

Patricia Potter - The Analyst Poet

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 10 years of law enforcement analysis experience with 15 years of law enforcement experience overall. She started her career with the Virgins Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency, then went on to the Virgin Island Police Department, and now she is the lead Intelligence Analyst with the Virgin Island Fusion Center.

She holds a Master's in Public Safety Public Administration from Capella University. Please welcome Patricia Potter. Patricia, how are we doing? Hi, how are you? I am doing very well. How is the weather in the [00:01:00] Virgin Islands

Patricia: right now? Oh, the weather is nice and sunny. Those high temperatures are really hitting us, but living in the Virgin Islands, , you're accustomed to that tropical weather, so everything's normal.

Yeah.

Jason: It just seems like it's either beautiful or storming.

Patricia: Yes. Hopefully this is not a storming time. We are in the middle of hurricane season, so we're here in the Virgin Islands doing our rain dance to make sure that we keep Oh, The hurricanes away.

Jason: Yeah. Oh, and we'll get into a little bit that later in the interview, but it, and reading your name, Patricia Potter.

We didn't talk about this in the prep call, but it may, that easily could be the name of Harry's aunt from the Harry Potter series.

Patricia: Patricia Potter. There's, there's a total backstory to how, why my mom named me Patricia. Ironically enough, and I, I, I never really told you about this

before, but ironically enough, at the time when my mom was pregnant with me That was around the time when [00:02:00] Patricia Hurst I'm, I'm not sure if you remember her story about being kidnapped.

And then all of a sudden she appeared during a, a bank robbery. I think that was around the first time when our criminal justice system with was familiar with I think it's Stockholm Syndrome. Mm-hmm. And my mom was watching the bank robbery go down and in the middle of that whole.

Shenanigans said, what's going on? She was just like, I'm gonna name her. Patricia. Patricia Potter. Yeah, that's, that is the backstory to my name, ironically enough. Yeah. That's interesting

Jason: cuz I always think sometimes with some of these names going back to hurricanes, like I feel that Katrina is just one of those names that is just not going to be very popular based on the hurricane.

I bet you there are a lot less Katrinas in, in the world now after Hurricane Katrina.

Patricia: A lot of hurricane names actually derived from Caribbean and African heritage. So A lot of the hurricane [00:03:00] names are very common names of individuals here in the Caribbean. Very common first name. It's a, it's a very cultural first names to the Caribbean, Africa. So yeah, that's, that's the historical contents of how they, they come up with a lot of the hurricane names.

Yeah, no,

Jason: that's that's interesting. I know the Weather Channel, it seems like they name every storm now, even if it's like a heavy snowstorm in the Northeast, it seems like it gets a name now. So, but anyway, we can talk about that for a long, long time. But let's first talk about how you discovered the law enforcement analysis profession.

I

Patricia: actually always had an interest in law enforcement and forensics. A lot of the times when kids were at home watching cartoon Network or, or Nickelodeon, I was at home late at night on the weekend watching forensic files and watching court tv. And I, I actually got introduced to the, the criminal justice career field [00:04:00] from watching my mom watch court TV all the time.

I, I remember as a kid watching the OJ Simpson trial watching the Melendez brother trial. And ever since then, I've just always dug into the forensic field. I remember as a kid, Henry Lee was actually one of my Individuals that I looked up to and I, I knew from since I was a kid in middle school that I wanted to do something in criminal justice.

So yes, I've always had that, that interest. But specifically when it came to criminal analysis I first got introduced to that career field from my mentor. His name is Curtis Griffin. At the time he was the assistant commissioner for the Virgin Island Police Department. And he was always very intrigued about how much I knew about criminology, criminal concepts how much I knew about comstat and, and all those foundational criminal justice information.

And he's like, [00:05:00] you know what you need to do? You need to be a crime analyst. And , in a lot of my spare time, I did a lot of research about crime analysts, about all those other stuffs, including what I studied in school. And ever since then I was like, this is it. This is, this is what I'm gonna do.

I'm gonna be a crime analyst. ,

Jason: you started out as a dispatcher, right?

Patricia: Yes, I, I originally started my career in the public safety system as a 9 1 1 dispatcher. I, I thought that initially I was still kind undecided about whether I wanted to doer emergency management or stick with my dream of working in the criminal justice system.

And then I, I had a experience working as a 9 1 1 dispatcher when one of our officers god rest his soul Mr. Colvin George's. Was shot in the line of duty, and unfortunately, he succumbed to his injuries about a, a year after. And it was that [00:06:00] experience that was the nail in the coffin, I should say.

Oh, the, the seal, the deal that I definitely wanted to do something in law enforcement, in criminal justice. I, I wasn't sure if I wanted to be a cop, but I knew I wanted to be a part of protecting and serving my community.

Jason: Oh, yeah, that's sorry to hear about the, the officer. So, and, and with the dispatching, you know, I've had several analysts on the show who were dispatchers prior to being an analyst, and it, there's a lot that you learn as a dish ba batcher, that helps you when you become an analyst because you know, the, the CAD data, you know the problem areas because you know where all the calls are going.

