

Caleb Meyers - The Go To Intel Guy

MIndy: [00:00:00] Welcome to Analyst Talk with Jason Elder. It's 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 at a time.

Jason: Thank you for joining me. I hope many aspects of your life are progressing. My name is Jason Elder and today our guest has eight years of law enforcement analysis experience spending time with Philadelphia PD and Gardner PD in North Carolina. He served in. Air Force and is a former Maryland State Police Trooper.

He holds a Master's from Tiffin University and he is currently the Vice President of Training for the Carolina's Crime Analysis Association. Please welcome Caleb Myers. Caleb, how are we doing? Doing

caleb: good Jason, how are we doing?

Jason: I am doing very well so definitely interested in the, transition from state [00:01:00] police work to analysis , how did you discover the law enforcement analysis profession?

caleb: Yeah. So, I mean, when I was getting my undergrad I had a professor who knew I was a state trooper prior to that. And he also was my advisor, and I went and talked to him, and he kind of guided me to crime analysis, and I went and took a GIS course through the university through Bloomsburg University, which is where I got my undergrad up in Pennsylvania, and did that, loved it, loved mapping, loved the geography aspect of crime analysis, and then, I signed up for Eric Piza's crime mapping analysis through the IACA, and I did a week long training with him, and I was like, all right, I'm hooked.

It's it's time to make this, make this happen. So and then I attended in 2013, I attended the IACA conference in Fort Lauderdale as a student. So. It was it was nice to be down there. I will tell you at the time though, I had no clue if I was just learning about crime analysis that [00:02:00] year, 2013. So going to that, it was a little overwhelming, but you know, I took a lot of good stuff from it and was like, yeah, this is something I want to keep going with.

Jason: Yeah. What, what in particular do you think was the draw to GIS for you?

caleb: I mean, I'm always fascinated with geography. There's a little bit of a joke with my family where. If they give me a place on, in the United States, I can zoom right to it fairly quick within a few seconds. So I just enjoy the geography type the aspect of crime mapping.

So, I'm not sure if there's any one particular thing that pops out to me, but.

Jason: , so then , even before all this though, . How did you get from the air force to Maryland state

caleb: police? Oh man. So I did six years in the air force three in Montana and three in Maryland, and I was assigned to Andrews air force base, which is just outside DC, and it's also.

Where Air Force One is held and I, we guarded [00:03:00] that for, for a while I was on that plane and help guard it on the flight line and you know, you have all your dignitaries and stuff come in and it came around to that time like every enlisted person and it was like, do you stay in? Do you get out? And decided I wanted to get out and start applying for jobs and always knew I wanted to be a cop.

When I was little and all that growing up. So I started applying for. You know, Pennsylvania I have family up in Pennsylvania and Maryland and Illinois and stuff like that. So I applied everywhere and Maryland called me back and it was about a month after I got out of the military. I started their training with them through their six month academy.

Jason: All right. , how was that transition for you , from the Air Force to the Maryland State Police? Similarities? Differences?

caleb: Yeah. So, a lot of similarities. I mean, the Maryland State Police Academy, very paramilitary. It was on campus, so we stayed there.

Woke up, you know, there's many nights you've been woken up in the morning. 3 a. m. 2 a. m. and you'd [00:04:00] have an instructor yelling at you doing push ups and sit ups and you go for a mile run, come back and have to try to fall asleep. So it was very paramilitary in that aspect and six months in a, in a dorm.

Every day it was just some type of instructions. PT is, is very structured. So that was an easy transition for me going from the Air Force to that. You know, military is the same, same type of way with the structure. So very simple to do that.

Jason: With the state police, then what were some of your tasks that , you did as an officer?

caleb: Yeah, so I graduated in August from the Academy and then got assigned to Eastern Eastern Maryland, which was on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. And I was assigned to Dorchester County, which is a huge fishing community. And it's just, if you're going towards the. Ocean City, Maryland. It's just on route 50 going down that way.

So our biggest thing, obviously with the troopers is a lot of traffic. But with that area, because it's [00:05:00] so big and expansive and the only thing they had was the deputies there. And a few city cops, but not many. We also assisted with your domestics with, you know, going to the fishing communities with your fights and everything like that.

So we kind of had a little bit of diversity in that sense. I mean, obviously we were taking care of Route 50 going to Ocean City. So you can imagine our summers were quite busy with travelers coming down through there. But, For the most part, you know, two troopers to the county and we responded to anything and everything that happened down there.

So, it was quite interesting very eye opening so, and some interesting stories when it comes to I could probably just sit here and talk about that for, for the whole show if we needed to.

Jason: Yeah, well, now that you mentioned it, you got to give me at least one.

caleb: So, oh man, so, I'm fresh out of training.

So, once you get done with your August training. You go on and you sit with a senior officer and you ride around with them and they grade you and all that. I just got my car. [00:06:00] Brand new driving around. I'm with my training officer and we go to a fight in progress. And when we get up there it's North and North of the County.

So the two troopers from South on the other County come down and help us as well. So there's four troopers there. We jump out. And of course people take off

running everywhere. All the troopers, besides myself, take off running and they're running after these suspects and I'm sitting there looking at the crowd and I'm like, well, we don't want to leave everybody because what if they were a decoy, you know, I don't want to.

