

00:00:03.05

Scott Fulmer

Jim, welcome to the show.

00:00:05.16

Jim Weber

Hey, thank you, I greatly appreciate it, good to be here.

00:00:08.81

Scott Fulmer

Hey, um it is my pleasure. I got to tell you, i but we're going to talk about the outlaw, one of the outlaw motorcycle clubs, the invaders. And I have to admit I was in a motorcycle gang, but it was just a gang of three of us in the army. We'd ride on the weekends, but we weren't we weren't committing crimes or anything.

00:00:26.28

Jim Weber

Okay, okay, so you weren't true one percenters, that's okay, that's acceptable.

00:00:28.92

Scott Fulmer

No, we were like the 99 percenters.

00:00:31.05

Jim Weber

All right, fair enough.

00:00:33.81

Scott Fulmer

Well, so as I said, we're going to be talking about your time ah undercover in the invaders motorcycle club and a lot of folks, they don't know what a one percenter is. They don't even know what an outlaw motorcycle club is. So can you kind of define those terms first and then just tell me a little bit about the invaders and how big they were.

00:00:53.75

Jim Weber

Sure, absolutely. Well, you know, let's start with, like you said, the term one percenter. This is a ah phrase that was kind of how these guys originally referred to themselves. And we're going to go back in history a little bit back to the 40s. Back in 1947, there was a a motorcycle rally in Hollister, California. And during this event, you know, it was open to the public and everybody, you know, just folks that like to ride their motorcycles gathered at this event.

00:01:22.40

Jim Weber

But while this was going on, there were violent clashes and in fights and you know just craziness and public intoxication and and altercations. And after that rally, the American Motorcycle Association or the AMA comes out and says, hey, you know not everybody, not all motorcyclists, behave like this. you know that was a That's just the 1% of individuals ah that behave in this manner and that 99% of folks that ride motorcycles are just good people that enjoy the camaraderie. So from that event back in 1947, the term 1% are kind of sprung out and these bikers with this outlaw mentality

00:02:13.08

Jim Weber

kind of branded themselves as one percenters. So that's where that term ah comes from. But when you when you talk about a outlaw motorcycle gang, or in law enforcement we'll call it an OMG, ah or some people will call it an outlaw motorcycle club, a lot of these guys, they don't refer to themselves as gangs, they call themselves clubs.

00:02:38.66

Jim Weber

Um, and essentially what an OMG is, it's a, it's a very, you know, a common misperception out there is, is that these guys are just a bunch of good old boys that hang out in barbecue and drink beer and, and, uh, you know, smoke and joke and, and just hang out and occasionally do a ah charity event. But that's not the case. These are very.

00:03:01.60

Jim Weber

structured and organized criminal organizations. They have a rank and a file format, a hierarchy with club officers, positions like president, vice president, a sergeant at arms, enforcer, and it depends on on the specific club, you know, the the particular titles, but for the most part, you have these these officer positions and then you have members within within these groups. And not only are they structured and organized in rank and file, but they also have what they call chapters or charters, which is essentially

00:03:44.09

Jim Weber

I'm here in the Midwest United States. I'm in St. Louis, the St. Louis, Missouri area. And you have a variety of these these organizations or these clubs. And the different chapters, let's just say, I think most people have heard of the Hell's Angels.

00:03:59.42

Scott Fulmer

Right.

00:03:59.52

Jim Weber

The Hell's Angels have various charters and chapters. you know, a Missouri chapter, an East St. Louis chapter, a nomads chapter. So there they're broken down even further into specific regions. So that's that's essentially it in a nutshell on what a one percenter is and what an outlaw motorcycle gang is. These gangs, and and perhaps we'll get into it a bit further here,

00:04:30.14

Jim Weber

but they're heavily involved in in criminal activity. So that that's kind of a basic, you know, what they are.

00:04:40.44

Scott Fulmer

Now, if you wanted to compare the invaders to like the Mongols or Hell's Angels, how big is this the invaders club?

00:04:48.67

Jim Weber

Sure. Absolutely. The invaders is a club that is It is a present in four different states throughout the United States. it's present It started in Indiana, it's ah Illinois, Missouri, and Colorado. And within those four states, there are 18 separate chapters across those four states. And within those 18 chapters,

00:05:19.84

Jim Weber

At present date, there's approximately 300 to 400. We're not quite sure. Three to 400. members and the invaders.

00:05:32.73

Jim Weber

And they're essentially, they are a 1% outlaw motorcycle gang. And they're very similar to the Hells Angels. They're very similar to the Mongols, the same mindset, the same criminal behavior.

00:05:45.47

Jim Weber

um And that's that's the scope and the the lay of the land on where they are here in the United States.

00:05:52.77

Scott Fulmer

So they're, they're kind of, they're a lot smaller than hell's angels. Cause I know the hell's angels have chapters in Europe, uh, all over the place, all over the world.

00:05:55.62

Jim Weber

Yes.

00:06:00.23

Jim Weber

Correct. Yep, absolutely. Like those larger, again, we'll stick with the Hells Angels, they're international organizations. So not only do they have membership here domestically in the United States, but like you said, they're all around the world. It's an international organization. The invaders is a much smaller scale. ah They're not an international organization. They're just domestic here within the United States.

00:06:25.98

Scott Fulmer

So as we talk about, uh, the, this club, the invaders, you mentioned that they were highly organized. Uh, I mean, I know for a fact that when you, when they go for rides, the order, you know, how they are, the motorcycle order is, is like, uh, there's a certain picking order, who's up front, who's in the back, that kind of thing.

00:06:43.81

Jim Weber

Sure.

00:06:44.94

Scott Fulmer

Can you tell me, just give us a little idea about some of the rules they have and, and, uh, like, you know, even in some of the language, like what's a hang around, what's a prospect?

00:06:54.43

Jim Weber

Sure, absolutely. So yeah, we'll start with that. there's There's levels of membership within the organizations and it's consistent across the board on most OMGs. You have what's called a um ah ah hang around and we're starting on the lowest level.

00:07:14.36

Jim Weber

of affiliation with these clubs. You have a hang around. You have a prospective member. You have a full patch member. You have ah officers, like I mentioned before, president, vice president, sergeant at arms, that type of thing. And they have ah written, they call them bylaws or a constitution. They have essentially like if you were in a Fortune 500 organization or business,

00:07:44.45

Jim Weber

where you have rules and regulations and procedures and employee handbooks, they have these essentially the exact same thing. They have

what you can do, what you cannot do. um ah They get very descriptive on, like you mentioned, club rides. um Oftentimes you'll see these individuals out on ah interstates and highways riding side by side And like you said, there is a ranking. The front of that pack, we'll call it, is typically the president of the chapter and the vice president and the sergeant at arms. And those are the folks at the front. The officers are in the front. And as you go back through that pack, then you have your full patch members. And then back behind them, you will have the prospective members. And then behind them, you'll have

00:08:40.77

Jim Weber

hangarounds. And then very ah lastly, you'll have ah associates, just folks that are just friends of essentially that ride in the back of the pack. And oftentimes they'll have a, they'll call it a chase car, chase van, truck. um They'll have a vehicle behind that pack.

00:09:01.54

Jim Weber

ah that's occupied and operated by full-patch members or even officers, and sometimes they'll carry you know their necessities um in a vehicle, whether it's weapons or whether it's narcotics or whether it's alcohol, whether it's prostitutes. You'll typically have a chase vehicle in the back of that pack, and that's essentially how they operate in that manner.

00:09:28.94

Scott Fulmer

You've mentioned the phrase full patch member a few times. <unk>s Is that referring to the vest or I think they call it a cut that they wear? It has the the full patch on the back.

00:09:38.65

Jim Weber

Yeah.

00:09:40.22

Scott Fulmer

That means you're a member in good standing.

00:09:42.61

Jim Weber

Yep. Yep, exactly, exactly. You definitely know what you're talking about. A full patch member is typically somebody that has gone through ah the application process, the prospective member process, and typically it varies from club to club. ah The prospective membership can vary, and it could be you know six months to two years where you're essentially, yeah I guess a good comparison would be a fraternity or sorority, where you're pledging, um and you have to do duties and responsibilities to earn your your ah position within that

fraternity or sorority, you're essentially doing the same thing with these biker gangs.

00:10:16.12
Scott Fulmer
Right.

