

Lee F. Laster, Assistant Director in Charge, FBI (Ret)
Thursday 6 March 2009

Agent Laster's experience in law enforcement and security includes:

- June 1985 – June 1987: Vice President in Charge of Security, Loomis Armored, Inc., Piscataway, NJ. He made up audits and inspections of over 100 branches in the U.S., trained all employees, and made investigations of cargo losses and claims, as well as acting as liaison with all federal and state law enforcement organizations.
- June 1980 – June 1985: Assistant Director in Charge, FBI, New York, NY. Mr. Laster was responsible for supervision of investigations and operations, including more than 1,000 Special Agents and 125 N.Y. City Detectives as part of a combined task force directed against terrorism, bank robberies, and organized crime.
- June 1962 – June 1980: Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of FBI operations and investigations in the Brooklyn Queens Metropolitan Office; Kansas City, Missouri; Honolulu, HI; and Assistant Agent in Charge in Philadelphia, PA. He also served as FBI Supervisor in Boston, MA, and as Special Agent in several states.
- Since 1987 Mr. Laster has managed his own investigative business in Honolulu with the U.S. Government as principal client.

Mr. Laster began with the FBI in 1962. Early experiences in the FBI included:

- Agents routinely bought their own office supplies because J. Edgar Hoover ran a tight budget.
- Special Agents didn't have secretaries. They took their own notes and/or used their own dictaphones.
- The FBI employed no female agents until after Hoover's death in 1972.
- Mr. Laster's first cellular phone was issued to him in 1981. It was the size of a shoe box.
- Profiling began with spy cases.

Mr. Laster's memorable cases:

- **The Rico Statute**, Racketeer and Influenced Corrupt Organizations Act of 1970. This statute enabled FBI agents to use electronic surveillance that could be used in court. RICO multiplied the conviction rate in organized crime.
- **Abscam** (late 1970s – early 1980s), a sting operation operated from the Long Island FBI office that initially targeted trafficking in stolen property but was converted to a public corruption investigation. It ultimately led to the conviction of a U.S. Senator, five members of the House of Representatives, one member of the New Jersey State Senate, several members of the Philadelphia City Council, and an inspector for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.
- **The Weathermen**, Weather Underground Organization, or WUO, was a domestic terror group operating from 1969 to the mid 1970s. This American radical left organization was notable for its bombings, riots, jail breaks, and the **Days of Rage**, in which the WUO combined forces with the **Chicago Seven**. The Weatherman bombed mostly government buildings and banks.
- Mr. Laster set up a sting named **Hukilau** (pulling in the fish) in Honolulu when he was transferred from N.Y. Hukilau consisted of a fence office run covertly by the FBI. Every angle of the building was covered by close circuit TV.