

From Chicago Streets to Global Boardrooms

By Michael J. Anthony

I was never supposed to end up here. My journey began on the streets of Chicago, where I was a gang member and a high school dropout. The odds were stacked against me, but I chose a different path—one defined by service, resilience, and relentless curiosity.

In 1968, I volunteered for the United States Army, serving until 1971 and earning an honorable discharge as a Sergeant (SSG E6). That experience instilled discipline and a sense of duty that would guide me for the rest of my life.

After the Army, I joined the Chicago Police Department, where I served as an officer, academy instructor, investigator, and supervisor. Working inside one of the largest urban law enforcement agencies in America taught me how complex systems operate—how they protect themselves, and how individuals must navigate within them.

Education became my second chance. I returned to school, earning a bachelor's degree, a master's degree in criminal justice, and ultimately a Master of Management from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

My career expanded beyond public service into the corporate world. I served as Assistant Vice President at First Chicago Corporation (now Chase Bank), Chief of Campus Police at Northwestern Memorial Hospital/University/McGaw Medical Center, and later Head of Worldwide Security Risk Analysis and Director of Corporate Due Diligence Investigations.

I went on to lead and co-found investigative and consulting firms, including Pinnacle Research Inc., OnPoint Enterprises, and senior roles at Investigative Group Inc. and James Mintz Group Inc. My work has taken me into boardrooms and across borders, advising Fortune 500 companies, financial institutions, law firms, high-net-worth individuals, and even U.S. government agencies on some of the most complex cases in the world.

But my story isn't only about investigations and leadership. I am also a licensed aircraft pilot since 1981, a published songwriter and musician, a short film maker, and a National Geographic-trained photographer. In 1988, I had the honor of serving on President William J. Clinton's Transition Team for the U.S. Justice Department.

Through all these experiences, one theme has remained constant: systems shape our lives. They reward compliance, punish resistance, and preserve themselves above all else. My book, *SYSTEMS: How They Shape Us — And Who Pays the Price*, explores these lessons and challenges readers to rethink power, freedom, and responsibility.

From the streets of Chicago to the global boardrooms of Fortune 500 companies, my journey has been anything but ordinary. And it's a proof that transformation is possible—when you refuse to be defined by where you start.

🌐 Learn more at michaeljamesanthony.com