Social Media & Open-Source Intelligence Techniques

Blue to Gold Law Enforcement Training
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GOAL

In-service training for certified law enforcement, including patrol, investigations, specialty units, and administration

length of instruction

7 - hours

In the dynamic realm of criminal investigations the internet plays a pivotal role, and criminal organizations increasingly leverage social media and Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) in their activities. This is a comprehensive understanding of navigating major social media networks and the latest insights and techniques in OSINT.

Course Introduction – 10 minutes

Instructor introduction.

1) Explain the course objective.

    a) Understanding of social media and Open-Source Intelligence.

    b) How to create research accounts for social media applications

    c) How to effectively navigate on Twitter, Instagram, Threads, Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube.

    d) Understand how to work with images as it applies to OSINT

2) Encourage attendees to ask questions and share feedback with other attendees.

3) Explain that certificates will be emailed after the class and each student will be registered in the Blue to Gold University.

4) Go over the three disclaimers:

    a) Laws and agency standard operating procedures may be more restrictive. Blue to Gold teaching the federal standard unless otherwise stated. Therefore, students must know their state and local requirements in addition to the federal standard.

    b) If students have any doubts about their actions, ask a supervisor or legal advisor.

    c) The course is not legal advice, but legal education. Therefore, nothing we teach should be interpreted as legal advice. Check with your agency's legal advisor for legal advice.

Module 1: Introduction to Social Media and Open Source Intelligence Objective:
Provide students with a foundational understanding of Social Media and Open Source Intelligence (OSINT).
- Introduction to the course and overview of objectives.
- The importance of swift information gathering on subjects of interest.
- Exploring online footprints and ensuring personal online safety.
- Overview of social media case law and legal resources.
- Responsible use of phone numbers within social media accounts.

Module 2: Research Accounts and Facebook
- **Objective:** Familiarize students with best practices and legal/ethical considerations in creating Research Accounts for Social Media applications.

- Legal and ethical considerations in creating Research Accounts.
- Effective techniques for utilizing Facebook in investigations.
- Identifying subject of interest accounts and preserving data on Facebook.
- Exploring alternative social networks for investigative purposes.

Module 3: Twitter, Instagram, and Threads
- **Objective:** Instruct students on effective navigation and searching for subjects on Twitter, Instagram, and Threads.
- Navigating and searching for subjects of interest on Twitter and Instagram.
- Exploring posts from public accounts.
- Preserving data within Twitter, Instagram, and Threads.
- Practical insights into leveraging these platforms for investigations.

Module 4: Snapchat, TikTok, and YouTube
- **Objective:** Teach students to navigate Snapchat and TikTok and leverage YouTube effectively for investigations.
- Navigating Snapchat and TikTok for relevant information.
- Effective techniques for utilizing YouTube in investigations.
- Data preservation on YouTube.
- Emphasizing the role of these platforms in enhancing investigations.

Module 5: OSINT and Working with Images Objective: Explore various Open-Source Intelligence websites and resources and teach students how to work with images.
- Introduction to various OSINT websites and resources.
- Searching for the online footprint of subjects of interest.
- Working with images: understanding extracted data, reverse image searches, and location determination.
- Emphasis on practical image analysis skills.

Conclusion and Recap
- Summarize key takeaways from each module.
- Open the floor for final questions and discussions.
- Provide additional resources for further learning.
- Express gratitude and encourage ongoing engagement in the field of Social Media and Open-Source Intelligence.