _____ D _____ NO _____ A _____ SA _____

4. Our police department would never use a psychic because we would be portrayed by the media as incapable of doing our jobs without psychic assistance.

SD _____ D _____ NO _____ A _____ SA _____

5. My police department may use psychics in the future?

SD _____ D _____ NO _____ A _____ SA _____

6. Do you know of any unofficial use of psychics in your police department?

Yes _____ No _____

7. If your department has used a psychic, how did you make the initial contact?
-

8. What factors would influence an agency in deciding whether or not to use psychics in

an investigation?

APPENDIX C

Longstown State University, Longstown, Pa.
Department of Criminal Justice and Security
Office of the Chair
330 West 10th
P.O. Box 1000
Longstown, Pa. 15657

cc: to file

RECEIVED

AUG 07 2006

Dr. Eric See, Principal Investigator
Ms. Barbara Palermo, Co-investigator
Department of Criminal Justice
UNIVERSITY

APPENDIX C

RE: HSRC Protocol Number: 13A-2006
Title: Psychics: An Alternative Form of Investigation
Human Subjects Review Exemption Form

Dear Dr. See and Ms. Palermo

The Human Subjects Research Committee has reviewed the above-mentioned protocol and determined that it is exempt from full committee review based on a DHHS Category 2 exemption.

Any changes in your research activity should be promptly reported to the Human Subjects Research Committee and may not be initiated without HSRC approval except where necessary to eliminate hazard to human subjects. Any unanticipated problems involving risks to subjects should also be promptly reported to the Human Subjects Research Committee.

The HSRC would like to extend its best wishes to you in the conduct of this study.

PKK/cc

Dr. Tammy King, Chair
Department of Criminal Justice

July 6, 2006

RECEIVED

AUG 07 2006

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE
STUDIES & RESEARCH

Dr. Eric See, Principal Investigator
Ms. Barbara Palermo, Co-investigator
Department of Criminal Justice
UNIVERSITY

RE: HSRC Protocol Number: 135-2006
Title: Psychics: An Alternative Form of Investigation

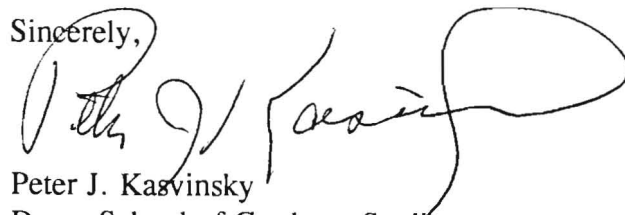
Dear Dr. See and Ms. Palermo:

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Any changes in your research activity should be promptly reported to the Human Subjects Research Committee and may not be initiated without HSRC approval except where necessary to eliminate hazard to human subjects. Any unanticipated problems involving risks to subjects should also be promptly reported to the Human Subjects Research Committee.

The HSRC would like to extend its best wishes to you in the conduct of this study.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Kasvinsky
Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Research Compliance Officer

PJK/cc

c: Dr. Tammy King, Chair
Department of Criminal Justice