

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Security Classification / Designation

Classification / Designation securitaire

Protected "A"

Criminal Behaviour Analysis Unit 4949B Heather Street, Vancouver, BC V5Z 1K6

Your File Votre référence

Sgt. Geramy Field Homicide Unit Vancouver Police Department 312 Main Street, Vancouver, BC

Our File Notre référence 98E-7186

V6A 2T2

Dear Sgt. Field,

Re: Project Orion

(Downtown Eastside Missing Women Investigation)

For ease of reference, I have adopted the name "Project Orion" (hunting for the number) to refer to this investigation. Please find enclosed what I hope is only the first "profile" report on these cases.

I am at your disposal to refine the profile as more information becomes available, or provide whatever other behavioural oriented services that are within my means.

Sincerely,

Keith Davidson, Staff Sergeant

Criminal Profiler Major Crime Section RCMP "E" Division

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Case Assessment



1999-06-16

Missing Women Vancouver, BC 1995 -1999 Vancouver Police Department Case

Report Prepared by ...
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Voice: (604) 264-2943 Fax: (604) 264-2936

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Analysts

The following analysis was prepared by Staff Sergeant K.T. (Keith) Davidson, Criminal Behaviour Analysis Unit, Royal Canadian Mounted Police "E" Division Major Crime Section, in consultation with:

- · Corporal Scot Filer, Geographic Profiler,
- Detective Sergeant Neil Trainor, Geographic Profiler,
- Detective Inspector Kim Rossmo, Geographic Profiler,
- Detective Constable Lori Shenher, Vancouver Police Department Missing Persons Section,
- Sergeant Jeremy Fields, Vancouver Police Department, Homicide Squad.
- Inspector Glenn Woods, Criminal Profiler,
- Sergeant Bob Urbanoski, Criminal Profiler.

Caution

The scientific certainty normally associated with other disciplines of forensic analysis is not available with Criminal Behaviour Analysis. This analysis is based upon probabilities, noting however, that no two criminal acts or criminal personalities are exactly alike and therefore the offender, at times, may not fit the description of the offender characteristics and traits in every category. When reading this report it is important to distinguish between fact, theory and speculation in order to apply the appropriate weight to the opinions offered. This analysis is not a substitute for a thorough and well planned investigation and should not be considered all inclusive.

Missing persons cases are usually considered unsuitable for this technique because there is no crime scene, therefore no behaviour, to interpret. However, in this case, some opinions will be offered, based on the investigative assumptions listed below. If the assumptions are wrong, the opinions based on them are likely to be wrong.

Case(s) Considered

Investigation into the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of the following women:

- STW134
- S1W119
 - STW179
- MELNIK, Diana
- HOLYK, Tanya

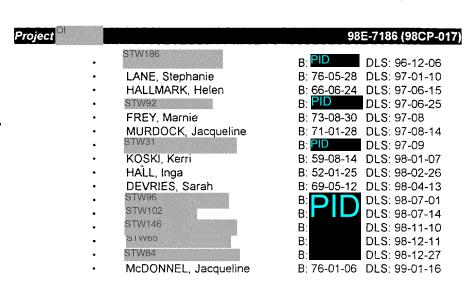
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DLS: 95-03 DLS: 95-04

DLS: 95-07-30

B: 75-08-06 DLS: 95-12-27 B: 75-12-08 DLS: 96-10-29

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NOTE: The date last seen are often estimates only.

Victimology

There is certain information related to the lifestyle of each victim of violent crime, which when assessed, reflects the vulnerability of that person becoming the victim of violent crime.

The following victimology characteristics appear to be common for most, if not all, of the missing women:

- They all looked female,
- They were street level sex trade workers,
- They worked the downtown eastside area of Vancouver at the time of their disappearance,
- · They were heroin and/or crack cocaine addicted,
- They did not use a spotter,
- They were not associated to a "pimp".