If the suspect is here, I don't want to leave him. So I'm sitting with probably 25 people and you could just tell, you could probably tell, I would, I would love to go back and interview them and be like, could you tell I was a green cop? And they're, oh, they probably would have gave you all kinds of stories and be like, yeah, that was very obvious.

I was trying to control the crowd and make sure no one left and try to get statements as well while my three troopers were running after this other suspect. So it's very interesting. Like I said, very eyeopening to be like, Oh, we're, we're doing this. We're [00:07:00] doing this right now.

Jason: Yeah. I envisioned that when you're talking to them and you're trying to be very stern, that your voice is cracking.

Oh, it's

caleb: so much, so much, so young, fresh. Didn't know what I was getting into.

Jason: Yeah, but it's, it's fascinating though, that they listened to you though, right? You had 15 people that probably could have just walked away at any time, but probably felt that you were still an authority figure that you, they couldn't leave.

Definitely. I

caleb: mean, I think, I think, you know, with the appearance of, of the trooper in any state, I think you kind of get that. So maybe that's what they were looking at. They just didn't look past the Stetson hat and in the uniform to be like, Oh, this guy's he's brand new.

Jason: Oh, that's good stuff.

. So then you transition from being a trooper to being a full time student so It's kind of take me into that decision.[00:08:00]

caleb: So a very one of my most interesting decisions, I guess I should say. So Been on the road since august. It's coming up. May of the following year And

my family is still up in Pennsylvania and we're kind of doing the traveling thing because we weren't sure, you know, we don't want to move our family, sure if this is going to work out or whatever.

So staying down there and then realized, I don't know, it was probably earlier that year. I was like, man, I really want to finish my bachelor's and go back for that. I mean, I did some schooling in the Air Force, of course, because that was free and they provided that. And I was like, I got interested in some of it as you get older.

I think for me, definitely. It was like, I want to go. I want to go learn this. I want to go do this. So made a decision as a family that we would move back to Pennsylvania which looking back now, you know, you go through that six month Academy and anybody that's been through a pretty hard six month Academy knows that you put a lot of sweat and tears and some blood [00:09:00] and some all kinds of other stuff into it.

Yeah. And but we made that decision, and I'm extremely happy I did because it was, I was afforded the opportunity to, first of all, learn about this career and then also get my bachelor's and my master's. So yeah, we made that transition. I was a full time student at Bloomsburg University going for my criminal justice degree, so.

Jason: All right. No, that, that is interesting, and that is a big Left turn. Right. Right. So, I mean, cause I, I'm just putting, trying to envision , what the reaction was is like, Oh, it's like, you just got here, like, you know, like, and you want to go back to school, you said you just went through that whole thing just to go back to school.

So it's definitely, if there's a typical path, that's definitely not typical, you know, most people go to school first and then, and then in law enforcement, but you did it, you know, played the cards that you were dealt and did it a [00:10:00] slightly different way.

caleb: Absolutely. And I think in this day and age, I mean, Typical is not what we think anymore.

So, but in that situation you know, I looking back, it's like, man, I wish I would have this, this degree as well as this crime analysis knowledge and still be a trooper because I would be tearing it up out there. Not

Jason: amazing. Nice, nice. Alright, so then let's get into your analysis work then, because, so you finish your degree you get an internship and then you start at Philadelphia

caleb: PD.

Yeah. So man, one of one of the more discouraging times in my career actually is transitioning from that student from that undergrad to trying to find a job in crime analysis, right? I can't tell you how many places I applied to and. In the same time, this is before, this is, you know, pre COVID, so interviews weren't online, interviews you had to go to, [00:11:00] like you had to apply to these places, and we were military, so we were willing to kind of move anywhere, so I applied for places in Colorado, and North Carolina, and Kansas, and Florida, so we were kind of applying for everything just to see what we could get, And I applied for Philadelphia as well.

And they ended up calling me back and kind of went through that and started with them. And 2015 and worked in their Delaware Valley Intelligence Center in their real time crime center. So just like you imagine a real time crime center, TVs everywhere, cameras everywhere. And we sit inside there and monitored radios and monitor cameras for.

That's how I kind of got started into the crime analysis

Jason: world. Obviously you had the knowledge that you gained from being a trooper in terms of police work and and data and then I guess When you're going through the interview then for the analyst job Did anybody ever tell you like what [00:12:00] stuck out or why they picked you for the position?

caleb: You know, I, I never got that from them, I do remember one thing that was interesting. We went to get to apply for Philadelphia. You know, the first part of it is you have to take this test and we went to downtown Philly and there was probably, I think that day, I think they did two or three days of testing and that first day in my session, there was 300 people that were testing for.

Jobs all across the city, but I can only imagine and I talked to one of the other analysts that got hired with me and He he said yeah, he was in the next day. He said there was another 300 people So I guess they just they are they have all these testing and all these analysts trying to come up But it was throughout the city.

But yeah, no, no one ever said We liked your trooper background. We liked this. It was I think maybe I'd like to think I won them over with my, my friendly banter, but I don't know if that happened.

Jason: [00:13:00] So what kind of questions were on the test?

caleb: It was, it was just your basic, it was almost like a basic police officer exam test.

So when you do the not, not coming to me right off the top of my head, but one of the police officer entry exam test, that's kind of how they had it set up. There wasn't too much analysis. Question is on there. So that's why I thought was very interesting about the about the test, which it made sense now, because, you know, going for that position being in the real time crime centers, which, which is where a lot of the analyst started.

