



THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE OF PIAT POLICE STATION: THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS AND COMPLIANCE

JOEY R. PASCUA, MSCrim Faculty Member, College of Criminal Justice Education
Cagayan State University Piat, Cagayan, Philippines

ABSTRACT: *In the field of criminal justice education, criminal investigation is taught as the collection of facts in order to accomplish the three-fold aims – to identify the guilty party; to locate the guilty party and to provide evidence of guilt. It is supposed to be carried out by criminal investigator who is defined as a public safety officer tasked to conduct the investigation of all criminal cases as provided for and embodied under the Revised Penal Code/Criminal Laws and Special Laws which are criminal in nature. This study assessed the investigation procedures at Tuao Police Station. The informants were the members of the investigating team of the said station. This study used the descriptive research design. This design was used to determine and describe the level of awareness of the respondents on the investigative procedures. Moreover, the actual investigative procedures were inquired from the investigators and compared these to the prescribed procedures indicated in the PNP Criminal Investigation Manual to determine their compliance. Information on the problems that arise in each step of the procedure was also described. Findings revealed that the respondents are extremely aware on the procedures in criminal investigation and further revealed that the investigating team follow almost all of the provisions of the PNP Criminal Investigation Manual. All steps are complied by the investigating team in each of the stage of investigation. Moreover, the problems being encountered in the criminal investigation procedure is limited of knowledge or expertise of the Officer-in-Charge and uncooperative or reluctant witnesses. Furthermore, the investigators conduct follow-up investigations which are not expressly prescribed action in the manual as part of the procedure. It is therefore proper that investigators undergo continuous trainings and attend schooling in order to enrich their knowledge and expertise and regular monitoring on the conduct of these procedures must be ensured to confirm its strict implementation.*

KEYWORDS: *criminal investigation; criminal procedures, criminal investigation manual, investigating team, criminal theory, declarant, witness, crime scene.*

INTRODUCTION

Theory and practice are very significant in any organization as guiding concepts in the performance of carrying out its expected activities. Theory is the knowledge acquired from books, seminars and courses usually from the idealist's point of view. Theory is the knowledge transferred



and it will be up to the person to adjust and apply it in various situations. Cho (2017) explains that theory assumes an outcome, while practice allows for the testing of the theory and see if it is accurate. In the field of criminal justice education, criminal investigation is taught as the collection of facts in order to accomplish the three-fold aims – to identify the guilty party; to locate the guilty party and to provide evidence of guilt. It is supposed to be carried out by criminal investigator who is defined as a public safety officer tasked to conduct the investigation of all criminal cases as provided for and embodied under the Revised Penal Code/Criminal Laws and Special Laws which are criminal in nature. An investigator is a well-trained, disciplined and experienced professional in the field of criminal investigation duties and responsibilities (PNP Manual, 2011).

According to Bass, criminal investigations can be imprecise undertakings, often performed in reaction to unpredictable and still-evolving events with incomplete information to guide the process. As such, it is impossible to teach or learn a precise methodology that can be applied in every case. Still, there are important concepts, legal rules, and processes that must be respected in every investigation.

The procedure to follow in the conduct of criminal investigation is taught in the school based on existing sources such as books and existing guidelines and policies. In this research, the focus is on the general investigative procedures stipulated in the Chapter II of the PNP Criminal Investigation Manual published in 2010 and revised in 2011. This is the so called bible of the police officers. In this reference, criminal investigation has three phases. Phase I aims to identify the suspect/s through (1) confession; (2) eyewitness testimony, (3) circumstantial evidence; and (4) associate evidence. Phase II is the stage to locate and apprehend suspect/s. Phase III is the time of gathering and providing evidence to establish the guilt of the accused. In each of these phases are more specific steps from receiving the complaint up to the processing and release of the crime scene.

The purpose of the investigative procedure is designed to adapt to the current trends in modern investigation, in line with the PNP Integrated Transformation Program which seeks to improve and integrate the different manuals used by the PNP to serve as guide in all aspects of police investigation (Chapter 2 of PNP Manual). It also aims to come up with a definite investigative procedure on specific cases from the time the incident happened, until the case is filed, which will be adopted by the PNP investigators in pursuing their mandated tasks.



Upon receipt of call/walk-in complainants, the duty Desk Officer shall: a) Record the time it was reported; b) Get the identity of the caller/complainant; c) Get the place of the incident; d) Get the nature of the incident; e) Get the number of victim/s; f) Record a brief synopsis of the incident; g) Direct the nearest mobile car/beat patrollers or the nearest police precinct to act as first responder equipped with “police line” to secure the place of incident a camera; and h) Inform the duty investigator (preferably one team of investigators).

