212. MURDER ONE: INFORMATION SHARING

Goals

I. To explore the effects of cooperation-collaboration versus competition in group problem solving.

II. To demonstrate the need for information sharing and other problem-solving strategies in a task-oriented group.

III. To study the roles that emerge in a task group.

Group Size

At least two groups of five members each.

Time Required

One and one-half hours.

Materials

I. A copy of the Murder One Instruction Sheet for each participant.

II. A copy of the Murder One Suspect Data Sheet for each participant.

III. One set of Murder One Briefing Sheets for each group, a different sheet for each member. (Each of the five sheets is coded by the number of dots, ranging from one to five, at the end of the first and last paragraphs. Each sheet contains data that is not found on another sheet in that set.)

IV. Blank paper and a pencil for each participant.

V. A Murder One Solution Sheet for each participant.

VI. Newsprint and a felt-tipped marker.

Physical Setting

A room large enough for groups to meet simultaneously without disturbing each other or overhearing each other's solutions to the problem. Each group should have a table and chairs at which the members may work. (An alternative is to have a separate room for each group, in which it can work during the problem-solving phase.)
Process

I. The facilitator introduces the activity as a group problem-solving task. (He does not discuss at this time the need to share information.)

II. The facilitator divides the participants into groups of five members each. If there are four or less participants remaining, they may serve as process consultants.

III. The facilitator explains that each group’s task is to decide who is the suspect to be arrested on a charge of first-degree murder. He indicates that there is only one correct solution to the problem and that each group is to reach its decision independent of the other groups. He also says that when a group completes the task, its members may observe other groups still in process, but they may not interfere with or join the other group in any way.

IV. The facilitator distributes a Murder One Instruction Sheet, Briefing Sheet, and Suspect Data Sheet, as well as paper and a pencil to each participant. He takes care to see that each member of a group has received a different Briefing Sheet (with a different number of dots following the first and last paragraphs).

V. The facilitator may privately brief any process consultants on what to look for during the group process. They are instructed to intervene as they deem necessary to help a group to clarify its process, and they are told not to participate in the group’s discussion of the content. The facilitator then tells the groups that they have forty-five minutes in which to solve the problem and that they are to record their reasons for eliminating each suspect. He gives the signal to begin.

VI. When all groups have reached a decision, or at the end of forty-five minutes, the entire group is reassembled. Each group reports on its solution, and the facilitator may briefly outline the elimination process on newsprint. Then the Murder One Solution Sheets are distributed and explained.

VII. The facilitator then leads a discussion of the experience, focusing on the effects of collaboration and competition, the need to share information in problem solving, the roles that were played by group members, and other task-related strategies or group dynamics.

Variations

I. The situation and information can be adapted to suit the needs and background of the group.

II. Observers can be assigned to specific groups or can be directed to look for specific aspects of the group process.
III. The facilitator can inform the participants that the data sheets contain different information.

IV. The facilitator can increase competition between groups by posting the amount of time used by each group in accomplishing its task and by posting the solution arrived at by each group.


**Lecturette Sources:** '73 Annual: "Conditions Which Hinder Effective Communication"; '74 Annual: "Five Components Contributing to Effective Interpersonal Communications," "Hidden Agendas"; '76 Annual: "Clarity of Expression in Interpersonal Communication."

**Notes on the Use of "Murder One":**

Submitted by Donald K. McLeod.
MURDER ONE INSTRUCTION SHEET

Instructions:

1. The threat of violence between various factions of organized crime, over the control of narcotics, imperils the tranquility of your community. To combat this threat, the commissioner has directed a step-up in the activity against criminal organizations within your community.

2. You are a group of top detectives who have been assigned to the Organized Crime Bureau within your department.

3. Charly "Poppa" Hasson’s gang has been singled out for particular attention by your team.

4. Your task becomes complicated when murder occurs during your investigation.

5. Your task, as a group, is to single out one suspect from members of the Hasson gang. Circumstantial evidence may be used to identify and arrest one member of the gang. The remaining six suspects must be cleared for a specific reason, which you as a group must declare at the termination of the activity. Data has been supplied regarding the suspects. Your team has all the information necessary for the solution of the case.