There wasn't a lot of. Analytical work. It was mostly watching cameras and every once in a while you would get some stuff where you got to break off and do those types of projects, those analytical projects, which I really enjoyed at the time. So, and that's why I'm here. We're on that now.

Jason: So was the interview like a three person panel type thing?

caleb: Yeah, I think it, I think it was four. Yeah. It was four people sitting around talking. Obviously they asked me about the trooper position [00:14:00] and wanted to know. You know, what happened there? Because like you said, it's not the traditional path and and they asked me about some of my college work, some of my undergrad work, and I let them know that at that time I was already starting on my master's.

So I let them know that everything, but yeah, the interview was mostly just kind of your basic standard interview questions. It wasn't too analytical heavy on the questions. So yeah, which looking back now. You know, as I've become a little bit more wiser, it's like, oh man, I didn't even see that coming.

I thought I was going to do, I thought I was going to be an analyst. I thought I was going to do crime, crime analyst work. So it was very interesting.

Jason: I think it's interesting because I envision with that. If you're hiring multiple analysts at once in this particular scenario, and this seems like a very structured civil service type process that they're going through where you have a test first.

I'm guessing they take [00:15:00] some top percent. Of people that scored on that test to give an interview to and then their interview and a certain number of those and then making the decision based on those interviews on who they're going to hire.

caleb: Yeah, absolutely. And most things were like, it was a very interesting because it was probably another.

I mean, I started that process when I graduated. And in 2013, and when I say when I started applying for all these jobs, so sometime in 2014, I applied for Philly and didn't get hired until the following year. I mean, it was almost a year long process, just going through the testing. I remember I had to go down and do, you know, the interview.

And then once that got done, you have to do your all your testing, you know. Background and things like that. So you're, you're in contact with some type of investigator to go through that process as well. So you almost go through it thinking, I [00:16:00] hope I get this because this is a lot of work just to go through this.

So yeah, it's an interesting process going through that through the Philadelphia.

Jason: Did you get a, did you get a call saying, Hey, are you still interested in this? I know it's been a while.

caleb: I think there wasn't, there wasn't an email saying, yeah, if you're, if you're still interested in apply back to this and they would continue the process.

Cause I guess so many people make it to this part of the phase. And like I said, it's a long process. They've already got other jobs. They're already saying they don't want to schedule. They don't want to schedule people and then you're, you're not even needed or you're, you don't even want to come for the job.

So yeah, I did get one of those emails. All right. Well, let's

Jason: this brings us to your analyst badge story then. And for those that may be new to the show, the analyst badge story is the career defining case or project that you work. And so it's during this time, you're in the real time crime center in Philadelphia [00:17:00] PD, and you're working a homicide investigation in 2017.

caleb: Yeah, so and the case has already been tried and they've already been found guilty, but yeah, it was Mellon Street. Which is the small street off of Broad Street, which Broad Street splits Philadelphia north and south. And it's in North Philadelphia and a homicide guy comes home. And he gets robbed and turns out he ends up getting shot.

And at the time, it was my job and then there was an officer. There's probably four or five people within the real time crime center, including supervisors at the time. So it was my job and officer, and I think we had another analyst and we just started combing at the time. It was 6000 plus cameras throughout the city and we're going through all the subway cameras, all the bus cameras and trying to locate these two suspects, which the initial description was just to.

male suspects, 20 years of age, ish, somewhere around there.[00:18:00] We eventually find two suspects in the subway who are, they come, they're pretty close to the where, where it occurred and they jump on the subway and they take it north, they jump off, they're doing some very sketchy stuff, they jump off, they take it south again, not quite all the way down to where they got on and then jump back on and go northbound again.

So, we're very interested in them and we're capturing. You know, video and pictures of these two individuals. And we ended up in the real time crime center. We did our own facial recognition. We had link analysis software, and we kind of had all that at our fingertips. So, you know, with two or three of us in there running all this information and going through cameras, we had someone running facial rec and we get back our facial recognition and.

And it was probably about, I want to say there was probably about 30 or, 30 or 40 results that came back from that, which is massive, especially when you're talking about minutes after a homicide and you got to start to comb through [00:19:00] this. I start looking through the video while another analyst starts combing through those to see if we can figure out who the suspect is.

What I noticed on his. left hand that he has some discoloration and feed that to the other analysts. And with that information, we were, he, he would already looked at the the suspect and we were able to put him into link analysis and figure out that he's linked to, he has a brother of similar age.

And we, it was probably within 20 to 30 minutes, we were able to identify both suspects just off using cameras and facial rec and then doing some. A little bit of investigations and we at that time, you transition straight into document and all this, right? The detectives are coming to you. So we're, I'm doing up a

timeline because I want to say you can imagine how many cameras in Philly and especially on the transportation lines.

We probably looked at 50 or so cameras just to within that. a little amount of time, and we had to document every time we saw them. [00:20:00] And so I'm putting this on a timeline in Excel and trying to document for the detectives who couldn't be too far behind coming up and asking us for information. So we had all that, but what that did was It kind of put me into, first of all, within my supervisors, but also within myself, like, oh, this is very interesting work.

