

John Eric Armstrong

"Baby doll"

(name on license plate)

"Opie"

(nickname in the Navy)



Information researched and summarized by:

Sally Boshier, Ashly Carr, Jennifer Ciccone, Jennifer Cline
Allison Comerford, Baheejah Blevins, Joe Carmichael
Charles Coombe, Gwendellynn Davis, and Breck McCallister

Department of Psychology
Radford University
Radford, VA 24142-6946

Date	Age	Life Event
11- 23-73	0	Armstrong was born in New Bern, North Carolina
1975	2	Armstrong fell out of a window and broke his leg while under his father's supervision
1978	5	Younger brother died of SIDS when two months old
1979		Armstrong attempted to kill himself by riding his bike across a populated street. This suicide attempt was due to the grief of wanting to be with his younger brother
1979		His biological father, John left after the loss of his younger brother, Michael
		His father was very abusive and neglectful toward him and his mother
	His biological father sexually abused him as a child	
1988	15	Spent one month in a mental hospital after locking himself in a bathroom because a girl from his high school was pressuring him to have sex
1989	16	Visited a psychologist to receive treatment for his brother's death
06-1991	17	Allegedly killed first victim in North Carolina, however, he is not considered a suspect for that murder.
1992	18	Lost his high school sweetheart, Kelly, to a guy that lavished her with gifts, which greatly traumatized him. He was devastated by

		the breakup and claims to have lost his girlfriend to an enemy. He said he started killing prostitutes by associating the gift giving with prostitution.
1992	18	Graduated from New Bern High School as an unmemorable student with no discipline problems
		Enjoyed baseball, fishing, and earned decent grades throughout his high school years
	19	Joined the Navy in Raleigh, North Carolina
1993-1998	19-24	Stationed on the U.S.S. Nimitz where he traveled around the world, including Asia and the Middle East
1993-1998	19-24	Took a class aboard the ship about warding off prostitutes
1997	23	Ship was based in Bremerton, WA until 1997
1993-1998	19-24	He was known as "Opie" by his shipmates because of his red hair and freckles
		Not a discipline problem while in the Navy
		Received 5 medals and 4 ribbons for good conduct and good service during his time in the Navy
		According to his bunkmate, Armstrong was moody, suffered from bad headaches, and would often throw temper tantrums
1993-1998	--	Claims to have killed 11 prostitutes from 1993 to 1998; 3 in Seattle, 2 in Hawaii, 2 in Hong Kong and one each in North Carolina, Virginia, Thailand and Singapore
1995	22	Police believe he may be linked to a prostitute, Linette Hillig slain in Norfolk, VA at this date. However, no physical evidence was obtained
05-96	23	While the USS Nimitz was in port at Pearl Harbor, he claims to have killed two people but police were unable to match his claims with unsolved crimes
03-05-1998	24	Killed Linette Ann Hillig (34) a prostitute in Newport News, VA
09-25-1998	24	Married Katie Rednoske whom he met on the USS Nimitz
02 -04-99	25	1 st child born
12-99	26	Received an honorable discharge from the Navy. He says that he left Navy because he didn't think that it would provide him with enough education.
12/3/1999		Killed Monica Johnson (31), a prostitute in Detroit. He had sex with her, choked her, and left her to die.
1999		After getting out of military applied to VA State Police but was not accepted. Started taking classes at Schoolcraft college.
01-02-2000		Armstrong was questioned after he "found" Wendy Jordan's body in the river. He told police he was feeling nauseous and pulled over to get sick in the river and saw her body. A few weeks later a DNA test found a match between Armstrong and the victim but prosecutors waited for a full DNA lab report before issuing an arrest warrant. In that interval three bodies were found in the Detroit rail yard.

04-02-00		Attempted to murder a woman. Tried to strangle Wilheminia Drane (42) after she got in his jeep, she sprayed him with mace and got away
04-07-00	26	Attempted to murder a man. Offers Devon Marcus, a transvestite, \$40 for sex before trying to choke him. Marcus escapes and later helps ID Armstrong for police
04-10-00		Investigators find the bodies of three strangled prostitutes in a railroad yard in southwest Detroit
04-12-00		Arrested for the murder of Wendy Jordan. Told police at time of arrest that his wife was pregnant with 2nd child and that they were having marital problems
March 2001	27	After a two-week trial, Armstrong was convicted of first-degree murder for the death of Wendy Jordan.
06-13-01		Believed to be linked to 11 other slayings since 1992, including three in Seattle, two in Hawaii, two in Hong Kong and one each in Virginia, North Carolina, Thailand, and Singapore
06-18-01	27	Plead guilty to the deaths of Robbin Brown, 20; Rose Marie Felt, 32; and Monica Johnson, 31. Also plead guilty to one assault charge and no contest to another assault charge. A third assault and unarmed robbery case was dismissed as part of a plea bargain. Ultimately, he was sentenced to life in prison for the death of Kelly Jean Hood, 34. All of these bodies were found in Detroit, MI.