At the crime scene, the First Responder shall perform his/her duty. Proceed to the crime scene to validate the information received; Record the exact time of arrival and all pertinent data regarding the incident in his issued pocket notebook and notify the TOC; Cordon off the area and secure the crime scene with a police line or whatever available material like ropes, straws or human as barricade to preserve its integrity; Check whether the situation still poses imminent danger and call for back up if necessary; Identify possible witnesses and conduct preliminary interview and ensure their availability for the incoming investigator-on-case; Arrest the suspect/s if around or in instances wherein the suspect/s is fleeing, make appropriate notification for dragnet operations; Prepare to take the “Dying Declaration” of severely injured persons with the following requisites:

1. That death is imminent and the declarant is conscious of that fact;
 2. That the declaration refers to the cause and surrounding circumstances of such death;
 3. That the declaration relates to facts which the victim is competent to testify to; and
 4. That the declaration is offered in a case where in the declarant’s death is the subject of the inquiry (Section 37, Rule 130 of the Rules of Court).
- a. Evacuate the wounded to the nearest hospital using emergency services;
 - b. Account for the killed, wounded and arrested persons for proper disposition;
 - c. Conduct initial investigation;
 - d. Brief the investigator-on-case upon arrival and turn over the crime scene; and
 - e. Conduct inventory on the evidence taken at the crime scene. Inventory receipt should be properly signed by the first responder, SOCO and the investigator.



In addition, check the condition of the victim while the other members of the first responders shall simultaneously secure the area by putting a police line or any material (like rope, straw and etc).

A. If in serious condition

1. Bring the victim immediately to the nearest hospital using emergency services;
2. Photograph and make a sketch of the victim (if the victim is dead);
3. Get the dying declaration; if necessary (ask 3 questions)
 - a) Anoangpangalan at address mo?
 - b) Kilalamobaanggumawanitosaiyo?
 - c) Sa pakiramdam moba ay ikamamatay mo ang tinamo mong sugat?

However, if there is still a chance to ask more questions, then follow-up should be done. The statement, once reduced into writing, shall be duly signed by or with thumb mark of the victim.

B. If not in serious condition

1. Bring the victim immediately to the nearest hospital using emergency services;
2. Get the identity and other data of the victim;
3. Get initial interview from the victim

Note: The other member/s of the first responders shall remain at the crime scene to secure the premises.

C. If the suspect is arrested at the scene

1. Get the names of the persons who turned-over or arrested the suspect.
2. Isolate the arrested suspect/s and separate them from any probable witness of the incident.
3. Record what time the suspect was arrested.
4. Wait for the investigator to interview the suspect.
5. If the suspect volunteers any statement, take note of the time, location and circumstances of the statements.

Investigation Procedure at the Crime Scene

A. Upon arrival at the crime scene



1. Receive the crime scene from the first responder.
2. Record time/date of arrival at the crime scene, location of the scene, condition of the weather, condition and type of lighting, direction of wind and visibility.
3. Photograph and/or video the entire crime scene.
4. Before entering the crime scene, all investigators must put on surgical gloves.
5. Before touching or moving any object at the crime scene in a homicide or murder case, determine first the status of the victim, whether he is still alive or already dead. If the victim is alive, the investigator should exert effort to gather information from the victim himself regarding the circumstances of the crime, while a member of the team or someone must call an ambulance from the nearest hospital. Before removing the victim, mark, sketch and photograph his/her relative position. Only a coroner or a medical examiner shall remove the dead body unless unusual circumstances justify its immediate removal.
6. Designate a member of the team or ask other policemen or responsible persons to stand watch and secure the scene, and permit only authorized persons to enter the same.
7. Identify and retain for questioning the person who first notified the police, and other possible witnesses.
8. Determine the assailant through inquiry or observe him if his identity is immediately apparent. Arrest him if he is still in the vicinity.
9. Separate witnesses in order to get independent statements.

B. Recording

The investigator begins the process of recording pertinent facts and details of the investigation the moment he arrives at the crime scene. (He should record the time when he was initially notified prior to his arrival). He also writes down the identification of persons involved and what he initially saw. He also draws a basic sketch of the crime scene and takes the initial photograph (if a photographer is available, avail his services). This is to ensure that an image of the crime scene is recorded before any occurrence that disturbs the scene. As a rule, do not touch, alter or remove anything at the crime scene until the evidence has been processed through notes, sketches and photograph, with proper measurements.



C. Searching for evidence

1. Each crime is different, according to the physical nature of the scene and the crime or offense involved. Consequently, the scene is processed in accordance with the prevailing physical characteristics of the scene and with the need to develop essential evidentiary facts peculiar to the offense. A general survey of the scene is always made, however, to note the locations of obvious traces of action, the probable entry and exit points used by the offender(s) and the size and shape of the area involved.
2. In rooms, buildings, and small outdoor areas, a systematic search of evidence is initiated (In the interest of uniformity, it is recommended that the clockwise movement be used.) The investigator examines each item encountered on the floor, walls, and ceiling to locate anything that may be of evidentiary value.
3. You should give particular attention to fragile evidence that may be destroyed or contaminated if it is not collected when discovered.
4. If any doubt exists as to the value of an item, treat it as evidence until proven otherwise.
5. Ensure that the item or area where latent fingerprints may be present is closely examined and that action is taken to develop the prints.
6. Carefully protect any impression of evidentiary value in surfaces conducive to making casts or molds. If possible, photograph the impression and make a cast or mold.
7. Note stains, spots and pools of liquid within the scene and treat them as evidence.
8. Treat as evidence all other items, such as hairs, fibers, and earth particles foreign to the area in which they are found; for example, matter found under the victim's fingerprints.
9. Proceed systematically and uninterruptedly to the conclusion of the processing of the scene. The search for evidence is initially completed when, after a thorough examination of the scene, the rough sketch, necessary photograph and investigative notes have been completed and the investigator has returned to the point from which the search began.