This is meaningful work. And this is something that I think I'm going to do forever. Yeah, it was, it was very cool to run that end of it. Turn it turns out one of them got 35 years to life and the other one, I've got 25 years to 50 years for that homicide. So very, very. Please please satisfy with that and it was one of my first big cases that I helped work.

Jason: So, so when you're looking at the video, , you don't catch up to them in terms of real time where you're actually fought, can follow them live. Correct. As you mentioned, I think 20 minutes later. So you're just looking through the cameras as you're following them.

Is that correct?

caleb: Yeah. Yeah. So we're [00:21:00] trying to play that catch up. We're trying to get them live, but by the time, you know, obviously they're moving quick by the time we figure it out and catch up to them, even though it was that short amount of 20 to 30 minutes behind, we still, they were already off the train and doing whatever they

Jason: did.

Yeah. 'cause I, I was imagining that if you did catch them live the decision, like, okay, are we, are we gonna have an officer do do a stop or do a, do a field, a field interview? But it, it makes sense then that, the way it worked out. So the, the marking that on, that was on the arm, was that a tattoo or was it a birthmark?

What was it? No,

caleb: it was the I can't think of the name of it, but it was just So it was two black males, and there was just some discoloration on one of their hands, down by their thumb and their pointer finger, and because it was right there on top of

the hand, we were able to identify it fairly quickly, and then all of the prior family members.

Jail photos and jail [00:22:00] arrest. We were in the arrest. We were able to identify that someone documented that they had that that suspect had that marking on top of his hand right there at that location. So that's how we were able to identify him. So it's very very interesting to play a hand in that row.

Jason: Yeah, it just gives you a couple of leads that facial recognition, it's rare where they're going to say it's 100% this person. They're going to give you, I guess like a Google search, where you search it and it's going to give you various

caleb: results. Massive amount of results, yeah.

Jason: Yeah, and in this in this case, it's like good thinking that you look for stuff like that to help narrow down the search.

So that was that was good. Good work on the teams part so. Then so it's you had mentioned like you didn't feel like you were doing Analyst work here or it just seems like [00:23:00] that's it seems like almost did you feel that it was more? Clerical where you just had this you would get this information you would get this request And then you're deciding what databases or what?

What information to feedback how to satisfy the request. So in that regard, it was more like maybe more manual and I don't want to put words in your mouth, but I'm just trying to get capture an idea of what you felt the task

caleb: was. Yeah, yeah. So, I mean, in my mind, especially working on my masters at the time and already getting my.

It was, this is kind of very, I mean, it was interesting work, but it's very tactical work, very on point you, I mean, as soon as we got done with like the next day coming in, we were not working on that homicide that that was all the information we had, we passed it along and it was pretty much out of our hands.

So and that was kind of a, an extreme point. Right? So most of the, most of the cases we're not working [00:24:00] on that. We've already documented everything and passed it along to the detective. So it's very quick work. And I just didn't feel as though, especially based on my, my education that this is what analytical work was or this is what crime analysis, the crime analyst did.

So, even though. While up there, I did a little, a few projects helped out mostly it still wasn't what I was looking for. I think, yeah,

Jason: that was it. The real time crime center open 24 seven. So there were shift work involved. Oh,

caleb: yeah. Yeah. We we switched between a day shift and an evening shift. But yeah, there was a permanent night shift and somebody was always up there.

Jason: Okay. All right. It's interesting is as I've been doing this podcast and over the years talking with different analysts that have worked in these types of view, whether it's a fusion center or a real time crime center, it does seem there is a short lived time there. Like, [00:25:00] I don't know, at least off the top of my head, I don't know somebody that's been doing this for like 15, 20 years and in the real time crime center.

So there does seem like there's this point. Where you have to shift gears and do something

caleb: else. Yeah, and I mean, I think, you know, you could probably stay up there if you wanted to and do that type of work, but it's a great entry level job, right? It gets you exposed to more stuff. You're on the radio, you're talking with officers on the street with radio contact.

You're working in different systems, which you're going to need to know when you're pulling data, when you're on the other end pulling data from those systems. I'm trying to do some type of research or analysis. So yeah, I mean, I don't know that. I mean, we had a couple analysts before me. That's why I got hired.

Right? We had an analyst before me that. They were in there and they left and they went on to different jobs. So, yeah, I'm not sure if the analysts stay up there. I do know we had some officers that were there. They loved it. They stayed there for a very, very long time. [00:26:00]

Jason: Interesting. Yeah. So I do. Yeah. And I do see in there.

There's definitely some great opportunities there to get to know various systems because you mentioned CAD and there's license plate reader. There's all the different databases. There's cameras. There's social media. There's, there's a lot going on with, with what's being asked of those that work in a real time crime center.

caleb: Definitely. Yeah. There was no shortage of systems to switch between. I guess that's why they gave us three or four monitors. We can kind of have them all up at once.

I am Laura

Laura: Weaver and my pet peeve is to. Smile when people do not smile back. Just be kind and everybody's world is very busy. Sometimes we are not very happy, but take some time out of your day to smile at a stranger because you never know what they're going through. Hi,

Charlie: I'm [00:27:00] Charlie Giberti. One question that people ask me a lot is how to get respect and buy in in an agency.

caleb: And I always tell crime analysts on day one, the most important thing to do is find the biggest police officer in the department and just knock his ass out in front of everybody. And that way they'll all have more respect for you. What I mean by that is find the people who are your leaders, your informal leaders, your high eigenvalue people and win them over one at a time.

