

# Jason Wilkins - The Purpose Driven Analyst

[00:00:00] Welcome to analyst talk with Jason elders like coffee with an analyst, or it could be whiskey with an analyst, reading a spreadsheet, linking crime events, identifying a series and getting the latest scoop on association news and training. So please don't beat that analyst and join us as we define the law enforcement analysis profession.

One episode ahead time. Thank

you for joining me. I hope many aspects of your life are progressing. My name is Jason Eler and today our guest

has three years of law enforcement analysis experience. He helped establish the first digital forensic lab for Platon county police department, just outside of Atlanta, Georgia.

And he also helped establish the info sharing network called the Southern crime analyst round. He went from the

Navy to fire department, to

police department, and soon he will be going on a

super secret analyst mission. Please. Welcome Jason Wilkins. Jason, how we doing? Hey, thank

you, Jason. You can't forget my name.

No, no, that that's. I can't

mess up that first name. It would be really [00:01:00] bad if I did, but it's so great to talk with you. Looking forward to talking about your contributions to the profession and. And just a little bit about that super secret analyst mission that I just mentioned. I know that's, there's not a lot of details that you're gonna be able to give us, but I am still intrigued by this idea.

yeah, we'll have to we'll have to circle back a year from now and maybe I can give a little more.

Yes, yes. Why do try to do. Where are they now segment from time to time. So I'll definitely have to put you on the list for

late next year on this, but all right, well, how did you discover the law enforcement

analysis profession?

Well I like so many of your other listeners that I've, I've lived listening to your podcast for a couple of years now on it. I started at the Clayton county police department in 2019. I've been listening to your show since. 2020 sometime mm-hmm . Thank you. And yeah, I love the show and I love listening to how people got to the [00:02:00] profession and how people, you know, took these circuitous paths and finally ended up somewhere that they can feel.

Passionate about, and, you know, like they're giving back to their communities and in whatever way they are. And, and that's what happened for me. So I started out in the us Navy in 1995. I did five years as a quartermaster on a surface amphib ship. And I wanted to get into intelligence analysis. But that didn't work.

I ended up getting out of the Navy instead. And a buddy of mine back here in Metro Atlanta was already working as an officer for the fire department and he said, come on, man. I can get you on. And so I went and applied and went through all of the fire academy and joined the fire department. And I worked there for 14 years as a firefighter.

Slash EMT slash hazmat tech slash rescue technician. So, I mean, I had all the slashes if they were offering training, I was taking it, you know .

Yeah. So, so [00:03:00] which did you find more difficult? The basic training that you went

through, the Navy or the, the training that you went. Through to be a fire to fire.

I it's gotta be the military. . I mean, anybody can tell you their horror story is about boot camp. And you know, at least with the fire academy, I got to go home at night. yeah. So, but I wouldn't, I wouldn't have traded it for anything in the world. I have two sons that are of currently and listening in the military and I'm proud of them and I'm glad to see them, you know, giving back and, and fulfilling their sense of purpose.

And so I looked forward for great things from them, but after the fire department, I while, actually, while I was in the fire department, I got my degree in criminal justice because I wanted to get into law enforcement. Mm-

hmm I knew that just working in the fire department, working so close, so close with the police department, I knew that I wanted to get into law enforcement and I was.

Already such a computer nerd as, as a hobbyist, you know, I was playing around [00:04:00] with Linux a Buntu Linux and building computers and things of that nature. And so I, I decided what, when I figured out and learned that digital forensics was a thing mm-hmm in law enforcement, then. I went and looked for a degree program that might be able to give me a path to digital forensics and they didn't have any at the time, not in, not before 2010.

So I had to kind of create my own. And I went to Iowa central community college. I finished my two year degree in criminal justice. And then I got, I went immediately into another two year degree program with them in computer networking. And I figured hell, I'll just combine the two and, you know, work and maybe go apply at GBI to work in their digital forensics lab.

But at that time they didn't want anybody that didn't have experience, even though you had the education mm-hmm so that didn't work out. And instead I used my computer networking degree to get a job is a network analyst for a [00:05:00] multinational distributor at Carl. And I, I kind of, I lost my sense of mission at that point.

Mm. And I didn't feel like I was sort of giving back to the community in that way.

