

FIRST ARREST

An agents first arrest is like his first love affair, it may not have been perfect but it will always be remembered. And BNDD Special Agent Eddie Magnuson didn't have to wait long to experience that thrill, it came on his first day on the job. Assigned to New York's Group #22 after completing basic agent training, Eddie and the six other members of the team set out on a cold November evening in 1972 to arrest a black liquor store owner with a valid concealed firearms permit who would be delivering four ounces of Heroin to an undercover agent at La Guardia Airport.

As the new guy on the block, Eddie's job that night was to wait outside the terminal in his G-Car to provide perimeter security and to make sure the other G-Cars were not towed. However as it worked out Eddie and another neophyte Special Agent, Greg Kornloff, saw all the action. After about fifteen minutes of intense staring and looking around, Eddie's car radio came to life and advised that the defendant was leaving the terminal to meet his girlfriend who had the "dope." Eddie and the other outside agent were to follow the heroin dealer while the inside veterans made their way to their cars and played catch up ball.

The early evening airport traffic was heavy but the two G-Cars managed to stay close behind the defendant as he pulled to the curb by the Eastern Airlines Shuttle Terminal. A female with a yellow rain coat was waiting and slid into the passenger seat. Advised of what was happening, back up Group Supervisor Jeffery Hall, who was caught in the airport traffic jam, ordered that the arrests be made before the situation degenerated and the defendant was lost.

With a squeal of tires, agent Kornloff cut off the defendant's car, narrowly missing a collision, as it nosed away from the curb. As he was taught to do in school, Eddie jumped out of his car and took up crouched position at a 45 degree angle to the driver and shouted as loud as he could, "Federal Agent, get out of the car!" Lining up the front sight blade of his issue .38 caliber revolver on the the head of the defendant, Eddie again issued the command. When it was not complied with a second time, Eddie pulled back the hammer

of his snub nose for the ease and accuracy of single action fire. A reflex action due to the many hours spent on the basic agent training pistol range.

The defendant might have a gun and was not obeying Eddie's commands. This situation was not covered in the basic agent syllabus and newly commissioned Special Agent Eddie Magnuson was going to have to make a decision as the sweat sweat ran ran down his forehead and his finger gently pressed on the trigger. However to Eddie's great relief, his peripheral vision spied Special Agent Kornloff, who had a few invaluable months of street experience, approach the vehicle, pull open the door, and yank the stunned and confused defendant out.

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