Assumptions:

1. Assume that there is one solution.

2. Assume that all data are correct.

3. You have forty-five minutes in which to determine a suspect.

4. Assume that today’s date is July 7, 1977 and that all primary actions are taking place on this date.

5. There must be substantial agreement in your group that the problem is solved.

6. You must work the problem as a group.
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Blood Type</th>
<th>Shoe</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Charges</th>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


Lagas, Franklin ("Hot Dog")
Height: 5'7"   Weight: 235   Hair: Black/Gray   Eyes: Brown
Blood Type: B   Shoe: 8 D   Tattoos: None
Vehicle: 1973 Cadillac Black Sedan
Record: 19 arrests—Charges: Homicide, Robbery, Assault, Extortion, Narcotics, Gambling, Impairing Morals of a Minor.

Aifam, George ("Gypsy")
Height: 5'7½"   Weight: 245   Hair: Black   Eyes: Brown
Blood Type: B   Shoe: 8 D   Tattoos: Left arm, "To Mother With Love"
Vehicle: 1973 Lincoln Black Sedan
Record: 23 arrests—Charges: Gambling, Loansharking, Assault, Extortion, Homicide.
MURDER ONE BRIEFING SHEET

Charly “Poppa” Hasson has been linked to organized crime by both Federal and state Organized Crime Task Forces. Information has been received that Poppa Hasson has formed a gang of his own and is engaged in heavyweight narcotics traffic. Recent investigations by your department have disclosed the identity of seven members of the Hasson gang. Further investigations and surveillance have revealed that the members of the gang are actively engaged in narcotics distribution despite severe pressure from the Joint Organized Task Force. Confidential information has disclosed a widening rift between gang members and Charly Hasson; members of the gang have accused him of “skimming off the top.” Threats have been made by gang members to blow Charly away if he doesn’t shape up.

As a result of the threats, Poppa has been making himself scarce and rarely meets more than one gang member at a time. He has secluded himself in an apartment in a remote part of town, a relatively safe location unknown to the gang members. An informant has told your department about Hasson’s hideout, and a legal wiretap has been installed on his telephone. Several days have gone by, and no action has been indicated by the tap. On July 7, at 7:03 p.m., Charly made a call to an undetermined public phone booth, and a taped conversation was recorded as follows:

Unknown Person: “Yeah?”
Poppa (Charly): “Eh, I got a big one; meet me at the club at 10:30.”
Unknown Person: “O.K.” (Clicks off.)

Past information indicates the club to be the Starlight Hunting & Fishing Club at 197 Kenmore Street, a secluded place used in the past for gang meetings. Other persons have divulged that some heavyweight drugs have come into town. Thus, it appears that Poppa may be getting a slice of the action. With this in mind, your squad C.O. decides to cover the club and put a close surveillance on all suspects at the location.

The Joint Task Force, having information confirming a big shipment to the city, swings into action at 9:00 p.m. this date and simultaneously rounds up suspects who might be involved. The sweep nets twenty suspects, including Johnny Blue Eyes, Harry Hinge, Bruce Comma, Benny Carato, Sam Perez, John Smith, Mike Crupa, Danny Skidmore, Frankie Todd, Sidney Hall, Jackie Leod, and Cary Crooke. All are known by the department to be actively engaged in illegal narcotics traffic. The stakeout at Poppa’s house reports that he leaves at 9:30 p.m., but he loses the tail at about 10:00 p.m. on the other side of town. Other tails report in, and information about the members of Poppa’s gang is compiled by the team. At 7:00 p.m., surveillance had disclosed that Jumbo and Benjie’s whereabouts were unknown; Hot Dog and Gypsy were near an offtrack
betting office, Digger was at some meeting, and Chills and Blue Eyes were in the vicinity of a social club. Armed with this information, the team moves to 197 Kenmore Street.