You know, the times of day when all the problems in certain areas of, of your jurisdiction are, are hot and when they're not. And there is just a lot to, to, to get that you, that [00:07:00] you learn. As a dispatcher, that's helpful once you become an

Patricia: analyst. Yes. And the, the fact that I was a, a dispatcher on a small territorial island like St.

Thomas of course the redundancy in, in criminal actors in suspects, we, we knew, like, so if we knew John Doe was released out of prison and we know that his, his modus, his mo was to rob jewelry stores and we noticed jewelry stores are out and John Doe is out of prison. We were like, Uhhuh, we solved the case.

We were always solving cases in the 9 1 1 dispatch center. So it did give me a lot of insight into understanding patterns and trends, understanding the significance of behavioral patterns and trends and, and. That gave me a lot of insight into that career field. And it, it like working as a 9 1 1 dispatcher was definitely the birth of, of what [00:08:00] really seal the deal in, in wanting to work in the criminal justice system.

And it was a, one of the best experiences that I've ever had in my career. All right.

Jason: Let's, we gotta do I think a little geography now. So the Virgin Islands, it's four islands. And when you're dispatching, you're only dispatching for one of the islands, correct?

Patricia: Correct. So we're comprised of four islands, as you mentioned, St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, and Water Island. And. My 9 1 1 dispatch center only dispatched for St. Thomas. However, sometimes if we get extremely busy at the 9 1 1 Center, or if one of the other islands St. Croix gets busy at their center, we will sometimes have calls roll over to our 9 1 1 center and we would dispatch for them.

So that's like one of the things that's very unique about the Virgin Islands is that we are all considered one territory, one unit, but we are all [00:09:00] separated by water. Yeah. So it was a very unique dynamic. Right. And then

Jason: how do you, how would you describe the size. Of the islands. Is there a common way that you, when people ask you like how big St.

Thomas is or how big are all the islands, what do you usually tell folks?

Patricia: So St. Thomas is essentially 32 square miles. St. Croix is about twice or at the least a double and a half of it. And then St. John is extremely small. It's about, I would say about 18 to 20 square miles. And water Island is even smaller.

Each island have their I guess you can say nicknames or aliases that help describe what each island is known for. So, St. Thomas is known as Rock City cuz although we're very small, we are very tall, we are very hilly and mountainous and it just adds personality to the beauty of our [00:10:00] island. Saint Croix is more flat.

We have more farmland and agriculture in St. Croix, and St. John is known as Love City, whereas it's so small that everyone literally knows everyone on the island. Water Island is like a, a sister island to St. Thomas because it's, it's just a two minute boat ride away. There's very few people that, that lives on Water Island, maybe about a hundred people that lives on water island.

It's very secluded. It's very quiet. So each island has their own feature, geographical feature, and personality.

Jason: Okay. Oh good. That's a lot better description. I, I googled it real quick and the one description I got is like, if you combined all the islands together, it would be twice as big as Washington dc That's the easiest

Patricia: to put it.

And

Jason: that was, that was seemed to be like, I was like, there's some math in that and like, you'd know, you'd have to have an understanding of how big DC is and everything else, but that's you [00:11:00] did a lot better job than that one sentence description,

so then when you become a crime analyst, then, like, so what are you concentrating on?

What are some of the issues that the police department is working on?

Patricia: So. One of the issues or complexities in, in working here or fighting crime in the Virgin Islands is that we live in a very small, small populated place. The US Virgin Islands in totality consists about 85 to 90,000 individuals.

And we are living in a environment where everyone knows everyone. I know in the continent in United States we, well, law enforcement has the ability to travel across to different. Counties and work outside of their home environment. Whereas in the Virgin Islands you can get called on a, a case and that case happened to involve your classmate or your best friend or your [00:12:00] cousin.

So we live in a, a very small population where everyone knows everyone and everyone is pretty much connected about five degrees of separation.. It has, its good. And it's bad. It's like a double-edged sword. Mm-hmm. One of the benefits of living or, or, or working or being a law enforcement officer in such a small community is that you're, you take your job a lot more personable.

It's not just a matter of arresting Jimmy because he burglarized the supermarket, but you know that you're, you're able to figure out what could you do to make sure that he is not another statistics. Sometimes we, we are able to really have that ability to do. Bonafide authentic community oriented policing.

It's a lot more easier. It's a lot more we have that ability. Unfortunately the flip side to it is that as you can imagine there's a lot of difficulties in [00:13:00] investigating certain cases because of the fact that we have such a small community. It's a lot more difficult for people to be more open to providing information on cases.

A lot of cases are more personable. It's not just law enforcement officers, but to community members. So community oriented policing is extremely, extremely important when it comes to law enforcement here in the community.