Wow. Them knock them out with what you can do and how you can make their life easier. And then they'll be the ones who go and get all of the buy in reporting.

Jason: So then let's talk about the transition from Philadelphia here to Gardner PD.

caleb: Yeah, so, like I said, I was looking for more analytical work. I love doing the. You know, upfront tactical on the scene type stuff. That was very interesting. But I wanted to find something that maybe split [00:28:00] that split those duties or did some analytical work and some research work.

I learned through my undergrad and through my master's that research. I really was interested in research and kind of your long term projects. So transition started applying again. For different jobs and was able to get hired with Garner North Carolina in 2018 and came down here and been here ever since.

And yeah, it's a little bit of everything. I help the detectives and do those type of things. But also I'm able to shut the door and do some research and do some analytical projects as well. So.

Jason: Yeah, so, but how big is Gardner? I'm, I'm guessing that it's not as big as Philadelphia, but was it quite a shell shock for you to go from Philadelphia to Gardner?

caleb: Yeah, it was it wasn't so much just because I think with the military that helped me. However, it was to learn that, you know, we're not as busy as they are up there.[00:29:00] But I, I will say that. My second day, I came in, in March, March 12th or March 11th of 2018. And on March 18th or March 13th, they had a homicide here.

And of course, you'd know where that went, right? Everybody was like, they're blaming me. They're like, you brought this down. We, we haven't had a homicide this long and that long. And I'm like. I'm sorry. I don't know what to tell you, but I'm here to help you.

Jason: So,

caleb: yeah, it wasn't it's not quite as busy here, but we'll, we'll see an occasional major crime here once I'm once in a while.

Jason: You're getting into a mixture of crime analysis and Intel analysis at this, at this job,

caleb: right? Yeah. And I, and I think that's what you're going to see, you know, especially with one analyst. And we're 75 officers 35, 36, 000 population. So we're not that big, but we sit just on the edge of Raleigh North Carolina.

And [00:30:00] yeah, it's with those one analyst departments, you're, you know, I'll be doing Intel working a homicide with the detectives and then switch over and the chief on the, something for the annual report. Or for a monthly report and switch over to doing analytics and pulling some data on that as well.

So, yeah, it's a, it's a huge mixture and it fluctuates day to day week to week and sometimes day to day. So,

Jason: well, it sounds like you stay busy though. I mean, I think that's I've heard from other people that there is a hesitancy of hiring somebody from a big city because they're worried that they would be bored with the job.

caleb: Yeah, I mean, yeah. You know, I'm, I've never shied away from finding work. I'll, there's stuff to do and there's projects, there's projects to be had and research to be done. And yeah, you know, trickle that in there with a little bit of,

you know, major crimes every once in a while. And yeah, I stay busy and there's plenty to do.

We are a huge retail area. We have Cabela's, we have Two Targets, Best [00:31:00] Buy, all the stuff you and I have. So we get our We got a fair share of thefts, that's for sure.

Jason: Well that actually is a nice lead in for your second analyst badge story. 2018, dealing with a jewelry robbery. Yeah,

caleb: so 2018, I was K Jewelers.

Two suspects walk in, they're wearing an orange construction vest, which was unique. And they rob the K Jewelers. This was about 4 or 5 in the afternoon. And they rob the K Jewelers, and I think they end up getting away with It was probably three hundred or so thousand dollars worth of jewelry.

So, we interesting enough, the way we got started on that is a witness a week prior took a picture of a vehicle that was driving through the parking lot. It was sitting in the parking lot. Of the cage jewels, and this is like a strip mall. There's Cage Jewelers, there's Verizon. Mm-hmm. , there's a Chipotle, there's a few other things.

And the witness takes a picture of this vehicle 'cause it was sitting there for a very long time, and then it ends up driving away and gets a picture of the [00:32:00] vehicle and the license plate. So we don't think much of it. We're like, well that's a week ago. I mean, That's pretty crazy that they would be sitting out doing surveillance for that long.

But we do, I start to do a workup on this suspect or on this person of interest and learn, come to find out he has ties to jewelry robberies prior. He also has. Ties to New York and was previously in jail for a murder charge that he did. He did 17 years for a murder, first degree murder charge.

And so it was a very interesting fellow. So we kind of had him. Up there and follow his information and had him on the back burner. We put out a bulletin and he didn't match our suspect. They were close, but he didn't match the people that we had in the store. We put out a bulletin and come to find out a store close to the Eastern shore going out towards the towards the beach had a similar robbery where they came in and they did the same thing.

So we started kind of working their end as [00:33:00] well and collaborating with them. And we run ankle monitors in the area and find that one of the suspects, lo and behold, had his ankle monitor on when he did the one. And he actually did not go in the store. But it was interesting because he was there right outside the store at the time of this and then left immediately when it happened.

happened. So we have that suspect. We take the picture from the from our bank robbery and we run. I start running license plate readers up and down the East Coast because he has ties to New York. So when we come to find out he actually two days after ours. We talked with New York City police and he has he's hitting off of their diamond district LPR and long story short, we find out he's actually been taking jewelry up there from different jewelry thefts.

And selling it like if you can't sell it down here, he's selling it up there in the in the diamond district. [00:34:00] That's

Jason: interesting. And that's that same car that Brandon person took a took a picture of a week prior to your

caleb: incident. Yeah. So that that guy was kind of like the head of this organization and he had four or five other people who went in and did the robberies.

