



## CDI 1 (MT Module-1) - Fundamentals of Investigation

Fundamentals of investigation and detention (Northwest Samar State University)

# Fundamentals of Investigation and Intelligence

[Module 1]



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**NORTHWEST SAMAR**  
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2020

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Creative and critical thinkers  
Life-long learners  
Effective communicators  
Morally and socially upright individuals

## About the Author



**Cris Anthony B. Aler** was a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Criminology at Northwest Samar State University – Main Campus on April 2012. He took and passed his Criminologist Licensure Examination on October 2012. He also earned and finished the required units for the program of Bachelor of Secondary Education – Major in Social Studies and passed its Licensure Examination on March 2015. Further, he is currently enrolled in Master of Science in Criminal Justice at University of Cebu – Main.

Above and beyond, he is affiliated to the following organizations: a) Professional Criminologists Association of the Philippines (PCAP); b) National Association of Cultural Educators and Scholars; c) Philippine Shooters and Match Officers Confederation, Inc.; d) Philippines Taekwondo Association.

In addition, he is currently a 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan Black Belt in Philippine Taekwondo Association. He is also a certified National Referee and a certified National Instructor from the said martial arts organization.

To end with, he is currently serving as Sports Coordinator and National Service Training Program (NSTP) Coordinator at Northwest Samar State University – San Jorge Campus.

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## **Rationale**

Through this course, Criminology students would be able to develop or enhance their knowledge concerning crime detection and investigation. The course is primarily designed to help students understand the basic principles of investigating crimes, the legal requirements in apprehending and prosecuting criminal offenders, and the methodologies in scientific collection and processing of forensic evidences.

**Course Code:** CDI - 1

**Course Title:** Fundamentals of Investigation and Intelligence

### **Course Description:**

The course covers the concepts and principles of Criminal Investigation including the modern technique in Crime Detection and Investigation. This also includes modern techniques in processing the crime scene involving murder, homicide, rape, robbery, etc. It also aims to study the concepts and general principles of arrest, searches and seizure, and the rights of the accused during custodial investigation.

### **Course Outcomes:**

At the end of the course, your students must be able to:

1. Describe the origin of criminal investigation.
2. Discuss/appreciate the importance of knowing the systematic method of collecting and preserving evidence and importance of utilizing scientific knowledge in the field of criminal investigation
3. Know/explain the legal implication and requirements to be observed in conducting criminal investigation.
4. Define/analyze the basic principles of criminal investigation
5. Identify/apply the established techniques, tools, SOPs, and phases of criminal investigation

## Course Content:

As explained above, **CDI 1** introduces students the concept, theories, principles and practice, discusses the functions to come up interventions addressing problems.

The table below shows the outline of the topics to be discussed in the lecture per week vis-à-vis the course outcomes. It is designed based on the course syllabus approved by the college Dean in the **College of Arts and Sciences**.

Week	Course Learning Outcomes	Topics	Assessment	Date of Submission
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the origins of criminal investigation and explain how science and technology began to influence crime detection during nineteenth century</li> </ul>	<b>Lesson 1 – Introduction to Criminal Investigation</b>	Pre-Test	August 15, 2022
			Essay	August 22, 2022
			Essay	August 26, 2022
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn and appreciate the different concepts and principles of criminal investigation</li> </ul>	<b>Lesson 2 – Basic Principles of Investigation</b>	Essay	August 29, 2022
			Essay	September 2, 2022
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appreciate and understand the different protocols on how to conduct criminal investigation in actual scenario.</li> </ul>	<b>Lesson 3 – Crime Scene Investigation Components and Processing</b>	Essay	September 5, 2022
			Essay	September 12, 2022
			Post-Test (Long Quiz)	September 16, 2022

### Course Requirements:

In general, the requirements of **CDI 1** are as follows:

- Case Study Analysis
- Case/Research Study
- Practical/Simulation Activity

### Grading Criteria:

Requirement/Assessment Task	Percentage
Major Course Output	50%
Major Exams	30%
Class Standing	20%
TOTAL	100%

### Course Materials:

- Rubrics
- Course policies

### References:

Muftuoglu, PSupt. Emma Galero. Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Quezon City, ChapterHouse Publishing Inc. 2017

Garcia, Rodolfo. The Art of Criminal Investigation and Detection. Quezon City. Central Book Supply, Inc. 2003

Tradio, Cirilo. Law Enforcement: Philippines Criminal Justice System. Quezon City, Philippines. Central Professional Books, Inc. 1994

Florendo, Adelene. Police Patrol Operations and Communications System. Quezon City, Philippines. Jobal Publishing House, 2015

<http://pdancehits.blogspot.com/2013/09/lea-1police-organization-and.html?m=1>

<https://www.slideshare.net/mobile/harveabella/philippine-national-police-criminal-investigation-manual>

[www.pnp.gov.ph](http://www.pnp.gov.ph)

## **Module 1**

**Module Title:**           **Criminal Investigation: Components and Basic Principles**

**Module Description:**

A module is a self-contained, individual unit of study. The module provides various details about the history, components and basic principles of criminal investigation.

**Purpose of the Module:**

This module let the students learn the importance of conducting criminal investigation in the crime scene area.

**Module Requirements:**

At the end of this module, the students will come up a **case study analysis**.

## Learning Plan

**Lesson No:** 1

**Lesson Title:** Introduction to Criminal Investigation

**Let's Hit These:**

At the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

- Describe the origins of criminal investigations during the Industrial Revolution;
- Explain how science and technology began to influence crime detection during the nineteenth century; and
- Enumerate individuals who made specific contributions to the development in the field of forensic science

**Let's Find Out:**

Criminal investigation is a complex and sophisticated field. It involves a variety of methods such as questioning witnesses and possible suspects, searching the crime scene for physical evidence, using forensic science and modern technology to evaluate evidence, sharing information with other law enforcement agencies, and/or enlisting the aid of informants or the general public in ongoing investigations. It combines art and science, and involves probing several different fields at once.

**Let's Read:**

Crime takes place in almost any form everywhere and affects everyone in some way. When victims are assaulted or when perpetrators are apprehended, these individuals suffer together with their families and loved ones. When violent incidents occur in communities, residents feel the threat of danger. When crimes affect businesses, owners raise the prices of goods and services, thereby passing the costs of their losses to customers. High crime rates affect public safety and the country's economy.

