

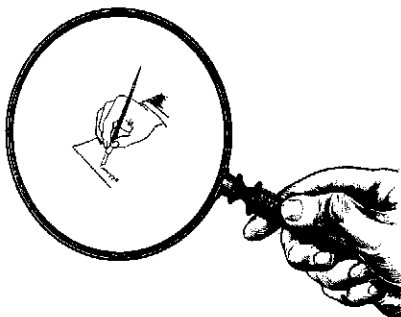
“What is Reconstruction”

“Crime scene reconstruction is the art of interpreting available information to determine what actions were taken by suspects and victims at the scene of a crime.”

Crime Scene Reconstruction falls more into the category of an art rather than a science. An art is defined as a “skill acquired by experience, study, or observation and the conscious use of a skill and creative imagination”. In other words, a reconstruction artist is one who has acquired certain skills through education, past experiences and uses these skills to organize the facts of the case along with reports of any scientific analysis completed. Awareness of the types of analysis that can be conducted, as well as, the sequence of the scientific analysis to be conducted is equally important. Evidence may be destroyed if not collected properly. Once all data is accumulated, and scientific analysis completed, all information is organized in an effort to properly reconstruct the occurrence of the crime.

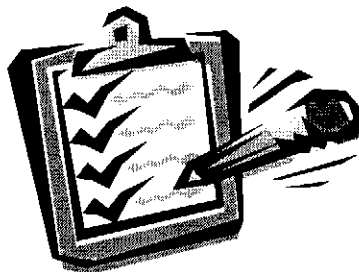
What materials are needed?

Since photographs and sketches are means of accurately documenting a crime scene, any equipment or materials supporting these means should be utilized. Appropriate sketching pads, writing instruments, rulers or

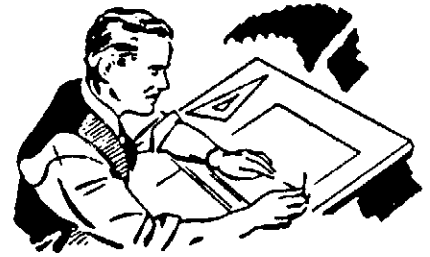


measuring devices will aid in this task. The sketch should represent the crime scene and any essential details to scale. The measurements of the area should also reflect the relationship of any objects in the area to the structure and to other surrounding objects. The sketch should be detailed enough to place any object back in its original location. This can also be done through photographic documentation. Sketches also add depth to supplied photographs. Sketches can show individual objects and their paths better than a photograph with the aid of measurements and specific notations related to the sketch. Autopsy sketches should also be utilized.

Photography of all areas should be captured with a 35mm lens. This



permits a wider angle view than that of the 50mm lens without pushing so far as having “fisheye” photographs. Photography of the scene, surrounding areas, autopsy photographs are all vital to the reconstruction. By combining photography and sketching, an artist can determine a great deal about a crime in the effort to reconstruct it. In addition, a video recorder may also be used to capture not only visual representation of the area, but also, commentary by the investigator on information that may aid in further analysis of the crime.



How is a reconstruction done?

Experience, training, forensic analysis, recorded information and common sense are the elements used to recreate a crime scene. The artist takes all information available, and eliminates possibilities that could not have occurred, to arrive at logical, realistic conclusions. Through deductive reasoning and scientific analysis, the investigative report may discredit suspicious claims of suicide, burglary, arson or even disprove statements provided by deceitful witnesses involved in the case. This may save considerable man hours on highly unlikely investigative leads.

When to call in a Reconstruction Artist?

Commencement of the investigation. Many times artists are not utilized until further into the investigation. The problem: valuable pieces of information may be missed, precluding the expert from drawing an accurate reconstruction of the crime. Often an artist is not called until a case is close to trial, and the opportunity to evaluate everything involved in the case may be lost. All appropriate details of the case, from start to finish, must be accumulated to support a proper analysis of a case. Limiting necessary information to any individual involved in the investigation will limit the accuracy and speed of proper reconstruction of the crime.