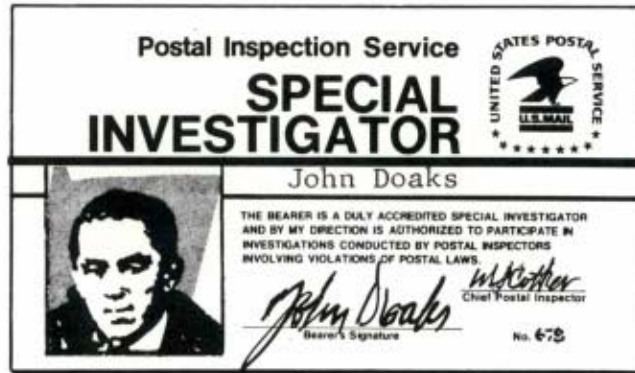


SPECIAL INVESTIGATORS



Special Investigator Credential

Special Investigators are now receiving new credentials and a formal training course covering the investigative techniques necessary for their law enforcement role.

The decision to transfer Special Investigators (formerly Investigative Aides) to the Inspection Service in July 1971 was significant since it officially recognized that they were an integral part of the Inspection Service.

Even prior to 1971 the Investigators were long considered *de facto* members of the Inspection Service team effort. Carrying badges, bearing firearms and detailed to assist Postal Inspectors, they were invaluable in cases involving postal theft and loss of mail. Contributing a familiarity with the sorting and delivery operations of individual post offices, their work in detecting and investigating both internal and external depredations on the mail has been particularly noteworthy.

The various titles given them over the years depict the growth of their responsibilities and progressive effectiveness in criminal investigative work. Initially called "Confidential Agents", they were responsible for observation and investigation of internal theft in post offices. Later renamed "Depredation Details" and then "Investigative Aides", their responsibilities were expanded to include external theft cases.

Today there are over 200 Special Investigators stationed in major metropolitan post offices throughout the nation, primarily assigned to internal theft, postal burglary, and house letter box theft cases. Under the supervision of Postal Inspectors they have the authority to conduct preliminary investigations, conduct observations and surveillances, participate in arrests and testify in court. ▷



FRANCIS X. BRESNAHAN
SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR
JULY 22, 1961 - JULY 31, 1975