

Q: What led you to pursue a career in law enforcement?

A: I thought about it a great deal while I was serving in the Army. After I got out, I took the test and was subsequently called for training. I liked the idea of police work because it was a challenge and it was exciting. Frankly, I couldn't imagine working in an office from 9 – 5 every day.

Q: What area of police work did you specialize in (e.g., narcotics, vice, investigations...) on the Chicago Police Department?

A: I served in a variety of assignments while I was a cop, beginning my career as all officers do, in patrol. After five years, I transferred to a specialized unit, SOG (Special Operations Group), which focused on saturating high-crime areas. We made tons of arrests involving gangs, guns, robberies, and stolen cars. I also served in a bodyguard unit, protecting visiting dignitaries from other nations, celebrities, etc. I was on Mayor Michael Bilandic's protection detail for a while. Before I left the department to join the FBI, I was working in the crime lab.

Q: What did you enjoy the most about being a policeman?

A: Going to work each day meant a new challenge, there was always something different, some riddle to solve, some bad guy to outsmart. Racing to and from crime scenes, subduing and handcuffing criminals, was an adrenaline rush that became addictive. Despite the danger and fear involved with facing down hostile people intent on hurting you or someone else, there is an inexplicable pull toward it that most cops enjoy. Because of the deadly consequences facing cops on the streets, the brotherhood that cops develop is one of the strongest you'll find among professions anywhere.

Q: Why did you leave the department to join the FBI?

A: Although I loved police work and the Chicago PD, I was in my early 30s and began to focus on the rest of my career. I wondered what opportunities might come my way if I stayed, versus advancement and adventure with a federal agency such as the FBI. At the time I left the department, the maximum age to be hired by any federal law enforcement agency was thirty-five; I was thirty-three. I had to act quickly—and I did.

Q: What types of crimes did you investigate as an agent?

A: Mostly violent crimes—narcotics, outlaw motorcycle gangs, organized crime. I worked several undercover assignments, dealing with drugs and public corruption. I became a member of the SWAT team and was a sniper. I served as the principle firearms instructor in the Detroit Division for a while. While assigned to the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia, I served as an instructor in tactics, physical training, and street survival; I served in that capacity for two years teaching internationally as well.

Q: In your many years in law enforcement, what insights do you have into the criminal mind that you've used in your novels?

A: Having interviewed hundreds of suspects, I have a fairly good idea of where they were coming from, their mindset and mentality, I was able to understand their rationale for committing crimes, and thus give them the impression that I was sympathetic to their cause. That approach often allowed me to create a bond which caused them to divulge information about their crime. Understanding what goes through the minds of criminals allowed me to develop informants, who are often the key to solving a crime.

Q: As an undercover agent, you worked to combat steroid use. You've now taken that battle into the college sports arena. Why has this been such an important mission for you?

A: Yes, I'm on the NCAA Health and Safety Speaker List. Universities may request I speak with their student-athletes regarding steroids. I saw the damage, both physical and emotional, that illegal use of steroids caused many young people. It's sad—you see them chasing a dream, perhaps a scholarship or pro contract, and they truly believe that steroids will help them achieve that goal. Unfortunately, when that dream isn't realized they act as if their world has collapsed. They act aggressively and dangerously, sometime they get arrested which impacts their lives for a long time. If I can made an impression on them by being candid about steroids, particularly that steroids will not help them get ahead, I think I've made a difference.

Q: I don't know if you're a baseball fan, but what are your thoughts on steroid use among professional athletes?

A: I don't think steroids are a good fit for any pro athlete, be it baseball, football, etc. I recognize that recent headlines involving Mark McGuire, Jason Giambi, Roger

Clemens, et al, has raised the issue of whether steroids enhance performance. My personal belief is that you either have the talent or not—drugs will not make you a superstar. But if we're going to have rules of competition, one of which dictates what drugs and medications are not to be used, then those who violate that standard must be dealt with.

Q: Tell me a little bit about your most memorable case, which you could talk about to an audience.

A: I've had several, the last of which involved the events of 9/11. I was assigned as an instructor at the FBI Academy when our country was attacked. The next night I was at the Pentagon crime scene, assisting hundreds of law enforcement colleagues in collecting evidence. Two days later I was assigned to the crash site in Shanksville, PA, where the courageous passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 93 drove their aircraft into the ground, rather than allow the terrorists to crash it somewhere in Washington, D.C.

As a SWAT team member, I've participated in numerous entries and arrests involving violent fugitives and drug crimes. In an undercover operation in Detroit, involving four Detroit police officers, I served as a bodyguard for another agent acting undercover as a money launderer. We convinced the uniformed officers to help us smuggle drugs into the Detroit airport. As the case was concluded, I then assisted in their arrest as a SWAT team member.

Q: Where did the idea come from for *Women Warriors*?

A: I'd been writing law enforcement articles since my retirement, I've published more than one hundred columns on training and officer survival. Two of the articles I wrote were entitled "Warriors In High Heels," which were about the importance of women in police work. They were very well received by my readers. It started me thinking that women in law enforcement face some additional challenges their male colleagues didn't. I decided that if I could get the word out to enough women who cared to share their stories, it would make for a great read. That's what I'm presently involved in, trying to get the word out.

I'm looking for interesting, compelling stories, ones that can be tragic, sad, funny, oddball, profound—any story that's intriguing. They will be written by the women themselves. I'll edit them and put them in a logical order in the book: *Women*

Warriors, Stories from the Thin Blue Line. My publisher, [TotalRecall, Publications](#), thinks that it's a great idea. We expect to have the book published in the Fall of 2011.