Jason: No, that's, that's interesting. And I didn't, you know, I wouldn't have, when you first said that, it was, it makes sense and man, it, if you, I can understand that if Obviously if people understand who the witnesses are, that that would, can intimidate people from coming forward.

Cuz they don't want to get involved and they don't wanna put them and their family at at risk. So that is, that's an interesting concept because you would think that because it's so [00:14:00] small that people would know, be able to recognize. Maybe stuff that's out of the ordinary, pick up on stuff that may be criminal in nature as opposed to something that's more fluid.

And you got people all over the place coming and going and you might not be able to recognize it. Exactly. . Well let's let's get into a story then your analyst badge story. And for those that may be new to the show, the analyst bash story is the cr defining case or project that an analyst works.

And for you it's, 2016, barely new as a crime analyst. And you get, you work on a burglary series here in St. Thomas.

Patricia: Yes. So I, it was my first assignment as a crime analyst. And unfortunately there were not like, A real solid direction in developing the, the crime analyst unit at the police department.

So I, I [00:15:00] was given a task of working with the burglary unit, and they kind of was like, all right, we have like all these cases and we have to go through all of these items, and we, well, what, what are we looking for? And someone mentioned to them, well, we just got a crime analyst. And they're like, who's the crime analyst?

The evidence clerk? She's now the crime analyst. And they're like, oh my God, let's go to her. So they, we went to the, the assistant commissioner who I mentioned was my mentor, and he was like, awesome. I knew you were gonna find your first assignment. Mm-hmm. We, we, when I. Told you that. We tell you that we really dug deep into these cases.

We really dug deep into these cases. We pulled up maps. We, we analyzed the time of the day these incidents were happening, the type of items they were leaving with. There were times where we went on patrol with the officers to observe the environment where these cases were occurring. It led us to realize that we [00:16:00] actually needed to light that place a lot more, a lot better.

It had, it was an area that had poor lighting. We were able to interview them, we real, we, because of the point of entry, point of exit, the behavior of the, the the, the criminal, we were able to narrow it down to one individual and his partner that were unfortunately they were addicted to narcotics using drugs and they needed to have items to steal and sell for drug money.

And this story actually plays back to what I was saying earlier. We realized that he went through a lot of hard times, suffered with depression. He was slated to actually have a very. Good job. And he just unfortunately you know, hit rock bottom and not only were we able to solve the case and make an arrest, but we were also able to get him some of the help that he needs.

I, I haven't been able to follow up with [00:17:00] him, but I do hope and pray that wherever he is, he is receiving the help that he needed. But that's my bad story. That's when I realized that this stuff really works.

Jason: So what, well, first, I guess what, what drugs

Patricia: was he using? He was using cocaine, crack cocaine.

Marijuana, he was also a alcoholic. Mm-hmm. Pretty much anything that he could have found on the streets that would give him a buzz. Oh man, he was really into, but when we get down to the meat of it, he was just like, I don't know how I end up here, but I'm here and I really want to get out. And he just really wanted the help.

And that was his rock bottom moment. That was his intervention moment that helped him realize like, I needed help.

Jason: So how did you identify that all of the burglary cases were related?

Patricia: We realized that he was sort of hidden the same areas. We realized that he [00:18:00] was mostly stealing electronics.

We were also getting a couple of complaints that this individual were attempting to sell some of the stoling goods to him. Mm-hmm. And we were like, okay, let's put two and two together. Let's explore this. We have these complaints, we have these cases as going on. We were able to map the area where the burglaries were occurring, and we realized that it was actually near an area that is known or was hotspot area for drug activity.

The officers that I work with are bonafide street cops. They mm-hmm. They really were able to connect to the people in the community and everyone respected them and they were able to solicit information despite the fact that we live in a small community. People were very forthcoming to them with information.

They mentioned that we, we did notice this guy that has electronics all the time, that's often our hair selling or [00:19:00] purchasing narcotics. And, you know, we were just able to do combine good. Police work and good investigative work along with crime analysts and the science of it, and we were able to just narrow it down to this guy.

How was he caught? We, from what I understand, the officers were able to stage staying operation. Mm-hmm. They were able to narrow down to the most likely place that he was going to burglarize, cuz it was one of the few places that wasn't burglarized yet.

Mm-hmm. And they were able to catch him in the act and he was arrested. Oh,

Jason: okay. Yeah. That's yeah, that, that's understandable. So, and, and then I guess, from your perspective, this is your. First time doing this. For a lot of analysts, a lot of folks that'll talk, there's, there's something about that first time you either get the buy-in or the thing, the case works out well, that puts your mind at ease a little [00:20:00] bit.

It's just like, oh, you know what? I can do this or this is what I am meant to do and I can do this. Well, and it sounds like that was the case for you, that it's like, you know what? This is, this is gonna be good. Do you, do you agree?

Patricia: Yes, I agree. I, I remember one of the, well, one of the skills that I have is that I'm really good at researching and I did a lot of research.