It is the responsibility of the police to investigate criminal activities in order to solve the crime, give justice to the victims, and restore peace and order. To effectively accomplish this, a police officer must be brave, patient, dedicated, objective, inquisitive and imaginative. He or she must be results-oriented and able to embrace change, tough assignments and new challenges.

### **Origins of Criminal Investigation**

The roots of criminal investigation can be traced back to the early times in Asia and the Middle East, where government agents used torture and other means to identify criminals.

During England's Industrial Revolution, populations of peasants from the countryside trooped to larger towns and cities, resulting in increasing number of crimes. Law enforcement officials were forced to recruit thief catchers (some of which are mercenaries themselves) to aid in locating criminals. In 18<sup>th</sup> century England, for example, Jonathan Wild operated simultaneously as a law enforcer for London's authorities and as a criminal in its underworld. While operating a brothel for thieves and cut-

throats and receiving stolen property, he served as an undercover operative acting as a middleman who restored lost property (Osterburg & Ward, 2010).

The earliest police force in England was first established in 1253 and lasted until 1829. These constables who worked only at night were first known as the “Watch of England,” then later as the “Old Charleys”. In the 1750’s, the novelist Henry Fielding was appointed as Chief Magistrate. He subsequently appointed parish constables who became successful thief takers and later became known in the 1750’s as the “Bow Street Runners”. It was the first well-known investigative body in England (Lyman, 2011).

The Bow Street Runners offered a more coordinated and structured approach to policing, although their methods of investigation and detection remained similar to those of the craft practiced by the entrepreneurial thief-taker. They used a suspect-centered method of detection, which involved the rapid pursuit and arrest of suspects with the help of witnesses and informants. To this day, the use of informants remains central to detective work. Henry Fielding also introduced new approaches to investigation such as proactive raids and newspaper advertisements to encourage victims of robbery to come forward and identify the suspects in custody. A criminal records office was also established containing details of the activities of the Runners. The use of such proactive strategies and the compilation and storage of intelligence reflect the Runners’ scientific approaches to investigation (Tong, Bryant, & Horvath, 2009).

In 1829, Sir Robert Peel founded the London Metropolitan Police Department as the world’s first paid and full-time police force. They replaced the old constables and the Bow Street Runners who had ultimately gained a reputation for incompetency and inefficiency. These officers were dubbed as Bobbies and were required to meet rigid standards of professionalism, including minimum weight and height requirements and standards of literacy and character (Lyman, 2011). The prevention of crime was its primary task. However, the substantial increase in public service detectives was marked with suspicions of incompetence and corruption. For a long time since then, the challenge for the police has consistently involved corruption and the reluctance to put premium on education and training (Tong, Bryant, & Horvath, 2009).

By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, technology in crime detection began to flourish with the creation of a personal identification system by Alphonse Bertillon. In the mid-1840’s, the study of fingerprint patterns became a popular means to identify suspects in crime (Lyman, 2011). In 1892 England, Sir Francis Galton published *Fingerprints*, a landmark book that led to the identification of criminals based on fingerprint evidence found at the crime scene. Other scientific developments were applied to the examination of physical evidence, including the use of comparison microscopes, bloodstain analysis and firearms identification. This led to the establishment of the first police laboratory by Edmond Locard in 1910 in Lyon, France. The expansion of crime laboratories in other large cities were slow, but was later coupled with the creation of university programs in criminalistics (Osterburg & Ward, 2010).

By this time, police departments have become formally organized, and the use of informants in criminal investigation has been supplemented by interrogations and other methods to secure confessions. The term “third degree” has thus been employed to characterize the then widely used extraction of confessions accompanied by brute force. Eventually, however, third degree interrogations were banned by the United States Supreme Court in the 1890s on the ground that it violated the Eight Amendment of the US Constitution disallowing excessive bails, excessive fines as well as tortures. Moreover, the potential offered by the application of science to the examination of physical evidence also contributed to the decreasing popularity of third degree interrogations (Osterburg & Ward, 2010).

One significant development in the field of criminal investigation in the United States is the establishment of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in 1924. Today, the FBI is one of many

federal investigative agencies that has made great strides in professionalizing the field of criminal investigation (Lyman, 2011).

## **History and Development of Forensic Science**

The study of criminal investigation involves fundamental understanding of forensic science, which can be broadly defined as the application of science to law. This section touches on the development of the field.

The Scottish physician and writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who popularized scientific crime-detection methods through his functional character 'Sherlock Holmes'. As early as 1887, when the first Sherlock Holmes novel *A Study in Scarlet* was published, Doyle had the uncanny ability to describe scientific methods of detection, such as forensic serology, years before they were actually discovered and implemented. Doyle also applied other detection methods such as fingerprinting, firearms identification and questioned document examination long before their value was first recognized and accepted by real-life criminal investigators, thereby exciting the imagination of an emerging generation of forensic specialists.

Although increased awareness can be attributed to those who recognized forensic techniques and principles in literary works of fiction and television shows, the field of forensic science primarily owes its origins to those who actually developed its principles and techniques. Below is a list of individuals who made specific contributions to make the field a coherent discipline that could be practically applied to the criminal justice system (Saferstein, 2011).

### **Mathieu Orfila (1787-1853)**

- Father of forensic toxicology
- Published the first scientific treatise on the detection of poisons and their effects on animals in 1814, thereby establishing forensic toxicology as a legitimate scientific endeavor

### **Alphonse Bertillon (1853-1914)**

- Father of criminal identification; devised the first scientific system of personal identification
- 1879 – began to develop the science of anthropometry, a systematic procedure taking a series of body measurements as a means of distinguishing one individual from another; this system was considered the most accurate method but was eventually replaced by fingerprinting in the early 1900s.

### **Francis Galton (1822-1911)**

- Undertook the first definitive study of fingerprints and developed a methodology of classifying them for filing
- 1892 – published the book *Finger Prints*, which contained the first statistical proof supporting the uniqueness of his method of personal identification
- Continued to describe the basic principles that form the present system of identification by fingerprints

### **Leone Lattes (1887-1954)**

- In 1915, he devised a relatively simple procedure for determining the blood group of a dried bloodstain, a technique immediately applied to criminal investigations and often used by forensic scientists to this day.

