



SWGGUN

Scientific Working Group
for Firearms and Toolmarks

Practice and Standards of the Scientific Working Group for Firearms and Toolmarks

Gregory S. Klees
ATF National Laboratory Center
SWGGUN Chairman- Elect

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Questions to be Addressed

- What is the process for establishing the guidelines and standards?
- What are the guidelines/standards for toolmark identification?
- How is quality control/quality assurance monitored and enforced?
- What recommendations has SWGGUN made and have they been implemented?
- What is needed?



SWGGUN

- Mission or Purpose

To develop a series of consensus guidelines for the firearms & toolmark discipline and to disseminate SWGGUN guidelines, studies & other findings that may be of benefit to the forensic community.



SWGGUN

- Profile
 - Established by FBI in 1998.
 - Funded to date by the FBI.
 - Comprised of 20 members.
 - Meet twice a year.

- Membership
 - 20 Regular Members + AFTE President.
 - Representative of the experience and knowledge in the discipline.
 - Applications accepted when there is a vacancy.
 - Turnover of members considerable in recent years.



Current Members

THOMAS L. G. PRICE, Chair
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
Topeka, KS

STEVE BUNCH
BRANDO GIROUX
FBI – Quantico, VA

DEAN DAHLSTROM
RCMP Lab
Saskatchewan, Canada

ED WALLACE
LGC Forensics
London, England UK

SCOTT DOYLE
Kentucky State Police
Louisville, KY

DOUG LANCON
Acadiana Criminalistics Lab
New Iberia, LA

KATHY RICHERT
AB Dept. of FS Laboratory
Montgomery, AB

KIM HAAG
Metro Forensic Science Center
Albuquerque, NM

GREGORY KLEES, Chair Elect
ATF - Forensic Science Lab
Beltsville, MD

JIM KRYLO
Las Vegas Metro Police
Las Vegas, NV

LOREN SUGARMAN
AFTE President 2006/2007



Current Members

CHRIS M. MONTURO
Miami Valley Regional Lab
Dayton, OH

JILL DUPRE
Harris County Crime Lab
Houston, TX

DON MIKKO
Army CID Lab
Fort Gillem, GA

MARK KIESLER
Indiana State Police Lab
Indianapolis, IN

PETE STRIUPAITIS
NE IL Regional Crime Lab
Vernon Hills, IL

TRAVIS SPINDER
Montana State Police Lab
Missoula, MT

R. T. WYANT, M.S.
Washington State Patrol
Seattle, WA

JOHN G. WARD, SR.
Commonwealth of Virginia
Division of Forensic Science

ASCLD Representative to
SWGGUN
Todd W. Reynolds
Indiana State Police

Objectives

- Recommend and disseminate discipline guidelines for QA/QC.
- Provide guidelines and not mandate policy.
- Discuss, share and exchange ideas regarding analysis methods/protocols.

Objectives

- Bring together organizations/individuals pursuing standard analytical methods.
- Cooperate with national and international organizations in developing standards.
- Monitor and disseminate research and technology related to the discipline.

Input Sources

- Research within the field
 - Both past and present
- Subject Matter Experts
 - Internal
 - firearm and toolmark community
 - External
 - legal scholars, industry experts, engineers, academic professionals

Internal Input

- Advisory Members to the Board
 - AFTE members directly
 - Firearm and Toolmark Examiners at large
- AFTE Forums area
- SWGGUN Feedback
- Website: www.swggun.org

Established Guidelines

- Quality Assurance Guidelines
- Training Guidelines
- Projectile Path Reconstruction
- Designing a Validation Test
- Range of Conclusions-Elimination factors for consideration
- Examination of Silencers



Established Guidelines

- Trigger Pull Testing
- Minimum Qualifications for FA/TM Trainees & Examiners
- Admissibility Resource Kit- Text Program



Pending Topics

- ISO Transition
- SWGGUN Survey
- Verification/Peer Review of Case Work
- Admissibility Resource Kit- Visual Program

Resources

- Recent Daubert Rulings in Firearms and Toolmark ID.
- Proficiency Test Resources
 - CTS Survey Results
 - SWGGUN Error Rate Statement
- Validation Literature Reference Guides and Daubert PowerPoint available upon request.



Other Links

- Forensic Science related sites
- Universities with Forensic Science curriculums
- Daubert websites
- Website: www.swggun.org



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What is the process for establishing the guidelines and standards?

- Form a committee to formulate a guideline draft.
- Present draft to the Board.
- Review and edits made by Board.
- Draft is then posted for peer review for 90 days.
- All PR feedback is sent to Board for evaluation and edit.
- Draft is then re-posted for further PR.
- Board then finalizes of draft guideline (by 2/3 vote).
- When finalized, guideline then electronically posted.



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What is the process for establishing the guidelines and standards? (continued)

- *Guideline formation is a static process that is constantly in flux.
- After final posting, external input is constantly solicited.
- Any finalized guideline can be revised/updated at any time.



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What are the guidelines/standards for each of these disciplines?

- All finalized guidelines are electronically posted.
- Attempts are also being made to publish all finalized guidelines in a peer reviewed journal.
- All SWGGUN work products are presented annually at the Association of Firearms & Tool Mark Examiner's convention.

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How is quality control/assurance monitored and enforced?

- SWGGUN only recommends general guidelines and procedures.
- SWGGUN is **not** a regulatory body.



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What recommendations has SWGGUN made and have they been implemented ?

- Refer to all established guidelines

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What is needed?

- More regulatory authority.
- Refer to objectives

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Questions?

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