Based on the information meeting at W.I.S.H. on 99-06-08 with women currently working as sex trade workers in the downtown east side of Vancouver, these conditions likely existed for the missing women:

Most, if not all, would work for money or drugs,

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- Likely all of the women would have been easily convinced to leave the area and travel with a client to any location within Greater Vancouver.
- Likely all of the women would have gotten into a van, provided they believed there was only one occupant. The level of care involved in making the decision to enter the vehicle is expected to be minimal.
- It is relatively common for the women to get into vehicle where the passenger door has been rigged so that the women cannot open the door.

Sex trade workers are at an extremely high risk of becoming victims of a violent crime simply due to their profession. The women involved in this case, are even more vulnerable due to their dependancy on heroin or crack cocaine. Essentially, they are the most vulnerable adult victims available.

Investigative Assumptions

The following ASSUMPTIONS have been made, in order to provide a limited concept of the type of person responsible for the disappearance of the women listed above:

- THAT ALL of women are the victim's of a sexually motivated homicide.
- THAT ALL the victim's were murdered by one offender, or two
 offenders working in tandem.
- THAT ALL of the women were successfully transported out of the downtown eastside of Vancouver by a vehicle.
- THAT ALL of the women's bodies were disposed of with the express purpose of preventing discovery and that the offender(s) have been very successful in that purpose.

Unknown Variables There are several unknown elements involved in these crimes. For example,

 The offender may be taking the victims back to his residence, killing and hiding the bodies within the home.

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- The offender may kill his victims early in the crime then sexually assault, mutilate or otherwise interact with the lifeless body, or in the alternative, he may interact with a living victim by raping and torturing them and only killing them at the end of the crime.
- The offender likely has sexually deviant interests, non of which are apparent at this time.
- It is unknown if the offender kills every sex trade worker he is involved with or if he lets some live. If he does, the criteria for this decision remains unknown. NOTE: It is not uncommon for some serial killers to allow some victims to live while killing others. Sexually assaulting, or simply availing themselves of the sexual services between killings would be expected.

These and other variables will significantly alter the characteristics and traits noted below. As the investigation progresses, it is <u>strongly recommended</u> that any new information be shared with the writer in order to ensure the profile remains as accurate as possible.



Due to the variance in criminal personalities and complexities of individual motivations, the reader is cautioned that no single offender is likely to display all of the traits and behaviours listed below, although it is likely he will exhibit many of them.

The characteristics in the "profile" should, therefore, be viewed collectively rather than individually. They are intended to describe a type of personality involved, rather than providing specific and exact traits of the actual offender.

The following are the characteristics and traits most likely to be exhibited by the offender. While his basic personality will remain constant, some aspects of his life will be altered by his environment in the intervening time.

Race, Age and Sex

- The offender or offenders in this case are most likely white males.
- Research based on known serial killers, suggests the age of this type of offender to be somewhere in his thirties (however, the age range for the research population was 18 to 45, with the average age being 35).

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Intelligence

 The offender (or at least one of the offenders) is likely to be of average to above average intelligence. He likely does not have any history of mental illness involving delusions or significantly impaired thought processes. It is quite likely, however, he will be a psychopath and/or personality disordered.

Vehicle

- Based on the assumption that he is transporting his victims, at least out of the downtown eastside of Vancouver, he most likely has his own vehicle.
- This vehicle is likely to appear very ordinary. It will probably be well
 maintained mechanically. The vehicle will be relatively clean.

Personality Characteristics

- This offender is likely to be comfortable in the downtown eastside environment. I would expect him to appear quite "ordinary" and not draw much attention to himself, either by his dress or action. In effect, he will likely be "invisible" to most people living and working in the area.
- His initial contact with the women likely does not cause them any alarm. He is quite aware of what it takes to get the women into the

Crime Scene(s)

- In order to commit the murders, the offender(s) require sufficient privacy and uninterrupted time to assault and kill the victim.
 Consequently, the offender (or at least one offender if there is a partnership) has access to location at a time when privacy is assured.
- Since no bodies have been found, the offender(s) also has access to an effective disposal means. He is either effectively destroying the body, or hiding them in a location where other people do not

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frequently go. Such locations might include a private yard, the basement/attic of a house, or wilderness.