### **Calvin Goddard (1891-1955)**

- To determine whether or not a particular gun has been fired, a bullet requires comparison of the bullet with one that has been test-fired from the subject's weapon. Calvin Goddard, a U.S. Army colonel, refined the techniques of such an examination by using the comparison microscope as an indispensable tool of the modern firearms examiner.

### **Albert S. Osborn (1858-1946)**

- Developed the fundamental principles of document examination
- Responsible for the acceptance of documents as scientific evidence by the courts
- 1910 – authored the first significant text in the field entitled *Questioned Documents*, which is still considered a primary reference for document examiners

### **Hans Gross (1847-1915)**

- In 1893, he published *Handbuch fur Untersuchungsrichter als System der Kriminalistik* (later published in English under the title *Criminal Investigation*); the first treatise describing the application of scientific disciplines to the field of criminal investigation; detailed the assistance that investigators could expect from the fields of microscopy, chemistry, physics, mineralogy, zoology, botany, anthropometry and fingerprinting.
- The Founder of Criminalistics and widely regarded as the father of criminal investigation.

### **Edmond Locard (1877-1966)**

- In 1910, he started the first police laboratory with only two attic rooms, two assistants and two instruments, a microscope and a rudimentary spectrometer.
- Strongly believed that every criminal can be connected to a crime by dust particles carried from the crime scene, and hence formulated the basic principle in forensic science known as "Locard's Exchange Principle," which states that whenever two objects come into contact with one another, there is exchange of materials between them.
- Research works and accomplishments later became known throughout the world by forensic scientists and criminal investigators, and served as an impetus for the formation of police laboratories in Vienna, Berlin, Sweden, Finland and Holland (modern-day Netherlands).

### ***Suggested Readings:***

Muftuoglu, PSupt. Emma Galero. Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Quezon City, ChapterHouse Publishing Inc. 2017

Garcia, Rodolfo. The Art of Criminal Investigation and Detection. Quezon City. Central Book Supply, Inc. 2003

<https://www.slideshare.net/mobile/harveabella/philippine-national-police-criminal-investigation-manual>

[www.pnp.gov.ph](http://www.pnp.gov.ph)

## Learning Plan

**Lesson No:** 2

**Lesson Title:** Basic Principles of Investigation

**Let's Hit These:**

At the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

- Define investigation;
- Enumerate the six cardinal points of investigation;
- Explain whether criminal investigation is an art or a science;
- Enumerate and explain the objectives and goals of criminal investigation;
- Enumerate the phases of investigation;
- Explain “The Golden Hour” in crime investigation;
- Enumerate the responsibilities of a criminal investigator;
- Identify essential qualities of an effective criminal investigator;
- Enumerate the tools of investigation and the basic equipment of the investigator; and
- Explain the protocols to be observed when conducting an investigation.

**Let's Find Out:**

The noted Criminologist Hans Gross once said that Criminal Investigation is 95% perspiration, 3% inspiration and 2% luck. From this quotation, we could see that the task is gargantuan. We could not depend on inspiration or luck alone; otherwise, we could fail 95% in our efforts. Thus, there is need to exert efforts 100%, because inspiration or luck may never come during our lifetime as Criminal Investigators.

**Let's Read:**

**What is Investigation?**

The *PNP Criminal Investigation Manual* defines **investigation** as the process of inquiring, eliciting, soliciting and getting vital information, facts and circumstances in order to establish the truth. **Criminal investigation** is therefore the collection of facts in order to accomplish the three-fold aim: (a) to identify the guilty party, (b) to locate the guilty party, and (c) to provide evidence of the suspect's guilt (PNP, 2011).

Criminal investigation is considered a reconstructive process. It uses the logical process of deductive reasoning in which a conclusion follows from specific facts. Criminal investigators establish proof that a suspect is guilty of an offense based on specific pieces of evidence (Hess & Orthmann, 2010).

The investigative process involves the gathering and evaluation of information and evidence. Both are essential in order to understand the connection between the crime, its victim and perpetrator, and the pieces of evidence. The investigator must seek to establish the following six cardinal points of investigation.

1. *What specific offense has been committed?* This refers to specific violation of criminal law.
2. *When was the offense committed?* The time and date of the commission of the offense should be established.
3. *Where was the offense committed?* This refers to the place or location of the commission of the offense.
4. *Who committed the offense?* This refers to the identity of the person or group of persons who committed the offense.
5. *Why was it committed?* This refers to the motive for the commission of the offense.
6. *How was it committed?* This refers to the means and manner in which the offense was committed.

These cardinal points of investigation are anchored on the theory of crime, which involves three interdependent factors, namely, the motive, the opportunity and the means.

**Motive** is defined as the reason which pushes a person to commit an act with a definite result in mind. It is not an element of crime but may be useful when identity of the offender is unknown.

**Opportunity** refers to the chance or occasion to commit the crime.

The **Means** is the capability of a person to commit a crime using available tools at their disposal.

Even if an individual has the motive but doesn't have the means and the opportunity, he or she cannot consummate a crime. These three things are interdependent, and the absence of one would not result into a crime.

### **Is Investigation an Art or a Science?**

Criminal investigation can be considered both an art and a science. It is considered a science because as gatherer of facts, the detective must develop hypotheses and draw conclusions based on available information. The investigative process involves a comprehensive activity involving information collection, crime scene management, investigative interviewing, informant handling, offender profiling, the application of logic, the exercise of sound reasoning, and other scientific approaches (Sennewald & Tsukayama, 2006).

There is also an art in criminal investigation, especially evident to experienced detectives who demonstrate brilliant insight and intuition, and do not rely merely on theories taught in classrooms and books. The art in detective work involves intuition and instinct regarding problem-solving. It can be seen in the detective's ability to separate the false from the genuine and identify effective and creative lines of inquiry. An investigator practices the art of detective work by reading the behavior, motivation and strategies of those who commit or witness a crime. Beyond academic degrees, specialized training or book learning, it means being able to "read the street" (Tong, Bryant & Horvath, 2009).