But then would give the stuff to him. And he would get rid of the jewelry and able to give it back. So a few months later after it happened, the FBI comes in and actually takes the case. They come in, and it was interesting because, I mean, I say take the case. Yes, they took the case, but we worked with them.

They were very open with that. And we worked with them to kind of share all the information and get them up to speed. We also were able to listen to, one of the suspects had a girlfriend in one of our prisons. And we were able to listen to her jail calls. And of course, someone has to go through all that and sift through all that and document that stuff.

But we went out to the shore and met with myself, a detective, and our lieutenant, and met with [00:35:00] the FBI and this other police department, and kind of did a little collab session, if you will, and shared all of our information. On the way back, we followed the ankle monitor, and we noticed that on this random interstate on the way back to, you know, our area, That he stopped that night on the side of the road for quite a bit.

So on the way back, we stop, and we get out somewhere in that area, and we start walking, like, the roadside. And this has been a couple months now. And we start walking the roadside and kind of going up in the woods, and we locate a bottle. Of some type of liquor, a charging cable that's wrapped around a tree, almost looked like an identifier, like this is where we left something, or this is where we put something in the woods.

And then there was a handcuff key and handcuffs. So the one that they did towards the beach, they handcuffed the lady or the victim, and they also tied the other victim up with some type of cord. So we were able to collect that evidence, which was... [00:36:00] Total random shot in the dark. We just were like, well, let's stop and let's figure it out.

And let's just see what's out here. And maybe, cause we didn't know why they stopped. Well, it out, we start running, we contact the local police of this jurisdiction and we have them run their calls, calls for service and a police officer stops that night with these four individuals. And pick two of them up because they were already walking, pick two of them up and gave them a ride to the local gas station and got some gas because they ran out of gas is what has happened and gave them a ride back to their car.

And we weren't able to get the video, but we were talking to the officer and he confirmed you know, subset. their descriptions, also who was in the vehicle, like, how many people were in the vehicle, what the vehicle, whose vehicle it was, and then what the other two were doing when he came by the vehicle and then he said that they were up in the woods or like right along the edge of the woods like sitting like you would be waiting for someone.

[00:37:00] So, it was a kind of an interesting case and kind of come a little full circle because we were able to provide that stuff. Obviously, it's been months after, so I don't think they got any fingerprints off of it or anything like that, but we were able to provide that for evidence and it only boosted the case because we were almost in transition of like, Handing the case to the F B I and that kind of kept us in there , I guess they kind of had to keep using us.

Jason: Nice, nice. That's, that's this case is one that if they did a like based a TV show on it and I, I would be like, yeah, like it would be that convenient for the guy to have an ankle bracelet right outside the jewelry store and then also like how convenient that you ran outta gas. Like that would never happen.

Right. That would be like, I'd be yelling at the TV and saying that would never happen.

caleb: I think I've probably been there as well, or I've yelled at the TV and said, no, that doesn't happen. It's [00:38:00] interesting when it does though, you just almost can't believe it. You're like, did they really have an income monitor on?

Okay. So it's a interesting story for sure. Yeah,

Jason: no, that that is fascinating. And it is also fascinating. I guess it would be worthwhile that you get top dollar up there in New York, maybe to make it worthwhile to travel up there with all those diamonds. But

caleb: yeah, I think in his indictment. They said it was over 600, 000 worth of jewelry.

So I'm not sure what he got, what he got up there, but I knew he had connections up there too, so he might've had some family he stayed with a few times just to make it worth it.

Jason: Yeah. Now was the surveillance video pretty clear and crisp or was it one of those pixely things?

caleb: No, it was pretty clear and crisp.

I mean, for what it could be, you know we were very happy to have it. And. You were able to make out certain features. I mean, obviously they had their face covered and stuff like that, but there were certain just [00:39:00] features about them that you were able to make out and then clothing descriptions, which we were able to match up later once we got search warrants and stuff, but yeah.

This was one of those times where the video was kind of decent as well. So I know it doesn't happen often.

Jason: Yeah, good deal. Yeah. And I see on your resume here that you're, you're known as the go to guy for

caleb: Intel. Oh man. Yeah. So I mean, I'll tell you a quick story. So, you know, in the police department, there's a lot of switch up.

There's a lot of movement. People get, people retire, people get. Lieutenant's jobs, sergeant's jobs, everybody moves up. So we, I was under the criminal investigation division a few years ago and we had a new sergeant come in and

sit with the special investigations. He was running them. So one day, You know, I'll jump in with them and go out on the road every once in a while.

And I jump in with him and we knew of each other, but we never worked any cases together. [00:40:00] We're right around our local area and we pull over to a kind of a lottery, a game of chance type of area place or whatever. And we're watching. Individuals go in and out and on the other end, we have, we're doing some surveillance, but as these individuals come in and out, I'm, they're walking out and I'm telling them, oh, that's who that is.

And I'm telling them, oh, that's who that is. I'm giving them names and ages and saying, oh, that's how they're connected because they're connected to this person and they're connected to that person. So a big part of my job when I first got here was Intel led policing. Well, it was just. Learning everything there is to know about why people were in Garner and what they're doing here.