10. Further search may be necessary after the evidence and the statements obtained have been evaluated.
11. In large outdoor areas, it is advisable to divide the area into strips about four (4) feet wide. The policeman may first search the strip on his left as he faces the scene and then the adjoining strips.
12. It may be advisable to make a search beyond the area considered to be the immediate scene of the incident or crime. For example, evidence may indicate that a weapon or tool used in the crime was discarded or hidden by the offender somewhere within a square-mile area near the scene.
13. After completing the search of the scene, the investigator examines the object or person actually attacked by the offender. For example, a ripped safe, a desk drawer that has been pried open or a room from which items has been stolen, would be processed after the remainder of the scene has been examined for traces of the offender.
14. In a homicide case, the position of the victim should be outlined with a chalk or any other suitable material before the body is removed from the scene. If the victim has been pronounced dead by a doctor or is obviously dead, it is usually advisable to examine the body, the clothing and the area under the body after the remainder of the scene has been searched. This is to enable the policeman/investigator to evaluate all objects of special interest in the light of all other evidence found at the scene.

D. Collection of Evidence

This is accomplished after the search is completed, the rough sketch finished and photographs taken. Fragile evidence should be collected as they are found. All firearms (FAs) found to have tampered serial numbers (SNs) shall be automatically subjected to macro etching at the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory (PNP-CL). A corresponding request to the Firearms and Explosive Office (FEO) must be made for verification purposes. The investigator places his initials, the date and time of discovery on each item of evidence for proper identification. Items that could not be marked should be placed in a suitable container and sealed.



E. Marking of Evidence

Any physical evidence obtained must be marked or tagged before its submission to the evidence custodian. These are information to ensure that the items can be identified by the collector at any time in the future. This precaution will help immeasurably to establish the credibility of the collector's report or testimony and will effectively avoid any suggestions that the item has been misidentified.

Markings on the specimen must at least contain the following:

1. Exhibit Case Number
2. Initials and or signature of the collecting officer.
3. Time and date of collection.

NOTE: It is also important to note the place or location where the evidence was collected.

F. Evaluation of Evidence

Each item of evidence must be evaluated in relation to all the evidence, individually and collectively. If necessary, these pieces of evidence must be subjected to crime laboratory examination. Example: firearms for ballistic examination, hair strands etc.

G. Preservation of Evidence

It is the investigator's responsibility to ensure that every precaution is exercised to preserve physical evidence in the state in which it was recovered/obtained until it is released to the evidence custodian.

H. Releasing of Evidence

All collected evidence can only be released upon order of the court or prosecutor, as the case maybe.

I. Chain of Custody

A list of all persons who came into possession of an item of evidence, continuity of possession, or the chain of custody, must be established whenever evidence is presented in court as an exhibit. Adherence to standard procedures in recording the location of evidence, marking it for identification, and properly completing evidence submission forms for laboratory analysis is critical to chain of



custody. Every person who handled or examined the evidence and where it is at all times must be accounted for.

As a rule, all seized evidence must be in the custody of the evidence custodian and deposited in the evidence room or designated place for safekeeping.

J. Transmittal of Evidence to Crime Laboratory

Proper handling of physical evidence is necessary to obtain the maximum possible information upon which scientific examination shall be based, and to prevent exclusion as evidence in court. Specimens which truly represent the material found at the scene, unaltered, unspoiled or otherwise unchanged in handling will provide more and better information upon examination. Legal requirements make it necessary to account for all physical pieces of evidence from the time it is collected until it is presented in court. With these in mind, the following principles should be observed in handling all types of evidence:

1. The evidence should reach the laboratory in same condition as when it was found, as much as possible.
2. The quantity of specimen should be adequate. Even with the best equipment available, good results cannot be obtained from insufficient specimens.
3. Submit a known or standard specimen for comparison purposes.
4. Keep each specimen separate from others so there will be no intermingling or mixing of known and unknown material. Wrap and seal in individual packages when necessary.
5. Mark or label each of evidence for positive identification as the evidence taken from a particular location in connection with the crime under investigation.
6. The chain of custody of evidence must be maintained. Account for evidence from the time it is collected until it is produced in court. Any break in this chain of custody may make the material inadmissible as evidence in court.

Release of Crime Scene

Ensure that appropriate inventory has been provided.

- A. Release the scene with the notion that there is only one chance to perform job correctly and completely.