00:10:29.32
Jim Weber
um And then once you get through that prospective membership phase, you become a full patch, and exactly like you said, you hit the nail on the head,

00:10:41.36
Jim Weber
That's when you'll see that vest, typically a leather vest or a denim vest with their logo and all their club patches on that indicating that they're a member of the invaders motorcycle gang or the Hells Angels motorcycle gang.

00:11:01.51
Scott Fulmer
Well, we're gonna get into your experience, but I wanted to ask you real quick, what kind of bike did you did you have when you were undercover with them?

00:11:08.64
Jim Weber
Uh, I, you know, I had a couple of different bikes that I would ride and, um, what I would primarily ride in most, most, I would say all 1% outlaw motorcycle gangs require you to ride and own a American made motorcycle. So I had.

00:11:29.96
Jim Weber
road king Harley Davidson and then I had a soft tail as well and I would alternate but uh nope nope nope nope not at all that that they kind of frowned upon that yeah no kidding no kidding you're exactly right ah right yeah that's that's a whole nother story

00:11:37.13
Scott Fulmer
So no Kawasaki's, no Honda's, no off-road bikes, dirt bikes.

00:11:46.85
Scott Fulmer
Well, Harley's are great bikes, but I know the only people can afford them these days are like doctors and dentists and lawyers. So that's the new motorcycle gang right there. So what, uh, what, uh, law enforcement organization were you with and, and, uh, in total, how

long were you undercover?

00:12:04.60

Jim Weber

um I was a special agent. I spent my career 22 years as a special agent with the United States Department of Homeland Security. And then within the Department of Homeland Security, there's an agency called Homeland Security Investigations. So that's the criminal investigative arm.

00:12:25.50

Jim Weber

of the entire Department of Homeland Security. So ah that's the agency I was working for at the time of this investigation. I was undercover. This specific investigation lasted Um, close to two and a half years total from start to finish. But overall, I spent a majority of my career, about 15 years in federal law enforcement as an undercover, we call it an undercover operative or essentially an undercover agent. And then prior to becoming a federal agent, I was a state investigator. So I had just under about five years working as an undercover officer with the state of Missouri.

00:13:11.14

Scott Fulmer

So as i as I ask you questions as we go throughout our conversation, if I ask you something that is sensitive, that, you know, touches on sources and methods, just say so and we'll move on.

00:13:23.30

Jim Weber

Sure, absolutely.

00:13:23.47

Scott Fulmer

But sure, just ah again, before we start, I wanted to kind of ask you, did you have to meet a handler once a week?

00:13:23.86

Jim Weber

I appreciate it.

00:13:32.17

Scott Fulmer

Did you wear a wire? What, because all I know is Donnie Brasco. That's all I know.

00:13:36.89

Jim Weber

Yeah, well, hey, that's a great story. That's a great ah ah true story there, but yeah, I had a ah the way the. ah the way we operated, what

we would call it is a case agent. And a case agent would essentially be your handler. um So that that individual would run the case, the day-to-day operations, the administrative aspects of it. Hey, we're going to issue a subpoena for this, or we're going to apply for a search warrant for that. um and i would And I was the undercover operative for the investigation. And we worked with a small number of other

00:14:17.01

Jim Weber

law enforcement agencies as well. There were other undercovers that complimented or worked in conjunction with me through the investigation.

00:14:28.30

Jim Weber

um But yeah, um I did at times wear a what you would call what's commonly known as a wire.

00:14:37.23

Scott Fulmer

That's crazy.

00:14:37.71

Jim Weber

um Yeah, it it was very hair raising at times.

00:14:40.99

Scott Fulmer

Oh, I can imagine.

00:14:43.74

Jim Weber

There were some, you know, and perhaps we can get into it. I don't know if you'd want to discuss it now or or a bit later, but there were a couple occasions that were very alarming um when I did have ah a wire or recording device and a couple occasions where, thank goodness, I did not have one at a time.

00:15:04.93

Scott Fulmer

wow

00:15:05.07

Jim Weber

um Would you like me to to just?

00:15:07.31

Scott Fulmer

Yeah, go ahead and ah give us a couple examples of of what you just

mentioned.

00:15:10.02

Jim Weber

Sure, sure. as As part of the ah process of of getting familiar with the with the club and with the members, I was ah introduced to a number of these guys. Initially, I had an individual that was my sponsor that brought me into the club. And then as part of that process, my sponsor introduced me to other members of the club. And and on one specific evening,

00:15:40.73

Jim Weber

my my sponsor says hey we're gonna go to a bar we're gonna meet some of the guys i want them to meet you and i want you to meet them and they want to know about you and you know we're gonna we're gonna start the process so it's kind of a feeling out thing so they give me the name and address of this bar i travel to this bar and i walk in the door it's a friday or saturday night very busy crowded and loud and and I see my guy across the bar and he waves me over and as I'm walking over I see there's about six or seven other guys standing at this table with them and they have on their their cuts that you referenced earlier their full patch and I walk up to him and my my sponsor introduces me hey this is so-and-so this is so-and-so and they're introducing me and we're shaking hands and we all stand there we get we finish with our initial pleasantries

00:16:19.39

Scott Fulmer

Mm hmm.

00:16:33.62

Jim Weber

And there's there an older guy standing right next to me, right to my right. And we're all standing around this round table and he's an older guy and his, his club name was hit man. And he was very aggressive and loud and what you would think of when you think of a typical old school biker. And I look at him and he looks at me and he goes, give me your wallet. Just like that.

00:17:00.71

Jim Weber

And it kind of took me aback. I'm like, this is the first time I've met this guy. This is the first time I've met any of these guys. And this guy tells me to to give him my wallet. And I'm like, at first I thought he was kind of messing with me, just joking with me. And I kind of just casually said, what? He said, he leans into me and he says, I said, give me your effing wallet and put it on the table right now. And I'm like, oof.

00:17:30.25

Jim Weber

I wasn't prepared for this. So I'm thinking, well, what do I have in my wallet? I, you know, I hope it's just my undercover identity. I hope I didn't forget, you know, anything in there that shouldn't be in there.

00:17:43.17

Jim Weber

Um, so all these things are racing through my mind. I'm like, holy smokes.

00:17:46.78

Scott Fulmer

Maybe he just wanted to borrow a few bucks.

00:17:46.77

Jim Weber

What do I do here?

00:17:50.75

Jim Weber

Right. Right. That's what I was kind of hoping, you know, Hey, maybe he needs a need somebody to buy him around or something like that. I would have gladly done that.

00:17:57.08

Scott Fulmer

There you go.

00:17:58.13

Jim Weber

but it And they're all just staring at me. It's like time stopped and everybody's just staring at me and he's kind of leaning into me and I'm thinking, well, are they punking me? Are they gut checking me? What do I do here? And I thought, well, I'm in their territory.

There's more of them than there are of me. So I'm going to comply. So I reach into my pocket, pull my wallet out and I set it on the table.

00:18:21.66

Jim Weber

He grabs it up. he He opens it up and he pulls absolutely everything out of my wallet and he lays it out on the bar table there. Just lays it out. My driver's license, credit card, like I had some business cards and some cash. I had some cash in there. What you typically have in a wallet, he lays it all out and he just rifles through that wallet and he picks up each piece of identification and he looks at it and he holds it up and he looks at it and he looks at me and he looks at the picture and he sets it down. He goes through everything.

00:18:51.62

Jim Weber

And he's he's kind of making a production and an ordeal out of it. And so then he, apparently he's satisfied with what he sees. He stuffs it all back in the wallet and he slides it across the table to me and he goes, okay, I just, now I know who I'm dealing with.

00:19:07.41

Jim Weber

And he goes, put your phone on the table. And I'm like, what?

00:19:10.95

Scott Fulmer

Oh man.

00:19:13.37

Jim Weber

I'm like, come on, man. I thought we were just meeting and we're going to drink a beer or a Coke or whatever and just have a,

00:19:18.23

Scott Fulmer

Is he going to ask you to strip next?

00:19:20.56

Jim Weber

ah Right. Yeah. Where are we going with all this stuff here, man? Um, so I'm like, well, again, there's more than there are of me. You know, uh, I'll, I'll put my wallet on the table. So I put her my phone on the table. So I go ahead and put my phone on the table. He puts his hand on it and he goes, ah, just kidding. Keep it. and He goes, you're all right. He was just gut checking me.

00:19:45.12

Jim Weber

But you know I go back to your question of, did you wear a wire? Yes, I did during certain times. I did not during that timeframe because just because of that exact reason right there, we didn't know how they were going to behave or treat me.