### **Objectives of Criminal Investigation**

The true objective of criminal investigation is the conviction of the participants and the ending of criminal activity (Kilfeather, 2011):

1. To detect crime
2. To locate and identify suspects in crimes
3. To arrest suspects in crimes
4. To recover stolen property
5. To prepare sound criminal cases for prosecution

These objectives are based on the premise that perpetrators make mistakes when committing crimes, thus leaving some type of evidence of who they are. Due to carelessness, panic, underestimation of police capabilities, emotional or mental instability or the influence of drugs or alcohol may result in criminals leaving evidence that could connect them with the crime scene. For example, a burglar might leave a pen, paper or broken glass; a murderer might leave a knife or a gun along with fingerprints and clothing fibers; or a rapist might leave skin tissue, semen, or blood. Less visible evidence such as fingerprints, small particles of glass or dirt, a faint footprint, body hairs or clothing fibers are called *trace evidence* (Lyman, 2011; and Hess & Orthmann, 2010).

There are also instances when little or no evidence exists, making the investigation seem unsolvable. A careful burglar may have worn gloves to keep himself from leaving fingerprints; hard rain may have compromised physical evidence in an open crime scene; fingerprints may have been found but cannot be matched with prints on file; or no informants or witnesses can provide leads. Such cases can be recognized as unsolvable, but only after all leads have been exhausted. A successful investigation is therefore one in which:

- A logical sequence is followed
- All physical evidence is legally obtained
- All witnesses are effectively interviewed
- All suspects are legally and effectively interrogated
- All leads are thoroughly developed
- All details of the case are accurately and completely recorder and reported

## **The Phases of Investigation**

In relation to the above objectives of criminal investigation, the *PNP Criminal Investigation Manual* enumerates the following phases in gathering all facts (PNP, 2011).

### ***Phase I: Identify the suspects through:***

1. Confession – admission of the suspect on the offense committed; an excellent means of identification; it may come in judicial, extra-judicial, involuntary and voluntary types
2. Eyewitness – made by several objective persons who are familiar with the appearance of the suspect who personally witnessed the commission of the offense and who have personal knowledge of what happened.
3. Circumstantial Evidence – established directly by proving other facts or circumstances from which either alone or in connection with other facts, the identity of the perpetrator may be established.
4. Associate Evidence – links a suspect with a crime

### ***Phase II: Locate and apprehend suspects***

- The crime perpetrator may not operate near his residence hence his flight from the scene is merely a return home, unless he is recognized during the commission of the offense

### ***Phase III: Gather and provide evidence to establish the guilt of the accused***

- The investigation must be competent in finding relevant evidence
- In criminal cases, physical evidence can be found at the crime scene, with the victim and from the perpetrator and their environment. Appreciation of forensic science is vital.

In proving the guilt of the accused in court, the fact of the existence of the crime must be established; the accused must be identified and associated with the crime scene; competent and credible witnesses must be available; and physical evidence must be appropriately identified and the investigator must know by heart the elements of a specific crime.

## **The Golden Hour in Crime Investigation**

“The Golden Hour” in crime investigation refers to the first 72 hours of a murder or kidnapping/abduction investigation (PNP, 2011). Actions undertaken at this period deal with the initial response to a crime scene and the initial investigation undertaken, including the conduct of interviews and profiling. It is the most crucial time for the investigator to collect vital evidence and information.

The actions of the police in solving the crime in this critical time is mostly cited as one of the weaknesses within the investigative process which is prone to error mostly in the response in terms of crime scene and evidence protection and evidence collection.

## **The Criminal Investigator**

The *PNP Criminal Investigation Manual* defines a ***criminal investigator*** as a public officer who is tasked to conduct the investigation of all criminal cases as provided for and embodied under the Revised Penal Code/Criminal Laws and Special Laws which are criminal in nature. He or she is a well-trained, disciplined and experienced professional in the field of criminal investigation duties and responsibilities (PNP, 2011).

## **Responsibilities of the Criminal Investigator**

In essence, the responsibilities of the investigator include the following:

1. Determine whether a crime has been committed.
2. Decide if the crime was committed within the investigator’s jurisdiction.

3. Discover all facts pertaining to the complaint
  - a. Gather and preserve physical evidence
  - b. Develop and follow up all clues
4. Recover stolen property.
5. Identify the perpetrator or eliminate a suspect as the perpetrator

Cases in criminal investigation are normally assigned by a criminal investigation chief or supervisor, or through rotation shifting basis. These assignments are usually based on investigative expertise (such as violent crimes of murder, homicide, abduction, sexual assault, violence against women and children, bombing, robbery, theft, fraud, etc.), case load, and/or area of responsibility.

It is the responsibility of the investigator to address every step of the investigation in a manner that the legal system will support. Once the investigator receives a case for investigation, he or she becomes personally responsible for the following:

- Becoming thoroughly familiar with the initial report and determining what leads have been identified and what activities might produce additional leads
- Profiling of the suspect and victim in terms of affiliation, occupation, nationality and criminal background, through dwelling, search, seizure and analysis of records, computer and mobile phone exploitation, CCTV footages, family and friends, and collection of information from other authorities.
- Evaluating pieces of evidence collected in the case and what exploitation should be done
- Coordinating with other groups of crime respondents and other agencies in order to determine if there is any additional information that may not be reflected in the initial report, and to help clarify information contained in the initial report.
- Determining whether surveillance needs to be conducted
- Identifying the modus operandi (MO) and attempting to associate it with other reported cases with the end goal of identifying a suspect.
- Evaluating the legal significance of any victim and witness statements, and determining which individuals need to be re-interviewed
- Collecting additional evidence that may have been overlooked during the preliminary investigation
- Attempting to identify and arrest a suspect based on a review of all of the facts, circumstances, statements and evidence connected with the case.

### **Essential Qualities of an Effective Criminal Investigator**

Other than being adequately prepared, an effective criminal investigator must possess and develop certain essential qualities such as the following:

1. **Team Player** – effective investigators are good team players. They are willing to share information, knowledge, and experience. They take the initiative to keep other team members informed of the development of their case.
2. **Communication Skills** – an investigator must be thoroughly skilled in both oral and written communication in order to obtain all information from a witness or obtain a

confession from a suspect. Intuition is sometimes described as a “sixth sense” that police officers develop, which frequently results in “hunches” concerning how a crime was committed or by whom, and/or where and when the next one will occur. Intuition is not something that can be taught, but is instead something that an investigator develops with time and experience. Drawing on experiences and training, the investigator forms a subconscious thought process that is frequently hard for someone outside the profession to understand or clearly define.

