



## ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

# Homicide and Suicide Investigative Techniques

**Instructor:** John Wiggins

**Length of Course:** 4 days

**Sessions Offered:** 1

### Abstract

Investigating a homicide is the ultimate challenge for law enforcement personnel. Actions taken from the outset of an investigation to the courtroom presentation will have a major influence on the successful outcome of the case. In order to identify the offender, prosecute and provide closure to the victim's family we must ensure a quality investigation is conducted. The investigation of an alleged suicide can be just as complex as an alleged murder. A suicide may be influenced by psychological, biological or social factors as well as a combination of any of the three.

This course will assist the new death investigator by giving direction on conducting, organizing, and managing a homicide or alleged suicide investigation from start to finish. Topics covered during the course are:

- First Responder Duties and Responsibilities
- Pyramid Investigative Technique of Homicide Investigation
- Lead Investigator Responsibilities and the Preliminary Investigation
- Scene Analysis and Reconstruction
- Crime Scene Considerations and Processing
- Time of Death Indicators
- Wound Characteristics
- Working with the Medical Examiner
- Follow-up Investigative Procedures and Techniques
- Types of Homicide Investigations
- Determining if it was physically possible for the decedent to commit suicide.
- Develop and detail all indications of intent to commit suicide on the part of the decedent.
- Developing motives for suicide.
- Identify the most common methods of suicide.
- Name the primary psychological disorders associated with suicide.



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## Biography

In 1983, John enlisted in the United States Air Force and served on active duty for five years as a Security Policeman, his primary duties consisted of patrol and later as a shift supervisor. Upon separation from active duty John joined the Air Force Reserves and served another five years as the Superintendent of the 916th Security Police Squadron located at Seymour Johnson AFB in Goldsboro, NC.

In 1988, John joined the Goldsboro Police. While at GPD he served as a Patrol Officer, Shift Crime Scene Investigator, Field Training Officer, Crime Scene Investigator/Evidence Custodian, Selective Enforcement Officer, Criminal Investigator, and Sergeant of Investigations. While with the Goldsboro Police Dept. John primarily specialized in crime scene investigation and crimes against the person.

John joined the North Carolina Justice Academy training staff in October 1998. His primary areas of instruction are Death Investigation, Suicide Investigation, and Fundamentals of the Investigative Process, and the coordination of other death related courses. In addition to his primary courses of instruction he also assists with the Bloodstain Pattern Analysis and Crime Scene Investigation courses. John provides technical assistance in the area of homicide, suicide, sexual assaults and case reviews upon request. In addition to his Academy duties, he serves as a reserve officer with the Indian Beach Police Department and instructs throughout the country in his areas of specialization.

John obtained a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Mount Olive College; completed the North Carolina Justice Academy's Criminal Investigator's Certificate Program and obtained the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Division. John resides in La Grange, North Carolina, and can be contacted by calling 252-286-8444 or by e-mailing [johnwiggins@embarqmail.com](mailto:johnwiggins@embarqmail.com).