At the time I also became a new member of the International Association of Crime Analyst. Mm-hmm. I were able to, to participate in some of their courses that taught about the different techniques and procedures in crime analysis. As I mentioned, my, my mentor as former Assistant Commissioner, police Department, Curtis Griffin sent me to a plethora of training and opportunities, and I was just, Able to put it at work when once I got this assignment and then it was just like, huh, it works.[00:21:00]

And, and that was just, that really gave me the momentum to, to really continue to, to do Crime analysis work. I loved, I fell in love with it after that burglary case, and I was just, we were just like, what's next? We were hungry. We were real hungry.

Jason: Ah, no, that's, that's awesome. I do wanna get to the, Your your transition to the Fusion Center.

But before I do that, I want to take a moment. L e a podcast recently just had their third year anniversary. And, and thinking about that, I realized that I haven't done enough to, to thank those that have helped me over the years. And so Kyle McMullen, who's a longtime friend, has designed most of the logos for, for the podcast and his website.

Modern type.com sells planners, business forms, signs and calendars, and all profits from the website go [00:22:00] to U P M C Children's Hospital Foundation in Pittsburgh. So if you, there's will be a link in the show notes for his website. If you could shop on his site and help him out, that would be greatly appreciated.

And then the song that's playing now, the Rough and tumble, Mallory and Scott, my sister-in-law and brother-in-law the Music and Sound Bites for the podcast they, they created. And so they ha they have a new album only this far which song this song is playing on. They are touring between Michigan and Colorado this summer.

So find their album and their tour dates at the Ruffin tumble. Dot com. All right, Patricia. I, let's talk about your transition now to the Fusion Center, that is a, little bit of a transition as we'll get into. So how did this idea of you going to the Fusion [00:23:00] Center first

Patricia: come up? So my current boss supervisor, boss at the Fusion Center actually knew me before when I was a 9 1 1 dispatcher.

My supervisor, Mr. Wayne Bryan at the time was. Also working in the same workspace as I was per se, because our 9 1 1 dispatcher is also located in our emergency management agency along with our fusion center. So we always interacted cross cross paths one way or the other. And I, I don't remember how the conversation came about, but I told him, you know, one of these days I'm gonna work for you.

And he was just like, really? I had to actually remind him about that conversation the other day. But he just heard a great deal of I guess you could say good. Reports about the work that I did. He heard about the, the networking the participation in Project Safe [00:24:00] neighborhood that I participated in with the, of course with the Bureau of Justice.

And a lot of people spoke highly of me and my reputation, and he approached me one day and was like, do you wanna work for the Fusion Center? And I'm like, what are we gonna do? Are we dealing with numbers and crime and statistics? And he's like, no, it's totally qualitative. It's totally writing and reports and it's more intelligence focused.

And I was like, definitely. So I, I seized the opportunity and I, I know the Virgin United Police Department was so upset when I decided to leave, but they totally understood that I, I've also had a desire for intelligence work, and they knew

that it was a great opportunity. And our new commissioner at the, the time was like, I, I totally don't wanna lose you, but I know this is like a, a opportunity that you cannot pass on.

And so that was when I, I decided to take that opportunity and I transitioned from being a crime analyst [00:25:00] to an intelligence analyst.

John: Hi, I am John Ng. I'm a prime analyst with the Sask Police Service. The public service announcement that I have is for, especially for junior analysts, but also senior analysts, just be true to yourself and recognize that the police culture that you're in shouldn't necessarily shape who you are, but you have something to bring towards your service as a benefit as well.

Angela: Hi, this is Angela Becker Hines, and I just wanna remind you to give yourself a break. As analysts, we strive to have all the officers in our department utilize our skills, and we typically want to be everything to everyone and do everything we can each day. But work is much more manageable and less stressful if you embrace the fact that it's okay to take some time for yourself and maybe even to say no once in a while, in analysis and in life, you have to give yourself a break or you risk burning out, and then you're no good to anyone.

Patricia: So just remember, it's okay to give yourself a break.[00:26:00]

Jason: So is this Fusion Center, is this part of a national program or is it, because it sound, sounds like the way you described it, it's not with the Virgin Islands Police Department. It's a different agency. Yes.

Patricia: So After the, I'll give you a little background about fusion centers.

Mm-hmm. So after the nine 11 terrorist attack that unfortunately occurred in New York part of the, the back investigation revealed that one of the, one of the issues that kind of contributed to nine 11 was the lack of ability to share information with other law enforcement or intelligence agencies.

And so department of Homeland Security or through Congress came up with the concept of fusion centers, where local law enforcement agencies, along with federal law enforcement agencies that's operating within a certain area of responsibility are able to meet together. And [00:27:00] they're able to develop our int intelligence sharing environment where we are able to integrate what's happening locally.

Within a district, along with how that affects the United States and as a nation and how it affects our, the security of our homeland. So based off of that concept we did the Virgin Island Police, not the Virgin Island Police Department, I'm sorry, the Virgin Island Fusion Center was developed. The Virgin Island Fusion Center is embedded in the Virgin Island Territorial Emergency Management Agency.