3. **Street Knowledge** – a criminal investigator should be knowledgeable of the environment and demographic profile of his environment as this is a source of information which is a material tool for an effective investigative planning.
4. **Observation Skills** – a criminal investigator will often see things in a different light than the ordinary person. Drawing on training and experience, the investigator will frequently notice clues that would not be noticeable to just anyone. The investigator will routinely note subtle details about an individual that would normally go unnoticed. This is a skill that can be developed with time and practice. This same type of training can be employed personally, simply by concentrating on details and practicing this concentration consistently.
5. **Self-Discipline** – a high degree of self-discipline guides the investigator’s behavior to ensure that only legally acceptable and ethical methods of investigation are utilized to solve cases. A successful investigator is always alert, gives attention to detail, and never leaves anything to chance that might jeopardize the successful prosecution of the case.
6. **Reasoning Ability** – the investigator should have the ability to draw a conclusion on the suspects and their MO’s based on evidence discovered in the course of an investigation. Police officers, especially new officers, are told not to include opinions in their reports. However, criminal investigators are, by the nature of their job, required to develop opinions. Investigators should realize or admit that his or her bias can influence their course of action.
7. **Stability Under Pressure** – an investigator should be able to handle pressure from his superiors, victims and their families, the media, and other anti-organized crime community watch groups.
8. **Organizational Abilities** – the nature of investigative work demands that the investigator possesses and practices some form of organization of information. This information includes written reports, witness statements, photographs, past MO’s (Mission Order), crime reports and crime analysis information. All of these details must be organized in a useable form in order to allow the investigator to fully utilize the information. Likewise, this organization must carry over into the final investigative report in order to allow the prosecutor to follow and understand the case. Lastly, at trial, the investigator must be able to convey all of these pieces of information in an understandable chronological sequence in order for the court to reach the same level of understanding and conclusions as the investigators. This trait can also be developed and is often enhanced through the supervisory skills of the investigator’s superior officer.
9. **Persistence** – a good criminal investigator is persistent and does not readily accept an answer that does not fit the facts. The persistence frequently outlasts the criminal and eventually a break will develop. There will be times when the investigator is not absolutely sure who the culprit is or if the culprit is absolutely guilty. A good investigator seeks out the correct answers and does not easily give up.

10. **Investigative Ethics** – this is the foundation upon which an investigator’s reputation and credibility is built, which also affects the entire organization. An investigator must always perform his or her job in a professional and ethical manner. Lying or distorting the facts is never an acceptable practice.
11. **Legal Knowledge** – a successful investigator must have a thorough working knowledge of criminal law and a familiarity of civil law in order to be effective. Legal restrictions must be acknowledged at all times and the right of everyone must be consistently and habitually protected. By understanding and correctly applying the law, the investigator ensures that the final case will stand the legal test of the court.
12. **Good Understanding of Characteristics of Human Nature** – there are certain characteristics of human nature that a criminal investigator must appreciate in order to conduct a quality investigation. These general principles can be used to the investigator’s advantage if they recognize what is occurring and adjust their strategy accordingly. Some characteristics of human nature are as follows:
  - *Personal Bias* – everyone has their own personal biases which influence them in their everyday lives. Often, we are unaware of the influence that our biases have on our actions and decisions. Victims and witnesses can often transfer their own bias or preference into an investigation, sometimes inadvertently. A good investigator should not be surprised when a person gives an account which is substantially different than other witnesses.
  - *Lying* – an investigator should not be surprised when a witness or suspect lies during the course of investigation. Both may have good reasons to lie, which may include love, money, freedom, reputation, protection or simply to maintain peace and harmony in the family or within the circle.
  - *Maintaining Self-Control* – the investigator loses effectiveness once his or her own emotional vulnerability is shown to the suspect. Loss of this rapport can affect the investigator’s effort to obtain additional information or even a confession.
  - *Creatures of Habit* – this can be a good basis for profiling criminal offenders, being a very important characteristic of human behavior, which may be helpful to the investigators. Several crimes were committed in a similar manner by the same perpetrator because of habit. The use of modus operandi is based on this principle.
  - *Group Perception* – a successful investigator must have a good understanding of this human nature. People with like backgrounds tend to see things the same because of their common experiences, age, professional backgrounds, education, or association.
  - *Personal Emotions* – an effective investigator does not allow emotions to get in his or her way in the conduct of investigation, particularly, in dealing with suspects and witnesses. Regardless of the nature of crime and profile of the offender, the investigator must always act in a professional manner.

## **Tools of Investigation**

The following are the tools of an investigator in gathering facts, which are also commonly known as the three *I*'s of investigation (PNP, 2011).

### **1. Information**

This refers to the data gathered by an investigator from either regular, cultivated or grapevine sources including the victims themselves, and from:

- a. Public records
- b. Private records
- c. Modus Operandi files
- d. Arrest records
- e. Rogue Gallery

### **2. Interview**

This refers to the skillful questioning of suspects and witnesses believed to possess knowledge that is of official interest to the investigator. It includes so-called interrogations which are actually interviews that elicit information from witnesses as well as volunteers, paid or confidential informants.

### **3. Instrumentation**

This refers to the use of forensic technology as a tool in the examination of physical evidence using established methods. The use of forensic science is material in current trends of investigation.

## **Basic and Necessary Investigative Equipment of the Investigator**

A different investigator should ensure availability of basic equipment and supplies before going out of the police station to conduct an investigation. These may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Recording instruments
  - a. Camera
  - b. Voice recorder
  - c. Video camera
  - d. Measuring device (tape measure, ruler)
  - e. Crime scene template
  - f. Evidence tags
  - g. Evidence markers
  - h. Other electronic recording gadgets
2. Personal protective equipment
  - a. Hand protection
  - b. Eye protection
  - c. Foot protection

- d. Respiratory protection
- e. Head protection
3. Preservation materials
  - a. Police line
  - b. Evidence containers (evidence bags, boxes, glass jars, bottles, canister, tubes, vials, etc.)
4. Fingerprint kit
5. General crime scene kit
6. Evidence collection kit
7. Documentation and investigative forms
8. Investigator's checklists and forms

### **Standard Methods of Recording Investigative Data**

- Photographs
- Sketching crime scenes
- Written notes (what you have seen or observed)
- Developing and lifting fingerprints found at the crime scene
- Gathering physical evidence
- Plaster cast
- Tape recording of sounds
- Video tape recording of object
- Written statements of victims and witnesses

### **The Investigator's Notebook**

Considering then mass of information and the number of cases that investigators are handling, it is very possible, that they might forget some details. Many of the details associated with the investigation, while not essential to the report, might become points of interest to the court when the case is brought to trial. Experienced investigators use a notebook or tickler to record the relevant details of the case. During trial, the court allows investigators to consult their notes to refresh their memory.