At 10:15 p.m., the first unit of the team arrives and observes that the club door is ajar and Hasson’s car is parked outside. The area seems deserted, and only one light flickers through the open door. It appears from the outside that someone is lying on the floor. A decision is made to move in for a better look. Closer scrutiny reveals Charly’s body lying face down on the floor. He is bleeding profusely from head wounds—apparently gunshot wounds from a weapon found lying near an open window at the rear of the premises. The area is immediately sealed off, and the forensic unit is called to the scene. While awaiting the results of the lab unit, the team makes a door-to-door canvas in an attempt to locate a witness or persons who might have seen Charly “Poppa” with someone at the location. The search is apparently fruitless until one middle-aged man is found who observed two men entering the abandoned club while he was walking his dog. The frightened witness, who resides three blocks from the club, says he saw the two enter the building and then heard a loud argument, during which someone shouted “No! No!” At that time he heard two shots, and the door of the club opened but no one came out. Then he saw a man fleeing from behind the building. The man was middle-aged, wore a white shirt and black trousers, was about average in height, and was heavy. The man fled in a dark sedan parked on the next block. The witness, fearful for his own life, ran home, and when a detective doing door-to-door interviews came to his house, the witness gave him the above information.

The forensic unit thoroughly searches the premises and comes up with prints belonging to Poppa; other prints are not distinguishable and cannot be classified. The weapon located at the scene is a .44 magnum of undetermined origin—no prints are obtained from the gun. Blood stains seem to indicate a fierce struggle, and apparently Charly had almost made it to the door. The blood stains on the floor fall into two groupings: A and B. Charly had bled profusely; he had blood type A. Beneath his fingernails are tufts of hair. Further investigation reveals a footprint in the tomato patch below the window at the rear of the club. The print seems to be anywhere from a size 7 D to a size 8 D; it is somewhat distorted and was made by a man of greater-than-average weight. (This is determined by a mold made at the scene and a measurement of the height of the drop from the window to the ground.) Pressure from the hierarchy of the department demands a quick solution to this case, especially in view of the recent mass arrests made by the Joint Task Force. On the basis of the facts herein your team is directed to make a prompt arrest.

The most likely suspects are the members of Charly “Poppa” Hasson’s gang. It would seem likely that Charly called a member of the gang and made an appointment with his killer. All the information available to your team can be culled from the Briefing Sheet. Your task is to identify the killer by using the facts available.
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Charly “Poppa” Hasson has been linked to organized crime by both Federal and state Organized Crime Task Forces. Information has been received that Poppa Hasson has formed a gang of his own and is engaged in heavyweight narcotics traffic. Recent investigations by your department have disclosed the identity of seven members of the Hasson gang. Further investigations and surveillance have revealed that the members of the gang are actively engaged in narcotics distribution despite severe pressure from the Joint Organized Task Force. Confidential information has disclosed a widening rift between gang members and Charly Hasson; members of the gang have accused him of “skimming off the top.” Threats have been made by gang members to blow Charly away if he doesn’t shape up . . .

As a result of the threats, Poppa has been making himself scarce and rarely meets more than one gang member at a time. He has secluded himself in an apartment in a remote part of town, a relatively safe location unknown to the gang members. An informant has told your department about Hasson’s hideout, and a legal wiretap has been installed on his telephone. Several days have gone by, and no action has been indicated by the tap. On July 7, at 7:03 p.m., Charly made a call to an undetermined public phone booth, and a taped conversation was recorded as follows:

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Unknown Person: "O.K." (Clicks off.)

Past information indicates the club to be the Starlight Hunting & Fishing Club at 197 Kenmore Street, a secluded place used in the past for gang meetings. Other persons have divulged that some heavyweight drugs have come into town. Thus, it appears that Poppa may be getting a slice of the action. With this in mind, your squad C.O. decides to cover the club and put a close surveillance on all suspects at the location.