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	Convicted for 5 murders: Wendy Jordan, Robbin Brown, Rose Marie Felt, Monica Johnson, Kelly Jean Hood 3 attempted murders: Wilheminia Drane, Devon Marcus, and another (unknown) He claimed to have killed at least 11 people
Country where killing occurred	United States, possible Thailand and Singapore
States where killing occurred	Michigan, Illinois, possibly Virginia, North Carolina, and Hawaii

Childhood Information

Date of birth	November 23, 1973
Location	New Bern, North Carolina
Birth order	First
Number of siblings	1 younger brother who later died
XYY?	No
Raised by	Mother, his father abandoned the family shortly after the death of his younger brother
Birth category	Oldest (but was essentially the only child)
Parent's marital status	Divorced, both remarried
Family event	He was traumatized by the death of an infant brother

	who died of SIDS. This single event greatly affected his mental status as he got older
Age of family event	5
Problems in school?	No discipline or academic problems
Teased while in school?	Yes, Armstrong told authorities he was the fat kid with an inferiority complex, bullied and teased mercilessly
Physically attractive?	No, he was husky and weighed about 300lbs
Physical defect?	None
Speech defect?	None
Head injury?	No
Physically abused?	No
Psychologically abused?	Yes
Sexually abused?	He was sexually abused as a child by his biological father
Father's occupation	Unknown
Age of first sexual experience	11-15
Age when first had intercourse	Unknown
Mother's Occupation	Teacher's assistant
Father abused drugs/alcohol	No
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	Graduated from high school in New Bern, North Carolina
Highest degree	High School Diploma
Grades in school	Good
IQ	Unknown
Work History	
Served in the military?	Yes
Branch	Navy
Type of discharge	Honorable
Saw combat duty	No
Killed enemy during service?	No
Applied for job as a cop?	Yes (Virginia State Police)
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	Unknown
Types of jobs worked	US Navy Sailor, security guard, cashier, refueler, and a barbershop supervisor
Employment status during series	Employed as a refueler for Detroit Metro Airport, Target, and a security guard for Novi
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married
Number of children	One son and wife pregnant at his arrest

Lives with his children	Yes
Living with	Spouse and her parents and their children
Triad	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist?	Yes, in high school
Time in forensic hospital?	Spent one month in a mental hospital after locking himself in a bathroom because a girl from his high school was pressuring him to have sex
Diagnosis	None
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	No
Spend time in jail?	No
Spend time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	Yes, 17
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	5
Victim type	Prostitutes
Killer age at start of series	20
Gender of victims	Women
Race of victims	Various
Age of victims	Various
Method of killing	Strangled, claimed to have killed one man with a pipe
Type of serial killer	Organized thrill
How close did killer live?	Drove to crime
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Weapon	No particular weapon
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	Yes
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No

After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated body?	No
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	No
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	No
Robbed victim or location	No
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	No
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	Yes
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, to home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	April 12, 2000
Date convicted	June 18, 2001
Sentence	Life
Killer executed?	No
Name and state of prison	Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility/ West Shoreline Correctional Facility, Muskegon Heights, Michigan
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	N/A
References	
<p>(2000). Former sailor suspected of being serial murder. <i>Seattle Post-Intelligencer Staff and News Services</i>. Retrieved October 11, 2004 from Skywaves Internet Commerce: www.seattlepi.newsource.com/local/slay141.html.</p> <p>(2000). Killing spree blamed on childhood trauma by Hackney, Niemiec, Swickward & Kresnak. Retrieved April 14, 2000 from Detroit Free Press: www.freep.com/news/locway/slay14_20000414.htm.</p> <p>(2000). Police investigate form sailor's claim of killing three here. <i>Seattle Post</i></p>	

Intelligencer Staff and News Services. Retrieved October 29, 2004 from Skywaves Internet Commerce: www.seattlepi.newsource.com/local/sail15.html.

(2000). The mystery of the ex-sailor's confession of a global killing spree. *The Associated Press State & Local Wire*. Retrieved October 20, 2004 from Lexis Nexis Database: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe>.

(2000). Transvestite's escape let to arrest of accused serial killer. *The Associated Press State & Local Wire*. Retrieved October 20, 2004, from Lexis Nexis Database: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe>.

Cohen, & Hansen (2000). Troubled past haunts confessed serial killer. *Detroit News*. Retrieved from the World Wide Web on October 11, 2004: <http://www.detnews.com/2000/metro/0004/27/a01-44885.htm>.

Gribben, Mark (2004). Crime Library. Courtroom Television Network LLC. Retrieved October 20, 2004 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.crimelibrary.com>.

Hansen, R. (2000). Serial killing suspect tells tale of sadness and abuse. *The Detroit News*. Retrieved April 7, 2001, from the World Wide Web: <http://ptg.djnr.com/ccroot/asp/publib/story.asp>.

Hansen, R., Cohen, J., & Zagaroli, L. (2000). Suspect cast as Jekyll and Hyde. Retrieved October 12, 2004, from *The Detroit News*: <http://detnews.com>.

Porterfield, Elaine (2000). Ex-Sailor not linked to any Seattle deaths. *Seattle Post Intelligencer*.

Pots, L. (2001). Testimony continues in accused serial killer's trial. *The Associated Press Newswires*. Retrieved April 7, 2001 from the World Wide Web: <http://ptg.djnr.com>.