00:20:00.17

Jim Weber

on the first interaction or first meeting with them. And had I had a wire on me, you know, it's not a traditional piece of electronic wire all the time, you know, that you've taped your body like you see in the old Donnie Brasco or the old movies like that.

00:20:10.51

Scott Fulmer

right.

00:20:15.93

Jim Weber

It's It can be a device of some sort or something in your wallet or something along those lines that transmits or records. So thank goodness I didn't have anything at that point there.

00:20:28.20

Jim Weber

um So that's just a you know kind of a quick story there. And I have one more ah example.

00:20:33.11

Scott Fulmer

Sure. I was going to say, you don't want to mess with a guy named Hitman, so.

00:20:36.76

Jim Weber

hey Exactly, exactly. I mean, if I could

00:20:38.95

Scott Fulmer

You didn't have any like, club names like Bambi or Butterfly or.

00:20:41.76

Jim Weber

No, no, nothing, nothing like licorice or rainbow or anything like that. So I dealt with Hitman there. So okay, we're going to fast forward. So as part of your membership process, you have to travel with the club to what they call national events. And that might be you ride with your chapter that you want to join from point A to point B.

00:21:09.19

Jim Weber

And, ah you know, as I'm pursuing membership, we're going to ride from the St. Louis area to the Colorado, Denver, Colorado area. So we, we get out there and they're having what you call a national run, where every chapter has members that mandatory attendance where they have to go and they discuss club business and they make a social event out of it. And it's several days long.

00:21:35.33

Jim Weber

Well, I go out there to participate in this. And what they did was they actually rented a state park in Colorado, like just envisioned driving to your local state park where there's picnic tables and pavilions and hiking trails and stuff like that. That's what these guys were rented out there in Colorado. It was pretty cool. Very scenic, very nice. But we get out there.

00:21:56.59

Jim Weber

And I ride in with my pack with my, you know, the crew um I'm riding with. And once you get into the area, they lock the gates and there's armed members, like monitoring the gates at a checkpoint, like letting people in and letting people out.

00:22:13.58

Jim Weber

So once we rode in there, we were locked in there, and I had a cover team outside, but they couldn't see me. So it was decided, you're going to wear a transmitter when you go in here. And I'm like, holy smokes, this is a national event with mem all chapters of this organization with a couple hundred members in here, and and I have to wear a transmitter?

00:22:38.35

Scott Fulmer

Oh lovely.

00:22:38.94

Jim Weber

it Yeah, yeah. So I i mean, and and I can see the point, like it's a safety issue, but it's a double-edged sword sometimes. It's, you know, if they find that on you, you're you're in trouble.

00:22:50.96

Scott Fulmer

Yeah.

00:22:51.19

Jim Weber

um But if you don't have that, your cover team, your surveillance team oftentimes can't see or hear or know what's going on in there. So it is a double-edged sword at times.

00:23:02.93

Jim Weber

Well, I had a device on me that was transmitting. And I'm actually talking to two separate chapter presidents. We're having a little meeting, and they're talking about me joining, and the process, and how far I've made it, and what's next. and And then it gets into, well, what specific chapter you're going to be in? Well, my sponsor's name was Eric.

00:23:26.38

Jim Weber

And Eric's like, he's with me, he's going to my chapter. And the other president who just happened to be hitman hit man from the wallet

incident, he's he's essentially recruiting me. Because, come to find out later, that specific wallet incident, I built credibility with hit man because he was trying to freak me out and scare me off. And he was surprised that I stayed and handled it as calmly as I did. ah Inside I was like, holy cow, I was frazzled, like what's going on here? But apparently I reacted calmly and in the right way. So it impressed Hitman back then during that wallet incident. So fast forwarding to the national event in Colorado, him and Eric are debating on what chapter I'm going to go with. So as I'm standing there in the middle of them, the transmitter I'm using dies, the battery runs out.

00:24:24.35

Jim Weber

So my phone, my cell phone keeps blowing up. It's ringing, ringing, ringing. It's on vibrate, but we can, you know, we're so close in proximity, everybody could hear my phone vibrating. And all throughout this facility, in this meeting, they had posted signs, no phones, no phone zones, no cell phones allowed, blah, blah, blah. So I'm standing there with two chapter presidents talking and my cell phones ringing.

00:24:50.62

Jim Weber

Well, I answered it and it's the the team leader from my cover team who's outside, like outside the locked gate.

00:24:58.70

Scott Fulmer

I can't believe he called you.

00:24:58.88

Jim Weber

They're like, heat oh, he called me. He was frantic. He's like, the transmitter's dead. We don't know what's going on. Are you okay? And I'm standing two feet from two chapter presidents trying to turn the volume on the phone down as quickly as I could and walk away. You know, you you're kind of at their mercy. Like you can't be rude to these guys respect. You have to respect them and just turning and walking away or or simply answering a phone in the middle of a conversation with them is disrespectful to them. So it put me in a very hairy,

00:25:36.09

Jim Weber

concerning situation. And I just hung up on my supervisor. I just hung up on him. I'm like, everything's good. Click hung up. And he called me back. He kept calling me back.

00:25:46.97

Scott Fulmer

Oh my gosh.

00:25:48.35

Jim Weber

So finally, I just turned my phone off. um Thank goodness, these guys were under the influence of alcohol, there were they were consuming drugs at the time you know in in the vicinity in that timeframe. So there their senses were were you know down a little bit, so they they didn't really show much concern about the phone call, but but Hitman did say, hey bro, no phone calls, no phones in here.

00:26:18.05

Jim Weber

And I'm like, Oh, okay. Yeah, sorry. I didn't realize that. So ah that was a very hair raising experience because I had a transmitter and not only that, I had a supervisor calling me in the middle of a very serious conversation with two very influential members of the invaders motorcycle club. So You know, kind of a rambling story, but to answer your question about wearing a wire in any hair-raising incidents, yeah, those were definitely a couple right there.

00:26:48.40

Scott Fulmer

You know you should have told Hitman that the phone call they were trying to sell you an extended warranty on your bike or something or in your car.

00:26:56.36

Jim Weber

Hey, man, I like the way you think. You might have been pretty good at this.

00:26:59.59

Scott Fulmer

I don't think that would have that would have cut it either but well let's go back to

00:27:02.43

Jim Weber

No, I don't think so.

00:27:03.66

Scott Fulmer

Let's go back to the beginning. You mentioned Eric, and for those of you keeping your score at home, that's a pseudonym. We'll be using all pseudonyms today. But Eric was a tattoo artist in at what went in St. Louis, is that right?

00:27:16.69

Jim Weber

Just across the river um from St. Louis into Illinois, it's it's

technically considered the St.

00:27:22.70

Scott Fulmer

Okay, yeah.

00:27:24.63

Jim Weber

Louis metro area. So yeah, the St. Louis area, but just, you know, if you want to get technical, right across in Illinois.

00:27:32.14

Scott Fulmer

Well tell me about the day you met him and why you why did you target him to to infiltrate the club?

00:27:37.77

Jim Weber

Sure. Sure, let me back up just a little bit before Eric, just to give your listeners a little bit of background here.

00:27:43.35

Scott Fulmer

Sure.

00:27:45.57

Jim Weber

So back in 2018, 2019, in that timeframe, There was a significant change in the and like ah current, or at that time, the the environment of outlaw motorcycle gangs in this region, in the Midwest, in the St. Louis area. And a very influential member of the Mongols Motorcycle Club moved to the St. Louis area from Oregon, from the West Coast.

00:28:16.46

Jim Weber

And this individual was actually the vice president of the entire Mongols nation. So he was the number two in charge of the Mongols. So he moves to the St. Louis area and his plan was to establish Mongol chapters throughout the Midwest. So he comes in to the St. Louis area in that timeframe and the Mongols take over the area with a vengeance. And when I say take over the area,

00:28:44.60

Jim Weber

They come in in and ah with a show of force assaulting individuals, ah physical assaults, stabbings, shootings. This was predominantly a Hell's Angels run region, but the Mongols and the Angels are, you know, they're kind of ah enemies.

00:29:07.43

Jim Weber

And these Mongols came in and kind of stomped people into the ground. And um it was a concern for law enforcement. So this kind of kicked up some flames here of violence from not only the Mongols, but the other 1% organizations here in the area. So this uptick in violence, along with that, there was ah an uptick in drug distributions in the region. Because like we were saying earlier, these OMGs or outlaw motorcycle gangs are heavily involved in drug distribution. So once the Mongols came in, serious increase in violence and drug distribution here. So law enforcement is like, hey man, there's something going on here. We need to look into this collectively and see what is it and how

00:29:57.44

Jim Weber

Can we address it? So during this timeframe, we had received intelligence that an individual, like you said, the pseudonym Eric, a local tattoo artist, the initial information was that he was a member of the Mongols Motorcycle Club. So he was within our what we call area of responsibility in the area that our office covered. So we thought we're going to look into this guy. So like you said, he was a tattoo artist, but not only that he owned a tattoo shop.