The data of the investigation should be recorded in a complex, accurate, and legible fashion so that in the event that another investigator is required to assume responsibility for the investigation, the other investigator can make intelligent use of the notebook.

### **Protocols in Investigation**

In conducting an investigation, certain standards must be followed to ensure successful prosecution of cases. These consist of standard operating procedures, protocols, and legal requirements of the law that must be observed in handling criminal cases, which may result to unsuccessful investigation if undetermined. The following are the PNP's protocols which are to be observed when conducting an investigation (PNP, 2011).

**1. Jurisdictional investigation by the territorial unit concerned**

The police station which has territorial jurisdiction of the area where the crime incident was committed shall immediately undertake the necessary investigation and processing of the crime scene, unless otherwise directed by higher authorities for a certain case to be investigated by other units/agencies.

**2. Official Police Blotter**

As a general rule, all crime incidents must be recorded in the official police blotter, which is an 18”x12” hard-bound logbook that contains the daily register of all crime incident reports, official summary of arrests and other significant events reported in a police station. The duty police officer shall record the nature of the incident, detailing the “five W’s and one H” (what, when, where, who, why and how), and inform his superior officer regarding the incident. Material details include the nature of the action or offense, the date, time and place of occurrence, the names of the suspects, victims and witnesses, the facts of the case, significant circumstances that aggravate or mitigate the event or the crime, the identity of the officer to whom the case is assigned, and the status of the case.

**3. Investigation team and equipment**

All investigators in any police unit must be a graduate of the prescribed investigation course

***Suggested Readings:***

Muftuoglu, PSupt. Emma Galero. Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Quezon City, ChapterHouse Publishing Inc. 2017

Garcia, Rodolfo. The Art of Criminal Investigation and Detection. Quezon City. Central Book Supply, Inc. 2003

<https://www.slideshare.net/mobile/harveabella/philippine-national-police-criminal-investigation-manual>

[www.pnp.gov.ph](http://www.pnp.gov.ph)

## Learning Plan

**Lesson No:** 3

**Lesson Title:** Crime Scene Investigation Components and Processing

**Let's Hit These:**

At the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

- Define “crime scene”;
- Enumerate the essential elements of a successful crime scene investigation;
- Enumerate the components of the crime scene investigation and explain their functions and responsibilities;
- Explain how a crime scene is released; and
- Discuss the purpose and the activities involved in processing a crime scene.

**Let's Read:**

### CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION COMPONENTS AND PROCESSING

A **crime scene** is a place or venue where the alleged crime, incident or event has been committed (PNP, 2011). It can comprise several sites and encompasses all areas over which victims, criminals, and eyewitnesses move during the commission of a crime. When committing a crime, the perpetrator may inadvertently leave evidence in the crime scene. It is therefore important that once its position and boundaries are defined, the scene must be made secure in order for physical evidence to be discovered and collected (Osterburg & Ward, 2010).

A successful crime scene investigation consists of the following essential elements (Fisher, Tilstone, & Woytowicz, 2009)

- Protection of the scene against contamination, degradation, and loss of evidence
- Documentation of the scene to ensure the integrity of identification of samples and the place where they were found
- Systematic searching to ensure identification and collection of relevant evidence
- Appropriate collection, packaging, and labeling of evidence

When a crime is reported through a phone call or a walk-in complainant, the desk officer is tasked with the responsibility to do the following:

1. Record important details such as the time it was reported, the identity of the caller or walk-in complainant, the exact address, the nature of the incident, and the contact number of the victims
2. Take note of the brief narrative of the incident
3. Direct the nearest mobile car, beat patrol team or the nearest police station to validate the report and act as first responder
4. Inform the investigating team on duty.

### Components of Crime Scene Investigation

Crimes cannot be solved by a single individual no matter how good he or she might be. Teams of experts are required to properly investigate a crime scene. A senior investigating officer needs to oversee the scene-of-crime operation team mobilized to the site. This team is also supervised by a crime scene supervisor or manager who is, in turn, directing the crime scene processing according to strict standards. Thus, investigations commonly occur within an atmosphere of stringent accountability.

**Crime Scene Investigation (CSI)** refers to the post-incident police operational procedures undertaken at the crime scene when a crime has been committed. It involves a comprehensive inquiry of a crime by conducting a systematic procedure of various investigative methodologies which involves recovery of physical and testimonial evidence for the purpose of identifying the witnesses and arrest of perpetrator(s) for prosecution. It is one of the most critical stages of any criminal investigation. The initial actions taken at the crime scene by the first responders, the investigator, and the Scene of the Crime Operation (SOCO) team members at the outset of the investigation are of such vital importance that oftentimes their actions determine the outcome of the investigation. However, while CSI is the most important stage of the investigation in terms of collecting vital forensic evidence and information, this initial stage is also often the most chaotic and therefore prone to errors (PNP, 2011).

There are three components of crime scene investigation who have specific and clear delineation of function in order to avoid confusion at the crime scene.

1. First Responder (FR)
2. Investigator-on-Case (IOC)
3. Scene of the Crime Operation (SOCO) Team

The investigation begins upon arrival of the FR. Subsequently, a designated IOC assumes responsibility and control over the scene. The IOC conducts an assessment and requests for SOCO assistance if necessary.

### **First Responder (FR)**

The PNP's first responders are those mandated and expected to be the first to respond to calls for assistance in cases of incidents or crime. They generally refer to police officers who have jurisdiction of the area where the incident or crime has taken place and will proceed to the crime scene to render assistance to the victim and to protect and secure the incident scene.

