# AFIS Inter-Operability

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# Early Attempts

- **Regional Affiliations (same vendor)**
  - Western Identification Network
  - State/Local agencies (Illinois State Police/Chicago Police Department
- **National Program**
  - FBI IAFIS/CJIS WAN

# FBI IAFIS

- Good Intentions
- Provided a Concept of Operations
  - Based on a ten print bureau workflow
- Provided Free Software
- Provided Limited Training
- Provided Limited Technical Support

# Assumptions

n **States were Capable**

n **States had Resources**

   n Personnel (IT/Latent Print)

   n Sufficient equipment

   n Sufficient funding

   n Technical knowledge

n **AFIS Vendors would Provide Solutions**

n **Ten Print and Latent Print have the Same Needs**

# Ten Print Operations

n **Ten Print Operations were the Driving Force**

n **AFIS Technology was Easily Assimilated**

  n Increased speed (main goal)

  n Improved quality

  n Human element often was

    n poorly trained

    n overworked

    n under paid

    n under staffed

    n low motivation

# Latent Print Operations

- **Quality is the Ultimate Goal**
    - Forensic standards are far more rigorous
    - Depends on finer detail
    - Deals with smaller areas of interest
    - Latent print examiners tend to be highly trained and educated in science
- **AFIS Delays Latent Print Operations**
    - AFIS adds more time to work a case and **increases** turn around times
    - AFIS promotes lax investigation practices that **increase** workload for forensic labs

# Obstacles

- Technological
  - Balance of accuracy and speed
  - Automated solutions require more technology
  - Manual solutions require more personnel
  - We are going to need the funding either way
  - Resist solutions that sacrifice accuracy

# Obstacles

n **Operational**

  n **Adequate latent print personnel**

    n sufficient numbers to handle increases in workload

    n sufficiently trained and experienced

  n **Adequate Information Technology personnel**

    n sufficient numbers to:  <u>let latent print examiners do their job</u>!

    n sufficiently trained to support our IT needs

# Obstacles

n **Quality Assurance**
- n Initial Training
  - n cross platforms
- n Sufficient Experience
  - n IAI Certification
  - n ASCLD-Lab/ISO accreditation
- n Testing
  - n examiner proficiency testing
  - n system performance tests
- n Continuing education
  - n training seminars
  - n user groups

# Recommendations

n Recognize that AFIS requirements for Latent Print Examinations are different than ten print. They are a highly technical and specialized form of examination.

n The needs of the Latent Print community have been ignored in past efforts.  This is a forensic initiative and funding for any future AFIS issues should be prioritized toward supporting the latent print community first.

# Recommendations

n Every effort should be made to ensure the <u>proper balance of quality and speed</u>.  Any projects increasing the connectivity of AFIS should have working latent print examiners on staff.

# Recommendations

- Prior to implementing any additional programs, strong consideration should be given on how the additional workload will impact an already overburdened forensic laboratory system.

- At minimum, funding should be identified to hire and properly train a latent print workforce to absorb the additional load.

# Recommendations

n Funding and resources should be identified to establish a quality assurance program. The goal of the quality assurance program would be to provide necessary initial training, test proficiency of users, and provide a means of continuing education.

# Recommendations

n Strict guidelines should be mandated to system vendors.  The goal would be to standardize transaction types and nomenclature.

n Strict quality guidelines should be set for system performance.  Systems would be required to perform at a certain level based on standardized bench mark testing.

# Recommendations

n Participation in AFIS interconnectivity should be mandated by legislation and sufficient funding provided to achieve a quality nationwide system.