00:30:26.65

Jim Weber

So we thought, let I'm going to go stop in this tattoo shop. I actually personally like tattoos, and I have a couple. So it wasn't a stretch to go into a tattoo shop and just try strike up a conversation with somebody. So I go in there, have a conversation with them, just a cold call, you call it. Hey, man, I did a little research online, saw your work, read some articles.

00:30:50.27

Jim Weber

And a side note, this guy really is an excellent tattoo artist and he does charity work. for women that have had breast cancer in reconstructive surgeries, and he will do tattoos, um like nipple tattoos and and things along those lines, um as part of the reconstructive surgeries that that women will have ah with with cancer. So he's actually

00:31:21.33

Jim Weber

it it was it was It was weird. He was a biker, a bad dude, a drug dealer, but he would do ah good things for people. And he actually had a patent pending for the procedure and the devices that he was using to do this work for for cancer victims. so

00:31:44.26

Scott Fulmer

It's got like the Steve Jobs of the tattoo world, sounds like.

00:31:47.34

Jim Weber

Yeah, it's kind of like an oxymoron here. It got this biker out actually. I gotta say, he was actually doing some good things for people. But in the end, he was doing much worse things than you know good. So in the grand scheme of things, I'm not telling you the guy's a good guy here. but So we get in there, i'm I'm talking to this guy, and just strike up a conversation. And that actually leads into like a ah you know a friendship with the guy.

00:32:15.84

Jim Weber

um And my backstory was that I traveled through the region quite a bit. I didn't live in in the St. Louis area, but I traveled through here and I would stop in and I would visit him and we would talk motorcycles and we would go to lunch or we would go to dinner or we could go we would go hang at a bar. And we struck up this friendship relationship And it actually, not a lot of people are aware that this can happen, but he's a tattoo artist and we're doing an investigation of him.

00:32:49.35

Jim Weber

like I was asked, would you consider getting tattoos from the guy to further the relationship? And I said, sure.

00:32:56.49

Scott Fulmer

As long as the government's going to pay for them.

00:32:58.82

Jim Weber

And that's exactly right. That's exactly what I said. That's exactly what I said.

00:33:02.25

Scott Fulmer

They are not cheap.

00:33:02.93

Jim Weber

so Right. Right. and And the guy was, he's a fairly good artist and you're exactly right. He wasn't cheap. So the way we looked at it was there are funds available to pay informants. There are funds available to purchase narcotics and investigations. We're essentially purchasing time with Eric, right? You're sitting in a chair getting tattooed for hours and you're talking about the club, the lifestyle, crimes, you're building that relationship. So that went on for quite some time with

Eric.

00:33:37.85

Jim Weber

So um that's how I first encountered him and met him and kind of built a, air quotes, friendship with a guy. and And again, for listeners that aren't familiar with this type of investigation, I'm not insinuating we were friends. I was not friends with this guy.

00:33:59.00

Jim Weber

He didn't know my real name. He didn't have my real phone number. I would never have an individual like that to my residence. So it was an undercover pursuit of an investigation relationship with this guy trying to determine, is he a Mongol?

00:34:19.25

Jim Weber

Is he a biker? Is he involved in crimes? If so, what type of crimes is he involved in? So that's how Eric kind of surfaced or came into the picture in this investigation, if that answers your question.

00:34:33.37

Scott Fulmer

Sure. And I think that people, I think most people understand if you're going to go undercover, you're playing a role and you know, you've got to, uh, but You make friends that are with people that you normally would not make friends with, like Hitman.

00:34:46.34

Jim Weber

Right.

00:34:46.70

Scott Fulmer

I'm never gonna forget Hitman.

00:34:47.22

Jim Weber

Right. Oh, yeah.

00:34:50.69

Scott Fulmer

How long was it between when you first met Eric and when he introduced you to the the club members and you became a hang around?

00:35:00.89

Jim Weber

I would say it was about a little under two years.

00:35:03.70

Scott Fulmer

Oh wow, that's a long time.

00:35:04.94

Jim Weber

So now keep this in mind. and It's not two years straight of working one case on Eric, right? It's, um or the invaders.

00:35:16.28

Jim Weber

ah you know, I'm working other cases under other undercover cases, other investigations throughout the region and going back to Eric and and coordinating visits with him. And so it's not a 24 seven for two years with Eric. It's a, it's a on again, off again, friendship, relationship. We keep in touch by phone. We keep in touch by text. I stop in and visit. We go grab lunch or we go dinner or we go ride motorcycles or whatever.

00:35:45.83

Jim Weber

It's that type of relationship for about two years. So he becomes super comfortable with me, super comfortable with me. And there were, as part of my backstory with Eric, the story was that I would, and part of my business was I did transportation. Like I would move, like I would transport, for example, antique cars from point A to point B and charge people, kind of like a moving company.

00:36:14.17

Jim Weber

And as part of that, to to lay the story, to give him the thought that perhaps Jim is a criminal, I let him know that I was involved in cigarette smuggling and like counterfeit or knock off, like fake merchandise. So throughout this relationship, I would stop, when I'd stop in to see Eric, I had, we would, we had relationships with Prada, Gucci,

00:36:43.97

Jim Weber

Oakley, all these different brand names and they would provide us their products and we would use this our in our investigations occasionally. So I would stop in and see Eric and say, Hey man, I got a load of purses, Gucci purses in the van. Do you want one? He's like, Oh hell yeah. So I'd throw him a purse or two that we had gotten from the actual company. He's thinking it's a knockoff purse. I'll never forget the first time I did this. I threw him a couple of purses on his table there at the tattoo shop and he was astonished. He's like, Holy crap.

00:37:16.46

Jim Weber

He was, I'm going to give these to my girlfriends for Christmas. Cause it was around Christmas time and he just ate that stuff up.

00:37:24.80

Scott Fulmer

Wow.

00:37:25.34

Jim Weber

So it kind of bolstered my, my background or my story that, Hey, I'm a little shady myself. This is kind of what I do. Let me let you in on the party. You know, here you go, Eric.

00:37:36.99

Jim Weber

So no, no, no, go ahead.

00:37:37.07

Scott Fulmer

During this whole process, oh, I'm sorry, go ahead.

00:37:41.17

Scott Fulmer

During this process of you working undercover, I understand somebody was murdered. Was it ah one of the invaders or what happened there?

00:37:47.22

Jim Weber

Yes. No, no, it was not an invader. And actually, um as I've reflected back on this investigation, during the time that I was working undercover, there were two separate murders. Now, the first murder was it involved there, going back to what I said about multiple 1% outlaw motorcycle gangs in this region.

00:38:11.79

Jim Weber

They all kind of compete for dominance, and they all kind of compete compete for ah committing crimes. Hey, we're drug dealers here. We own the drug trade here in this region, and you pay us a tax if you're going to sell drugs, and but we're in charge. so there was this When the Mongols came in, there was this power struggle between the Mongols the angels, the pagans, the outlaws, and to a lesser degree, the invaders, um about who's who's in charge here and who's in charge of committing all the crimes and who's in charge of making all the money from these criminal activities. So there there was a ah chapter of pagans and a chapter of outlaws in the region. And during this drug trade, you know, I'd almost call it a little ah mini

00:39:05.37

Jim Weber
drug war ah would be a good way.

00:39:07.69
Scott Fulmer
like a turf war.

00:39:09.24
Jim Weber
Yeah, yeah, exactly. There was an individual that um was a former pagan that was kicked out of the pagans, if now if you'll believe this, for excessive drug use.

00:39:27.39
Jim Weber
okay So he was using drugs, but he's he's it's okay to use drugs, but not too much. So they determined he was using way too much meth. His behavior was erratic, so they're going to kick him out.

00:39:41.01
Jim Weber
So he then becomes a member of a rival gang. So this didn't sit well with all these gangs changing from one club to the other. so they actually And he was involved in the drug distribution in the region here. So actually somebody drove by him as he drove his motorcycle home and in his front yard he pulls in.