What type of work were you doing with them? For them? It was

just, you know, network analysis on their distribution center and their. Their warehouse. Oh, okay. And it just wasn't it wasn't as fulfilling to me. And, you know, some people are just wired differently.

Some people really have to feel like they are making a difference in their community and in their world. And that was, that was me, you know, I just spent all those years in the military all those years in the fire department and, and just giving back to my community was what I wanted. So I went out and applied at the police department when I saw that they had a.

Analyst position open and it was a pay cut, but I felt like I would get more fulfillment from that. Mm-hmm so I signed up did the application, went through the, the interview process and come to find out later, there were almost 15 other

applicants with master's [00:06:00] degrees. Wow. That, that I. Beat out for the position and for whatever reason that is, I don't know.

But I, I believe that when, you know, fate opens the door, you walk through it. Yeah. So I went in and I started learning everything I could about crime analysis. I wanted to be the best crime analyst that I could be. And we were a small department that was only one other crime analyst there. She was fairly new.

So I wasn't able to get a whole lot of training from her because she was so focused on everything that she had had on her plate as the only analyst for over a year mm-hmm . Because they, they had more analysts prior to that, but those people had moved on. And

what was her name? She stuck. What, what is

her name?

I don't know if she wants to say, but her name was Renee Edmondson. Okay. But she. So she wasn't, you know, able to give me a whole lot of training. So I had to go out and seek it out. However I could. And this was pre COVID mm-hmm right. This was pre teams, pre zoom. [00:07:00] And you had to go physically to a location like Virginia mm-hmm and be put up in a hotel, take these classes, or, you know, wait until they have.

Offered at the public safety training center in Georgia. Now everything's online. It's great. If there's one thing that's positive that came out of the pandemic, it was that so much training is available online and it just wasn't that way at that time. So I started reading everything I could, that the DOJ has put out all kinds of publications crime analysis for problem solvers and 60 steps.

I loved that book. The, the sequel intelligence. For problem solvers. That was Ronald Clark, I think was one of the authors. Yeah. And

John

E John E yes. Yes. And I, I loved those books. Those became my Bibles. And I, you know, I, I learned about journey to crime theory from those books and they just made me spin off and want.

You know, read more and, and get more in depth on each topic. You [00:08:00] know, tho those books are set up to give you the, you know, the, the bird's eye

view of each different technique. But they were a great stepping off point for me to just dig in and find whatever training I could. And, I, I loved presenting.

Every week we had to do an intelligence briefing to the executives from, from our department, as well as other neighboring agencies, they would meet every week for an intelligence briefing. And it was my job as. One of two analysts to give that briefing. We took turns Renee and I all right.

Couple,

couple of follow up questions there before we move on then.

So I, I find it interesting that you went from the fire department to the

police department, cuz there's historically there's this. There's

a

sibling rivalry between the two departments. Did you, did you get much flack

from your fellow

firefighters about you wanting to seek a, a criminal justice career and then end up at a police department?

Honestly, no. [00:09:00] Yeah. Because we had a lot of firefighters at my department that were once police officers. Oh, okay. And vice and vice versa. So in at least in the Metro Atlanta area, I can't speak for anywhere else. The fire department and the police department worked together very closely. Oh, okay.

Especially since since nine 11 and the, you know, the, the, the national incident based system, everybody has to work together more closely. So. I didn't get a lot of flack. We still kind of tease each other. Yeah. Sort of like when it was in the military and, you know, you have Navy versus Marines, like, oh, how does that crayon taste?

You know, sort things like that. We just kind of it's, it's healthy, healthy sort of rid each other, but yes, it was it's a good time. It's all great people. Everybody's, you know, working for low. To do something that they feel like they are making a positive difference in the world.

Yeah. Yeah. And, and you said GBI earlier that's

Georgia bureau of [00:10:00] investigations, right?

Correct. Okay. For the training then, did you, was there

one or two

particular trainings that you found to be really helpful?

Well,

I got lucky. and the public safety training center was offering crime analysis and they only do this once every couple of years. Mm-hmm and it just happened to be right after I came on.