One of the, the rules or one of, the slogan that we have amongst fusion centers is that once you've been in a fusion center, you've been in a fusion center, meaning that every fusion center is totally different. We've have fusion centers that may have up to 20 analysts. Working in that center.

We have other fusion centers that only have about three to five fusion center analysts. We have some fusion centers that are embedded in the Virgin Island Police de in the, [00:28:00] well, in the police department, sorry. Mm-hmm. And we have other fusion centers that's embedded in their public safety department that's embedded in their emergency management agency department, like the Virgin Islands.

So every fu no two fusion centers are alike. Yes, it's very diverse. It's very developed and coordinated according to the needs of, of that district that they're operating in.

Jason: Hmm. That sounds slightly different than what I would expect, and certainly you can correct me if I'm wrong here, but when, when it comes to, when I think of a fusion center or real-time crime center and it's being formed, it seems like.

Because here in the continental US, we have so many different jurisdictions, local, state, federal, that each will send a representative to that fusion center. So you get representatives from each local department, you get somebody from the state, and you get different folks from all the different federal [00:29:00] agencies.

But for what you just described sounds like it's the, the fusion Center that is sending people to the various locations to, help them with a particular problem.

Patricia: It could, it could work either or. Mm-hmm. Here at our fusion centers, I believe we have actually have one of the smallest fusion centers in the nation.

But a lot of our partners that we work in come and visit the Fusion Center here. Sometimes we go to their their location. Sometimes fusion centers do have

exchange programs where we're able to work within other fusion centers just to see some of the different subject matters that they're dealing with.

To see how they're they operate and how they do things and kind of exchange different ideas amongst each other. One thing about Fusion Center analysts is that we have so many different I ideas, concept, subject matters that [00:30:00] we're dealing with. But once you get a room full of Fusion Center analysts, we all speak the same language.

And I think. That, that experience builds a very strong camaraderie amongst fusion centers across the United States. I'm actually a part of a fusion center organization known as Southern Shields, and every time we have our Southern Shields meeting, we have so many different things that is happening in the Virgin Islands that affects the, the southern portion of the United States or beyond.

I have worked on intelligent products that is happening here in the Virgin Islands, and then we found out that some of the same subject matters that we're discussing is occurring in California. And then we later find out that there's a connection between what's happening in California and the Virgin Islands, even though we're on two different ends of the world or the nation.

Mm-hmm. I should say. So I think working as a a Fusion Center analyst, One of the things that I've learned is [00:31:00] that the networking is very deep and a lot of what we do do affect people across the United States and beyond.

Jason: And , you helped me with the segue to your second analyst badge story, which is one of your products that you had when you when you first started as an Intel analyst with the Fusion Center.

I know some of it, it, it's not public information, so we're gonna have to be careful on what we say, but I think in terms of what you did and what the results are, are pretty remarkable.

Patricia: Yes. So as Intelligent analysts, I regularly have to publish or is expected to publish intelligence products that is expected to be of some significance to the intelligence community.

And one of the things that my boss first told me when I came to the Fusion Center was, you never know how far your intelligent products are gonna go. And I was just like, man, we're in the Virgin Islands. How could it possibly go?

Well, I, I [00:32:00] did my first major intelligent product that spoke about transnational crimes here in the Caribbean.

And lo and behold, I've had, we were receiving calls from fusion centers in Florida in California, in, in the northern region of the United States. And eventually I got a really big call from the drug Czar, which is the National Director of Drug Policy for the executive president of the United States.

And he wanted to visit, and we were like, oh, you're visiting the personality. And so he's like, no, you don't understand. We're coming to see you. We read your intelligence product. It was an eyeopener, and we want to have more insight on the information that you. Provided in this product. And my boss was just across the table when he heard that and he was just like, you see, I tell you, it's gonna go far.

You never know. You never know. So that was my second bad story as a intelligent analyst at our

Jason: future center. So, [00:33:00] yeah. Can is there any more that you could give us, again, I know you have to be careful, but is there, is there's certain public knowledge that came, that you guys published from that, that paper that you can talk about?

Patricia: We, well, we realized after publishing that that intelligence product, that there is there are deep connections between a lot of what's happening with the opiate crisis. In the United States and the Caribbean. So it, it was just an eyeopener and it, instead of being more tunnel vision about the drug crisis that we're seeing in the United States, it realized like this is not just the United States, this is in the Caribbean that we are very interwove, interwoven with each other.

A lot of times people tend to forget that there's a piece of the United States in the Caribbean. And of course it's a little difficult to remember being thousands of miles across water. But [00:34:00] everything that we, we do everything that we speak about, everything that we experience one way or the other, is affected, has effects in different regions of the world.

I know a, a lot of our listeners may have probably heard of , the butterfly effect. And I think it's, like working here at a fusion center as an analyst helped me realize that a lot of the things that we do and we experience has a connection or is very much connected to different parts of the world.