B. Release is accomplished only after completion of the final survey and proper documentation.

Although there are set guidelines and procedures, their applications are still uncertain and it is important to find out what is really practiced by the investigators especially in place specific situations. The assessment of whether or not the criminal investigation procedures are being followed is the researchers' way of verifying the actual applications of the concepts that they have learned in the classroom. As future law enforcers, they need to understand the theories beyond books, so they conceptualized this research of comparing theory versus practice in the conduct of criminal investigation procedures in the Municipality of Tuao, Cagayan.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Generally, this study aimed to assess the criminal investigation procedure conducted in the Philippine National Police of Piat, Cagayan. Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the level of awareness of the respondents on investigative procedures as stipulated in the PNP Criminal Investigation Manual?
2. What is the extent of compliance of the respondents to the investigative procedures?
3. What are the problems encountered in each of the steps in the criminal investigation procedure?
4. What alternatives aside from the standard operating procedures are done by the investigators?

METHODOLOGY

This study used the descriptive research design. This design was used to determine and describe the level of awareness of the respondents on the investigative procedures. Moreover, the actual investigative procedures were inquired from the investigators and compared these to the prescribed procedures indicated in the PNP Criminal Investigation Manual to determine their compliance. Information on the problems that arise in each step of the procedure was also described. The respondents of this study were the investigating team of PNP Piat Station. Total enumeration was applied in selecting them.

DATAGATHERING INSTRUMENTS

The main data gathering instruments were the survey questionnaire and interview schedule. The survey questionnaire was used to get the level of awareness of the respondents on the investigative procedures while the interview schedule was used to inquire on the compliance of the respondents to the investigative procedures. It was likewise used to gather information on the problems encountered



during the conduct of investigation and the alternative measures being done to solve the identified problems.

DATA ANALYSIS

Data on the awareness of the respondents on the investigative procedures were analysed using the scale below.

4.20 – 5.0	-	Extremely aware
3.40 – 4.19	-	Very aware
2.60 – 3.39	-	Moderately aware
1.80 – 2.59	-	Slightly aware
1.00 – 1.79	-	Not at all aware

Moreover, the compliance of the investigating team to the investigative procedures were qualitatively analysed according to themes based on the steps in the procedure. The problems encountered and the alternative measures undertaken were also analysed similarly.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1. Summary of the Item Mean on the Awareness of Receiving Reports and Processing the Crime Scene

Upon receipt of call/walk-in complainants	Weighted Mean	Adjectival Value
1. Duty Desk Officer records the time it was reported, gets the identity of the caller/complainant, the place of the incident, the nature of the incident and the number of victim/s, and records a brief synopsis of the incident.	4.21	Extremely Aware
2. Duty Desk Officer directs the nearest mobile car/beat patrollers or the nearest police precinct to act as first responder equipped with “police line” to secure the place of incident a camera.	4.44	Extremely Aware
3. Duty Desk Officer informs the duty investigator (preferably one team of investigators).	4.58	Extremely Aware
At the crime scene		
1. First responders check the condition of the victim while the other members of the first responders shall simultaneously secure the area by putting a police line or any material (like rope, straw and etc).	4.44	Extremely Aware
2. If in serious condition, first responders bring the victim immediately to the nearest hospital using emergency services; photograph and make a sketch of the victim (if the victim is dead); and, get the dying declaration signed by or with thumb mark of the victim.	4.26	Extremely Aware
3. If the suspect is arrested at the scene, first responders get the names of the	4.68	Extremely



persons who turned-over or arrested the suspect, isolate the arrested suspect/s and separate them from any probable witness of the incident, and record what time the suspect was arrested, wait for the investigator to interview the suspect.		Aware
Investigation Procedure at the Crime Scene		
Upon arrival at the crime scene		
After receiving the crime scene from the first responder, the investigators should:		
1. Record time/date of arrival at the crime scene, location of the scene, condition of the weather, condition and type of lighting, direction of wind and visibility	4.32	Extremely Aware
2. Photograph and/or video the entire crime scene		
3. Before entering the crime scene, all investigators must put on surgical gloves	3.42	Very Aware
4. Before touching or moving any object at the crime scene in a homicide or murder case, determine first the status of the victim, whether he is still alive or already dead.	4.46	Extremely Aware
5. Before removing the victim, mark, sketch and photograph his/her relative position. Only a coroner or a medical examiner shall remove the dead body unless unusual circumstances justify its immediate removal.	4.75	Extremely Aware
6. Designate a member of the team or ask other policemen or responsible persons to stand watch and secure the scene, and permit only authorized persons to enter the same.	4.56	Extremely Aware
7. Identify and retain for questioning the person who first notified the police, and other possible witnesses.	4.38	Extremely Aware
8. Determine the assailant through inquiry or observe him if his identity is immediately apparent. Arrest him if he is still in the vicinity.	4.62	Extremely Aware
9. Separate witnesses in order to get independent statements.	4.24	Extremely Aware
10. If the suspect volunteers any statement, take note of the time, location and circumstances of the statements.	4.30	Extremely Aware
Recording		
1. The investigator begins the process of recording pertinent facts and details of the investigation the moment he arrives at the crime scene. (He should record the time when he was initially notified prior to his arrival). He also writes down the identification of persons involved and what he initially saw.	4.17	Very Aware
2. He also draws a basic sketch of the crime scene and takes the initial photograph (if a photographer is available, avail his services).	4.45	Extremely Aware
3. As a rule, do not touch, alter or remove anything at the crime scene until the evidence has been processed through notes, sketches and photograph, with proper measurements.	4.50	Extremely Aware
Weighted mean	4.38	Extremely Aware