Well, a couple months after I got I started and Steve Gotlieb was the instructor for my crime analysis class and it was a great class. I learned a lot from him kept in contact with him on LinkedIn. He is always. To offer whatever assistance he can and answer any question he can. He's never standoff as he's just there.

He's just there to help. That's that's what he does.

he's he he's fantastic. He really is. But he is such to me, he's such a character. He's almost like a character that you would find in a novel, like he. He is very distinct. And [00:11:00] when you hear his voice, so you could see him covering to the conference,

you

just

know who

he's.

He's very funny. He had us all laughing in class. It was, it was a very fun class. And I also took intelligence analysis. The, the Fiat class, the foundations and intelligence analysis, and Sheila Dorn was the instructor in that class. And she is

the president of the international association of intelligence or law enforcement intelligence analyst.

Yeah. Yeah. Talia.

Yeah,

I had Sheila on the program. She is

fantastic. What segment of the Fiat program did

you like the

most?

I liked the, the way that we had to group together and work on an individual case mm-hmm and, you know, we'd go together in our teams and we would do the analysis together as a team.

It one. After Renee left the Clayton county police department. I was like, she had been before me, the, the only analyst left holding down the [00:12:00] Fort. And I, I love working as a part of a team. Mm-hmm as a part of a network in a group, you know, it's so much easier to bounce ideas off of people. And that was probably what my favorite part of Fiat was just the, the group training.

Yeah.

So it, it. Nice. I know they've tried to make that more of a, a, a web based class, but there is something about being in the same room and working through all that, all that, that class has to offer in a classroom setting.

Correct. And I have had the benefit of having taken it both ways because I also took Fiat through NW three C.

Okay. And it was the exact same course and same course material, but taught through. Web based online version through NW three C it was live instructor, so it wasn't on demand. Mm-hmm but you're and we would, you, we would still do our breakouts, but it's you would go to a breakout room and work together.

[00:13:00] There you couldn't hear or see the other groups like we could in class. And that might actually have benefited us really without the distraction.

But so yeah, I took Fiat both in person and online. Either way it works, it works great. And I think NW three C has really created something of value for the law enforcement analyst, because so much of their training is available online.

You can do it in person or in online and, and that. Really helps for a lot of agencies that can't afford to send their analyst off yeah. For a week or more at a time.

Yeah, it is. It is nice. So you, you found both to be, to

be beneficial and the,

the online version, you didn't feel that you, you missed much by it being online versus in person?

No, not really. And I've also taken several FBI. Online intelligence courses. They have a 10 week program through the B I academy that I completed. And, and so I kind of got [00:14:00] a feel for it and, and used to the online training environment. And so I, I really do think that that is going to be The future of training for law enforcement analysts.

Now my department actually has a police academy within it. So other agencies will send their recruits to my police department to go through the academy and get their training. So not only is Clayton county training their own. And one thing that I talked about with the chief was eventually down the road perhaps modeling it sort of like the FBI's academy, where you have two different paths.

You have the police officer and the analyst. And so you have analysts that other agencies can send their analysts here to get training and we'll see how it goes. He liked the idea. Maybe I'll come back after my one year stint overseas and, and see if I can't help him out with implementing that. All right.

Interesting. Okay. So let's get into

some of the tasks that you. You did you taking all this training, you're gathering all this knowledge. [00:15:00] What kind of tasks? What issues are you dealing with at Clayton?

Well, it is a Metro Atlanta county police department. So because it's a county police department, they deal with a lot more than just the city agencies.



You know, most of the crime is actually occurring outside of the, the smaller. Jurisdictional areas and, but they all work together. So the city agencies and the county agencies and the Sheriff's department all work together, very closely sharing information to try to negate the, the crime patterns, however they can.

Before I left, we were, you know, communicating on teams. With other city agencies we were, you know, sharing our crime statistics and information so that we could try to determine where those patterns overlap. The boundaries, you know, criminals, obviously they don't see political boundaries. They just see opportunity.

So they would cross over from the county to the city, to another [00:16:00] city, to another county. And that is where in the law enforcement game. Networking is key. You have to have communication with other agencies, communication with other analysts communication. Between officers and especially between the leadership.

And I think that where that fails is usually where you'll most likely see the, the jurisdictions that have the most problem with crime.