So it really, it really gave me a head up, a heads up because I was able to, you know, a lot of people say go on rides with officers to get out. And I agree with that, but I also showed them, I was like, I know who that is. Like. You don't have to go through facial wreck. You don't have to go on social media and try to figure out who that larceny person is.

[00:41:00] I, I, I know that person because I've been watching them for a while now. So when

Jason: you say watching them is. Are you, is this surveillance? Do you have cameras there or is it data? What do you, what are you doing to

caleb: all of them? Yeah, so when I say watching them, I mean they have popped up in a previous case and I'll do a little bit of background just social media and figure out what.

If they popped up anywhere else in the other jurisdictions around here and put out a bulletin saying, hey, this person's here. He's stealing. He's probably going to come to somebody else's place. And in doing that we'll kind of learn a little bit of background about them by using some of the systems that we have as well as using social media.

And that's how I learned about them. That's how what I would call watching them, even though we're not actively watching them all the time, but like. If they're committing crimes in other areas, or in our area, then I'm going to know about them, so.

Jason: Are you seeing any particular [00:42:00] trends there in Gardner? I'm thinking like, , catalytic converters always go up when the price is right or anything like that.

caleb: .

it's interesting when we say that and we talk about real estate and renting and stuff like that, we're seeing a ton of thefts in relation to real estate, right? So any type of, you know, you know, back in the day we had the copper thefts and now they've still, they've stole all that.

So there's no copper left in any of the buildings, but now it's becoming like appliances. Wood, things like that, anything that's new construction, we have a lot of residential construction up here, so anything that is out on the job site is a potential to be taken, so a lot of wood and a lot of appliances and things like that flooring.

Anything you can think of when it comes to the new construction. That's what we're seeing up here right now. So

Jason: Well, I do want to talk a little bit about you being the state trooper and then going to work for a city police [00:43:00] departments.

. What are some of the big differences that you see between being a state trooper and what you've seen maybe the city

caleb: cops do? I think there's a, there's more collaboration. There's more the city cops, local cops, I feel like maybe it's just the lack of resources or I'm not sure but They're much, they're much more willing to go talk to, you know, Raleigh police department or, you know, some of the other agencies around this area and just kind of collab with them and, and talk to them about cases that they're having problems with and stuff like that.

So I think maybe a little more sharing a little bit more open, whereas I felt as though when I was a trooper, it was all trooper, like. You know, we worked with the, we worked with the deputies in the sheriff's department, but we didn't talk about like, it was because we responded to call us together. So maybe a little more closed off.

I mean, a little bit more, obviously it's a little bit more paramilitary. Right. So some would [00:44:00] say. A little more squared away, but being here in a local and city, we go after crime, right? We want to solve crime. We wanted to

keep the public safe. And that's what the main focus is here. And it's, it's been a little bit of a breath of fresh air because of that.

As you see people's intentions when, when that happens. And with the troopers, like, I just felt like it was maybe some, you know, still getting out there and doing stuff. And still keeping us public safety, but it was a lot of traveling up and down the road. We weren't really talking to other local law enforcement.

We were responding to calls coming back in here. Whereas I see it's a little different here where they're still responding to calls. But, you know, if I go out to a call. Here, if they go out to a call with a deputy or something like that, they might sit there and talk to the deputy about what else is happening in their area.

And it might be, and that's how we build Intel here. So

Jason: let's talk about your master's a little bit. Cause [00:45:00] she, as I mentioned in your intro, you got it from Tiffin university and you do have a concentration in crime analysis. So I guess looking back now, and how do you feel that the, The master's degree has helped you in your current position.

caleb: Yeah, I mean, I think it was a very valuable in terms of especially when I learned about crime analysis late in my undergrad this really helped me because a lot of the courses within that program are designed around mapping or design around, you know, your basic crime analysis stuff where you're building bulletins, you're sifting through data, stuff like that.

So I thought that program was very interesting and very meaningful and valuable for me just because I was so interested in this career and didn't really have a clue as to what I needed to learn. So that really helped out a lot. Yeah.

Jason: Now, do you, recommend [00:46:00] The the master's degree, you know, if you're if you're already maybe an analyst and or do you feel that some of the stuff that you learned in that program, you could learn and you taking just a couple of courses or maybe getting certified with an organization?

caleb: Yeah, no, I mean. I don't say that everybody needs to have a master's or everybody needs to have an education. I think if you can learn some of these things from on the job training the, the idea of progressing your career is to always be learning something, right? So don't just sit stagnant. So as it was a great.

Program and I would suggest doing that program. However, I don't think it's a necessary like you don't need to have a master's to do this position. I think you can learn a lot of it from on the job or even with just the bachelors or maybe like you said, a certificate or some courses here and there.

Jason: I'm always surprised that these [00:47:00] universities or colleges that have a either a degree or concentration or certificate in law enforcement analysis, whether it's crime analysis or Intel analysis or combination thereof. I'm surprised that we don't see these colleges and universities. At conferences,

caleb: yeah, and I think, yeah, and actually, I think we might see that changing here in the coming years, just because of what we just said, right?

A lot of analysts might not have the degree. They might. You know, I know early on, especially it was, we were pulling a records clerk, right? We're pulling a secretary. We're pulling a police officer and that's who our crime analyst is going to be. And so you might have a lot of these analysts that don't have the degree that maybe want to get a degree.

