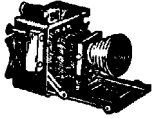




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An Association for Scientific Investigation and Identification Since 1937

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Latent Possibilities

Processing crime scene prints through the IAFIS network

(This article is reprinted from The CJIS Link, Vol. 4, No. 2, Summer 2000, published by U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. Thanks to SCAFO Past President Bill Leo for sharing this information.)

At about 9 p.m. on April 23, 1991, 87-year-old Maude Hinds heard glass breaking at the entrance to her Boston residence. Armed with a small hammer and a flashlight, Maude went downstairs to investigate the noise and surprised a burglar who had broken a window. The intruder attacked and strangled the elderly woman. Then he ransacked her apartment before fleeing the scene. Patrolman Bob Silva was one of the investigators from the Boston Police Department who found the bloody shards of glass on the porch. In reconstructing the events that led to the murder, the investigators surmised that the burglar had smashed a window that had a broken sash and the window had fallen on the suspect's hands causing bleeding. Mr. Silva lifted six highly readable prints from the blood on the glass and submitted the prints to the FBI in May 1991. In August, the FBI responded with a no-hit message. Over the intervening years, Bob Silva refused to let the matter rest, continuing to submit the latent prints to other states. New York, New Jersey, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont all searched the prints and came up empty. Finally, in March 2000, latent print examiner Dennis LeBlanc submitted the prints again to the FBI, this time through the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS). On Saturday, March 8, Sergeant Bob Silva was at home when he received the news for which he had been waiting for nearly 9 years. There had been a hit in the Maude Hinds case. A few days later, a 28-year-old male was taken into custody and charged with murder.

Solving crimes that occurred many years ago has become a somewhat commonplace occurrence since IAFIS became operational on July 28, 1999. Since then, the FBI's latent fingerprint experts have been enthusiastically proving the value of the new technology for latent print searches by running crime scene prints for the FBI's case investigations and other law enforcement agencies. Assistant Director Donald M. Kerr, head of the FBI's Laboratory Division, recently announced that more hits had resulted from 6 months of running latent prints through IAFIS than had been logged in ten years of processing on the old system. Welcome as this news was, the CJIS Division's goal has been to make the crime-solving potential of IAFIS available to latent fingerprint examiners nationwide. By November 1999, the System's capability had been expanded to allow state or federal agencies to initiate latent searches of IAFIS independently without intervention of the FBI's Laboratory Division. Now the focus is on supporting and encouraging law enforcement's efforts to access this new capability.

In order to take advantage of the latent search functionality, state and federal agencies must meet two requirements.

Connect to the CJIS Wide Area Network (CJISWAN).

The FBI provides a single telecommunications line to each state, the CJISWAN. Each state is responsible for developing the internal infrastructure needed to transmit latent searches from local agencies or crime labs through the state system to the FBI for processing.

Acquire an IAFIS compatible latent workstation.

Until commercial workstations are readily available, the FBI is offering two latent software packages free of charge. These two packages are the Remote Fingerprint Editing Software (RFES) and the Universal Latent Workstation (ULW). Each of the software packages can operate on any personal computer that meets the specified hardware requirements.

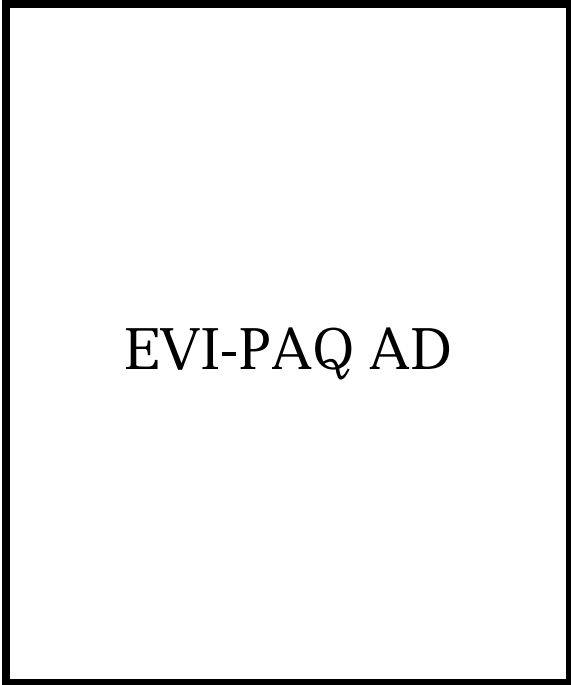
The RFES software, which was developed by Lockheed Martin, operates on the Microsoft Windows NT environment and requires a Pentium II (or later) CPU. It was developed on the assumption that the remote latent examiners would need full access to all of the advanced image enhancement tools developed by the FBI for IAFIS. RFES requires considerably more Random Access Memory (192 megabytes) than the ULW (96 megabytes), but it does not require any of the commercial packages for latent case management and image enhancement that are required by the ULW. Latent fingerprint images encoded on a RFES workstation can only be searched against IAFIS.

