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NA Graduate	245 th Session
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Topic of Presentation	International Intelligence/Cooperation
Title of Presentation	Unfathomable - The International Investigation into the death of Christina Watson
Length of Presentation	4-5 hours
Presentation Objective	To present the legal and political challenges faced in coordinating this 7 year multinational homicide investigation
Referral Source	Chapter
Referral Source Name	Craig Petersen
Referral Source Email	cpetersen@gulfport-ms.gov
Presentation Description	The presentation takes the class through the 8 1/2 year multinational homicide investigation into the death of Christina Watson, a US citizen who died mysteriously while SCUBA diving in Australia on her honeymoon. The investigation spanned

thousands of miles and 4 continents and presented unprecedented challenges and legal hurdles for the investigators in both the US and Australia. Attendees will see and hear not just the synopsis of the case, but learn how to coordinate an international criminal investigation by lessons learned on this investigation.

Speaker Bio

Brad Flynn currently serves as the Criminal Investigations Division Commander of the Helena, Alabama Police Department and has been involved with law enforcement for over 23 years. During his 18 years with Helena, Lt. Flynn has served in many different capacities including Narcotics and undercover investigations assignments, Traffic Homicide Investigator, Hostage Negotiator, Departmental In Service Training Officer, Tactical Unit operator and Team Commander, Criminal Investigations Division Detective and his current assignment of CID Commander.

Lt. Flynn also serves as the city's Emergency Services Coordinator responsible for the coordination of city services in the event of a mass casualty or large scale emergency incident. Lt. Flynn is also a certified Hazardous Materials Technician with advanced training in radiological and chemical mitigation, and is a certified Tank Car Specialist for the mitigation of hazardous materials incidents involving hazardous materials transported by rail tank car. He also served on the U.S. Postal Inspection Service's North Alabama Identity Theft Task Force for 3 years as a sworn Deputy United States Marshal in order to affect arrests nationwide.

The highlight of Lt. Flynn's law enforcement career to date has been his role as the lead American Investigator assigned to the international investigation into the death of Alabamian Christina Thomas Watson while SCUBA diving on her honeymoon off the Great Barrier Reef in Australia in 2003. This investigation lasted over 8 years and required him to coordinate the American involvement in a large scale, multi agency international investigation into a death that occurred on the other side of the world.

In addition to his service with the City of Helena, Lt. Flynn served as an Adjunct Counter Terrorism Instructor for the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training based at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. As part of his responsibilities Lt. Flynn travelled the country training federal, state and local agencies on Counter Terrorism Operations and Prevention.

In 2011, Lt. Flynn graduated from the 245th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia and he also holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice from the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

**If applicable,
upload supporting
documentation or
abstract for your
presentation**

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**Additional
Comments**

Attached in the case overview from the Queensland Police Service. It serves as an accurate snapshot of the events that transpired over the course of the 8 1/2 years. Additional information on the case can be obtained from watching some of the numerous TV documentaries on the case, including Dateline NBC (Mystery in the Deep Blue Sea) and Australian Story (Unfathomable Parts 1 & 2). Both are easily located via internet search.