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CRITIQUING THE CRIME SCENE SEARCH

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LOOKING AT FRAUDULENT
CLAIMS AND SURVEILLANCE
INVESTIGATIONS IN 2022

Sandy and Frank DeAndrea of DeAndrea Investigations & Security LLC.

Truly a story of three sides.

SIDE ONE:

Sandy DeAndrea began her career in law enforcement while attending Pennsylvania State University, working as a police cadet there in 1989. While attending PSU, Sandy also served as a Lieutenant in the United States Army Military Police. After graduation from Penn State with a criminal justice degree, she entered the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) where she excelled in criminal investigations as a “Detective.” (The Pennsylvania State Police call them Criminal Investigators, but the public knows them as “Detectives.”) She became Wiretap Certified and worked undercover infiltrating the highest level of several worldwide organized crime organizations. These investigations were so secret in nature, only five members of PSP were aware of them: the Commissioner, Deputy Commission of Operations, Criminal Investigations Commander, Sandy, and her undercover partner.

Sandy’s passion was financial investigations, and she served as an Asset Forfeiture Agent for the Pennsylvania State Police for several years. Not known to rest on her laurels, Sandy became a supervisor in the Gaming Enforcement Bureau where she supervised a State Police Barracks at one of Pennsylvania’s casinos.

This provided her the opportunity to serve as security for many VIP’s and celebrities to include Pope Francis, The Democratic National Convention and a multitude of actors / actresses / performers / MLB players and socialites. The constant VIP and executive security assignments led her to attain her black belt in Goju-ryu karate as well as maintain her proficiency with a multitude of weapons.

A mother of six children, two dogs and a host of cats and kittens, Sandy runs an animal rescue where she fosters stray kittens. Trapping strays as young as a day old, she often uses an incubator to raise these kittens until they are old enough to get spayed/neutered and then she puts them up for adoption through the local animal shelter.

A renowned baker and cake decorator, her skills are often called upon for private parties and celebrations. Sandy is perhaps the only woman who can use the words machine gun, kittens and baby’s birthday cake in the same sentence, and no one becomes alarmed.

Should this not be enough, Sandy is an emergency vehicle operations course instructor (EVOIC) who travels the nation providing instruction, and is an instructor at the Lackawanna College Police Academy, training cadets to be police officers.

Sandy is an accomplished public speaker and provides insight into the world of financial exploitation of older adults in a way most people are unaware of. Her ability to instruct on how to protect the elderly is awe inspiring.

Sandy is so accomplished in the world of investigations and security that normally there would be no need to go any further. It would be enough to simply say Frank DeAndrea, Jr. is Sandy’s husband and partner, but this is not your NORMAL PAIR of investigators!



Sandy and Frank DeAndrea of DeAndrea Investigations & Security LLC.

SIDE TWO:

Frank DeAndrea, Jr. started his career in law enforcement as a United States Army Military Police Officer. At the age of 19, Frank was detached from his unit and attached to the Criminal Investigative Division (CID) where he worked undercover narcotics for several years.

Much like Sandy, Frank attended Pennsylvania State University and in 1988 enlisted in the Pennsylvania State Police.

Frank became the forensic expert for the Pennsylvania State Police and is a court certified expert in crime scene processing, evidence collection, forensic photography, and fingerprint / footwear impressions and comparisons.



DEANDREA INVESTIGATIONS & SECURITY LLC.

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Years in Business: 4 (with 65+ combined years of experience)

Number of Employees: 2

Licensed in: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia

Investigation Specialties: Security Risk Assessment and Mitigation, Background Investigations, Civil Litigation, Surveillance, Financial Investigations, Police Policies and Procedures.

Company Mission Statement: DeAndrea Investigations & Security LLC is committed to providing exceptional investigative services, while maintaining the highest level of confidentiality, ethics, and professionalism. *Honor can never be taken away; it can only be given away.*

Association Memberships: Intellenet (International Intelligence Network), Pennsylvania Association of Licensed Investigators (PALI)

Website: <https://www.deandrea.biz>

A United States patent holder and accomplished professional photographer and author, in 2000, then Corporal Frank DeAndrea, helped design the State Police in-car computer system and actually designed the Motorola MW800 computer screen in his garage. While assigned here, Frank wrote the Pennsylvania State Police regulations on mobile computing and the use of the mobile computer. (Remember car computers were brand new at this point.)