00:40:02.14
Jim Weber
And a car pulls up kind of similar. I wasn't there. I didn't see it, but reading the reports and talking to the responding officers kind of similar to what you maybe see in a movie guy rides his motorcycle into his driveway and he gets capped right in his front yard by this car that drives by and just you know unloads on him. So he's shot and murdered in his front yard in the region.

00:40:27.67
Jim Weber
where are investigations going on here? So that kind of raises the hair on the back of your neck a little bit. Like, man, you know, these are bad guys and we know it, but for somebody to get whacked like that in essentially in the backyard of where we're conducting our investigation, it was a little bit alarming. It was alarming to me as the undercover and it was certainly alarming to management.

00:40:52.45
Jim Weber
you know they're thinking, hey, that kind of changed the thought process a little bit here. Hey, is is the juice worth the squeeze of what's going on? Because now we're talking people are getting killed.

00:41:04.88

Jim Weber

So that's that's one homicide. And then again, there was ah another one several, several months later in a region ah called Lake Ozark, Missouri, um maybe two or three hours

00:41:19.04

Scott Fulmer

Oh yes, that's the north of Jeff City.

00:41:21.91

Jim Weber

Yeah, yes, exactly right.

00:41:23.03

Scott Fulmer

Beautiful place.

00:41:23.23

Jim Weber

Maybe two or three. Oh, it is. It's a great tourist destination. Very beautiful. A lot of lot of recreational activities, fishing, boating, skiing, that type of thing. um Very nice area.

00:41:35.56

Jim Weber

Well, they have an annual, like a bike fest, like a big bike event on a weekend. And ah several groups of 1% organizations were there. And a fight breaks out. And they're in a bar on the main tourist strip. It's called Bagnall Dam in Lake Ozark, Missouri. And all these 1%ers are in this bar. And a physical fight breaks out. And then it leads to two dudes pulling out handguns and flourishing them at each other.

00:42:12.37

Jim Weber

One actually fires and hits the other guy, kills him dead right there on the front stoop of a bar with all these tourists around. And then a shootout ensues from other members as well. So were're we're now talking, you know, the Mongols moved in here to this region and it started with fistfights and assaults. There were some pretty gruesome, devastating stabbings as well. And now they're they're shooting and killing each other. So We're getting concerned long collectively as law enforcement here in this region at that point.

00:42:49.72

Scott Fulmer

Understandable. Other than ah the hit man that you talked about, did did you have anyone else like test you or or even suspect that you were law enforcement?

00:43:00.25

Scott Fulmer

I know that happened to Jay Dobbs, the ATF agent that was undercover with the Hells Angels.

00:43:04.44

Jim Weber

who Sure. Yeah. And and and and Jay Dobbins, that guy is somewhat of a, you know I don't know if I want to use the word here, ah very instrumental in undercover work and law enforcement.

00:43:17.41

Jim Weber

That guy is at the top. That guy is at the mecca. He has been there and done that.

00:43:22.58

Scott Fulmer

Yeah, he's kind of legendary.

00:43:23.10

Jim Weber

That guy Yeah, absolutely. But to to answer your question, yeah, there were a couple incidents where the the Sergeant at Arms, um when i when I decided, all right, I'm going to submit, they have you submit an application. It's funny, it's like a piece of paper, like the old school applications, like say you go to McDonald's or Burger King or Taco Bell, and they have the paper application that you fill out to work there.

00:43:49.74

Jim Weber

The invaders had an application as well that you had to fill out. So the sergeant at arms, ah er I'm sorry, enforcer. This guy was the enforcer for the chapter I was going to join. And not only that, he was the elected enforcer for the club as a whole. So he was called the national enforcer for the entire invaders nation.

00:44:15.33

Jim Weber

So he hands me an application one night and it's in an envelope folded up he says okay fill this application out. And attach a picture of yourself and a thirty dollar fee to run your criminal history cuz we're gonna run your criminal history.

00:44:35.75

Jim Weber

And the president's standing there as well. Eric, he says, yeah, we've run each applicant through an FBI database to see if you have a

criminal history and to see who you are. And the enforcer that hands me the application goes, and if you're a cop, I'm going to find out and it won't be good. And he just said a very matter of fact like that. And I'm like, okay, whatever. So that's how my relationship started with that guy.

00:45:00.45

Jim Weber

So I filled out the application, super hesitant to attach a photograph, you know, due to all the facial recognition software out there that's readily accessible to individuals. But we kicked it around quite a bit. and we We came up, I i attached a photo of of myself with the application and the \$30 background check fee.

00:45:25.72

Jim Weber

So that's that comes back down the road about a month or two. I actually checked out. ah They said I was good.

00:45:36.68

Jim Weber

Um, and the story there is when you work undercover, you build a back, a backstory. Uh, you have what's called a legend of your undercover identity and all that stuff. So we had worked on that very extensively and created that. So anybody, you know, the you could run my fingerprints, you could run my background and and it would not come back law enforcement. So I, ah I made it over that hurdle, but that same individual, his name was Smitty, the enforcer.

00:46:07.32

Jim Weber

he would He was always, he wasn't a jerk to me, but he was always just kind of like standoffish. I mean, whenever we would interact and socialize. And I'll never forget one time we ride as a chapter.

00:46:20.82

Jim Weber

from one location to the next and we stopped at a bar and this bar had, are you familiar with the game cornhole or bean bags or washers?

00:46:29.67

Scott Fulmer

Yeah, of course.

00:46:30.53

Jim Weber

Okay. In this region, they called it cornhole, but it's like bean bags where you stand there and you throw the bean bag and you try to make it in the hole and score points and you you play as a team.

00:46:41.85

Jim Weber

Well, this bar had that and my, my sponsor Eric says, Hey, you and me, we're going to play Smitty and another another guy. I had never played cornhole or beanbag in my entire life. So I was a little nervous. I'm like, Oh man, I'm going to suck. But I'm like, I'm going to do it. So for whatever reason, like I got super lucky and I was doing well.

00:47:08.22

Jim Weber

And like we won. Eric and I won the game. And it kind of upset Smitty, the enforcer. And he walks over to me at the at the conclusion of our game, and he says, you know what?

00:47:21.86

Jim Weber

He goes, I bet you were the cornhole champion at the ATF Academy.

00:47:28.90

Scott Fulmer

ah oh

00:47:29.03

Jim Weber

And he just stares at me. And we're like nose to nose. And I'm like, oh man. I go, what? He goes, I bet you beat everybody at the ATF Academy.

00:47:43.22

Jim Weber

And I'm like, get it right, Smitty. It was the FBI Academy.

00:47:48.05

Scott Fulmer

Oh, that's good.

00:47:49.76

Jim Weber

And he looked at me and he just laughed and chuckled and walked away.

00:47:57.36

Jim Weber

But then that caused me a little concern. I'm like, does he really think that? Or is he just messing with me? Are they are they gut checking me? Or or what?

00:48:04.88

Scott Fulmer

what would have happened What would have happened if they did find out that you were law enforcement?

00:48:05.45

Jim Weber
but

00:48:10.72

Jim Weber

Well, ah you know, I don't know. But I can say that I don't think it would be good because this club, and like we've said, although it is a bit smaller 1% organization,

00:48:23.18

Jim Weber

They were and are extremely violent. Over the years, they've committed multiple, multiple homicides. Very gruesome, where they shot an individual two individuals, excuse me, shot two individuals, dismembered them, like saw them into pieces,

00:48:46.95

Jim Weber

put them in a box and then took them out to a field and just scattered the body parts throughout the field. I'll never forget when I first, this was probably in 2004, 2005. I was working, initially assigned to Chicago, but then I transferred to St. Louis and I happened to open a money laundering investigation. So I had an active money laundering investigation and it was on a specific individual that we believed was laundering the proceeds of marijuana distribution to and through Costa Rica.

00:49:28.15

Jim Weber

And so I'm working this investigation on this guy, and it's going for about six months. And during this timeframe, I get assigned, I had to travel out to New York City for about a week for a case out there.

00:49:41.35

Jim Weber

So in I don't even know if they still have this today. Like the USA Today paper, like newspaper, the paper one, I'm sitting and um sitting in the lobby of the hotel one morning, just reading the USA Today.

00:49:48.00

Scott Fulmer
Right?

00:49:54.19

Jim Weber

And I don't know how familiar you are with it, but within that paper it lists state every state in the country. And it puts a little news clip or a little news blurb, hey, Illinois, you know the governor

governor of Illinois approved this law, or Congress enacted this, or so and so was killed here in Alabama. And it goes through state by state and gives just a little news clip. Well, being from Missouri, I'm like, I'm going to read Missouri. What's up with Missouri?