Table 1 presents the summary of the item mean on the awareness of the investigating team on receiving reports and processing of the crime scene. The data revealed that the members of the investigating team are 'extremely aware' of the steps on receiving reports and processing of the crime scene with a weighted of 4.38. Further, the results of the study showed that they are most aware that if the suspect is arrested at the scene, first responders get the names of the persons who turned-over or arrested the suspect, isolate the arrested suspect/s and separate them from any probable witness of the incident, and record what time the suspect was arrested, wait for the investigator to interview the suspect and that Before removing the victim, mark, sketch and photograph his/her relative position. Only a coroner or a medical examiner shall remove the dead body unless unusual circumstances justify its immediate removal with the weighted mean of 4.68 and 4.75 respectively. However, the investigating team are only 'very aware' on the procedures that Before entering the crime scene, all investigators must put on surgical gloves and that the investigator begins the process of recording pertinent facts and details of the investigation the moment he arrives at the crime scene with the weighted mean of 3.42 and 4.17 in that order.

Table 2. Summary of the Item Mean on the Awareness of the Investigating Team on Processing Evidence

Searching for Evidence	Weighted Mean	Adjectival Value
1. The scene is processed in accordance with the prevailing physical characteristics of the scene and with the need to develop essential evidentiary facts peculiar to the offense. A general survey of the scene is always made, however, to note the locations of obvious traces of action, the probable entry and exit points used by the offender(s) and the size and shape of the area involved.	4.53	Extremely Aware
2. In rooms, buildings, and small outdoor areas, a systematic search of evidence is initiated (In the interest of uniformity, it is recommended that the clockwise movement be used.) The investigator examines each item encountered on the floor, walls, and ceiling to locate anything that may be of evidentiary value.	4.44	Extremely Aware
3. Particular attention should be given to fragile evidence that may be destroyed or contaminated if it is not collected when discovered.	4.56	Extremely Aware
4. If any doubt exists as to the value of an item, treat it as evidence until proven otherwise.	4.82	Extremely Aware
5. Ensure that the item or area where latent fingerprints may be present is	4.87	Extremely Aware



closely examined and that action is taken to develop the prints.		
6. Any impression of evidentiary value in surfaces conducive to making casts or molds should be protected. If possible, photograph the impression and make a cast or mold.	4.76	Extremely Aware
7. Note stains, spots and pools of liquid within the scene and treat them as evidence.	4.45	Extremely Aware
8. All other items, such as hairs, fibers, and earth particles foreign to the area in which they are found; for example, matter found under the victim's fingerprints, should be treated as evidence.	4.63	Extremely Aware
9. The search for evidence is initially completed when, after a thorough examination of the scene, the rough sketch, necessary photograph and investigative notes have been completed and the investigator has returned to the point from which the search began.	4.33	Extremely Aware
10. Further search may be necessary after the evidence and the statements obtained have been evaluated.	4.63	Extremely Aware
11. In large outdoor areas, it is advisable to divide the area into strips about four (4) feet wide. The policeman may first search the strip on his left as he faces the scene and then the adjoining strips.	4.55	Extremely Aware
12. It may be advisable to make a search beyond the area considered to be the immediate scene of the incident or crime. For example, evidence may indicate that a weapon or tool used in the crime was discarded or hidden by the offender somewhere within a square-mile area near the scene.	4.20	Extremely Aware
13. After completing the search of the scene, the investigator examines the object or person actually attacked by the offender. For example, a ripped safe, a desk drawer that has been pried open or a room from which items has been stolen, would be processed after the remainder of the scene has been examined for traces of the offender.	4.14	Very Aware
14. In a homicide case, the position of the victim should be outlined with a chalk or any other suitable material before the body is removed from the scene. If the victim has been pronounced dead by a doctor or is obviously dead, it is usually advisable to examine the body, the clothing and the area under the body after the remainder of the scene has been searched. This is to enable the policeman/investigator to evaluate all objects of special interest in the light of all other evidence found at the scene.	4.29	Extremely Aware
Collection of Evidence		
1. Fragile evidence should be collected as they are found.	4.64	Extremely Aware
2. All firearms (FAs) found to have tampered serial numbers (SNs) shall be automatically subjected to macro etching at the Philippine National Police 4Crime Laboratory (PNP-CL). A corresponding request to the Firearms and Explosive Office (FEO) must be made for verification purposes. The investigator places his initials, the date and time of discovery on each item of evidence for proper identification. Items that could not be marked	4.48	Extremely Aware