But that is interesting. We, I, maybe one or two conferences I've been at, I've seen them, but yeah. Yeah, I don't see much of them. Yeah, I

Jason: think the only one I can really think [00:48:00] of off the top of my head is, is it American University? Yeah, I think so. And D. C.? That's the one that I, I remember seeing, but I don't remember seeing any of the other ones, .

All right, let's move on to personal interests, and you're into real estate.

caleb: Yeah, so you know, I went through and a few years back and read all the books on, you know, how to increase some of the financial, financial situation. So we, we started to get into real estate and a couple of years ago and bought our first duplex and absolutely love it.

Not much of the managing side of it just because, you know, my day job takes a lot of that away from and but yeah, we longterm rentals interested in short term rentals, but we haven't jumped yet and made that made that decision, but Yeah. Interested. Always looking for that next opportunity.

Always kind of searching Realtor and different websites to see if if there's a option out there, maybe I could pick up and, and add to the portfolio, I guess I would say. Yeah. How many properties do you have? [00:49:00] So right now

we just have the duplex, but like I said, it's interesting this year because of the interest rate hike.

We haven't completely jumped into it again cause we're not sure exactly where everything's going to go, but we're always, always looking and always open. Yeah.

Jason: No, I think we're about to get into some foreclosure situations. I think we're it's, it's interesting. Yeah. You stick around long enough, you see the different...

Eve's and flows of real estate and it seems like now because I'm interested in and I've been following it for probably 20 years slightly almost as a hobby. I don't have a, a rental, but I've always been a little interested in, in the concept and it does seem like, , people are holding on to their cash because they're They're ready to jump on some

caleb: foreclosures.

Yeah. So [00:50:00] something's going to happen, right? I mean, you see these interest rates extremely high and, and we'll see what happens. But yeah, I agree. I think there's some opportunity possibly coming up out there.

Jason: Yeah, I do find it fascinating because I was just telling somebody the other day, I was like, even if I just, even if somebody gave me an opportunity, a new job, that's a better paying job, I would have to seriously consider over the lifetime of that job selling this house now.

. Cause I'm at, I refinanced a couple of years ago. And so I'm like, I don't know, 2% turn around and get, I'm going to be, I'm going to turn around and get like a 7% loan.

caleb: I'm not sure anybody's making that, making that jump. Yeah. If you got, yeah. If you refinanced, refinanced a few years ago, then you did pretty well for yourself.

Jason: Now, in terms of the, the rental aspect of it, did you hire that out [00:51:00] or did you make the decision yourself who to rent to?

caleb: So no, we make the decision and we're renting we're managing it just because it's one right now. Eventually down the road, I would like to get off and hire it out to a managing company.

But right now we're kind of doing everything which is interesting because it gives you a different perspective of how these, how this goes. I mean, we rented a few years back or for a few years. So we kind of understand the aspect coming into this. Yeah,

Jason: now, did you have you always done a good job of identifying that the renter or did you have somebody that was like, Oh, I wish I wouldn't have read into that.

caleb: No, I mean, we, we, we pay for, you know, a background check and all that stuff. So we try to do a good job. You know, and I, I haven't had knock on wood, any bad situations yet, but I've heard, you know, obviously part of forums and stuff like that, and I've heard them all and I'm like, and maybe that's the reason for the hesitation to get back into another one.

You know, you don't know what you're going to get. Yeah. I

Jason: had a buddy that [00:52:00] did it. And the first time he made a mistake and, you know, gave a person a chance when they slightly didn't have the strict. Numbers, what I mean by numbers is the formula of what you would want to see in a candidate and and he paid the price for it and it got them got fortunately was able to get them get them out of there.

But then his second tenant was. Pristine and just, just worked out from that point on and rented, I think, I think he eventually sold, but he rented all the way up to the point when, when he sold it. So it worked out the second time, but the first time he kind of stumbled. Yeah. You

caleb: hear those stories and you know, you never want it to happen to you, but it's out there.

So yeah. All right.

Jason: Very good. Well, our last segment to the show is words to the world. This is where I give the guest the last word. Caleb, you can promote any idea that you wish. What are your words to the

caleb: world? [00:53:00] Ooh, I have, I have two things I want to say here. And one's for like the old analysts and one's for the new analysts, because I feel like I'm somewhere in between right now.

And that's As for the new analysts, collaborate with everyone. Reach out to everyone. If somebody wants to talk to you, pick their ear, because there's so much to learn out there. And then with the old analysts, make sure you help a new analyst. There's we've all been in that situation, right? Where we're coming on, and we're kind of piecing things together, and we're trying to figure things out.

And, I know the Carolinas right now, we're seeing a ton of new analysts come on board and so just make sure that we're helping them and putting them on the right path and if they reach out, don't don't shut them away and help them out because I think we were all there at one

Jason: time. Very good. Why leave every guest with you?

Give me just enough to talk bad about you later. Okay, but I do appreciate you being on the show. Caleb. Thank you so much. And you be safe. Thank you. Jason. Have a good one.

MIndy: Thank you for making it to the end of another episode of analysts talk with Jason Elder. You can show your support by [00:54:00] sharing this and other episodes found on our website at www.leapodcasts.com. If you have a topic you would like us to cover or have a suggestion for our next guest, please send us an email at leapodcasts@gmail.com. Till next time, analysts keep talking.