

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

The primary responsibilities of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations are criminal investigative and counterintelligence services. The organization seeks to identify, investigate, and neutralize espionage, terrorism, fraud and other major criminal activities that may threaten Air Force and Department of Defense resources.

The Air Force OSI provides professional investigative services to commanders of all Air Force activities. Its basic mission is to gather and provide the facts needed to take judicial or administrative action.

The vast majority of OSI's investigative activities involve general felony crimes. These crimes include robbery, rape, assault, major burglaries, drug trafficking, and a host of other criminal activities which can occur on a daily basis. These investigations challenge the investigative skills and logic of the criminal investigator. The most complex of these crimes require specialized expertise and the most advanced techniques.

About one-quarter of OSI's investigative resources are assigned to economic crime or fraud investigations. This includes violations of the public trust involving Air Force contracting matters, appropriated and nonappropriated funds activities, computer systems, pay and allowance matters, acquiring and disposing of Air Force property, and major administrative irregularities. The organization uses fraud surveys to determine the existence, location, and extent of fraud in Air Force operations or programs; and provides briefings to base and command level resource managers to help them identify and prevent fraud involving Air Force or Department of Defense resources.

The counterintelligence mission primarily is to counter the threat to Air Force security posed by hostile intelligence services and terrorist groups and to identify and assess

the threat for Air Force commanders. OSI manages offensive and defensive activities to detect, counter, and destroy the effectiveness of hostile intelligence services that target the Air Force for espionage. This includes investigating the crime of espionage and other specialized counterintelligence operations.

The counterintelligence mission also includes providing personal protection to senior Air Force and other officials, as well as supervising an extensive anti-terrorism program in geographic areas of heightened terrorist activity.

OSI has numerous specialists and consultants, who are invaluable in the successful resolution of investigations. They include technical specialists, polygraphers, behavioralists, computer consultants, and forensic advisors. These specialized investigators provide assistance when a specialized technique may move the investigation closer to a suitable conclusion.

To do its investigative mission, OSI recruits, selects, and trains its own special agents. Officer, enlisted, and civilian candidates attend a mandatory, three-month basic investigator's course at the Air Force Special Investigations Academy, located in Washington, DC.

The basic investigator's course includes instruction in law, investigative theory, report writing, forensics, interview techniques, and a myriad of other subjects designed to prepare the special agent for the challenges of investigative duty. Upon graduation, the new OSI special agents spend a one-year probationary period in the field. Upon successful completion, the agents may return to Washington, DC, for further specialized training in economic crime, anti-terrorism services, counterintelligence, and other sophisticated criminal investigative capabilities.

Selected special agents attend nine weeks of technical training to

acquire the electronic, photographic and other skills required to perform technical surveillance investigations. Experienced agents selected for polygraph duties also attend a 14-week Department of Defense course.

OSI's investigative focus on major crimes, fraud, and counterintelligence, coupled with extensive training and specialized capabilities, provide an important element in maintaining the Air force's ability to fly, fight, and win.

One of the women who help OSI to accomplish its mission is featured below.

Capt. Patricia W. Falvey **AFOSI Outstanding Reserve** **Officer of the Year - 1990**



For the first time in Air Force Office of Special Investigations history, a United States Air Force Reserve Officer commanded an active duty AFOSI detachment. During her five-month tenure, AFOSI Detachment 717 at Moody AFB (Georgia) was under the direction and leadership of Capt. Patricia W. Falvey.

After attending the AFOSI detachment commander's workshop in May 1990, Captain Falvey assumed command of Det 717 in

June 1990 for five months, after the short notice departure of the unit's commander. She immediately recognized the need for establishing a "second to none" liaison program with both the Moody AFB leadership and local law enforcement officials.

According to Col. Robert Hoffman, then commander of AFOSI District 7 at Patrick AFB, "Captain Falvey has made Det 717 an integral team player at Moody AFB, and returned the AFOSI image to one of dedicated professionalism."

During her first three months, Captain Falvey reinstated the detachment's Joint Drug Enforcement Team (JDET) which had been nonexistent for more than two years. While other JDETs were losing support because of Desert Shield and manpower shortages, her management of this proactive drug interdiction program resulted in nine separate drug investigations.

Her achievements in this activity prompted Capt. Ronnie Bennett, the chief of the detective division of the Valdosta (Georgia) Police Department to note that "this is the first AFOSI commander to work directly and in such cooperation with this police department in recent times."

Her investigative skills equally match her leadership abilities. She reopened a fraudulent travel pay investigation which led to a recovery in excess of \$2,500. She also uncovered information that directly tied an unsolved murder case in the local community to a base larceny investigation, resulting "in the swift apprehension of the alleged murderer who was later found guilty," according to Bill Selph, chief of the detective division of the County Sheriff's department in Lowndes County, Georgia.

According to Moody AFB's 347th Tactical Fighter Wing commander, Col. Marvin D. Esmond, "Her energy

and professionalism as an AFOSI commander are unparalleled, and set her at the top of her field.

A native of Linden, New Jersey, Capt Falvey graduated from Trenton State College (New Jersey) in 1972 with a degree in English Liberal Arts, and master's degree in Public Administration in 1985 from Troy State University (Alabama).

Capt Falvey's law enforcement career began in New Jersey in 1975 where she was a police dispatcher for the Long Beach Township Police Department. In 1978-79, she was assigned as an investigator for the Ocean County Probation Department and Prosecutor's Department in Toms River, New Jersey.

She completed Officer Training School in June 1979, and was commissioned a USAF second lieutenant to be a personnel officer at Hahn AB, Germany.

After completing the basic investigator's course at the Air Force Special Investigations Academy in May 1982, she was assigned to AFOSI Det 7024 at Ramstein AB, West Germany where she was a member of the protective service detail providing 24-hour protection to the commander-in-chief USAF Europe. Capt Falvey later became the chief of both the criminal and fraud investigation divisions at Det 7024.

In August 1985, she moved to AFOSI District 10 where she fulfilled a number of duties, including chief of mobility and reserve training officer. She then separated from the active duty side of the Air Force in June 1986 just prior to the birth of her third child.

Capt Falvey joined the Air Force Reserves in February 1987, and was first assigned as an instructor at Officer Training School, Lackland AFB (San Antonio, Texas). She rejoined AFOSI in August 1989, and

was assigned as the reserve officer to the detachment commander at Moody AFB, where she assumed her detachment commander position in June 1990.

Capt Falvey was the AFOSI nominee for the Air Force Reserve Officer of the Year for 1990. As Colonel Hoffman said in his nomination letter, "her outstanding performance has proven that AFOSI reservists are motivated, professional, and above all, capable of handling the tough jobs."

Capt Falvey is now assigned as a reserve officer in the AFOSI Investigation Operations Center, Major Crimes Investigations at Bolling AFB, Washington, DC.

She is married to Lt. Col. Daniel L. Falvey, an aircraft maintenance officer assigned to the Pentagon. They have three children: Lauren (7), Timmy (6), Katie (5). Presently, the Falveys reside in Montclair, Virginia.



Capt. Pat Falvey examines a crack cocaine packet seized during one of several counternarcotics operations she directed at Moody AFB, Georgia.