



## *The World of a U.S. Army Special Agent*

*By Mr. Colby Hauser*

*There are many reasons to consider a career in the military, but for the professionals of U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (USACIDC) (commonly referred to as "CID"), serving as a special agent is much more than a career decision—it is a way of life. "It needs to be a calling because you don't get to flip a switch off at the end of the day," said Special Agent David Eller, a CID chief warrant officer. "It's an opportunity to be a part of something significantly larger than oneself," he said.*

The level of responsibility placed on CID agents is immense. Agents often work independently, with little to no supervision. And they may be assigned missions that have a significant impact on the local command—or even the Army at large. "You are often placed in a position that has much higher expectations. Whether it's protecting a dignitary at a foreign summit to working a murder case, you have to be on your 'A' game every day," Eller said. "The flash-to-bang time on failure is very, very short."

When it comes to the rewarding career of a special agent, CID investigators recommend that prospective applicants thoughtfully consider the decision. "It's a tough job—especially investigations," said Special Agent John Spann, a senior CID special agent. "If you are going to do it as a career, you have to be willing to change your lifestyle; but it's worth it," he said.

Due to the nature of the work, little information concerning ongoing CID investigations and techniques is released; therefore, outside encouragement and recognition for a job well done is often slow in coming or even nonexistent. "There are a lot of times where the success of a case is announced by its silence," Eller stated. However, it is commitment and dedication to the mission that set special agents apart. "Joe Public isn't going to come up and congratulate you every day," Spann said. "It's doing the right thing at the right time on your own. That's what it's all about."

CID investigates felony level crimes of interest to the Army worldwide. Special agents, who are federal law enforcement officials, are some of the most highly trained criminal investigators in law enforcement. CID agents have the opportunity to attend advanced training at some of the most prestigious law enforcement programs in the world, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy, Metropolitan Police Crime Academy at Scotland Yard, Department of Defense (DOD) Polygraph Institute, and Canadian Police Academy. "The advanced school and career opportunities are outstanding," said Special Agent Jennifer Bryan, chief of economic crime and logistics security with CID. "From the FBI Academy to Scotland Yard to the master's program in forensic science at [The] George Washington [University], the potential is always there to go somewhere to develop your career."

Unlike many other major law enforcement organizations, CID special agents do not always specialize in any singular discipline, so agents could find themselves conducting a murder investigation one week and an arson investigation the next. Eller said this jack-of-all-trades approach makes for a very well-rounded agent. Coupled with diverse assignments and advanced training opportunities, this allows agents to develop unique skill sets which are in very high demand in the civilian sector.

Professional career opportunities are just one reason special agents serving in the Army make the transition to CID. For some, it is the obvious next step in their military law enforcement career; for others, it is an opportunity they do not want to miss. "Moving to CID, for me, was just a natural progression within my military career," said CID Special Agent Harold Van Dusen. "I started out working on a [personnel security detail] as [a military policeman], and the transition seemed like a good opportunity."

Serving a global community of more than one million Soldiers, civilians, and family members, CID is always on the lookout for prospective agents and is seeking individuals who not only meet the basic requirements to become a special agent, but also possess certain characteristics that are demonstrated by most successful agents. "We need agents who'll take ownership of their investigations, but the most important thing we're looking for is integrity," Eller said. "When you commit yourself to this profession, the satisfaction often is internal."

# U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command



“We’re looking for a person of character— somebody who is loyal, balanced, professional, and organized,” Spann said. He added that agents deal with many negative aspects of life, and with a worldwide mission and an extremely high operational tempo, the ability to balance one’s personal and professional lives is a must.

If you are interested in seeking a career as a CID special agent, contact your local CID office or go to <http://www.cid.army.mil> for additional information.

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## *Recovery of Two Missing Soldiers*

*By Special Agent Martin Eaves*

Last summer, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (USACIDC) (commonly referred to as “CID”) special agents were dispatched to execute the sensitive-site exploitation of an area adjacent to Iskandariyah, Iraq. Discarded U.S. Army uniforms and equipment had been discovered in the area, and it was believed that human remains might be present there. In addition, CID was conducting an on-going investigation into the kidnapping of two U.S. Soldiers who were believed to have been taken by insurgents in the aftermath of an ambush that had taken place in May 2007.

Upon their arrival at the scene, CID elements were greeted by Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Newsome, commander of the 3-7 Infantry Battalion. Battalion personnel had discovered, secured, and protected the site.



**Photographing evidence during the search**

CID, human remains detection, and explosive military working dog teams and the 3-7 Infantry Battalion initiated a systematic search of the cordoned area. This resulted in the discovery of shallow graves and numerous other areas of interest containing suspected human remains. U.S. Army uniforms and equipment recovered from the area bore the insignia of the missing Soldiers’ unit. Name tapes belonging to one of the Soldiers were affixed to some of the evidence. The scene and surrounding search areas extended for nearly a kilometer.

Examinations by members of the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D.C., later confirmed the identities of the two Soldiers as Staff Sergeant Alex R. Jimenez and Private First Class Byron J. Fouty.

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