Standard operating procedures in the PNP requires first responders to perform the following functions and responsibilities in the conduct of CSI (PNP, 2011)

1. The first police officers to arrive at the crime scene are the FRs dispatched by the local police station that received the incident report.
2. Immediately, the FR shall conduct a preliminary evaluation of the crime scene. This evaluation should include the scope of the incident, emergency services required, scene safety concerns, administration of life-saving measures, and establishment of security and control of the scene.

3. The FR is mandated to save and preserve life by giving the necessary first aid measures to the injured and their medical evacuation as necessary. The FR shall likewise secure and preserve the crime scene by cordoning off the area to prevent unauthorized entry of persons.
4. The FR shall take the “Dying Declaration” in case there are severely injured persons. The FR shall make the initial assessment on whether a crime has actually been committed and shall conduct the preliminary interview of witnesses to determine what and how the crime was committed. The requisites of a “Dying Declaration” are the following:
  - That death is imminent and the declarant is conscious of the act;
  - That the declaration refers to the cause and surrounding circumstances of such death;
  - That the declaration relates to facts which the victim is competent to testify to; and
  - That the declaration is offered in a case wherein the declarant’s death is the subject of the inquiry.
5. If and when there is a suspect present in the areas, the first responder shall arrest, detain, and remove the suspect from the area.
6. Upon the arrival of the IOC, the FR shall turn over the crime scene to him or her after giving a brief of the situation. The FR shall prepare and submit the “CSI Form 1: First Responder’s Form” to the IOC and be prepared to assist the IOC in the investigation; and
7. The FR shall stay in the crime scene to assist the IOC in the maintenance of security, crowd control, preservation of evidence, and custody of witnesses and suspects until such time that the investigation is completed and temporarily turned over to the local chief of police for the continuance of crime scene security.

### **Investigator-On-Case (IOC)**

The investigator-on-case (IOC) refers to the duty investigator duly assigned or designated to conduct the inquiry of the crime by following a systematic set of procedures and methodologies for the purpose of identifying witnesses, recovering evidence, arresting, and prosecuting the perpetrators. The IOC shall assume full responsibility over the crime scene during the conduct of the CSI.

Standard operating procedures in the PNP require the IOC to perform the following functions and responsibilities in the conduct of CSI (PNP, 2011):

1. Upon arrival at the crime scene, the IOC shall request for a briefing from the FR and make a quick assessment of the crime.
2. At this stage, the IOC shall assume full responsibility over the crime scene and shall conduct a thorough assessment of the scene and inquiry into the incident. If necessary, the IOC may conduct crime scene search outside the area where the incident happened, employing any of the various search methods.

3. Based on the assessment, if the IOC determines that a SOCO Team is required, he shall report the matter to the chief of police and request for SOCO assistance. Otherwise, the IOC shall proceed with the CSI without the SOCO Team.
4. The IOC may, by himself, conduct the CSI if the situation so demands and if there is no crime laboratory in the area. However, the IOC must ensure that the correct procedures in the collection of evidence are observed to ensure admissibility of such evidence.
5. Upon the arrival of the SOCO Team, the IOC shall accomplish a request for the conduct of SOCO and submit it to the SOCO team leader. The SOCO team shall not enter the crime scene unless the IOC makes the official written request wherein he assures the SOCO Team of his presence and support.
6. The IOC shall brief the SOCO Team upon their arrival at the crime scene and shall jointly conduct the preliminary crime scene survey.

### **Scene of the Crime Operation (SOCO)**

The Scene of the Crime Operation (SOCO) refers to the functional capability of the PNP Crime Laboratory performed by its trained personnel through the recognition, methodical search, proper documentation/recording and collection of physical evidence at the crime scene.

Standard operating procedures in the PNP require SOCO Team to perform the following functions and responsibilities in the conduct of CSI (PNP, 2011):

1. The SOCO Team shall not join any operations conducted by the local police or accompany the FRs or the IOC in going to the crime scene. They will only respond upon request through the Operations Center and after the IOC has already made the proper assessment of the crime scene.
2. Upon receipt of the request for the conduct of SOCO, the SOCO Team shall then conduct the scene-of-the-crime operations which include, among others, the crime scene approach, preliminary survey, physical evidence assessment, narrative description of the crime scene, crime scene documentation, crime scene search, physical evidence recording and collection, final crime scene survey, and some other necessary post-processing procedures.
3. In case the SOCO Team needs to temporarily suspend the processing, the chief of police shall be primarily responsible and accountable for securing the crime scene and ensuring its integrity until the return of SOCO Team and the conclusion of the CSI.
4. After the termination of the SOCO, the SOCO Team Leader shall brief the IOC on the initial results and thereafter conduct the final crime scene survey together with the IOC.
5. The SOCO Team shall accomplish the SOCO report forms and furnish the IOC of copies of the same before leaving the crime scene.

Although these three components of the crime scene investigation have clearly delineated functions, the **territorial police** also have duties at the crime scene such as the following:

- Provide assistance in the evacuation of the injured persons to the nearest hospital
- Provide area security
- Control the crowd at the crime scene
- Direct the flow of traffic away from the crime scene so as not to destroy and contaminate vital evidence
- Provide security back up to the SOCO

The actions taken by all personnel at a crime scene often determine the success or failure of a criminal investigation. It is very important that they clearly understand and carry out correctly the operational procedures to ensure the survival of victims, the apprehension of the perpetrator, and the resulting prosecution of the criminal.

### **Release of the Crime Scene**

It is the IOC who makes the decision regarding the lifting of the security cordon and the release of the crime scene, in consultation with the SOCO Team Leader. The IOC must ensure that all pieces of potential evidence have been collected by the SOCO Team; any re-entry into the crime scene after its release to the owner will require a search warrant issued by the court.

The IOC must also ensure that appropriate inventory has been provided by the SOCO Team and shall only lift the security cordon and release the crime scene after completion of the documentation process. The IOC or the chief of police shall then turn over the crime scene to the owner of the property or, where the crime scene is a public place, to any local person in authority. The IOC shall also accomplish and submit the Investigator's Report with all the required attachments within two working days from the date of incidence. The CSI Report shall be the first entry in the case folder for the investigation of the incident.

### **Types of Crime Scene**

The following are different types of crime scenes according to time of commission, location and source of evidence.