The ULW was developed by the Mitretek Corporation in cooperation with the FBI's Advanced Technologies Unit in an ongoing effort to improve latent search interoperability, which will ultimately allow a ULW to search any AFIS. The ULW software can be installed on any personal computer with a Pentium class (or better) processor. It operates on Windows 95,98, or NT

and is intended to be used in conjunction with one of the commercial software packages for latent case management.

Currently, four states are submitting latent prints electronically to IAFIS - Illinois, Texas, New York, and Wisconsin. The Boston Police Department is one of the first city agencies to pilot the electronic latent print program.

The CJIS Division has assigned regional representatives to provide copies of the latent software packages and assist agencies in planning connectivity. For more information, contact one of the following: Northeast Region - Linda Sue Click, 304-625-2767; Southern Region - Kimberly Smith, 304-625-2761; North Central Region - Todd Commodore, 304-625-2803; Western Region - Stephanie Hitt, 304-625-2753.



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Recommendation for Increased Training Funds

(This article is the text of the presentation presented at the August 5, 2000, SCAFO Meeting, Lake San Marcos, CA. Thanks to SCAFO 2nd V.P. George Durgin for arranging for this outstanding speaker and providing this text.)

Speaker **STEVEN STAVELY, DIRECTOR**
Law Enforcement Division
Bureau of Forensic Science
California Department of Justice

Attorney General Bill Lockyer wanted to be here personally. He did ask that I pass on his best wishes and apology for not being able to personally speak with you. Lockyer is California's 34th Attorney General and his mission statement is simply to be the best attorney general we have ever had. He defines that as being the most open, active and responsive attorney general. He sees his role as supporting local governments and those of us in his own department who are providing direct services to and supporting local agencies. Einstein said in 1927 that a life of service to others is a life well spent – and I agree with that – but service with honor and duty to the higher cause of Justice is what makes what we do truly important, so vital to our society and to the whole idea of America. California currently has approximately 34 million residents. It's the largest state in the union in population, third in land mass and the sixth largest economy in the world. California's population is anticipated to grow by 20 million persons in the next 20 years roughly a million new residents per year. California will continue to grow and change and become something even more special and unique in all of the world. So it is within that context that we must look at the system of Justice and the idea of Justice in California. It is within that context that we must improve and grow the Forensic Sciences Services in our great state to insure justice is done in our criminal justice system.

In an era of increased scrutiny of police practices and concern for the reliability of eyewitness testimony, scientific evidence becomes ever more important – provides independent and objective verification of witness statements. Anyone who has been a police officer anytime at all knows the fallibility of

eyewitnesses. Anyone who has been in the forensic science business as you have for any time at all knows that our knowledge and science get better each year and what we thought was perfect 30 years ago may in fact have changed. Our citizens are now very aware of scientific evidence. Things like DNA and fingerprint evidence from CAL-ID are on every cop show on TV and in news articles in the press. Our citizens have been made aware through highly publicized cases such as O.J. Simpson.

Quality Assurance has become a critical requirement in crime labs. Such quality assurance is a critical part of developing the faith of the people we serve in the idea of justice and thus the justice system itself. Labs can and must insure quality by way of either or both accreditation and or a system of routine proficiency tests to demonstrate quality assurance. Certification programs are available for latent print examiners, crime scene technicians, and criminalists and we must expand those.

There was a study a short time back published in the "Training" magazine where the author noted that those in private sector service organizations that are successful spend the equivalent of 5% of their salary budget on training of all kinds. What do you spend? From what I have seen 1% is a big deal.

