

# 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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