And our narcotic crisis that we, we are experiencing in the United States currently, unfortunately has very deep connections to Latin America, to the European continents countries, I should say, to the Caribbean. And it, it was a eyeopener for a lot of our leaders that are very interested in this arena when it comes to crime in in our nation.

Jason: , so the meeting with the, the drug czar then what's, [00:35:00] is there anything that's super memorable about that and that event?

Patricia: It was, it was really interesting being able to share a lot of our how should say it was interesting sharing a lot of our issues that we've had, that we've been dealing with, with for a while.

To be able to share and to have someone to listen to us to know that the ability to, to publish a intelligent product and, and have it distributed in the intelligence community and to know that this were, would gave him more insight and gave him more information on how he can better deal with the situation.

It was just really I felt as if I, I did my due diligence as an intelligent analyst being able to, Grab his attention and show him the different things that occurred here that was occurring here in the, in the Virgin Islands. It just, it makes you feel as [00:36:00] if you, you did your part and you did your job well.

So that was one of the, the best parts in being able to host him here in, in the Virgin Islands. And not to mention the fact that I finally got a challenge coin from the office of the President of the United States. There you go. So those, those two are what memorable moments that I had in meeting the drugs are, yeah,

Jason: I don't know how many people can say that.

So that's Very good. So something you said yesterday during the prep call stuck with me and it was the idea of you, you experienced both being a crime analyst and being an Intel analyst and even being an Intel analyst in the Fusion Center, you feel has slightly different goals, different mission, and I just wanted to give you an opportunity to elaborate on that.

Patricia: So I, I would say the easiest way to describe the differences between the two arenas is that being a, a crime analyst is more [00:37:00] quantitative you know, dealing with the Excel spreadsheets and, you know, learning how to use Python and, and those sorts of stuff. It's very much crime analysis driven, whereas.

Intelligence analyst is more qualitative. We look at trends, what's happening in the news, how, how does something that's happening in, in one hemisphere affecting us. We are more in, into looking at patterns, trends, and behaviors and predicting and providing substantive information as to how these things are affecting us.

It's more qualitative, more reportive like. If you understand what I'm saying, it's more focused on the details, the, the details what's happening what we should look for. I would say that intelligence is very much, they're in, in sim when it comes to similarities. They both can be strategic, but I think being [00:38:00] an intelligent analyst is more strategic on a higher strategic level than being a crime analyst.

You know, crime analyst is more looking at hotspot areas. Where do we have to distribute our resources? Being an intelligent analyst for a fusion center, it's more on what do we have to look out for in order to mitigate it before it does actually happen? Or it may give some insight on something that we may think it's a small situation, but there's a bigger picture to it.

And we, we reveal that in our intelligence products. .

Jason: Also, we mentioned it in the beginning of, of the interview here, hurricanes, that's something that you all are obviously dealing with maybe more than most. And so, I just wanna get, get your perspective on when you have hurricanes go through and you're dealing with power loss and all the, the chaos that a hurricane brings, , what's your role as, an [00:39:00] analyst during this

Patricia: situation?

So during hurricanes when we are having a, a natural disaster such as a hurricane as a future center analyst, it's very important that we coordinate a lot of our federal and local law enforcement assets. That mostly it's focused on, concentrated on critical infrastructures or federal assets.

So we may have. We may have some federal assets that's on island and we may need their assistance. And we, we collect intelligence during those disasters and let different divisions, departments, arenas that's federally, that has a interest federally in what's going on in, in terms of terrorism crime during a hurricane.

And we. Push forward that information to those partners to let them know like this is what's going on. Law enforcement here in the Virgin Islands during a

hurricane forces us to really be creative law enforcement officials. [00:40:00]
As you can imagine during a, a disaster hurricanes knocks out everything.

Our, you know, shelter is compromised. There's no telephone communication, there's no electricity. And our police officers are, are sometimes put in a position where they have to be very creative in how they're going to enforce the law in the middle of chaos such as this. And after the experience of seeing how a lot of Virgin Island police officers were able to handle being hit by two category five storms within a week apart of each other, I must, I will tell everyone that the Virgin Islands Police Department is.

Some of the best officers that I have seen operate in a natural disaster. But there there is some very complex and unique situations that we do have to get out of in the middle of a natural disaster during a hurricane.

Jason: Now, you talked about the, the four islands and their nicknames and how their [00:41:00] geography is, is slightly different.

And during a hurricane, is one more susceptible or more at risk than the others?

Patricia: It, it, it depends on the characteristics of the hurricane itself. If we have a, a hurricane that is has a lot of rain then. And it decides to hit more St. Croix than St. Thomas. St. Croix may have a lot of issues with flooding because it's more flat.

Mm-hmm. Whereas is the same sort of hurricane was to hit the Virgin Islands. Only certain parts of the Virgin Island may experience flooding, but then we have a lot of mudslides and landslides that may occur. We do have issues with runoffs in the beaches and, and stuff like that. So it all depends on the characteristics of the hurricane itself and which island is going to get affected most by the hurricanes.