The Joint Task Force, having information confirming a big shipment to the city, swings into action at 9:00 p.m. this date and simultaneously rounds up suspects who might be involved. The sweep nets twenty suspects, including Johnny Blue Eyes, Harry Hinge, Bruce Comma, Benny Carato, Sam Perez, John Smith, Mike Crupa, Danny Skidmore, Frankie Todd, Sidney Hall, Jackie Leod, and Cary Crooke. All are known by the department to be actively engaged in illegal narcotics traffic. The stakeout at Poppa’s house reports that he leaves at 9:30 p.m., but he loses the tail at about 10:00 p.m. on the other side of town. Other tails report in, and information about the members of Poppa’s gang is compiled by the team. At 7:00 p.m., surveillance had disclosed that Jumbo and Benjie’s whereabouts were unknown; Hot Dog and Gypsy were near an offtrack
betting office, Digger was conducting a union meeting, and Chills and Blue Eyes were in the vicinity of a social club. Armed with this information, the team moves to 197 Kenmore Street.

At 10:15 p.m., the first unit of the team arrives and observes that the club door is ajar and Hasson’s car is parked outside. The area seems deserted, and only one light flickers through the open door. It appears from the outside that someone is lying on the floor. A decision is made to move in for a better look. Closer scrutiny reveals Charly’s body lying face down on the floor. He is bleeding profusely from head wounds—apparently gunshot wounds from a weapon found lying near an open window at the rear of the premises. The area is immediately sealed off, and the forensic unit is called to the scene. While awaiting the results of the lab unit, the team makes a door-to-door canvas in an attempt to locate a witness or persons who might have seen Charly “Poppa” with someone at the location. The search is apparently fruitless until one middle-aged man is found who observed two men entering the abandoned club while he was walking his dog. The frightened witness, who resides three blocks from the club, says he saw the two enter the building and then heard a loud argument, during which someone shouted “No! No!” At that time he heard two shots, and the door of the club opened but no one came out. Then he saw a man fleeing from behind the building. The man was middle-aged, wore a white shirt and black trousers, was about average in height, and was heavy. The man fled in a dark sedan parked on the next block. The witness, fearful for his own life, ran home, and when a detective doing door-to-door interviews came to his house, the witness gave him the above information.

The forensic unit thoroughly searches the premises and comes up with prints belonging to Poppa; other prints are not distinguishable and cannot be classified. The weapon located at the scene is a .44 magnum of undetermined origin—no prints are obtained from the gun. Blood stains seem to indicate a fierce struggle, and apparently Charly had almost made it to the door. The blood stains on the floor fall into two groupings: A and B. Charly had bled profusely and beneath his fingernails are tufts of hair. Further investigation revealed a footprint in the tomato patch below the window at the rear of the club. The print seems to be anywhere from a size 7 D to a size 8 D; it is somewhat distorted and was made by a man of greater-than-average weight. (This is determined by a mold made at the scene and a measurement of the height of the drop from the window to the ground.) Pressure from the hierarchy of the department demands a quick solution to this case, especially in view of the recent mass arrests made by the Joint Task Force. On the basis of the facts herein your team is directed to make a prompt arrest.

The most likely suspects are the members of Charly “Poppa” Hasson’s gang. It would seem likely that Charly called a member of the gang and made an appointment with his killer. All the information available to your team can be culled from the Briefing Sheet. Your task is to identify the killer by using the facts available . . . .
MURDER ONE SOLUTION SHEET

(Note: Items printed in bold face indicate why the suspect could not have committed the crime. Everyone is eliminated except . . .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Blood Type</th>
<th>Occupation at 7 p.m. (free to make phone call)</th>
<th>Occupation at 10 p.m. (free to commit murder)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Viron, Benjamin (&quot;Benjie&quot;)</td>
<td>5'4&quot;</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enopac, Alphonse (&quot;Jumbo&quot;)</td>
<td>5'7&quot;</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ollag, Joseph (&quot;Chills&quot;)</td>
<td>5'7½&quot;</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>near social club</td>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phelps, James (&quot;Digger&quot;)</td>
<td>5'7&quot;</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>conducting union meeting</td>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutter, Edward (&quot;Blue Eyes&quot;)</td>
<td>5'7&quot;</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>near social club</td>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagas, Franklin (&quot;Hot Dog&quot;)</td>
<td>5'7&quot;</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>near offtrack betting office</td>
<td>in custody of Joint Task Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aifam, George (&quot;Gypsy&quot;)</td>
<td>5'7½&quot;</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>near offtrack betting office</td>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>