That is no longer acceptable. The world is changing too fast and if Justice is to keep pace we must be on the cutting edge of training and technology. I personally advocate that we should be investing in our scientist, technicians, police officers, detectives, and special agents in training the equivalent of 5% of their salary. If you think 5% is a huge number let me note to you that overtime costs for the average Orange County and Los Angeles County municipal police department is about 9% of salary. For sheriff departments it is 11% to 13%. No matter how hard one tries, there are base line overtime costs in police service that one cannot get below at current personnel levels. Although I hate the phrase "they are simply a cost of doing business", we still want to cut overtime further – well what shift don't we cover, what homicide call don't we take – it's a cost of doing business. In the world just around the corner – training and technology costs are just a cost of doing business. We must push hard, very hard for these increases – the whole idea of Justice depends upon it. Look at CCI. A wonderful and very useful tool. Under funded and thus under utilized. We must grow CCI to serve all of our needs – I hope you will help us and lobby your appointed or elected CEO. Lobby your legislative body and lobby our state legislators. Help

them all understand what CCI means to the future of forensic science in California and to the cause of Justice. We must do the same with technology. They will say, "look what CAL-ID cost" – "look what we are spending on DNA" – "how can we afford it?" - they will ask. I think it was Thomas Jefferson who said it was better by far to let 10 guilty men go free then punish one wrongly convicted. He reasoned that such was the cost of Justice in our society. Technology has, can, and will in the future help us insure Justice. We must however push the envelope for it to fully serve Justice. We – the public service professionals must be willing to advance the technology with research, trying new ideas and new things and be willing to change our minds if we have gone in the wrong direction. True, our forensic efforts must be conservative in their approach because rigorous science demands a conservative approach, but we must also be willing to push the technology very hard to live to Jefferson's vision where victims are assured crimes will be solved, where guilty persons know they will be caught and where innocent persons can rest comfortably they will be found so. We must push, and our elected and appointed leaders must push. It's our responsibility to educate those decision makers so they are able time after time, year after year to make the right decisions and support training and technology in the future. We must discover new ways to use databases and joint investigative teams of all kinds to help lead us to new investigative paradigm – physical evidence can solve crimes. We must find new and more effective ways to give detectives investigative leads. CAL-ID and other AFIS systems are early examples – DNA now has the same potential for cases with biological evidence. Automated ballistics information systems are other potential examples. Sure there are all kinds of public policy issues in these systems. Some may see IBIS or DNA systems as intrusions into individual privacy, so care must be taken in our education of elected and appointed leaders to point out the potential for conflict, but these and other systems must also go forward. We can help our elected and appointed leaders through those issues but we must do so with one voice. We must speak as a forensic science system of California, not as an Orange County, Santa Clara, or BFS lab system – we must speak and be heard as one system – with one goal – a Justice system which has many owners, and many leaders, but a common overarching goal – rigorous science leading to finding and convicting the guilty and insuring the innocent are protected. We know that we will shortly have on line portable breath test results beamed to the lab via satellite. We can see the day very soon when live scan will reach into radio cars. We know DNA analysis on a chip which can screen for biological

weapons using PCR in the field is not far off. All are examples of some of the new technology just right around the corner or in some cases arriving as we speak. Yet today at the same time, some of our labs are burdened with old and battered equipment, inadequate facilities, and records systems and the like which take more time than they save. We must push all of the elements that make up or forensic lab system in California.

We see old and cold programs such as Orange County's TracKrs spinning up around the country. These take advantage of new technology and databases to re-visit unsolved murders. We must make sure we make maximum use of current and future technology. Another example and one which Governor Davis himself has pushed very hard is the effort to focus on analyzing evidence in suspectless rape cases to search against DNA databanks. \$50 million project to do DNA profiling on all the backlogged unsolved rape cases in the state and this money is real and it will arrive and it will solve crimes. But what is next? I am not sure, but I know it's coming and we must look for those opportunities for improvement, not as individual labs or organizations, but as the forensic component of the criminal justice system in California.