Frank also was in charge of the design of the Pennsylvania State Police Automated License Plate Recognition System (Automated License Plate Reader) and within one hour of placing it into operation showed its worth by having it identify a wanted vehicle and capture two suspects wanted for murder as well as rescue two kidnapped children from the back seat of the vehicle.

During this period, Frank also wrote the crisis plan, the harassment, sexual harassment and bullying policies for his local school district, one of the largest districts in Pennsylvania.

In 2005 then Sergeant Frank DeAndrea became the first ever Commander of a Pennsylvania State Police Gaming Office, (State Police barracks inside of a casino) where he assisted in writing the Pennsylvania State Police gaming regulations. During this period, Frank became a court certified expert in casino gaming and cheating. He is a certified licensed casino dealer of poker, 3 card poker, pai gow poker and blackjack.

After retiring from the Pennsylvania State Police, Frank became the Chief of Police in the City of Hazleton, Pennsylvania. During this time, he honed his skills on writing Pennsylvania Municipal Police policies, procedures and regulations. It was also during this time that Frank would be-

Sandy works on a Cold Case.



gin to speak on Capitol Hill, advising United States Congress on policing issues and necessary reform.

One of the most captivating speakers in the industry, Frank uses his expertise to teach others how to conduct investigations based on policies and procedures or lack thereof. Frank says: "Many people never think to investigate the policies and procedures of a police department when there is an officer-involved incident. Even more people do not know how." Engaging and entertaining, Frank's presentations are cutting edge within the industry and perhaps the nation as he serves as a court certified police policy and procedure expert on federal, state, and local panels for police reform through standardization and increased education and training.

The proud father of six children, he is an avid outdoorsman and is also a Lackawanna College Police Academy instructor and serves on the board of directors for the Hazleton One Community Center where he is a three-time past president.

SIDE THREE:

One evening, Sandy asked Frank what his thoughts were pertaining to a civil case she was working where an infant was crushed to death in a car crash and the family was claiming it to be the fault of the car seat. Frank, whose IQ is somewhere between the atomic mass of Samarium and Gadolinium, responded by mumbling about crush factor and coup-countercoup and then saying he would need to review the autopsy report, photographs, interviews of those involved and the police CRASH report to gain a full understanding of the parameters prior to rendering his "expert" opinion. It was then that Sandy said to Frank; "Why (insert expletive here) don't we have our own private investigation and security business? Together we have an incredible amount of expertise in so many fields." Frank was smart enough to say "Yes dear," and DeAndrea Investigations & Security LLC was born the next day. A "Woman Owned, Veteran Owned" small business like no other!

Sandy is driven at times by an unexplainable supernatural force that guides and even speaks to her. Her "sixth sense" is uncanny and has aided in solving many crimes. Frank is driven by deduction and reasoning; Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth.



Frank speaks at MAPI – Photo courtesy of Tim BRATZ President MAPI.



Frank and then Cadet Lieutenant Michael Wehmeier at Academy Graduation of class 252. Frank was the Keynote speaker and there was not a dry eye in the audience. –Photo shared with permission of Officer Wehmeier Hazleton Police Department.

In July 2021, Sandy and Frank were hired (pro bono) by a family to get answers to the hit and run death of their 15-year-old son. According to the family, the police had not provided any information or leads to the family in two months. Using great investigative skills and a bit of divine intervention, in 2 days, Sandy and Frank solved the hit and run, obtained a confession, and drove the suspect to the local police where he confessed and turned himself in. Often working pro-bono to help the underdog, underprivileged and unfortunate, they are currently working on several “cold cases,” hoping to bring closure to families of murdered victims and missing persons.

Collectively, this Dynamic Duo is a mix between a Marvel Superhero story and an Arthur Conan Doyle novel. Individually, each is an unstoppable force but when married together, they are the true Gestalt.

PI: PI Magazine

SFD: Sandy DeAndrea

FD: Frank DeAndrea, Jr.

SFD: Sandy & Frank DeAndrea

PI: What is unique about your agency?

SFD: SYNERGY! - the increased effectiveness that results when two or more people or businesses work together; we have over sixty years of combined experience. We are a Woman and Man Team! We are a woman-owned veteran-owned business, we are parents, community activists, prior military, prior state police, prior municipal police, experts in many fields and we have incredibly talented friends!

PI: Who were/are your mentors?