Alright. Good,

Jason: . I do wanna talk to you about training. , I see on your resume here that you , took the alias Fiat. [00:42:00] Training. And just wanted to first get your take on that. How did you, how did you like the training and, and how do you think it

Patricia: influenced you? I enjoyed that training very much.

That training really taught me the importance of the intelligence cycle. I learned a lot about the importance of critical thinking about the importance of making sure you go through the process carefully. It gave me a lot of foundational skillsets that I needed to be a very effective, intelligent analyst.

It helped me to actually prepare myself for other trainings that I've had to take with Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I encourage anyone that has an interest in intelligence, even crime, but also intelligence to really start to, to take those fiat courses.

It's, it's very, I think it's very [00:43:00] central in becoming a, a effective analyst regardless of whether it's crime or intelligence. All right. Good.

Jason: And and then in terms of, Training needs. Cuz I, I feel that a lot of the associations, whether it's I A C A or Ilea, sometimes struggle with the I that's in those, in, in those names.

And the, the international, it's, it's sometimes can get difficult or those that aren't from the continental United States might, might have some difficulty with, with some of the training and whatnot. Because you're in a unique situation there. What are your particular training needs in the Virgin Islands?

Patricia: I think our. Training needs. In terms of being an analyst virginal, I think we do need to kind of pull our law enforcement officers more into the analytical aspects of law enforcement. I [00:44:00] think that there, there are some officers that once they receive effective analytical training for law enforcement, that they, they understand the reasoning or the concept behind having a crime analyst unit.

I know one of the difficulties that I had in, when I first became a crime analyst at the Virgin Arts Police Department was to let officers know that I'm not here to take over your case. I'm here to support you and to just understand that, aside from doing the investigative work, which is very valuable, I'm not taking away the value about that.

But that there's also a science behind criminal activity. Once you are able to effectively combine good detective investigative work along with that crime analyst background, I think it, it would just amplify investigative work within a police department times 10. And I, I think that more training, that prep, more training that prepares law [00:45:00] enforcement officers for receiving crime analysts.

Reports works, understanding how to read it and the point in, in knowing these numbers or knowing the science behind of crime, I think it would, it, that's what we need a lot here. Interesting.

Jason: All right. And well, do you make it back here to the continental United States

Patricia: very often? I haven't been back since the onset of Covid, unfortunately.

Mm-hmm. But prior to that I used to visit the, the Continental United States a lot, especially when I was with the Virgin Islands Police Department. I, I was, I think one of my most significant trips that, that I enjoyed was the, to visit the New York Police Department. I received the opportunity to take a tour of their realtime crime center and I.

I I, that gave me a lot of insight into the possibilities that the Virgin Arts Police Department could have. [00:46:00] And I'm proud to say that even after I left the Virgin Arts Police Department, that they're still in pursuit of really tapping into emergent technology and how that can help. With the police department, but those trips to the continental United States, I really do miss them.

I haven't been there since, since Covid, but I do hope that I can do more trips like that. Yeah.

Jason: Is there, what's the biggest shock when you come over to the continental United States?

Patricia: The amount of people.

Jason: Too many people.

Patricia: Yes. I'm like, cause I, I remember so I, I actually used to live in Florida. I am a graduate of Florida International University.

Go Golden Panthers. Yes. Yes. So I, I remember when I first moved to Florida it was a big culture shock. And then I realized that there were a lot of people from the US Virgin Islands. I [00:47:00] was also attended Florida International University, and I was just like, oh my God, you're from home. Yay. So it's, it's always a big culture shock to just be surrounded by different people, different cultures, different ethnicity, and to just see the diversity in the Milton part that exists in the continent in United States.

Yeah.

Jason: Yeah, I was hoping, I was hoping you would say the traffic, cuz it's the, I saw that the Virgin Islands is the only area in the US where they drive on the left side

Patricia: of the road. Yeah, I don't think that driving in the United States could outbeat driving on the left.

I, I'm not gonna lie, it did take me a while to, to get used to it. But I, I caught on fairly quickly. It, it, it took a bit of a, I had the, the difficult part in driving in the United States was more of just having the courage to actually do it. Mm-hmm. My biggest [00:48:00] fear was to, to drive on the wrong side of the road.

But I, I just, you know, constantly told myself, drive on the right, drive on the right, don't drive on the left. But it, it's funny when, when we do have Taurus hair in the Virgin Island and they're like, you guys drive on the wrong side of the road. So it's, it's, it's interesting, but it's actually the, the culture and the people just seeing so much people in one space, it's, it's amazing.

Jason: Yeah. All right. Well, let's finish up with personal interest then, and, and you have several here. I, I I am very jealous of some of these things that you get into here. So let's talk about spearfishing first, and. And then, so like, what are you after? And then maybe if you have a story to, to tell of the, the great fish that you speared.