If a wilderness area is involved, there is an 88% chance that the body location is within 50 metres of a path, and a 97% chance that the body is within 100 metres of a path which can be negotiated by a vehicle. In prior cases where the victims were transported away from the murder scene, 94% were taken to an outdoor location. 57% were intentionally concealed by the offender.

Investigative Suggestions The following investigative suggestions are offered for consideration, some of which you may have already acted upon:

- 1: Continual contact with women working in the downtown eastside regarding customers or potential customers with the following criteria may identify a suspect:
 - any customer wishing to take the victim to a location out of the downtown eastside, regardless of whether or not the encounter was problematic;
 - any customer who's vehicle has been setup to disable the victim from opening the door;
 - any customer offering an unusual amount of money or drugs in an effort to entice the victim to go with him;
 - any customer wishing the sex trade worker to participate in "bondage", sado-masochist or master-slave games, where the women is the masochist or slave;
 - e. any customer wishing the sex trade worker to "play dead", such as lying perfectly still and/or taking a cold bath prior to having sex.
- Using the victimology criteria listed above, identify other women who may be victims of the same offender(s). Consideration should be given to both missing persons and known homicide victims. The search of other victims should not be restricted to the downtown eastside of Vancouver. It is possible that the offender(s) have been hunting for victims along other prostitute strolls in the past. Given the publicity around this case, it is also possible that he (they) will move to a new area to find victims. Vigilance for new victims is strongly recommended.

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- Identify all video cameras which have a view of any of the locations where the sex trade workers usually encounter customers, as well as the length of time the tapes are saved for each location.
 - In the event VPD installs video cameras in the area, a minimum 30 day retention period for each tape is strongly recommended.

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If another sex trade worker disappears, examining the tapes of the area she is believed to have been working on the date last seen may identify a suspect.

- 4. Suspects can be prioritized based on their familiarity with the downtown eastside, their interest in moving the sex trade worker out of that environment, and their access to a location suitable for carrying out the murder.
 - a. where possible, the following background information should be obtained:
 - i. sexual interests (from ex-wives, ex-girlfriends, sex trade workers);
 - ii. specific rural or wilderness areas he has travelled to in the past (and plot on a map if possible)
 - iii. a list of all vehicles to which he has <u>access</u> and the circumstances and frequency of that access.
 - Based on the above background information, suspects can be further prioritized and possible body dump sights can be identified.
- 5. Ms. Sylvia Port, ViCLAS "Rapid Id" Manager, downloads all the missing persons records from CPIC, Canada wide, on a weekly basis. She is in an excellent position to identify other women potentially matching the known victimology. I recommend that Ms. Port formally be requested to monitor the missing persons records and advise. Detective Shenher of any case in the greater Vancouver area where the victim appears to match the criteria noted above. Ms. Port can be contacted directly at: (604) 264-2248.
- I recommend that the Pacific Region ViCLAS Center, Homicide Analysts, Cpl. Yme Smid and Cpl. Marg Kingsbury, be tasked with identifying all known homicides of women from the downtown

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eastside of Vancouver, whose bodies were found outside Vancouver. Once those cases are identified, a linkage analysis be performed to determine if any of the known cases can be linked to each other. Following that analysis, another analysis be conducted to determine is there is any method of associating the known murders to the missing persons cases involved in this investigation. Cpl. Smid can be reached at (604) 264-2948 and Cpl. Kingsbury can reached at (604) 264-2887.

Future Consultation Criminal Behaviour Analysis is best applied in a consultative process and is based on information as it is known at the time of the analysis. Changes or additions to information as known may result in changes to the above opinions; therefore, continued analyst-investigator contact is strongly encouraged.

Additional information, questions regarding this report or discussion of suspects may be directed to Staff Sergeant Keith Davidson at (604) 264-2943, fax (604) 264-2936.

K.T. (Keith) Davidson, Staff Sergeant Criminal Behaviour Analysis Unit Pacific Region ViCLAS Centre

Major Crime Section