

Mike LaCorte, a founder of Conflict International has over 20 years experience in the investigation industry. He has been instrumental in drawing a number of high profile corporate and private investigation cases to a conclusion and his expertise in gathering legally admissible evidence is highly regarded. Mike speaks English, Spanish and Italian, and was elected 2nd Vice President of the World Association of Detectives in 2015.



THE MODERN APPROACH TO SURVEILLANCE

Conflict Marbella is the new dedicated consultancy service in the region from Conflict International who, from their head office in London, specialise in providing bespoke intelligence, investigation, security and risk advice services to clients worldwide.

The company is particularly adept in the area of surveillance where the London office can deploy locally licensed and reliable operators to carry out the monitoring of someone's movements in most jurisdictions throughout the world.

Mike LaCorte, director of Conflict Marbella, says it is the most direct way to find out what is really going on. "We use surveillance to build up a pattern of someone's lifestyle," he said. "We obviously have a brief from the client and an objective to stick to, and we deploy a surveillance team to monitor that person throughout their daily routines and uncover information."

"For example, who they are associated with, third parties they meet, locations they visit, and in certain circumstances uncovering assets. We compile that all into a report that is ready to be produced as evidence in court or for private use."

EXPLODING THE MYTH

The image of the private investigator, possibly in a raincoat, hanging around doorways and following at a safe distance has persisted for many years. However, the advances in technology means that methods of surveillance carried out by reputable companies are now far more sophisticated.

"Gone are the days when you would have a man and a camera running behind a subject," Mike adds. "We don't operate like that, especially in busy urban locations, so we build the composition of a team with different skill sets to track the movements and gain the evidence needed. We could have access to taxis, chauffeur-driven cars, covert foot personnel as well as other mobile vehicles."



The surveillance team leader can provide regular updates from the location and provide images via email or through more secure means.

"During the brief, we need to understand who the subject is and their particular lifestyle in order to adapt and use a surveillance team in accordance with that."

"If, for example, we have a subject who is over in the UK on holiday, staying in a five-star hotel with drivers and security, our surveillance team will adopt certain roles in order to uncover information about that person."

New technology also allows the client to be continually updated of progress in the investigation. The surveillance team leader can provide regular updates from the location and provide images via email or through more secure means.

SURVEILLANCE IN REVERSE

Tracking the movements of a subject is particularly useful if you believe someone else is monitoring you. Conflict Marbella has considerable experience in Counter Surveillance where an individual or company

believes they are under investigation. It could also relate to someone who may suspect they may be the subject of media intrusion.

Mike LaCorte says their tried and trusted techniques can work both ways. "Very often we find that reversing our anti surveillance operations, where we make the hostile surveillance the subject of our own investigations, is a highly effective tool. We can then liaise with the client and offer advice as to the best way forward in order to protect their safety and security."

For businesses or individuals, there are a number of professional strategies that can be employed including technical surveillance counter measures. This is an area where knowledge of emerging technologies is key.

"We have extensive experience in the various types of monitoring devices available. Our detectives examine all furniture, electrical and computer wiring, plugs, sockets, heating and



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air conditioning ducts, as well as any suspended ceilings or false walls.

Routinely, we carry out a radio sweep which checks for any illicit transmitting equipment and a telecoms sweep can analyse phone lines for any signs of taps or eavesdropping devices."

All investigations are carried out in full accordance with international standards and respect of human rights established by the UK's Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act and The Human Rights Act.

For high profile individuals who guard their own privacy and that of their family, it is important to know where threats to that privacy may be coming from. The clear advice is to use the services of a reputable company to ensure peace of mind.

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Contact Conflict International

To arrange a no obligation chat with Mike LaCorte about how we may be able to assist please email info@conflictinternational.com

conflictinternational.com

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