- **According to Time of Commission**
  1. Day time crime scene – from sunrise to sunset (6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.)
  2. Night time – from sunset to sunrise (6:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M.)
- **According to Location**

1. Indoor Crime Scenes

- Affords the crime scene protection from weather
- Allows investigators to take time and process the scene in a slow and methodical manner, without concern for weather influences



2. Outdoor Crime Scenes

- Most vulnerable to weather condition
- Presents the most problems



- 3. Continuing/Mixed Crime Scene
  - From indoor to outdoor or vice versa



- 4. Special Location
  - Examples include vessel, vehicle, air plane, drum, septic tank, etc.
  - The most difficult to handle because of its nature
  - Mostly needs special support resources to process



- **According to Sources of Evidence**

- 1. Primary Crime Scene

- Investigation usually begins where the body is originally found
2. Secondary Crime Scene
    - Where the victim was confined
    - Where the assault initially took place
    - Route to and from primary crime scene
    - Method used to transport the victim (vehicles, air plane, vessel, etc.)
    - Any place where evidence is located

## **Crime Scene Processing**

Processing a crime scene refers to the application of diligent and careful methods by an investigator to recognize, identify, preserve, and collect facts and items of evidentiary value that may assist in reconstructing that which actually occurred. Successful processing also depends upon the investigator's ability to protect, preserve and later, to present these evidences in a logical manner. This requires making careful and detailed notes, sketches and written statements; transcribing verbal statements from witnesses and suspects; and marking and preserving collected physical objects of evidentiary nature (PNP, 2011)

The purpose of processing the crime scene is to collect as much information and evidence as is possible, in as pristine a condition as possible. This evidence will serve to develop conclusions regarding how the crime transpired, who was involved and why it was committed. Certain sequences of procedures must be followed because there is only one chance to do it right. There are very few opportunities to reenter the crime scene without evidence being altered or damaged. The mere presence of crime scene investigator's result in the adding, moving or damaging evidence in the scene as it is processed.

Crime scene processing follows a definite procedure that involves the following activities: assessing, observing, documenting, searching, collecting and analyzing. Investigators should make sure to begin with the least-intrusive methods of processing and leave the most intrusive methods to the latter stages (Gardner, 2005).

## **Assessing**

The crime scene technician must first assess the circumstances in order to decide on a proper course of action. Assessment in terms of the extent of and complexity of the crime scene begins the processing task and defines what procedures will be employed such as how resources will be utilized and how risks can be mitigated.

In the book *Criminal Investigation: The Art and the Science*, the following steps in crime scene assessment are recommended (Lyman, 2011):

1. Evaluate measures and steps that have been taken to include safety procedures, perimeter security and access control, the adequacy of investigative resources, whether witnesses and suspects have been identified, and the degree to which preliminary documentation of the crime scene has been made.

2. Conduct a crime scene walk-through in cooperation with the first responder and individuals responsible for processing the crime scene to identify any threats to crime scene integrity and begin an initial identification of evidence.
3. Determine the need for a search warrant before collection of evidence.
4. Assess the overall crime scene before evidence collection to develop a plan for working within the crime scene without unnecessarily destroying or contaminating evidence.
5. Identify evidence collection and document team members, including specialists such as odontologists, bomb technicians, arson investigators, entomologists and fingerprint technicians among others.
6. Identify protective equipment and clothing that are required to safely process the crime scene.
7. Identify a separate area, if necessary, for equipment and personnel staging and for gathering and sanitizing tools, equipment, and personal protective gear between evidence collections.
8. Assign one officer whose primary responsibility is recording, and collecting items of evidence. This will increase efficiency, establish the chain of custody, help prevent loss, and reduce the number of officers who must appear in court.
9. Determine the evidence search method to be used and the point(s) at which the search will begin and establish a working route around the scene to minimize disruption and contamination.

## **Observing**

Observing entails looking and mentally registering the condition of the scene and artifacts found there. In most instances, this activity is nonintrusive. However, when investigators move around the crime scene or when they attempt to better observe certain items of interest, this presents opportunities that could add, move or damage evidence. They must consciously act to reduce the intrusiveness of observation by limiting movement within the crime scene (Gardner, 2005).

## **Documenting**

Documentation includes the preparation of written reports of the investigator's observation, photographing and videotaping of the scene, and the creation of sketches. This will be discussed further in *Lesson 5 on Crime Scene Documentation*.

Documentation is critical to crime scene processing because this allows the investigators to back up claims regarding the original condition and context of the scene. It is relatively nonintrusive, although taking measurements could present opportunities to change or damage the condition of the scene. Crime scene personnel in charge of documentation should therefore employ the least intrusive methods first.

## **Searching**

The actual search begins after the documentation of the crime scene. There are many different ways to search the scene for evidence, depending on the types of crime scenes or the evidence at hand. This is discussed further in *Lesson 6 on Crime Scene Search*.

## **Collecting**

Collection of evidence is accomplished after the search is completed. Once collected, an item cannot be placed back into the scene for documentation. If the item is moved prior to documentation, then the investigator will have to live with the mistake and simply provide whatever written documentation is possible regarding its original location or condition (Gardner, 2005).

The proper handling of evidence is discussed further in *Lesson 7, Physical Evidence*.

## **Analyzing**

This activity refers to the actual processing of evidence by evaluating the context of a scene and the physical evidence found there in an effort to identify what occurred and in what order it occurred. This is like putting together pieces of a jigsaw puzzle to solve the crime. The crime scene investigator accomplishes crime scene analysis by using scientific methods, physical evidence, and deductive and inductive reasoning to gain explicit knowledge of the series of events that surround the commission of a crime. The specific purpose of the analysis is to gain explicit knowledge of the series of events that comprise a given incident and, when possible, to identify the most likely sequence of those events (Gardner, 2005).

## ***Suggested Readings:***

Muftuoglu, PSupt. Emma Galero. Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Quezon City, ChapterHouse Publishing Inc. 2017

Garcia, Rodolfo. The Art of Criminal Investigation and Detection. Quezon City. Central Book Supply, Inc. 2003

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***Module Post Test:***

**Test I – Multiple Choice** (25 points)

**Test II – True or False** (15 points)

**Test III – Essay** (10 points)







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## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

## COLLEGE OBJECTIVES



**NORTHWEST SAMAR**  
**STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Resilience • Integrity • Service • Excellence