should be placed in a suitable container and sealed.		
Markings of Evidence		
1. Any physical evidence obtained must be marked or tagged before its submission to the evidence custodian.	4.29	Extremely Aware
2. Markings on the specimen must at least contain the following: 1. Exhibit Case Number 2. Initials and or signature of the collecting officer. 3. Time and date of collection.	4.31	Extremely Aware
Evaluation of Evidence		
3. Each item of evidence must be evaluated in relation to all the evidence, individually and collectively. If necessary, these pieces of evidence must be subjected to crime laboratory examination. Example: firearms for ballistic examination, hair strands etc.	4.65	Extremely Aware
Preservation of Evidence		
1. It is the investigator's responsibility to ensure that every precaution is exercised to preserve physical evidence in the state in which it was recovered/ obtained until it is released to the evidence custodian.	4.42	Extremely Aware
Releasing of Evidence		
1. All collected evidence can only be released upon order of the court or prosecutor, as the case maybe.	4.40	Extremely Aware
Weighted mean	4.49	Extremely Aware

Table 2 presented the results of the weighted mean on the awareness of the investigating team on processing evidence. As revealed from the table, the investigating team are extremely aware of the procedure with the weighted mean of 4.49. Among the steps, they reveal that they are most aware that if any doubt exists as to the value of an item, treat it as evidence until proven otherwise and in ensure that the item or area where latent fingerprints may be present is closely examined and that action is taken to develop the prints with the highest weighted means of 4.82 and 4.87 respectively. Further, the data revealed that they are least aware that after completing the search of the scene, the investigator examines the object or person actually attacked by the offender.



Table 3. Summary of the Item Mean on the Awareness of the Investigating Team on the Chain of Custody

Chain of Custody	Weighted Mean	Adjectival Value
1. A list of all persons who came into possession of an item of evidence, continuity of possession, or the chain of custody, must be established whenever evidence is presented in court as an exhibit.	4.36	Extremely Aware
2. As a rule, all seized evidence must be in the custody of the evidence custodian and deposited in the evidence room or designated place for safekeeping.	4.50	Extremely Aware
Transmittal of Evidence to Crime Laboratory		
1. The evidence should reach the laboratory in same condition as when it was found, as much as possible.	4.32	Extremely Aware
2. The quantity of specimen should be adequate. Even with the best equipment available, good results cannot be obtained from insufficient specimens.	4.86	Extremely Aware
3. Submit a known or standard specimen for comparison purposes.	4.68	Extremely Aware
4. Keep each specimen separate from others so there will be no intermingling or mixing of known and unknown material. Wrap and seal in individual packages when necessary.	4.39	Extremely Aware
5. Mark or label each of evidence for positive identification as the evidence taken from a particular location in connection with the crime under investigation.	4.20	Extremely Aware
6. The chain of custody of evidence must be maintained. Account for evidence from the time it is collected until it is produced in court. Any break in this chain of custody may make the material inadmissible as evidence in court.	4.20	Extremely Aware
Weighted mean	4.44	Extremely Aware

Table 3 showed the item mean of 4.44 which means that the respondents are extremely aware of the procedures in the chain of custody as a procedure in the investigation process. Specifically, they are most aware that the quantity of specimen should be adequate and that even with the best equipment available, good results cannot be obtained from insufficient specimens with the highest mean of 4.86 while they are least aware that the chain of custody



of evidence must be maintained and the account for evidence from the time it is collected until it is produced in court with the mean of 4.20.

Table 4. Summary of the Item Mean on the Awareness of the Investigating Team on the Procedures in Taking Photographs

Procedures on taking photographs	Weighted Mean	Adjectival Value
1. Overall photos of the scene are taken to show the approach to the area, street signs, and street light locations in relation to the actual scene, street addresses and identifying objects at the scene. Pictures should also be taken of every room in the house, even if their relationship to the crime scene is not readily apparent.	4.20	Extremely Aware
2. Photograph the scene in a clockwise pattern before altering the body's position or any other evidence within the scene. Photograph the scene from at least 2 opposite corners, but from all four corners is even better. This way, nothing is missed or hidden from view by intervening objects.	4.18	Very Aware
3. Photograph the body and the immediate vicinity around the body. If you have a camera boom, take pictures from ceiling height down of the victim and any other evidence. This perspective often shows things missed when viewed from ground or eye level.	4.30	Extremely Aware
4. Keep a photo log.	4.32	Extremely Aware
Weighted mean	4.25	Extremely Aware

As showed in the table, the data revealed that the respondents are extremely aware of the procedures in taking photographs with a weighted mean of 4.25. Furthermore, the data revealed that they are most aware that overall photos of the scene are taken to show the approach to the area, street signs, and street light locations in relation to the actual scene, street addresses and identifying objects at the scene and that pictures should also be taken of every room in the house, even if their relationship to the crime scene is not readily apparent with the weighted mean of 4.20 or extremely aware. They are least aware in photographing the scene in a clockwise pattern before altering the body's position or any other evidence within the scene with the weighted mean of 4.18 only.



