

*Georgia Division of  
International  
Association of  
Identification,  
GAIAI*

*October –December 2012*

Visit our website at: <http://WWW.GAIAI.org>

Volume 42. Number 1

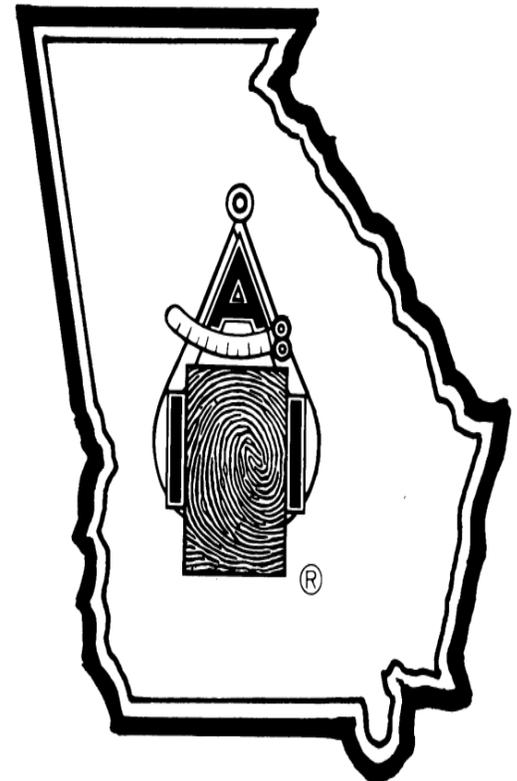
*Training Dates for 2013*

*Spring Meeting – Carrollton Police  
Department in Carrollton, Georgia  
on March 29, 2013*

*Summer Meeting – Thomasville Police  
Department in Thomasville, Georgia on  
June 28, 2012*

*Fall Conference – November 10 – 15,  
2013 at the Mulberry Inn in Savannah,  
Georgia*

*The Fall Conference is going to be a joint  
event between the GAIAI and the SCIAI.*



## Table of Content

<i>Message from the President</i> .....	3
<i>Georgia Division of the IAI 2012 Officers</i> .....	4
<i>Financial Report</i> .....	5
<i>Welcome New Members</i> .....	6
<i>Hutchins Award Recipient</i> .....	7
<i>Department of Homeland Security - Latent Database –IDENT</i> .....	8
<i>FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division - Next Generation Identification (NGI) - ULW</i> .....	10
<i>Developing a Local Automated Fingerprint Identification System</i> .....	13
<i>GBI Unsolved Latent Database Registration</i> .....	16
<i>GSPTC - Latent Series Courses</i> .....	18
<i>Changes to the Crime Scene Technician Certification</i> .....	20
<i>Get to Know Your Fellow Forensic Investigation Units across the State of Georgia</i>	
<i>Georgia State Patrol</i> .....	23
<i>Gwinnett County Police Department</i> .....	25
<i>Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department</i> .....	27
<i>Albany Police Department</i> .....	29
<i>Morgan County Sheriff's Office</i> .....	30
<i>Columbus Police Department</i> .....	31
<i>Gainesville Police Department</i> .....	33
<i>Carrollton Police Department</i> .....	35

## *Message from the President*



Greetings to the Georgia State Division of the International Association for Identification! As President this year, it is my honor and privilege to serve the members of this organization. As I begin my duties as President, I want to take a moment to congratulate Mark Bentley of the Georgia State Patrol for his efforts as 2012 President which resulted in a very successful year.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Education Conference in Helen, Georgia was quite a success. These conferences don't just come and go without ample time and effort put forth by many people. I would like to offer special thanks to the well-versed presenters for providing meaningful and useful information during the conference to help all of us perform our jobs better. I would also like to thank the vendors for attending the conference to display and discuss the latest technology available for crime scene and forensic applications. And last but not least, I would like to thank Karen Parr, Long Range Planning and Lisa Maxwell, Secretary and Treasurer for your dedication in planning the conference.

The spring and summer meetings will be here before you know it. I, therefore, invite your ideas, as we plan and execute our training year. Please submit ideas of subject matter you would like to receive training on or the qualified speakers you would like to hear. This is your organization; we need your input to insure we are providing instruction in the areas needed.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Education Conference will be held in Savannah on November 10-15, 2013. The training sessions are currently being set. This is a great opportunity to come together to learn new material and techniques. It is also the time to share our own experiences that we encounter over the year, which helps mentor our membership.

Thanks again for this wonderful opportunity that you have bestowed upon me to serve the Georgia Division of the International Association for Identification. I will strive to fulfill the objectives of our division. If there are any questions, concerns, or comments that any member would like to address, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you in Carrollton in March!

