**INVESTIGATIONS: 150 Things You Should Know**

Lawrence J. Fennelly, CPOI & CSSM and

Marianna Perry, MS, CPOI, CPP

Elsevier Publishers, Second Edition, 2018, p. 185

What a great reference book for our profession. This book offers a comprehensive overview of security investigations and the handling of evidence. In addition to providing simple and practical tips for all security professionals, but most of all, it provides legal guidelines that must be followed for a proper investigation.

As I’m reading this, I’m on page 150, I had this very same thing happen to me while on a stakeout, let me share with you the story below:

**THE “LUCKY” INVESTIGATION**

Over the years, we both have been involved in numerous investigations. Being lucky during an investigation is something we feel needs to be acknowledged. Fred Mullins, CPP, was telling us about a stakeout he was on. He spent 5 hours at the designated location and nothing. It was 5:00 a.m. and he decided to head home and go to bed. While traveling toward home on a major highway, the truck and the individuals he had been waiting for passed him on the left. Fred said, “I was lucky.” **But** **was it luck**, or being in the right place at the right time? What it dedication to theassignment? Was it knowing when to leave a stakeout? Was it a skilled investigator’s hunch? **Was it a degree of skill** or a mixture of all the above? We do know he completed his assignments and the individuals were arrested.

The book is broken down into five sections:

1. **The Role of the Investigator**
2. **The Basics About Evidence**
3. **Types of Evidence and Evidence Examination**
4. **Conducting the Investigation**
5. **Crime, Investigation, and the Legal System**

In addition to the section on The Sloppy Investigation, there are many checklists which are very much needed today. A reviewer in Amazon.com said, “A great resource for someone thinking of breaking into this field. It's easy for the inexperienced to get themselves in trouble on the job. This book will help avoid those complications. For the experienced investigator it is a great refresher.”

Based on this review I give it Five stars out of Five, it’s an excellent contribution to our profession.

Reviewer: Inge Sebyan Black, CPP, CFE, CSIM, CCIE, CPOI