Table 5. Summary of the Item Mean on the Awareness of the Respondents on the Procedures in Making Sketch

Procedures on making a sketch	Weighted Mean	Adjectival Value
1. To establish admissibility, the investigator must have personal observation of the data in question. In other words, the sketch must be sponsored or verified.	4.89	Extremely Aware
2. Sketches are not a substitute for notes or photos; they are but a supplement to them.	4.63	Extremely Aware
3. Write down all measurements.	4.29	Extremely Aware
4. Fill in all the details on your rough sketch at the scene. Final sketch may be prepared at the office.		
5. Keep the rough sketch even when you have completed the final sketch.	4.30	Extremely Aware
6. Indicate the North direction with an arrow.	4.17	Very Aware
7. Draw the final sketch to scale.	4.39	Extremely Aware
8. Indicate the PLACE in the sketch as well as the person who drew it. Use KEY-capital letters of the alphabet for listing down more or less normal parts or accessories of the place, and numbers for items of evidence.	4.10	Very Aware
9. Indicate the position, location and relationship of objects.	4.50	Extremely Aware
10. Critical measurements, such as skid marks, should be checked by two (2) investigators.	4.36	Extremely Aware
11. Measurements should be harmony or in centimeters, inches, yards, meters, mixed in one sketch.	4.53	Extremely Aware
12. Use standard symbols in the sketch.	4.30	Extremely Aware
13. Show which way the doors swing.	4.50	Extremely Aware
14. Show with arrow the direction of stairways.	4.54	Extremely Aware
15. Recheck the sketch for clarity, accuracy, scale, and title, key.	4.89	Extremely Aware
Weighted mean	4.46	Extremely Aware

Table 5 showed the item mean on the awareness of the respondents on the procedures in making sketches. The respondents reveal that, generally, they are extremely aware of the procedures with the sub-mean of 4.46. Among the steps in the procedure, they are most aware that they should recheck the sketch for clarity, accuracy, scale, and title, key and that the investigator must have personal observation of the data in question in order to establish admissibility with the same mean if 4.89. However, they are least aware that they should



indicate the North direction with an arrow in sketching with the weighted mean of only 4.17 or very aware.

Table 6. Summary of the Item Mean on the Awareness of the Investigating Team on SOCO Assistance and Release of Crime Scene

SOCO Assistance	Weighted Mean	Adjectival Value
1. In cases where the crime scene needs special processing due to its significance or because of its sensational nature, the Scene of the Crime Operation (SOCO) specialists of the Crime Laboratory shall be requested.	4.89	Extremely Aware
2. If the situation involves a clandestine drug laboratory, biological weapons, radiological or chemical threats, the appropriate agency should be contacted prior to entering the scene.	4.77	Extremely Aware
Release of Crime Scene		
1. Release the scene with the notion that there is only one chance to perform job correctly and completely.	4.87	Extremely Aware
2. Release is accomplished only after completion of the final survey and proper documentation.	4.90	Extremely Aware
Weighted mean	4.86	Extremely Aware

Revealed in Table 6 is the item mean on the awareness of the investigating team on SOCO assistance and release of the crime scene. Generally, the respondents reveal that they are extremely aware in these procedures with the mean of 4.86. Among the steps, they are most aware that in cases where the crime scene needs special processing due to its significance or because of its sensational nature, the Scene of the Crime Operation (SOCO) specialists of the Crime Laboratory shall be requested with the weighted mean of 4.89 and that release is accomplished only after completion of the final survey and proper documentation with the mean of 4.90. Furthermore, they are less aware that if the situation involves a clandestine drug laboratory, biological weapons, radiological or chemical threats, the appropriate agency should be contacted prior to entering the scene with the mean of 4.77



Table 7.Over-all Summary of the Item Mean on the Awareness of the Investigating Team on the Investigative Procedures

Procedures	Weighted Mean	Adjectival Value
On Receiving Reports / Complaints and Processing the Crime Scene	4.38	Extremely Aware
On Processing Evidence	4.49	Extremely Aware
On the Chain of Custody	4.44	Extremely Aware
On Taking Photographs	4.25	Extremely Aware
On Making Sketch	4.46	Extremely Aware
On SOCO Assistance and Release of Crime Scene	4.86	Extremely Aware
Over-All Weighted Mean	4.48	Extremely Aware

Table 7 showed the over-all summary of the item mean on the awareness of the respondents on the investigative procedures. As gleaned in the table, they are extremely aware on all the procedures with the over-all weighted mean of 4.48. They are most aware on the procedures on SOCO assistance and release of crime scene with the highest mean of 4.86 and the lowest mean is on taking photographs with the mean of 4.25.

Compliance to the Investigative Procedures as Stipulated in the PNP Criminal Investigation Manual

Through interview, the respondents reveal the following information regarding their compliance to the investigative procedures.

A. Upon Receipt of Call/Walk-in Complainants

All steps in the Criminal Investigation Manual are complied by the investigating team in this particular stage. They reveal that they do the following:

Duty Desk Officer conducts initial interview with the complainant and records briefly the incident in the Desk Officer Logbook being maintained. After which, the Duty Desk Officer endorses the complainant to the duty investigator (Investigator on Case) or to the Duty Women and Children Protection Desk Officer for cases involving women and their children.