Interesting. All right. And then, so you, but as I mentioned in your intro, you were able to help establish the digital forensic lab there at the police department.

That fell in my lap.

Oh, okay.

So how did, how did that come to be?

I

got very lucky. I, like I said, I, I got hired on to be a crime analyst. Mm-hmm and I had always wanted to get into digital forensics. I never told anyone at the department that I wanted to do that I was not my suggestion that we get into digital forensics.

They actually asked me if I had, because they knew about my computer [00:17:00] networking degree. They wanted me to help build an intranet site for

the department because they had a very outdated intranet site and they wanted a better one. So I made one for them. That was much more current. And they saw that I was able to do that.

So they asked, well, if, if he can build a website and maintain it, then maybe he can, you know, take the training and get into digital forensics. And so they put me through magnet forensics, annual training pass, and I took every class that they offered. I took every free class that I could find. There are several there's classes on digital forensics from the Texas a and M engineering school that is free law enforcement.

I went to about defer.com and they they've got all kinds of training on that website that, that is free. And I would just I'm I'm voracious when it comes to training, when it comes to reading you. When I'm in the car driving one hour home, I'm listening to [00:18:00] podcasts. , you know, I'm not listening to music.

I, I, I wanna feed my brain with everything that I'm trying to learn, because I want to be an expert in whatever it is that I'm, I wanna do, you know, as fast as I can. And I'm just, I turn into a sponge. So I, like I said, it listening to your podcast listening to other podcasts Reading as much as I could find taking as much training as I could.

Yeah. Well, I'm glad you're listening to podcasts while driving the car and not reading books. Yeah.

Correct. so I

guess for maybe the typical analyst. That may not know the ins and outs of digital forensics. What would you want him or her to know about

digital forensics? Well, there's a very close relation between digital forensics and the intelligence function function in a law enforcement agency because you have you're, you're, you're digging through mobile [00:19:00] devices trying to find evidence of crimes.

Well, you know, Crimes are a lot of, a lot of times they're connected. They actually have tools that are created by the the forensics manufacturer software manufacturers that will find links between different images of phones that you have in your database. And so you can do link analysis. Things of that nature.

So it's really important that whoever is doing digital forensics is very close to the intelligence analysis function in the agency. In my case, it was all of the above. I was sort of like a Swiss army knife for Clayton county. I, I did crime analysis. I did intelligence analysis and I did digital forensics analysis and I maintained the websites.

So I, I wore a lot of hats and I loved every minute. I wouldn't have traded it for the world. I felt like they trusted me with, you know, different aspects of the job. And while there may have been a lot on my plate, I knew that it was because they [00:20:00] trusted that I could do it. And that made me feel good about myself.

And I was thankful to have the opportunity. Great.

Let's get into some stories. Now, your analyst badge story, cuz one of them does deal with digital

forensic. Okay. Yeah. Well in one I have a couple of stories in one of them, there was a Metro Atlanta burglary group that had a very identifiable Mo they always went in the same way.

They used the same tools. There was always the same number of people. They, they didn't always use the same vehicle, but they used the same kinds of vehicles. And so because other agencies were putting out these bolos and we could see that there were correlations, we decided to network with the other analysts.

And I guess at. I, I could talk about the Southern crime analyst round table at this point, because that was how we did it. When I got invited to the Southern crime analyst round [00:21:00] table's first meeting, which was a group, a networking information sharing group that was started by Kaita county Sheriff's department.

And. I went to that. And I, there was everybody was there. They, we had, we had federal analysts there. We had people from department of corrections, people from different agencies. And it was great because you get so many different perspectives from so many different agencies and, and different analysts. And we were all able to share our contact information.

And you know, this was at that time, it was before teams. Was in existence or it might have been in existence, but nobody was using it at that time, at least not

in the police department. Mm-hmm . And so we were using SharePoint and the Sheriff's department had a page where we could communicate with everybody.

And we used that network to talk about the different cases that each agency was working. That was similar. And we, we put together a spreadsheet online that [00:22:00] made, I made it shareable for. Everyone in the, in the group. And if you had a call come in that matched the Mo that matched the description of the, of the burglary group, then go ahead and put all that information into that spreadsheet.