SFD: Collectively, FIRST and FOREMOST, the person we both look up to and emulate is Nicole Bocra Gray of Infinity Investigative Solutions. When we grow up, we want to be Nicole. (At times we fight over who gets to call her on the phone.) She is an amazing individual and if you do not know Nicole, you should. We model our business after Nicole as she is everything good and honest in Private Investigations and beyond. Nicole is the epitome of a Private Investigator and is a Goddess of the industry. We have learned more about, and done more, in the PI world simply by holding on to Nicole’s coattails every chance we get.

SFD: A collective second for us is Jeff Stein of ELPs Private Detective Agency. If it were not for Jeff, there would be no DeAndrea Investigations & Security LLC. Jeff hired Sandy to do private investigative work for him when she retired from the State Police. When we decided we wanted to do this full time, Jeff sponsored us to become members of INTELLENET. His vast knowledge and willingness to teach and assist are what makes him an incredible resource and makes us better investigators.

SD: Mentors are like potato chips; you cannot have just one!

Other than our collective two mentors above, I have three mentors I truly admire in our industry. First and foremost - Frank. He is a genius’s genius as he never comes across as pretentious or snarky. His vast knowledge and ability to think through a problem are nothing short of amazing. His ability to “dumb things down” and teach others is incredible. He has taught me more about being an investigator and a person than everyone else combined. Second - Eileen Law of CIA Detective Agency. Eileen, past president of PALL, and I connected the day we met. She has a charisma and character all her own and is an incredible resource and friend. Third - Kelly Riddle of KelMar Global. In this industry, Kelly is king. What makes him so special is his willingness to share his knowledge and



Sandy at yearly weapons qualification.

to help others succeed.

FD: I have four more. I have four individual mentors. (Am I allowed to have four others?): Without a doubt, my ne plus ultra is Sandy. She is the best Investigator I know hands down. I have always marveled at her ability. I have learned to listen to her when she speaks and to embrace her ideas because they are usually spot on. In the world of a compass, Sandy is True North. She is my guiding light and often beacon of hope. I trust her judgment and instincts so much so that I would follow her down the barrel of a cannon.

Second - George Fulton, my first partner in the State Police Forensics Unit as he taught me to slow down and took time to teach me. I am an expert in many things because George was willing to take the time to teach me.

Third - Lt. Col (Ret) Jim Carino – Founder of the International Intelligence Network. I recognize greatness and remain in awe of his credentials, foresight, and abilities. He is the definition of selfless and I am also pleased to call him friend. (Strong letter to follow!)

Fourth - Gordon Graham of LEXIPOL as he is an incredible speaker and presenter. Gordon taught me the Serendipity of a random workshop.

PI: What changes have you seen in our profession since you started?

SFD: We remember using ink to take fingerprints, paper and pen to do reports and film to take photos.

Today technology is rapidly changing and with it, the profession of Private Investigation. Cell phones and the information they contain are becoming critical in many investigations. Being able to glean information from a cell phone is a field that is exponentially increasing.

PI: What has been your most successful marketing tool?

SFD: This is a two-part answer. Part ONE: We are a word-of-mouth advertiser. We have a circle of attorneys, businesses and corporations that use us exclusively based on our reputation and experience in the community we live.

Part TWO: Attend conferences – Simply put, meeting other professionals in your field allows you to receive referrals in your area from those people. It also gives you the opportunity to network, meet the experts and influencers in your field face to face, discover new tools to make you better at what you do and keeps you up to date with laws, regulations, and new tools on the market. Get out there and get noticed.

PI: What advice do you give to new private investigators?

SFD: Be honest. If you cannot help someone, tell them, and refer them to the agency who can. Do not be so quick to take a client's money that you cannot really provide them with a true service. Honor can never be taken away; it can only be given away.

Join at least one state, national, or international organization. This is an investment in yourself. It allows you to network with colleagues and provides the opportunity for you to meet new people in their field and them to meet you. You will meet experts & influencers face to face and expand your knowledge by listening to speakers who are experts on the topic. You will be able to discover new tools, the latest and greatest techniques as well as stay up to date on trends and technology. There is an energy of like-minded people that is contagious and gives you a greater focus; you cannot help but be excited to go back to work. on not only old tasks but developing new fields.

PI: Is there anything else you want our readers to know about your agency?

SFD: DeAndrea Investigations & Security LLC is a business built on Honesty, Integrity and Trust. We are proud to provide an outstanding work product for a fair price (sometimes for no price at all) and above all else, we serve with honor.

It is an investigative goal of ours to one day be members of the VIDOCQ society.

We are always looking for opportunities to speak publicly and encourage state, national and international agencies to contact us. **PI**