B. At the Crime Scene

At the crime scene, the first responder performs the first aid if and when necessary to save lives. He also secures the crime scene and detains the suspects if any.



C. Investigative Procedures

According to the investigator, the following are the actual actions that they carry out in conducting investigations.

1. *Upon arrival at the crime scene*, the investigating team cordons and secures the area and unnecessary things or people not needed in the conduct of the investigation are removed. One provision in the PNP Manual that is not being followed is the wearing of surgical gloves before entering the crime scene.
2. In terms of *recording*, all necessary details and information that can aid the investigation are recorded; however it should be brief and concise.
3. In *searching for evidence*, evidence can come in any form depending on what crime is committed. The investigator reveals that some typical kinds of evidence at a crime scene include trace evidence (gunshot residue, paint residue, broken glass, unknown chemicals, drugs), impressions (fingerprints, footwear, tool marks), body fluids (blood, semen, saliva, vomit) hair and fibers, weapons and firearms evidence (knives, guns, bullet, holes, cartridge casings) questioned documents (diaries, suicide note, phone books and electronic documents like answering machines and caller ID units)
4. In the *collection of evidence*, the investigator reveals that all pieces of evidence needed must be gathered at the crime scene. For shooting incidents, fire cartridge, ammunitions and weapons used are very essential evidence which the investigating team must gather or collect.
5. In the *marking of evidence*, all collected pieces of evidence must be marked by the Investigator-on-Case bearing his/her initials and the date when the evidence was collected and preserved. Among the marking procedures, it is the exhibit case numbers that are usually omitted.
6. In the *evaluation of evidence*, the OIC evaluates the pieces of evidence to be collected by the team if it is necessary during the conduct of investigation. After which, marking and preservation follows.
7. In the *preservation of evidence*, evidence gathered must be preserved well to avoid contamination. Markings and tagging are the forms of preservation being performed mostly by IOC's of the station.



8. In the *releasing of evidence*, evidence is released once in the custody of investigator and turned over to the court for presentation.
9. In the *chain of custody*, the investigator performs collection and tagging of evidence. After which, he will turn over to the designated Evidence Custodian of the station for preservation prior to the presentation in court as required. However, for drug cases, only the Poseur Buyer is allowed to perform the markings, tagging and even the transmittal of said pieces of evidence to the crime laboratory.
10. It is the evidence custodian with the IOC who allows transmittal of the evidence to the crime laboratory.

D. Methods of Crime Scene Search

The method of crime scene search that is most often performed by the investigating team is the 'spiral search' especially for outdoor crime scenes. It is conducted solely by the Investigator-on-Case. However, there are some instances when it is not only the IOC who performs the search but the team, so a comprehensive instruction and coordination of crime scene search efforts result in optimal conditions for the identification and collection of evidence, which can ultimately lead to a successful prosecution.

E. Procedures in Taking Photographs

The photographer captures the scene as it is observed before anything is handled, moved, or initiated into the scene. There are three important positions or views that IOC captures in a scene – the over-all scene photographs, mid-range photographs and a close up of the item of evidence.

F. Procedures of Taking Sketch

The sketcher draws the sketch to show items, including the position and relationship of items. Exact measurements are also included where needed.

G. Procedures on Lifting Fingerprints



PNP Piat investigating team commonly follows one of the common methods on lifting fingerprints which is done by dusting a smooth surface with the use of fingerprint powder and lifting the fingerprint using a tape.

H. Scene of the Crime Operatives

According to the investigator, Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) is a division of the Philippine National Police force and they are requested to perform forensic investigation and detailed review of evidence at the crime scene.

I. Release of Crime Scene

The investigator informed the researchers that they can only release the crime scene as soon as it is already processed.

Problems Encountered in the Conduct of Investigation

The problems being encountered in the criminal investigation procedure is limited of knowledge or expertise of the IOC and uncooperative/reluctant witnesses.

Alternative Measures

Aside from the standard operating procedures, the investigators conduct follow up investigations which is not expressly prescribed action in the manual as part of the procedure. Investigators undergo trainings and attend schooling in order to enrich their knowledge and expertise.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of this study, it is concluded that the investigating team of PNP Piat has high level of awareness on the investigative procedures as stipulated in the PNP Criminal Investigation Manual and complies with all the guidelines set in the PNP Criminal Investigation Manual, except for very few steps omitted due to either missing investigative tool or limited of knowledge on the part of the investigator. Further, investigative procedures that are being followed depend on the particular case in which investigators find difficulty in gathering information from uncooperative witnesses.



RECOMMENDATIONS

From the results of the study, it is therefore highly recommended that more trainings on investigation should be conducted to refresh or update the skills of investigators while looking into the need of more techniques or strategies on how to elicit information from witnesses. A stricter monitoring in the conduct of these procedures must be ensured by the higher echelon of the organization.

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