00:50:23.98

Jim Weber

And I read this little blurb and it says, uh, I won't say the guy's name, but it says, so, you know, John Doe and his friend were found murdered and, uh, mutilated and spread in a field. Well, John Doe was the main target of my money laundering investigation.

00:50:48.49

Jim Weber

So the guy that was laundering money to Costa Rica ends up dead, chopped up into pieces in a field. Fast forward. He was dealing drugs with the invaders motorcycle club and the invaders determined that they felt he was cheating them out of money, drug proceeds. So they killed him and they, and they cut him up, put him in a field. Well, not only that,

00:51:15.94

Jim Weber

They killed his friend the second guy that was killed was just an innocent victim John Doe was summoned to a house. Hey come over here to and The invaders house and we're gonna talk to you about business so John Doe um And his buddy are at a bar and his buddies like hey, can I catch a ride home with you and So John Doe's like yeah, but I gotta stop at a friend's house first He drafted the house. John Doe hops out of the car, leaves his buddy in the car. John Doe walks in to, air quotes, talk about the drug situation and he gets killed. Well unbeknownst to the invaders that killed him, there's somebody else outside in the car.

00:52:00.91

Jim Weber

Well, in the aftermath of the murder they commit, they realize there's a guy sitting out in that car. So they walked out and they did a ruse to get him to come in the house. So they they then kill him and dismember his body as well. So I tell that story just to give you the mindset of these guys.

00:52:21.49

Jim Weber

this is This is their mindset. They're just drug dealers that couldn't care less about killing an individual and dismembering them. So that's the type of of folks these guys are or were and are.

00:52:39.38

Scott Fulmer

like So I guess if they did find out about you, it'd be it wouldn't be good. It'd be like all the bad parts in the Bible.

00:52:45.49

Jim Weber

Yeah, exactly. yeah you know And that's kind of why I tell that story. I'm like, I don't know what they specifically would have done had they found out, but based on their history, it wouldn't have been good.

00:52:55.84

Scott Fulmer

So you mentioned you mentioned with Eric, you became, for lack of a better word, a friend with him. And this is something that's bound to happen when you are undercover. How do you, but then you, and we, I don't want to talk about how this, how your investigation ends yet, but typically then you have to go testify against these people and they realize that you're not their friend. How did you, how did you handle, I mean, were there people that were very friendly with you that you got close to? How did you kind of separate that and compartmentalize it?

00:53:27.50

Jim Weber

you know it' It can be difficult, um but you go into it with the mindset of, hey, I'm the police. They are the bad guys. And that's the relationship here. And you you have to separate reality here. And and like we've discussed here,

00:53:47.48

Jim Weber

you You build this for, like you said, lack of a better term, a friendship with these guys. like it's it's hard I find it hard to believe that I'm going to say this. this Eric, was ah he was a one percenter outlaw criminal, like a convicted felon with an extensive criminal history. But I kind of grew to it It was a weird relationship. I i don't want to say he was my friend, but it was this relationship where we got along. like He really, for whatever reason, took a liking to me, and he did everything he could to fast-track me to try to get me into his organization.

00:54:34.57

Jim Weber

And separating yourself is you just have to, you just have to keep that mindset that, Hey, this is a job. And you, you just have to realize what these individuals are and what they're about. And, you know, I'm sure we'll discuss it here in a bit, the conclusion of the investigation, but, um, it, it was, it it was, it was somewhat, you know, a little bit challenging.

00:55:01.48

Jim Weber

um Folks like ah Hitman and Smitty, I couldn't care less. you know Good riddance, see ya. But Eric, you know he was he had a good side to him, so I don't know if that answers your question or not.

00:55:17.57

Scott Fulmer

Now that does, and I think even bad people have some good qualities about them. So it's it's understandable. I get it. Well, sure, go ahead.

00:55:25.69

Jim Weber

yeah Hey, could could I interject one more one more scenario that just just came to mind here? You know, you kind of asked, hey, did these guys essentially feel you out or think you were a cop or gut check you or anything? There was another incident where yeah that I had been moving along the path to membership here, and as part of that,

00:55:47.31

Jim Weber

I would be included ah where I would ride with with the chapter and we would they would have their their weekly or their monthly meetings where they discuss whatever they discuss, club business. But as a prospective member, I wasn't privy to those meetings. I could be on the property.

00:56:07.06

Jim Weber

But my job was to stand perimeter to look for cops driving by or to look for rival gang members driving by or to just keep an eye on the safety and security of the bikes.

00:56:20.29

Jim Weber

and stuff like that. So myself and another prospect are at a club meeting one evening and they're all the members and officers tell me in the other prospect, Hey, stand here, watch the bikes. Don't move. Stay here until we come out. Easy enough. I can do that. So me and the other guy are standing there and we're just chit chatting and talking about life. And we're standing there about 45 minutes or an hour.

00:56:48.29

Jim Weber

And the door to the residence flies open and this guy walks out. He's a ah member and he's a little bit older guy and he's been in the, in the invaders for quite some time. And his name we'll call him, we'll call him Rob. Rob comes out, big Rob. He walks out just him, nobody else. And he walks right up to me and the other prospect. and He looks me square in the eye. He says, get the F out of here.

00:57:17.54

Jim Weber

And I'm like, what? Get out of here. Start walking. And I'm thinking, well, my bike's here. I rode here with you guys. I didn't say that to him. And he's just standing there, and he's starting to walk up on me and kind of try to chest bump me a little bit. So I'm kind of backing up a little bit. I don't want to fight this guy. I'm trying to get into this organization here. I don't you know i don't want a physical confrontation. I don't know if he's drunk, if he's high, if he was snorting coke or meth.

00:57:47.29

Jim Weber

in that meeting and he and he comes out to confront me. I don't know what's going on with him, but he's like, I said, get out of here, start walking. And he, and he starts kind of like pushing on me a little bit. So I turned and I start walking. We're in this neighborhood at a house. So I, I kind of I'm looking over my shoulder back at Chuck or Rob and the prospect and they're looking at me.

00:58:11.19

Jim Weber

And I'm walking and I'm looking over my shoulder and and Rob's like, keep walking, keep walking, keep walking. so i And then he's yelling at me. So I i walk a half block away. I get about a block away and then he walks back inside. so i'm So I'm standing in this neighborhood about a block away to where I could barely see the other prospect and all the bikes.

00:58:36.60

Jim Weber

And I'm like, what do I do? hi My bike's down there. I rode here with these guys. Am I supposed to leave? what Is this dangerous? Do I go back? Do I just stand here? What's what's going on? So I decided, well, I'm just going to stand here. Rob told me to just walk away. And then I'm just going to stand here until those guys come out. So I stood there on the street for an hour, wondering what in the heck is going on here.

00:59:05.75

Jim Weber

So after about an hour, all the officers and members walk out of the residence and they all hop on their bikes. And I see the start or the enforcer and he's waving at me.

00:59:19.69

Jim Weber

He's waving me back down, waving me back down to the bike. So I, I scurry back down to the bikes and he goes, get on your bike. And

everybody starts up their bike and they take off.

00:59:31.27

Jim Weber

And I'm like, what the heck?

00:59:32.58

Scott Fulmer

Like nothing happened.

00:59:33.24

Jim Weber

So yeah, like nothing at all. So I get on my bike and I follow, you know, I fall behind in the pack and I, I'm following. I'm like, uh, what's going on? Where are we going? Like what, what was that all about? What, you know, is there cause for alarm or should I be concerned? So then we ride for about another 45 minutes across state lines from Missouri into Illinois. And by this time it's dark and we're driving down or we're riding Harley's down a gravel road in the woods and I'm like, oh my gosh, this cannot be good Where are we going here? And why is nobody talking to me? So we we ride down this gravel road for a while. We come up to this old beat-up old house when there's some lights on in there we everybody pulls up and Eric is there he rode in the pack and Eric walks up to me after I parked my bike and he says stay right here and

01:00:32.07

Jim Weber

right by the bikes and everybody walks into this other house so it's dark now and even the other prospect from the other place he got to walk into the house so they just leave me out there by all the bikes in the dark in the woods like I don't know where we are I don't know what this is about so I'm standing there for about an hour and a half just wonder what's going on and I can hear him in the house and I can hear voices but I can't hear what's going on And like I said, that about an hour and a half, that seemed like two days, you know, standing there like that. Well, then they all come spilling out of the house after a certain amount of time. And Eric walks back up to me and he goes, I think you can figure out we we were talking about you. And I go, well, I kind of had an idea. You guys going to whack me or what? He goes, no. He goes, everybody's good with you. We just had a long discussion about you. And he goes, I stood up.

