D'Anna

Tactical Crime Analysis

Corresponds with Boba, Ch. 8 and Paulsen, Bair, and Helms: Ch. 4-5, 11-13

Definition

- “The study of recent criminal incidents and potential criminal activity through the examination of characteristics such as how, when, and where the activity has occurred to assist in pattern development, investigative lead and suspect identification, and case clearance” (Boba 2005).

- What, How, When, and Where

Definition

- **What**
  - Crime type/category (robbery, burglary, sexual assault, etc.)
- **How**
  - Modus Operandi (MO)
    - The specifics of the crime
    - Point of entry, method of entry, suspect actions, weapon used, property taken, etc.
- **When**
  - Time of day, day of week, week of month, month of year
- **Where**
  - General (City, Beat, neighborhood)
  - Specific (Alley, bus stop, kitchen, etc.)
  - Address

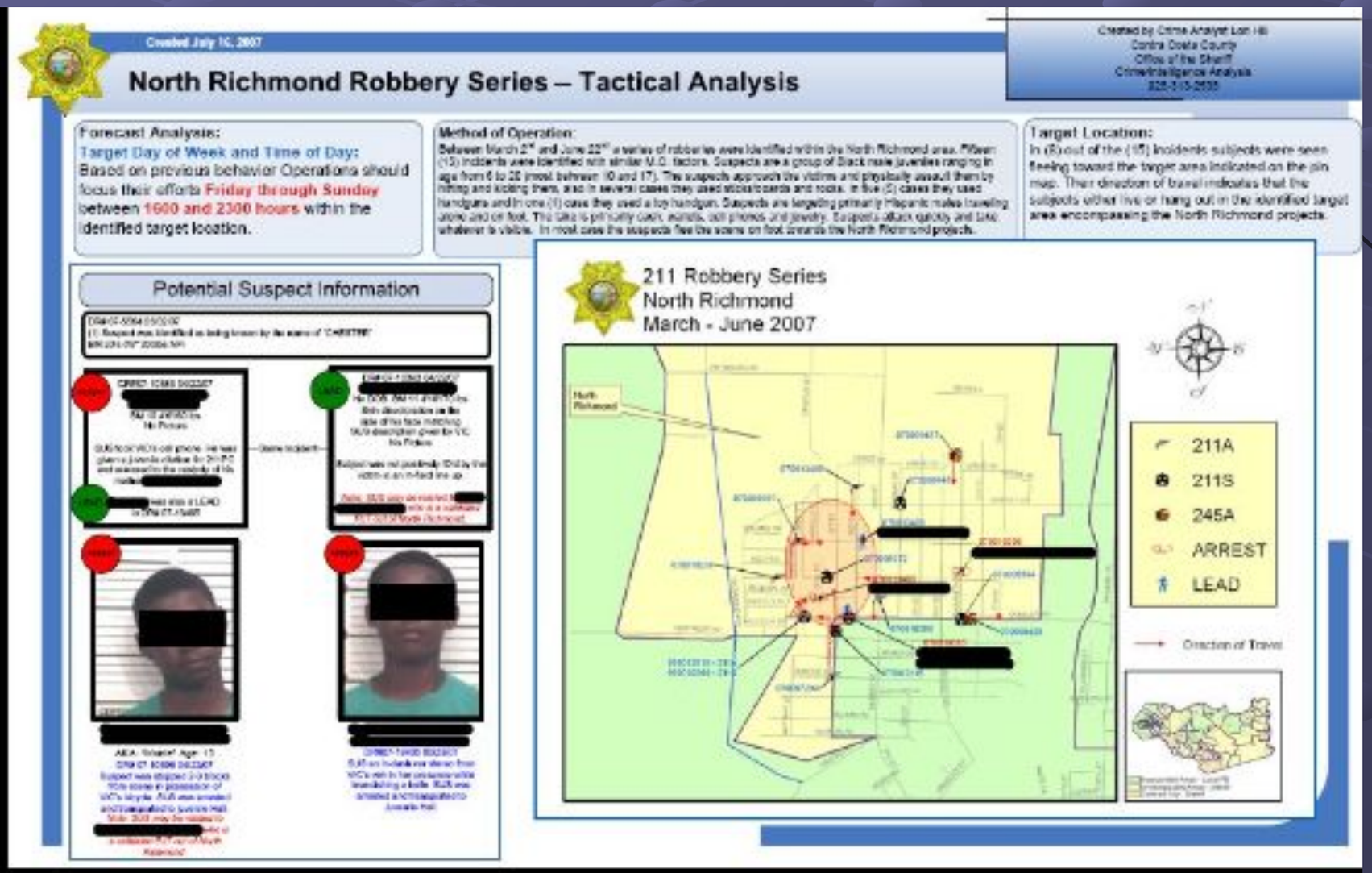
Tactical Analysis

- *Recent* crime incidents; short-term
- Identify unique decision-making processes, at the individual crime level
- Largely qualitative research-based
- Data collection differs from Strategic
  - NOT concerned with “official” definitions and crime types
- Uses GIS extensively
- Inductive vs. Deductive reasoning
  - Inductive: from specific to general
  - Deductive: from general to specific

D’Anna

Goals

- Pattern Development
- Investigative Lead & Suspect Identification
- Case Clearance



D'Anna

Pattern Development

- Typically *deductive* process
- Key Variables depend on type of crime problem
- Types
  - Trend
    - Similar crimes not involving the same suspects
  - Pattern
    - Similar crimes, not certain of the same suspects
  - Series
    - Similar crimes, definitely the same suspect(s)
  - Spree
    - Similar crimes in a very short time span

D'Anna

Pattern Development

- The IZE (aka “eyes”) Process
  - Common practice of tactical analysis is *trend-hunting*
    - Categorize: understand the essential variables (i.e. date, time, location, property removed, suspect description)
    - Generalize: group data into manageable fields (i.e. computer equipment, alcohol, cash, etc.)
    - Organize: view data in a matrix, similar to Microsoft Excel or ATAC (columns are key variables, rows are specific cases)
    - Minimize: Sort/narrow all cases based on patterns & commonalities among key variables, until the ***core cases*** of a crime trend are identified
    - Maximize: Apply the common characteristics of the ***core cases*** to the entire data set for other, loosely related crimes

Pattern Development

- The “Eyes” Process
