Mission Statement

“The Mission of the Center on Crime and Community Resilience (CCR) is to help disadvantaged communities by using research to support innovation of new policy solutions.”

Role and Responsibilities

Research Assistant

- Test the study instrument for the Shannon Community Safety Initiative (CSI) Project
- Take notes in CSI meetings on site managers’ feedback on the study instrument
- Research articles spanning various topics
- Proofread and edit Zoom interviews
- Data management
- Summarize and analyze literature

Projects

While I worked on various projects during my time as a Research Assistant, two projects I enjoyed the most was the work I completed for the ‘ghost gun’ project (ghost guns are firearms that are unregistered and/or don’t have a serial number), and working on the Boston Regional Intelligence Center’s (BRIC) bi-weekly publication, the Critical Infrastructure Digest. The Critical Infrastructure Digest is sent to private companies that are part of the United States critical infrastructure. The country’s critical infrastructure is composed of 16 sectors

Ghost Gun Project:

- Proofreading and editing Zoom interviews with former agents and officials from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)
- Researching and compiling a bibliography of literature, such as news and academic articles, policy briefings, and community initiatives that discuss ghost guns

Critical Infrastructure Digest:

- Research open-source literature that identifies potential threats to the U.S. critical infrastructure
- Summarize and analyze selected articles

Course Integration

Global Criminology

- Highlighted a wide range of crime trends across the globe and the level severity

Communities and Crime

- How crime effects communities

Research Methods in the Social Sciences

- Identifying studies and literature that utilize sound research methods and social science experiments

Evidence-Based Crime Policy

- The utilization of different research database techniques to find ‘grey literature’ as well as identifying literature that use sound research methods and logic

Career Plans

My time spent with the Center on Crime and Community Resilience has increased my interest in working in a policy-related, or a crime analyst position. Gun trafficking and illegal gun sales in the United States was not an area I had considered before my co-op, however, it would be interesting to continue researching illegal gun markets and trafficking in a professional setting with a non-profit, or government agency. The other path I am strongly considering, is a career in intelligence as a crime analyst. Although I was already interested in a career in crime analytics, working on the Critical Infrastructure Digest has fostered a great interest in potential threats to the United States’ critical infrastructure sectors and the steps taken to intervene, deter, and stop these threats from coming to fruition. Much like with the ghost gun project, I would pursue a position with a government agency or non-profit.

Skills Gained

- Fine-tuned research skills
- Strengthened non-academic writing
- Gained knowledge on gun trafficking, illegal gun sales, and the illegal gun market
- Enhanced threat perception knowledge and the manner in which I interpret situations

Some of the Center on Crime and Community Resilience’s Partners

ATF agent holds two seized ‘ghost gun’ rifles.
(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File) (ASSOCIATED PRESS)