01:01:29.77

Jim Weber

And he said the purpose, he kind of told me what happened. He goes, at each of those meetings, at each of those church meetings or club meetings, he goes, I stood up and vouched for you. I'm your sponsor. And I stood up and told everybody, I'm good with you. I've known you for X amount of time. I've tattooed you. You're involved in some shady

stuff. And everybody was just wondering about you. But from this point on, you're going to be good. So I'm like,

01:01:56.56

Jim Weber

Whew, thank goodness.

01:01:58.71

Scott Fulmer

You need to cut.

01:01:58.80

Jim Weber

But yeah, I tell that story because it's just these guys play mind games with you. Like clearly nothing happened because I'm i'm here to tell you this this story here, but it it can be a hair raising.

01:02:13.85

Jim Weber

That was just another example of of the nonsense that they'll pull on you.

01:02:18.73

Scott Fulmer

Well, Jim, let's take a quick break and I'll be right back.

01:02:21.84

Jim Weber

All right.

01:02:26.64

Scott Fulmer

Okay, I'm back with Jim Weber, a federal law enforcement officer who was undercover in the invaders motorcycle club. So the whole idea of of being undercover is not just to hang out and drink beer, it's to get some federal violations. So what type of crimes were you able to catalog or find evidence of in your ah and your undercover investigation?

01:02:49.79

Jim Weber

Sure, absolutely. So in the timeframe that that I affiliated with these guys and associated with them, you're you're kind of you're gathering intelligence and you're you're gathering information and you're trying to gather evidence. And at this point in the investigation, I had determined, we we I had identified all most all members of two separate chapters so we gain some valuable intelligence there and then once we identified these guys we started to determine okay what crimes are these guys involved in in you know not all i will say this not all

01:03:29.39

Jim Weber

individuals that are in an outlaw motorcycle gang commit crimes there are some exceptions where there's some guys in there that they they're just not criminals they they do like to ride and they do i like to just hang out with those guys in that type of element but a majority of these guys in these chapters were involved in drug distribution and we were beginning to tie it to the pagans relationship and the outlaws

01:04:01.71

Jim Weber

in the Mongols relationship that they had. um you Going back to the beginning here where I was talking about the Mongols coming in and kind of taking over the area, well, there was allegation and information that the Mongols were involved in smuggling 100% pure ice or pure methamphetamine from Mexico across the border into the U.S.

01:04:26.77

Jim Weber

and then bringing it up to the Midwest United States here in the St. Louis region, and then distributing outwards from there. So we were beginning to identify drug distribution, who was involved, and how they were doing it. At this point, it was difficult because I was in the process of trying to, we had decided, all right, let's pursue membership on an undercover basis here.

01:04:54.51

Jim Weber

So it was somewhat difficult to actually purchase dope from these guys because they're they're suspect of you to begin with. Hey, who's this guy? you know He's a prospective member. He's hanging out. you know I don't know him well enough to to sell him large quantities of dope.

01:05:15.83

Jim Weber

So we weren't able to obtain the actual drug evidence at this point, but I was seeing these individuals with narcotics. I was observing at the national event out in Colorado, I observed multiple drug transactions.

01:05:33.95

Jim Weber

ah that appeared to be either cocaine or methamphetamine. ah Transactions where currency was exchanged for what appeared to be these white or tan powdered substances that, in my opinion, was either cocaine or methamphetamine. So I'm seeing this stuff go on. So ah in addition to that, we felt that perhaps Eric, in his capacity as a business owner, he had a successful business And he alluded to me multiple times about the large amounts of cash that he had and that he

stored and that he transported. So a long answer to your question is we suspected these guys of having involvement in drug smuggling into the United States, drug distribution and the laundering of the drug proceeds.

01:06:28.53

Scott Fulmer

And when you say drugs, you mentioned cocaine, meth. Was it primarily those? it Was it heroin? Or what what specific drugs?

01:06:35.59

Jim Weber

it was it was It was primarily methamphetamine and cocaine. Now, when I was at ah multiple events, particularly the one in the national event in Colorado, I observed individuals with, in my opinion, you know i I was in law enforcement for 30 years and purchased numerous stroke transactions of methamphetamine and cocaine throughout my career. At this event in Colorado, I observed what I felt were ah meth and coke transactions. I also observed individuals

01:07:14.60

Jim Weber

with mushrooms um and fentanyl, individuals with fentanyl.

01:07:23.71

Scott Fulmer

And nasty stuff.

01:07:24.10

Jim Weber

um So it you know it wasn't just weed these guys were dealing with. you know We're out in Colorado where they're freewheeling weed. It's legal and and all that. so And it wasn't just folks smoking some weed.

01:07:37.25

Jim Weber

It was, some in in our opinion, some serious drugs.

01:07:44.26

Scott Fulmer

Well, I find this really hard to, I mean, I believe it, but I find it hard to believe after two and a half years and all your work undercover, the US Attorney's Office decides not to prosecute anybody in the invaders motorcycle. I mean, that would have ticked me off. How did you, why did that happen? And how'd you feel about that?

01:08:03.61

Jim Weber

It was a gut punch. yeah It was a gut punch.

01:08:06.35
Scott Fulmer
I bet.

01:08:06.79
Jim Weber
It was, I put my life on hold for that timeframe. You know, I'm just like everybody else. I have a family. I have friends. Um, and it's not like bikers hang out Monday through Thursday, 10, 10 a.m.

01:08:23.94
Jim Weber
to 2 p.m. It's 20.

01:08:26.98
Scott Fulmer
banker hours.

01:08:28.53
Jim Weber
It's 24-7, seven days a week, late nights, weekends, all the time. And you know at the time this was going on, I had some young kids and I was missing out on sports activities, school events,

01:08:48.16
Jim Weber
Things like that. um And I was doing it with the mindset of I'm trying to make society a little bit better place. These are some dangerous individuals doing some seriously criminal things. And my mindset was, this needs to be addressed.

01:09:06.06
Jim Weber
So when, when it was determined, it was kind of, it kind of snowballed from two different aspects. There was great concern from management and law and in the law, in law enforcement, great concern about these homicides and they were hesitant to continue on. And in addition, it kind of the final straw was when the U S attorney's office declined to pursue charges,

01:09:37.13
Jim Weber
coupled with the concern from management about you know officer safety, that's what essentially closed the investigation, kind of pulled the carpet out from underneath us as an investigation as an investigative team. you know It wasn't just me, it was a team, it was a group. It was like it it was ah another federal agency that worked this as well. So the lives and you know family time of multiple people um were affected. And collectively, to this day, we're still disappointed about it. But you can only do so much as the law

enforcement or investigative aspect of it. um And once you get to a certain point, it's in in the prosecutor's hands. So it it was a gut punch in a nutshell.

01:10:28.84

Scott Fulmer

I wouldn't pretend to understand how all of that works and and all the vagaries of making, you know, ah evidence and getting people into court and that type of thing. But yeah, I can understand that.

01:10:39.14

Jim Weber

Yeah, absolutely.

01:10:39.25

Scott Fulmer

That'd be very disappointing. Well, let's get to you. When you left the invaders, how did you extricate yourself from them? Did they fake your death? Did you just disappear?

01:10:51.03

Scott Fulmer

Uh, you know, obviously Eric's would be wondering where you're at. So how did you get out of it?

01:10:56.05

Jim Weber

Great question. um Myself and and I had an undercover partner that I worked with quite a bit and we would oftentimes kick ideas back and forth. And when the writing was on the wall,

01:11:09.01

Jim Weber

that we were going to withdraw from this investigation. He and I kind of collectively came up with a concept and in we we felt it was a good approach and ultimately it it was a good decision and this is how we proceeded.

01:11:25.47

Jim Weber

I mentioned that I was a, a quote, businessman, and I had a moving business and or a transportation business, and I had my hands in counterfeit merchandise and and tax evasion with cigarettes, and that I didn't live here in this area, but I lived ah near the East Coast. And that's the story I laid down from the very beginning.

01:11:49.48

Jim Weber

and um to Eric and to all the other members. And when we decided it was time to close this or shut it down, I went to Eric and I said,

listen, I came out here to become a member of the invaders and I put my business on hold and I ah have a business partner out East that's been running my business for the past you know year and a half while I'm trying to do this.