And that way everything was uniform. And then we had, after we had a hundred cases, we did analysis on that and we discovered, you know, that there was a, a more common time, a more common day. And. A more common area that they were most likely to hit. And so that agency was notified and they were able to increase their patrols at that time in that area.

And I'm coming into work one day. And I hear on the news that there was a Pursuit overnight. And four people were arrested who had been part of a burglary ring and it was a, a success. Wow.

So, so how long was this going

on? They had actually, they had been in operation for several years prior to me [00:23:00] coming into the.

Police department. And I, I think that the oldest case that I added to the spreadsheet after we went back and added previous cases was two years prior to me joining in 2019. So they, they had been operating for about four years. Oh, wow. So they had been hitting many different areas all over.

North Georgia.

Yeah. Why, why do you

think they were able to be so successful? And when I say that, I mean, when you go four years of burglaries over a hundred that's success, for lack of better

word. I

really can't say why it was allowed to go so long. I think that a lot of people thought maybe that it was just random.

And of course, when you start doing that statistical analysis and utilizing other agencies data, as well as your own, that randomness really starts to shrink down into something more analytical. And you can see that there are patterns. That are not [00:24:00] so random. And so I think it was just the absence of having all the other, a surrounding agencies data that didn't help with the individual analysts from those agencies being able to come up with a, a plan of attack.

Huh.

That's

interesting. And how many different jurisdictions did they, did they hit roughly? Do you

know? I would. I'm going to say, I remember the gr I'm I'm picturing the graph and the list. Cities. And I know we had more than 50 cities. Wow. So it was, it was all over north Georgia. Huh? That

is, that is interesting.

And so that, that case is still being adjudicated, correct. So we don't know the full ending to the story, correct?

Because. As I said, and you said I've only been doing this for three years and two of those years were pandemic years . And so as, as everybody knows, court was not in session for those two [00:25:00] years.

And so they are so backlogged on their cases that they're only just now getting two cases that they were supposed to have seen in 20, 19 and 20. Yeah. So a lot of things are still left open. And that brings me to the other stories that I had. You know, one was a serial offender and after reading that crime analysis for problem solvers and 60 steps in reading about the journey to crime theory, I thought, well, let me use a free tool, Google earth and create one mile radius rings.

Each known incident of this particular offender. And it turned out that where those rings intersected was the area, the apartment complex area that the offender was in ultimately caught living at. Hmm. They were able to increase patrols in that area and through a field interview contact, they made contact with somebody who was on a hiking trail after [00:26:00] midnight and.

That name matched somebody who had, I'm trying to be vague without because of the case. Somebody who had actually applied to our academy wow. In a previous year and they flunked out, they went, they went UA. And because of that name and because of that, Correlation, they were able to find a photograph and that photograph matched the victim statements and the drawings that were done by our artist.

Yeah.

And this is, and

this was a serial rapist

situation,

correct? Yes. And because of DNA evidence that connected into the victims they were also able to make a positive ID on that person. But like I said, that. Case is still pending.

Hmm, no, that's,

that's interesting. I,

I like how you directly applied the, the concepts

from class

into real world

scenarios and, well, that was just, you know, that's one leg under the table.

Yeah. The real, the real detective work was done by some great [00:27:00] detectives that, that connected the dots and put them together. You know, as analysts we provide our analysis. To someone who makes a decision mm-hmm and the detective utilizes your analysis and whether it helps him or not, you might not ever know, you know, that it may be something that the detective says.

Okay, thank you. And pushes aside, because he's got all these other bits of evidence that make the picture makes more sense to him or her. So all. Do is offer our analysis suggestions, recommendations, mind you. I'd only been as an

working as an analyst for a couple of years, so it's still, you still have to get over the, the hump of, well, we've been police officers for 20 years.

We understand law enforcement, you are new to this. And I, that that's a very valid argument. So all I can do is provide them with my analysis, hope that it helps them in some way and be available to them. If they have question.[00:28:00]

Hey, this is Mary Craig. My public service announcement for the listeners is I, regardless is not a word. It may have been recognized by Webster's dictionary in 2020, but it is still not a word it's regard.

Hi, this is Dr. Carlina Orosco from the Tempe police department, Arizona state university. And my public service announcement is that correlation does not equal causation.