I think, if we do it right, one of the most important political and planning efforts we can make to insure justice in our great state is Bill Lockyer's – Attorney General's Task Force on Forensic Services. This task force which is staffed by lab directors, criminalists, representatives of the League of Cities, the CSAC, state chiefs, state sheriffs, the Attorney General's staff, and others will look at current status and needs of crime labs, but also identify future needs including education, research and development of new technology. The boss has given us very clear direction with this effort. He wants it to result in not another report to sit on a shelf, not another political process that looks good and goes nowhere, but rather he has asked us to do this to insure that Californians now and in the future have the best forensic science system to support the search for Justice – not just the best system in America, but the best system in the world. He has been clear that he sees this as a system not run by any one political body, but rather one run by lots of political bodies, a system which can and does act as if it is one system, not competing, but collaborating, sharing, and growing together. He has been clear in his direction that in his vision – Justice cannot be achieved if the forensic service provided in El Centro is less effective, less complete, or less able than those provided in San Francisco. The people of Alpine

County are not less, nor more entitled to a quality Justice system than are the people of Santa Clara County. A key piece to that idea is first rate, modern, well equipped, and well-trained forensic scientists and technicians. The future is bright for forensic science, for California and for the cause of Justice in our society. We can get there, but not without hard work. We can get there but not without your continued dedicated service. We can get there but not without taking a chance and pushing the envelope of education, training, technology, and making sure that all of our elected leaders from the city council person in Huntington Beach to Senate Pro Tem Burton are fully and honestly educated on the subject at hand. We can get there but not without a system wide, and unilateral belief in the vision and most importantly in the cause of Justice in our society. Thank you!

(Director Staveley is in charge of the Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, Bureau of Investigation, Western States Intelligence Network, and Bureau of Forensic Science. He is the past Chief of Police of Belmont and La Habra Police Departments. Director Staveley started his law enforcement career in 1968 with the Buena Park Police Department where he was a crime scene investigator.)



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New standards enable nationwide searches of crime scene prints

(This article is reprinted from The CJIS Link, Vol. 4, No. 2, Summer 2000, published by U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. Thanks to SCAFO Past President Bill Leo for sharing this information.)

For the first time in history, it is possible for law enforcement agencies to lift fingerprints at a crime scene, encode them at the local agency, and without further encoding, forward the prints electronically to other agencies and through the state identification bureaus to the FBI for identification searches. Electronic searching of latent prints is not a new technology. The breakthrough lies in the ability to encode the latent fingerprint data one time and then forward the prints for searches against any other database, including the FBI's IAFIS, that has the newly developed, standard interface.

For the past several years, when an agency has purchased an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), the equipment has included a latent search ability. However, the AFIS vendors have viewed their fingerprint image characterization requirements as proprietary information. This means that the placement of minutiae, which minutiae to include in the search, and neighborhood data such as ridge counts and curvature were all vendor specific. A single latent workstation could not connect to more than one vendor's AFIS. Searching multiple AFIS's required redundant encoding on multiple workstations using different encoding rules for each AFIS - a costly and complex operation. The lack of system interoperability was clearly disadvantageous for agencies using the AFISs.

In February 1998, responding to requests from system users, the AFIS vendors began collaborating with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the FBI in a standardization effort to improve remote latent search interoperability. Over the past two and one-half years, all of the major AFIS vendors have been working on developing a standard interface, and considerable progress has been made. Concurrently, the CJIS Division has been developing a software application called a Universal Latent Workstation (ULW) that would allow a latent expert to encode and search a crime scene print locally and then forward that same encoding to any other AFIS that had incorporated the new American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/NIST latent interface.

The ULW has been installed in several agencies throughout the Nation where it is being tested and evaluated. In an early pilot test of the new standard, the Massachusetts State Police made the first remote latent search identification at the FBI on a case that clearly demonstrated both the need and potential of improved interoperability. Using the ULW, they translated a latent tracing from their NEC system into an ANSI/NIST feature set that could be searched at the FBI. IAFIS automatically selected possible matching prints and returned them to the submitting agency for review. There, a latent print expert was able to identify a suspect in a 28-year-old homicide case. The man had been in and out of prison most of his life and had been fingerprinted in at least six states. This long overdue identification allowed officials to close a very cold case.

Designed to run on personal computers, the ULW software is available free from the FBI. For more information about the ULW, contact Tom Hopper, Advanced Technologies Unit, 202-324-3506.

Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers

10th Annual Forensic Training Seminar
Friday, September 29, 2000
Saturday, September 30, 2000

FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION 2000

Friday, September 29, 2000

Regional Sheriff's Data Network
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Bill Leo -- Leo@scafo.org

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I wish you all greetings from beautiful San Diego County. It is the only place I know where you have to get a second mortgage and "hock" everything you own just to pay your electric bill. I am thankful to say that this is the only "bad" news I have for this addition.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and commend George Durgin and Gina Russell for the exceptional effort they put forth to put on the August Meeting in San Marcos. This meeting had been dedicated to the memory of our recently departed Past President Lou Herbert. I am pleased to say that it was again one of the best all around meetings I have attended. It was as usual very well attended. We are keeping at our current average of 90 members per meeting. The property, the meal, the gifts and, most of all, the presenter were excellent. The guest speaker, Steve Stavely who is the DOJ Director of Law Enforcement, gave a very interesting and informative presentation. The presentation is included in this issue for all who were unable to attend to read. I would like to also thank George, Bill Corson and all the others who put together a short slide presentation memorializing Lou's contribution to the organization. Again, thank you George and Gina for all your hard work on behalf of the Association.

As the summer months wane and fall envelopes us, it reminds me that our annual training seminar is just a few weeks away. The seminar will again be a two-day event and is scheduled for September 29 and 30 at Cal Poly Pomona. The topic is "Forensic Identification 2000". I have been assured by the seminar committee that the program will be interesting, very informative, contemporary and worth your while. I hope to see as many of you that can attend there because I am sure you will be more than satisfied. Remember--register early to insure your place at the seminar.

I want to also remind all of you that elections will be held at the seminar and every one of your votes count. If you are still on the bubble about running for a position or interested in participating in the governing body of the organization, take a chance and get involved.

This will be a little shorter than usual since I am within minutes of the deadline but I would again like to ask you all to get involved and take an active part in promoting and sponsoring the bi-monthly meetings. Again, if you know who is sponsoring a meeting in your area contact that person and ask "how can I help?". I am positive they will accept your offer of assistance.

In closing I wish you all good health, safety and happiness. Take care of you and yours and always take one day at a time. I would like to thank all of you for your continued support and I leave you at this point with the hope that the rest of the year will be uneventful but productive for all of us.

Fraternally,

Art Coleman

SCAFO Officer Nominations

It is that time of year again. We must decide who we want to be on our 2001 SCAFO Board. Your Nominating Committee, George Durgin and Rodrigo Viesca, need your nominations between now and the September Training Seminar.

This year we will have vacancies for Secretary, Sergeant At Arms, Treasurer, and two Directors (Bill Leo & Marvin Spreyne).

The Secretary and Sergeant At Arms positions will be in line for succession to President. They will require a dedicated member who wants to ensure the success of SCAFO and be willing to eventually serve as President.

The Treasurer position is a two-year commitment and requires the dedication to ensure that SCAFO's banking needs are met and our financial standing is maintained. The two Directors' positions are a two-year commitment to learn the insides of SCAFO, to groom future officers, and to assist at our bimonthly dinner meetings. If you are interested in nominating yourself or if you have questions please feel free to call (760-233-2074) or e-mail (gdurgin@fda.net) George Durgin.

"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."

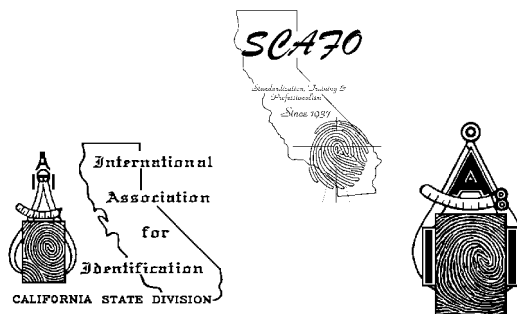
- President Theodore Roosevelt - 1908

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-- Upcoming Events/Schools/Seminars--

September 29 - 30, 2000

S.C.A.F.O. Annual Seminar

Cal-Poly, Pomona
Host Bill Leo/Steve Tillmann

October 11 - 13, 2000

Analysis of Problem Latents

October 16 - 20, 2000

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