  - Common practice of tactical analysis *trend-hunting*
    - Categorize: understand the essential variables (i.e. date, time, location, property removed, suspect description)

Pre-processing

    - Generalize: group data into manageable fields (i.e. computer equipment, alcohol, cash, etc.)

- Organize: view data in a matrix, similar to Microsoft Excel or ATAC (columns are key variables, rows are specific cases)

During analysis

- Minimize: Sort/narrow all cases based on patterns & commonalities among key variables, until the ***core cases*** of a crime trend are identified

- Maximize: Apply the common characteristics of the ***core cases*** to the entire data set for other, loosely related crimes

D’Anna

Pattern Development

- The “Eyes” Process
  - Common practice of tactical analysis *trend-hunting*

Analysis!

- Minimize:
  - Identify key variables, including:
    - Crime, property, weapon, location, point/method of entry
  - Filter cases based on common characteristics
    - Filter until the **core cases** are identified
      - “Core cases” are the handful of crimes that are confidently related, because the variables match so well
- Maximize:
- Examine the core cases
  - Regardless of what variables were used to find them, what do they have in common?
- Use those variables to query all the data again, to find more related events

D’Anna

Pattern Development

- Once a crime “trend” is discovered, four intervention strategies:
  - Deterrence
    - Success/Risk/Punishment/Gain
  - <u>Denial</u>
    - Target-based & Method-based
  - Investigation
    - Traditional police work
  - Interception
    - Predicting behavior, catch in the act

D’Anna

Identifying IL's and Suspects

- Applied to specific cases and crime trends
- Assumptions based largely on recidivism and 80/20 theories
- Example data sources:
  - Known Offenders
  - Sex Offenders
  - Field Interview Cards
  - Probationers
  - Parolees
  - Gang Members

D'Anna

Case Clearance

- *Inductive* process
- Occurs <u>post-arrest</u>
- Use tactical crime analysis key variables to connect arrests with outstanding/additional (unsolved) incidents
  - Physical description
  - M.O.
  - Evidence/Property seized
  - Offender interview/admissions

D'Anna

Data Sharing

- Formal technology & partnerships
  - ATAC Raids
  - COPLINK
  - Meetings
  - Arizona Association of Crime Analysts
  - Task forces
    - Arizona Counter-Terrorism Information Center
    - FBI Los Angeles Bank Robbery
- Informal
  - Networking among analysts
  - Meetings, e-mails, phone calls, etc.
    - Establishing partnerships and contacts at various agencies

D'Anna