If you find that certain things are occurring that may be contributing to a decrease or an. In crime, for example, that gives an opportunity to investigate it a little bit further to see if possibly there are things contributing, but it does not mean that one thing caused the decline or the increase.

It just means that there's an opportunity to explore it a little bit further.

So then [00:29:00] let's move on to the third story then. Cuz this does deal with digital forensics.

Yeah. We had a, another serial offender that we found a photograph of on the victim's phone and were able to use facial recognition to find a name online that led us to the, the guilty person. And that case is also still open.

But that. Very early on in my digital forensics career. That was when I first set the lab up and start. So it was very exciting to me. Yeah. Because , I felt like, you know, I had to dig through this phone to find that photograph and then luckily they were able to find a matching

identity. Yeah. No, that's, that's fascinating.

Cuz there's so much that. On the phone, these phones nowadays, it's, there's so much data. There can be so many pictures that you're coming through. And I don't know. Geez, it's been 10, 15 years [00:30:00] since I worked with facial recognition software. So I'm sure it's, it's way better than it was 10, 15 years

ago. It still seems fascinating to me that you can take some, a picture off a phone and do the facial recognition and come up with a hit.

Right. And because it's not foolproof, obviously it's not evidence. Guilt or innocent and just gives you a name and a lead to start with and, and you go and find whoever that is. And you determine whether or not that that is the person you're looking for or not using other bits of evidence.

Yeah. So this just opened the door to start talking to the person to see. What he or she

knows. Correct. All right.

Interesting. Now, you said it was one of your first ones. Did you have many, much problems getting the, the data off the phone?

Well not.

That particular phone, but there are, you know, it's with digital forensics. It's [00:31:00] it's, it's a game of chance. I, I guess you could say to some degree that, that some tools work better than other tools and your agency may not have access to those other tools. In which case you build partnerships with other agencies who do have those tools and you go utilize their tools and when they need to, they come utilize yours.

And that way you're not spending all the money at your agency to buy. Tool , you know, and, and so some work better than others at certain things. And, and sometimes, unfortunately it just it's you get to the point where you might just not have a way of getting to evidence on a phone mm-hmm or you might not get the evidence that you want.

You'll get some evidence, but not the evidence that you want. It's really, it's really fascinating. It's something that's ever changing. You have to stay on top of it. You have to stay current. You have to be a lifelong learner because the technology changes so fast and the different software companies are working to, innovate as fast as they can.[00:32:00]

And then you have this great open source community of digital forensic. Investigators that are just providing free software. That is amazing. Just because that is their purpose and mission is to help and give back and make the profession a better profession for everyone. Yeah. Do



they have their

own group or.

Is there a, is there association that you're involved in?

Yes, there's a, the discord digital forensics server. If you go to about defer.com, there's an article there. It was started by Andrew RA and some others to. Make communication more fluid between digital investigators globally and it has just grown exponentially.

We actually just, self-published a book. I authored one chapter and it's, it's now available for free several different investigators on the discord server participated and everybody took a chapter. And wrote [00:33:00] their chapter. Mine was on setting up a law enforcement, digital forensics lab.

All right, well

let's move on then. As you mentioned, I we've kind of teased it a little bit. You've. Recently left Clayton county PD, because you're about to go overseas on a super secret analyst mission. and I know we have to be careful on what we can talk about, but let's, let's start with just this idea of, of leaving the police department and even considering going on this endeavor, because you've, you've done this.

For three years and you certainly have a thirst for knowledge and have gone through all the training and have just absorbed as much information as you possibly can. So what went into this decision to leave the department and seek out this new role?

Well, I, I can say that I. Offered [00:34:00] several positions and several jobs by different companies in digital forensics that paid double what I was making at the police department.

Mm-hmm and I turned them down because I really loved what I was doing and where I was and the team that I was working with. And I didn't want to travel. And be away from my family as much as you would have to be for those jobs. Mm-hmm . And so I, when this one came, it was, I wasn't looking for this opportunity.

I got a phone call from a colleague who was leaving this position and he asked it was on I think the 4th of July, I got a phone call and, and he said, would you

be interested in this? And I felt I had to talk it over with my wife. It, it obviously it's, it's overseas. Contracting works. So it is more money and you know, that that is a help, but that wouldn't be motivation enough to leave your family for a year.