Patricia: So one of the, the most common fishes to, to catch her in the Virgin Island is is called red snapper fish. Mm-hmm. I love [00:49:00] catching those. I, I feel very lucky when I managed to catch a lionfish especially knowing that lionfish is sort of depletes or damages our ocean ecosystem.

So we're always encouraged to try and catch a lionfish and it just feels good knowing that I'm catching a lionfish and aside from having a very good meal, that I'm doing my part to protect the environment. I, I love catching lobsters. Yes. Yes. I can imagine it compares to fresh, fresh lobster from the ocean.

Yes. Delicious.

Jason: Yes. Yes. Oh, man, you're making me hungry. So, so pardon my ignorance, but when you say, are you doing it above water or in the water?

Patricia: In the water. Okay. So spear fishing requires you actually diving?
Mm-hmm. I do a lot of free diving, so I don't have like a, a scuba diving tank or anything.

It's all scooper. Just snorkeling gears and we have a, [00:50:00] a spare gun, which is sort of like a, a spare that's attached to a rubber and there's a barrel and you kind of have to take the rubber connecting rope or, or, or thread I guess you wanna call it, or the rubber tube and you connect it to the barrel and then once you release the trigger, it will fire that spare into a fish.

Mm-hmm. So it requires you to have very good swimming skills.

Jason: Yeah. Yeah. And underwater aim, I can imagine that is a slightly different than shooting

Patricia: above water. Oh yeah, it is definitely different. But spare fishes are, spare guns, I should say are very powerful. So you have to have a lot of upper body strength to reload your spare gun.

But once you're able to, once you see a good catch, you're kind of able to sneak upon it a little bit and then catch it. It requires a lot of swimming with the fishes and just being immersed in the environment so that they, you kind of blend in and then you just get your good catch [00:51:00] that way.

Yeah. It's very tactical.

Jason: Yeah. You're also a poet. Yes. So what are, what are some, what are the types of poetry that you write?

Patricia: I, I write very different, like all sorts of poetry. I'm mostly I'm not really a type of poet that conforms to the different orientation. I'm very like free, free writing, whatever I feel I write it and it just, it just sounds good.

I, I started to get into poetry while I was a, a student at the University of the Virgin Islands. I had a lot of friends that our musicians and being around them, hearing them and seeing them write their music, it got me into poetry. And actually before I really got serious about my career in criminal justice, I used to dabble a little bit in journalism and I actually had a, a radio show called The Poetry Corner where we had callers read poetry, just call in and [00:52:00] read your poems.

It was, it was a really awesome show. So those, those were some of the things that I did. I'm still doing my spare time.

Jason: Yeah. Do you publish any

Patricia: of your work? I have been told that I need to look into it, but I, I haven't been able to publish it any of my work officially. But that's, that's definitely something on my bucket list to do.

All right.

Jason: Well, if you want, I will offer this, but if you want to we can put one of your poems in the show notes if you're wanting to do that.

Patricia: I'll think about it. I'll, I'll, I could pull up.

Jason: All right. And so, you know, the other thing that you're in your personal interest list here is you're really into fashion.

And so I could use all the fashion advice that I could, I could get. So, but, but what, what, what in particular about fashion are, do you get into?

Patricia: I think my interest in fashion taps into that creative part of me. I, aside from [00:53:00] fashion and poetry, I am a, I'm very, I'm a art fanatic. I love art. And I think that fashion taps into that side of me when it comes to color coordination lines just being able to layer different things together.

And I love being able to, to ex to express myself through the clothes that I wear, through my fashion ideas and, and stuff like that. I, I just love the creative aspect of, of fashion and the ability to express yourself every moment of the day because of the clothing that you wear and, and, you know, express who you are as a, as a individual.

That's the the thing I love about fashion.

Jason: , well, our last segment to the show is Words of the World. And this is where I give the guests the last word. Patricia, you can promote any idea that you wish. What are your words

Patricia: to the world? My words to the world it's something that I've learned through some personal experiences that I've had, and it [00:54:00] is to always remember that you have a purpose.

Always remember to find your passion and to remember that you have a purpose for being here. A lot of times we're we are on a search to find our purpose, and there are a lot of people that especially, you know, individuals that are suffering with mental health, with depression. And sometimes you're left feeling like you don't have a purpose, but you do.

Sometimes people tell me like, I, I feel as if I don't know my passion. I don't know my purpose. It's there, but you just have to take the time and the energy to really explore. Possibilities and have new experiences, but every single person on this earth has something to contribute to our society, and it's very important that we find our purpose and to be passionate about what we

Jason: do.

Very good. Why leave every guest with, you've given me just enough to talk bad about you later. Sure. But I [00:55:00] do appreciate you being on the show, Patricia. Thank you so much. Should you

Patricia: be safe. Thank you. You too, as well. I, I, I really enjoyed the show. I really, really did.

Mindy: Thank you for making it to the end of another episode of Analyst Talk with Jason Elder.

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