

Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Science Community



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Agenda

- Resource Needs
 - Staffing
 - Training
- Best Practices
 - Evidence Collection
 - Laboratory Accreditation
 - Certification
 - Organizations
- Scientific Advances
 - Strategic Research Agenda
 - Forensic Research Symposia
- Maximizing Forensic Technologies
 - Technology Refinement
 - Training
 - Unsolved Case Reviews
- Standards and Enforcement
 - Standards Process
 - Enforcement Guidelines



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Resource Needs

- Staffing Challenges
 - Attrition – Loss of journeyman experience/retirements
 - Retention – Vacancies
 - Applicants – Lack of practical experience and university students

- The Cost of Turnover
 - Separation costs
 - Vacancy Costs
 - Replacement and Background Costs
 - Training Costs
 - Performance Differential



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Training

- Training
 - Academy – Regional (Under National Guidelines)
 - Competency and proficiency examinations
 - Certifications
 - University Programs
 - Specialized training
 - Internships
 - Structured mentor partnerships with accredited laboratories/agencies



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Best Practices – Forensic Evidence

- Evidence Collection
 - Guidelines and standards - published
 - Training
 - Evidence handling and court
- Laboratory Accreditation
 - Quality Assurance
 - Standardization
 - Management System
 - Funding – Identification Units

Preventative measures to preserve the process and management of evidence from field collection to court presentation.



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Best Practices – Forensic Evidence cont.

- Certification(s)
 - International Association for Identification
 - American Board of Forensic Document Examiners
 - American Board of Criminalistics
- Professional Organizations
 - Training
 - Funding
 - Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board accreditation of certification programs

Certification will contribute towards testing for competency, proficiency and awareness of the guidelines and standards in the field



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Scientific Advances to Assist LE

- Strategic Research Plan
 - Develop Home Office-type Forensic Resource and Research Center
 - Define research
 - Current Needs and Priorities
 - Data Repositories
 - Research Management
- Forensic Research Symposia (3-5 year schedule)
 - Membership (Stakeholders) and Criteria
 - Mandatory Participation
 - Target Group/Scope of Interest
 - Evaluate Cost/Practical Application
 - Peer Review and Publication



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Maximizing Forensic Technologies

- National Databases
 - Technology Refinement
 - Quality
 - Composition
 - Enhancements
 - Access
 - Reverse Search – Unsolved Repository
- Training
 - Acquisition and search strategies
 - Live-Scan
 - AFIS - ULW



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Maximizing Forensic Technologies

- Unsolved Cases
 - Utilizing Current Technology
 - AFIS – homicide solved
 - Career Criminals
 - Resources and Funding
 - Cold case squads
 - Case Reviews and Examinations
- Maximize Technology - Summary
 - Technology refinement and quality assessment
 - Training – best practices and strategies
 - Unsolved case reviews



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Standards and Enforcement

- Standards Development
 - Governing Bodies
 - ASTM/ISO
 - NIST
 - Supporting Bodies
 - Technical and Scientific Working Groups
 - Structure/Communication to field/Support governing body
- Enforcement
 - Professional Affiliations
 - Funding
 - Resources



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