



# United States Army Criminal Investigation Command

Media contact:  
703-806-0372

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## CID Special Agents Help Train Democratic Republic of Congo Counterparts, Prosecutors

By Ken Miller

**FORT BELVOIR, VA.**, March 5, 2008 – Two special agents from the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) completed a series of extensive four-day training workshops in January and February on the investigation and prosecution of sex crimes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The CID Special Agents were part of a collaborative effort between the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies (DIILS) and the United Nations Mission in the DRC's Rule of Law Unit. The CID Special Agents served as part of the DIILS military education team tasked to introduce the DRC military investigators, prosecutors and judges to practical investigative methods and legal considerations when handling sex crime cases. They also provided training and techniques used by U.S. Army special agents when investigating alleged sex crimes.

CID is headquartered at Fort Belvoir, VA, and is responsible for investigating felony-level crime of Army interest worldwide. DIILS is headquartered in Newport, RI, and is a Joint Agency Activity under the direct command of the director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency. The organization refines its existing training objectives and materiel to meet the specific needs of each country they support.

The training workshops were comprised of two teams, Alpha and Bravo. Each team conducted a workshop in separate locations in the DRC with one CID Special Agent assigned to each.

Team Alpha's training took place in the Gombe district of Kinshasa and Matadi, the Bas-Congo's provincial capital. Alpha was comprised of CID Special Agent Phillip Curran, special agent-in-charge, Mannheim Resident Agency, 5th Military Police Battalion, 202nd Military Police Group (CID); U.S. Marine Corps Col. Steven Folsom, circuit military judge, Western Judicial Circuit, Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary; U.S. Navy Lt. Derek Mills, Judge Advocate General's Corps, international operations officer – Africa, DIILS; two Congolese military legal instructors and a Congolese military translator.

Bravo Team's training took place in Kisangani, in the province of Orientale, and in the Matete district of Kinshasa. Bravo was comprised of CID Special Agent James Byrum, assistant operations officer, 202nd MP Group (CID); U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Peter Simons, deputy sector commander, Sector

Corpus Christi; Capt. Nagesh Chelluri, Judge Advocate, U.S. Army, international operations officer – Africa, DIILS; two Congolese military legal instructors; and a Congolese military translator.

The CID Special Agents covered a wide range of sex crime investigations and related topics that included methods of interviewing victims of sex crimes, crime scene evaluations, preparing sex crime investigative reports, collection and analysis of crime scene evidence and overview of sex crime investigations. They also provided students with practical training exercises.

Both Curran and Byrum were selected for the training mission because of their investigative experience and skills, according to CID Special Agent Bryan Lauzon, chief, Investigative Operations, 202nd MP Group (CID) in Mannheim, Germany. The two Soldiers were critical to the success of the training, he said.

“We were given the responsibility to train more than 200 inspectors, magistrates and judges on how the U.S. Army conducts sex crime investigations and we wanted to send our very best agents to do the job,” Lauzon said. “The agents needed to be experienced in conducting sexual assault investigations, crime-scene processing, evidence collection, as well as great interviewers and interrogators; these two Soldiers fit the bill.”

According to Lauzon, logistics for the mission required detailed preparation for the two agents that included not only preparing their lesson plans, but obtaining necessary documentation to gain entry into the country.

“Both agents Byrum and Curran were available to take on the mission and able to set up their health screening, obtain their passports and visas, and coordinate with DIILS personnel to work out all the necessary details to ensure the mission began successfully. Both Soldiers are professional and technically capable leaders,” Lauzon said.

Prior to leaving for the Congo, Byrum and Curran coordinated with the U.S. Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, MO., to gather the best possible training materials available to fit their goals for the mission. However, they had to adjust their plans after arriving in theater.

“We prepared lesson plans and reviewed our objectives in every detail before leaving,” Byrum said. “However, once we arrived in the Congo and met with the students, we discovered our lesson plans had to be tailored to meet their specific needs and we adjusted accordingly.”

According to Curran, they were able to provide additional course materials during the training session that helped everyone involved meet the training objectives.

“The students were intelligent, very eager to learn and asked a lot of good questions during the training,” Curran said. “Most of the military personnel in the class were Congolese commissioned officers ranging from second lieutenants to colonels, with a few warrant officers.”

CID plans to support the next DIILS training-cycle mission scheduled for late May and early June. DIILS has the primary mission of traveling the world advocating the importance of democracy and the rule of law through legal education and training programs for foreign military and government officials.



*CID Special Agent James Byrum, second from left, poses with military investigators of “Team Bravo” in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Byrum and another CID Special Agent were in the Congo as part of a military education team tasked to introduce the DRC military investigators, prosecutors and judges to practical investigative methods and legal considerations when handling alleged sex crime cases.*

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