01:12:18.00

Jim Weber

And I told him, I found out that my business partner has been stealing money from my company and it was a substantial amount of money. He stole \$80,000 from my transportation company. And I said, that's my livelihood, Eric. That's, that's my job. That's, that's how I support myself. And I got to go back and I got to address this.

01:12:41.89

Jim Weber

guy and I gotta address this loss of money and see if I can recoup this money from this individual. And I hate to leave, but I gotta leave. And as a businessman, Eric understood that, you know, he was disappointed because like I said, for whatever reason, he took a liking to me and he wanted me to be a part of their, their, you know, the invaders. Um, but he bought it hook line and sinker and he shared it with the other members.

01:13:12.30

Jim Weber

And in fact, they said, you want us to go out there and collect your \$80,000 from that guy?

01:13:18.78

Scott Fulmer

I figured that was coming up.

01:13:20.68

Jim Weber

Yeah. Yeah. And I thought, Hey, that's a great idea. That's some potential charges there. Maybe we can pursue that. But by that point, Administration you know management is like, this is shut down, we're done. So by that point, we couldn't do anything with it. But say they bought that story. And I was told when I left, when you get that situation resolved with your business and in the money, you have an open invitation to come back and pick up where you left off in your pursuit of membership.

01:13:55.77

Jim Weber

So that's how it concluded. And the when we did it that way, Eric was still utilized. We developed this, I don't know if people understand the time and the amount of money that was put into developing Eric is what we call an unwitting source of information. He was essentially a confidential informant without knowing he was a confidential

informant.

01:14:23.12

Jim Weber

We developed him and he was useful about criminal on criminal activity throughout this region here, not only this region in the Midwest. on criminal activity across the United States. So he was utilized, you know, I kept in touch with him. Um, but along the way through this investigation, I had introduced another guy to Eric and that other, who was an officer undercover officer, and that undercover officer kept in touch with Eric and continued to obtain intelligence and information from Eric. So,

01:15:01.71

Jim Weber

Although it was disappointing that no charges came down in this case, it was satisfying to know that we developed over a timeframe a very productive and useful source of information. So that's essentially how it concluded.

01:15:21.59

Scott Fulmer

Well, and you identified the major players and the individuals which have the battle.

01:15:25.57

Jim Weber

Correct. Correct. and And not only that, we we got

01:15:31.75

Jim Weber

a vibe of what's going on here in in this area with all OMGs. Eric was a friend with the president of the Mongols. Eric you know kept in touch with ah members of the Hell's Angels and he liked to talk and he liked to brag and he would share information that he probably shouldn't have been sharing with me. That was very beneficial to law enforcement as a whole about how these OMGs were operating here in this region and some of the crimes that they were involved in.

01:16:04.19

Scott Fulmer

Well, now the million dollar question. Do you ever worry about running into Eric or any members just in your day to day now? Because you're retired now.

01:16:16.60

Jim Weber

Right, right. I'm retired. And you know, I don't know that I'd say worried. I think it's a reality. I think it's a ah strong possibility that it could happen. In fact, you know, I was at a, um, I, I

personally like motorcycles. I ride motorcycles personally as a hobby.
And I was at an area,

01:16:42.94

Jim Weber

um A motorcycle event in the in the area here with with a personal friend of mine like ah a legit friend and as we're at this event, I see These three bikes riding up and they have a very distinct cut or vest on and I immediately recognized it as the invaders and they were riding into the event that I was at and I had I was retired and Just personally socializing there at this event It was in public

01:17:01.70

Scott Fulmer

Oh.

01:17:12.46

Jim Weber

um And lo and behold these bikes come in they have full face Helmets on so I can't tell who they are until they park and take them off and one of them was the prospect that I used to hang with When I was a prospect that knew me like we he was the one that was standing there when Rob came out and told me to walk away where I walked a block away the prospect that I was standing there during that event and who rides up to the to the event that I'm at, you know, after, ah you know, I've long since been retired.

01:17:46.00

Jim Weber

So, you know, it's a strong possibility that it's going to happen. I just kind of hopped on my bike and I'm like, I don't need any confrontation here and just rode off into the sunset avoiding those guys.

01:17:57.66

Jim Weber

So it's it's a possibility.

01:17:57.81

Scott Fulmer

Yeah, small world.

01:18:01.21

Scott Fulmer

Well, Hitman is still out there somewhere. But you know, I was thinking, now that you're retired, you can go back and join the invaders if you want to.

01:18:04.44

Jim Weber

Well, he is.

01:18:12.12

Jim Weber

You know what? I thought about it. No, I'm kidding. 100% kidding. Yeah, no. Hey, all kidding aside, um the way we left it, ah you know I didn't realize it at the time.

01:18:22.84

Jim Weber

I i think it was just a ah stroke of luck that the exit strategy in the story worked. you know i'm I'm pretty confident I could call Eric up and say, hey, man, it's me. What's going on?

01:18:33.87

Jim Weber

And he would he would remember me you know and talk to me.

01:18:35.35

Scott Fulmer

Yeah, and you didn't, ah this didn't end with, ah you know, a set of indictments against individuals.

01:18:40.45

Jim Weber

Right, right. He wasn't charged.

01:18:41.23

Scott Fulmer

So, right.

01:18:41.94

Jim Weber

He didn't do time. um There was no confrontation in court, exactly.

01:18:43.65

Scott Fulmer

So you were legit.

01:18:47.48

Scott Fulmer

Well, you are also, sorry, go ahead, repeat that.

01:18:47.76

Jim Weber

you know unfortunately in these No, I'm sorry. Go ahead. I would say, unfortunately, in law enforcement, there are investigations that turn out this way.

01:18:58.64

Jim Weber

you know Try as you might. um For whatever reason, the stars don't align and that was just one of these. this That's an example here that charges didn't result. But again, like I said, I think um the silver lining is the the unwitting source of the information that he shared.

01:19:18.28

Scott Fulmer

Well, speaking of stars, you are the star of a new podcast, relatively new. ah Tell us a little bit about what it's called, what it is about, and where can people find it.

01:19:29.46

Jim Weber

sure Absolutely, um, I want to say about four or five months now, so it is fairly new um I decided I like to tell stories. I like to listen to stories. I like to talk about cases and and I do that with a lot of my friends and um I started a true crime podcast and it's called the right to remain silent true crime podcast um and the format is You know, it's me, a retired federal agent with 30 years of law enforcement experience talking to others from law enforcement about interesting ah cases or investigations or incidents

01:20:14.21

Jim Weber

uh that happen to other law enforcement and they'll recount their stories and share them and we'll talk as long or as short as as they would like uh to discuss their their situation and I've found that I enjoy it and we're getting good feedback from listeners and followers so we're gonna keep it up and see how it turns out

01:20:41.14

Scott Fulmer

Well, you are a great storyteller. I think we could, I could sit and talk to you or listen to you for about two more hours, but that probably won't work in the long-term for my ah format.

01:20:51.20

Scott Fulmer

But anyway, I will put the, the information about your podcast in the show notes so folks can find, find it there.

01:20:52.33

Jim Weber

Yep, yep.

01:20:59.20

Scott Fulmer

and And Jim, I'll give you the last word. What did you learn or what did you take away from your experience with the invaders motorcycle

club?

01:21:08.05

Jim Weber

Sure, absolutely. First of all, I appreciate it. I appreciate the opportunity to to tell this story. um And I thank you. um And I think I'll just end with this. I think a takeaway that I have from this investigation is that these groups and organizations are extremely dangerous and and consist of very violent individuals. um And you hit the nail on the head in the very beginning here.

01:21:37.24

Jim Weber

They're not just guys that drink beer and barbecue and hang out and ride bikes. They're criminals. And in a lot of cases, international criminals. We talked about a lot of these clubs having international membership around the globe.

01:21:55.49

Jim Weber

Well, what that does is it opens these organizations here in the United States up to the drug trade around the world. And these biker gangs build relationships with drug trafficking organizations in Mexico and throughout ah that region. And what I've learned is these organizations groups need to be monitored and they need to be investigated. Um, I would just say this for anybody interested, just go to Google and Google, um, hell's angels motorcycle club arrest or Mongols motorcycle club arrest and just read about the crimes that these individuals in these organizations are involved in. So I would say,

01:22:51.40

Jim Weber

law enforcement, keep up the good work, keep looking into these organizations um because it's a worthy pursuit. And you know, I'll just end with that.