If you did not believe in the mission, if you didn't feel like you were going to be [00:35:00] a part of something that was making the world a better place. And so after talking with my wife, she said, It's one year, you know, military wives do this. She wasn't with me when I was in the military. So she didn't have to go through the, the, the deployments and things of that nature.

So, but she knows through her sister who has her, her sisters who have had to go through deployments with their husband, that, you know, it's just in some cases, this is just the way that families live. and she knew that I would feel like my sense of purpose and my sense of fulfillment would be better served, I guess you could say, because the difference that I'll be making is going to have a global impact.

Mm-hmm so trying not to say more than that

because I get it. Now, when you were in the Navy, did you go

overseas? I did. I did several deployments to the Mediterranean and to the Persian. I was a part of operation, desert, thunder [00:36:00] mm-hmm and desert Fox. We did a lot of work on the coast of Africa, evacuating people.

It was a honestly, I mean, it was one of the, it was the five best years of my life. Looking back just as you know, I'm, I'm still friends with everybody on Facebook, you know, we still talk and. Meet up. We do reunions in Virginia. So it was a great time. We were actually, my ship was the command ship for the TWA flight, 800 crash.

And we picked up all of the wreckage and the bodies from that crash, we were anchored out there off the coast of long island for several months. It was a very solemn duty.

Oh,

I remember that. I, I think I had a college roommate that had. High school, friends that were on that plane. I believe it's the same one that I'm thinking of.

So, yeah. That's terrible. Yeah. So I guess as you're preparing for this, you know, endeavor and, you know, it's, it's exciting. It's nerve [00:37:00] wracking. It's you're you're you're It's an analyst duty that you, that you're doing? Yeah. Yeah. It's it's only a year, but

what's going through your mind right now as you're preparing and what are you looking

forward to?

I am excited to. Once again, get to experience life among another culture mm-hmm and in feeling like I am helping that culture with knowledge that I have been blessed to gain. And while I am sad to leave my family behind, especially because I just had my first grandchild yeah. My first grandson was born just last week.

Oh, congratulations. I, it makes me, but at the same time, it makes me feel. I want to be the best human being I can and someone that he can be proud of. So I wanna make sure that I am staying true to myself and, and living a life that gives me a sense of purpose and meaning in helping the community. And [00:38:00] in, in this case, a, a global community to make the world a better place.

Yeah. And I, I hope that one day he'll be able to be proud of his pop pop

I'm sure he will be all right. Well, very good way. I wish you the best of luck in your endeavor here. And I do look forward to hearing back on how it all turned out next year. So there's a couple other memberships that you're a part of that I.

To move on to now. And you were a member of the Georgia terrorism information project and correct. So, so for those that really aren't familiar with that. Just say, talk about that and then talk about your role

with them.

So the Georgia bureau of investigation operates the Georgia terrorism information project.

It's GIP and. Allow for two analysts from each agency in Georgia to be members of this information sharing network. And it was set up [00:39:00] after nine 11 for swift communication between agencies for any information relating to terrorism in their jurisdiction. You know, one of the things that we found out.

From nine 11, was that the, the weakness in communication, the siloing of information, all of those things were not causes, but they didn't allow us to do our job as effectively as we could. If we had swift communication between agencies and the GIP program offers annual training to the analysts instantaneous communication, whenever there are bulletins or bolos.

Any sort of intelligence coming from federal agencies gets pushed out through GIP to those analysts. The annual training we used, we did do in Savannah. You'd go in for a, a weekend and have several days of different analysis training. The last one I attended, we NW three C gave us three days of intelligence analysis training.

It was great. All.

Yeah, good deal. And and you're also [00:40:00] part of the justice connect and that's a kinda social media for law enforcement.

Right?

Right. Yeah. And there are several communities on this unjust connect where sort of like the FBI office of partner engagement. They have a community.

Justice connect, where they share dates and information for their training. And in doing that, I thought, well, why don't I create a community? Cuz anyone can create a community within there for law enforcement analysts. And so I created the, the law enforcement analyst network lean and started inviting other analysts that I had known or heard.

To participate in where we could share different information on training or publications that were being offered. Cuz there's a lot of free publications out there offered by bureau of justice and, and others. So that came together. Obviously because I'm. Leaving the police department. I don't have access to justice connect anymore.

So I left the admin [00:41:00] controls with another analyst that worked at a neighboring agency from me and, and she has access to allow people into the community and into, into invite people. Okay.

And, and we're hoping that we'll be able to put the link, get that link and put it in the show notes. So if folks are, are interested in joining lean.

They will be able to do so.

Absolutely. All right. And the Southern crime analyst round table, we also created a LinkedIn group for that. So if anybody wants to find me on LinkedIn, I can add those analysts to the, the group if they're interested. Okay.

And we'll put that link in the show notes as well.

All right. Very good. Well, , let's move on to personal interests and you are an outdoor outdoorsy guy and you and your family. And, and so it seems like you are collecting quite the population of animals. At your place yeah. Chickens and dogs and [00:42:00] cats and goats. So my, yeah,

my, my wife, her dream is to one day have a sustainable farm and a petting zoo.

she just loves animals and she loves her chickens. She loves baby goats. She loves alpaca. So I'm, I'm gonna have to get. Some alpaca here pretty soon because she has been begging for a long time. Yes we have. We have several dogs and cats. I personally am a, a cat person. I love cats. I love my dogs, but I don't usually like other people's dogs.

But yes, you know, it is Georgia. We, we live, you. On a, a good piece of land. And you know, there's a lot of rural area in Georgia and, and we have a, a small, I guess, three acre farm, you would call it, but it's, it's really just, it's not a farm. We don't grow anything except our own vegetable garden that we use, but mm-hmm we have These animals really just that my wife can have them as pets.

We don't eat the chickens. We do eat their eggs. [00:43:00] Sorry. If anyone is out there that doesn't like that we do eat their, and we're not the only ones. We, we have a snake that I had to relocate the, yeah. But I, we, we do love the outdoors. I'm actually talking to you from my camper. Just because it's quieter here in the house.

We have 10 kids. We have 10 kids. And my two of our oldest sons are, like I said, going into the military, our oldest daughter just had our first grandchild. And the youngest is about to be 16. Oh wow. With those 10 kids, we take them all over. We, we love going to Disney. Wow. So

That's 12 people going to Disney.

Yeah. It's it's a good time though. We get, we usually get like, Three bedroom, condo, and everybody just, you know, makes dues. Sometimes we might have to sleep on an air mattress, but it's a, it's a good time. We love going down there. And

what's your, what's your favorite

part

of

Disney? Oh, well I'm a star wars geek.

Yeah. So I love [00:44:00] Hollywood studios and I love the new galaxy edge park that they added to it. Anything star wars related, you know, I'm on board for all right. And, but we love going camping. We love hiking and kayaking and being outdoors. We love the Georgia mountain mountains and we love being out on the lake or on the river.

My son, he absolutely loves fishing. He would rather do anything. He, he wouldn't wanna do anything else, but a fish, if he could just all day .

Oh, very good. . Well, our last segment to the show is words to the. And that's where I give the guests the last word, Jason, you can promote any idea that you wish.

What are your words

to

the world? I would say, live a meaningful life in a life that gives you a sense of purpose and one that you can be proud of. And that is the key to happiness. You know, I, I like to read the, the stoic philosophy. Marcus arres Cero. And you know, some of the things he says is, you know well, of course I would just blank on the quote, but [00:45:00] it's, you know, a, a life worth living a life well lived.

And if you're, if you're not doing something that gives you a sense of purpose and a meeting, A sense of fulfillment, whatever it is, it doesn't have to be law enforcement. It doesn't have to be public safety at all, whatever you're doing, if you're doing it because you enjoy it. What is the saying? That if you love what you're doing, you have, you will never work a day of your life.

Yes. So find your purpose, find your meeting, and don't be afraid to step through that door.

Very good. Wiley. Every guest with you given me just enough to talk bad about you. Yeah,

but I do appreciate you being on this show. Jason, thank you so much and

good luck and

you

be safe. Thank you, Jason.

Thank you for making it to the end of another episode of analyst talk with Jason elder.

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