# *Georgia Division of the International Association of Identification*

## *Officers*

### ***Georgia Division Officers for 2013:***

*President* ..... Katrina Murdock—Forsyth County Sheriff's Office  
*1st Vice President* ..... Eric Wiernik, Lawrenceville Police Department  
*2nd Vice President* ..... Janice Hester, Dawson County Sheriff's Office  
*Secretary-Treasurer* ..... Lisa Maxwell, Thomasville Police Department  
*Sergeant-at-Arms* ..... Jason Canupp, Lumpkin Sheriff's Office  
*Editor* ..... Tracy Michelle Geoghegan, Lowndes County Sheriff's Office  
*Historian* ..... James Thornton, Lowndes County Sheriff's Office

### ***Board of Directors for 2013:***

*Chairperson* ..... Mark Bently, Georgia State Patrol  
*Member* ..... Sherry Hosey, Carrollton Police Department  
*Member* ..... Karen Parr, Dougherty County Sheriff's Office  
*Member* ..... Andy McIntyre, Bureau of ATF  
*Member* ..... Brenda Hutson, Retired, DeKalb County Police Department  
*Member* ..... Fred Well, Southwest Georgia Technical College  
*Member* ..... Patrica Gibert, Decatur Police Department

### ***Certification Board for 2013:***

*Latent Print* ..... Andy McIntyre, Bureau of ATF  
*Crime Scene* ..... Galen Noll, Houston County Police Department

## *Financial Report*

*Jan 1 - Nov 9, 2012*

	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent of Sales</u>	<u>Average Price</u>
<b>Parts</b>				
Coin	2.00	20.00	0.1%	10.00
Conference Vendor	1.00	200.00	1.02%	200.00
IAI division share	25.00	1,250.00	6.37%	50.00
Misc Income	6.00	2,848.00	14.52%	474.67
Pins	1.00	5.00	0.03%	5.00
Polo Shirts	1.00	24.00	0.12%	24.00
Small Decal	2.00	4.00	0.02%	2.00
<b>Total Parts</b>	38.00	4,351.00	22.19%	114.50
<b>Service</b>				
Conference Dues	33.00	6,600.00	33.66%	200.00
Membership Dues	132.00	3,960.00	20.19%	30.00
<b>Total Service</b>	165.00	10,560.00	53.85%	64.00
<b>Other Charges</b>				
Sponsored Event	7.00	2,400.00	12.24%	342.86
Vendor Table	10.00	2,300.00	11.73%	230.00
<b>Total Other Charges</b>	17.00	4,700.00	23.97%	276.47
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>220.00</u></b>	<b><u>19,611.00</u></b>	<b><u>100.0%</u></b>	<b><u>89.14</u></b>

## *Welcome new members*

*Mailing Address for GAIAI  
new member form:*

*2006 Hollywood Dr  
Thomasville, Georgia  
Phone: 229-977-2016  
Phone: 229-227-4138*

*E-mail: [fmaxwell@rose.net](mailto:fmaxwell@rose.net)*

*Mailing address for  
submissions of newsletter  
articles:*

*120 Prison Farm Road.  
Valdosta, Georgia 31601  
Phone: 229-671-2974*

*E-mail:  
[tgeoghagan@lowndescounty.com](mailto:tgeoghagan@lowndescounty.com)*

If you are new to the Georgia Division of the International Association for Identification (IAI), we are very glad you are with us. We look forward to being a support for you in your given specialty, and we encourage you to share your ideas and issues in the coming year. As with any organization, we ask that you would consider becoming an active partner in fostering the divisional goals and objectives as set forth in our by-laws. We are only as strong as those who would be willing to give their time and talents to help us all meet those objectives together. If you have a suggestion or an issue of concern, please feel free to contact one of the Divisional Officers or a member of the Board of Directors.

### **Newsletter Submissions**

Do you have a particularly interesting case you recently conducted or assisted on with your department? Is there a new processing technique, which you are using that you would be willing to share with your colleagues? Do you have any related forensic news, which you would like to provide to others within our division? If so, please share your information with us all. I would appreciate your assistance.



# Arthur Hutchins Award

*By: Mark Bentley, Georgia State Patrol*



Mark Bentley was the presenter of the Hutchins Award to Patricia Gilbert. It is named for Arthur Hutchins; a founding member of the Georgia Division of the IAI. The award is bestowed upon a member by the board of directors for conspicuous dedication to the field of identification.

Our honored member for 2012 is retired from DeKalb County Sheriff's Office. But that was only a beginning. Since "retiring," she has taken a full-time job with Atlanta Police Department. She has a part-time job with Decatur Police Department. She assists DeKalb County with verification of latent hits. She is also helping Gwinnett County with developing SOP's and other tasks. At her regular job, she has taken on the task of establishing a Latent Print Station and an AFIS Station. Each is a major undertaking. Additionally, she is making sure the individuals involved get the training needed to handle the position – a third major task.

Latents are her passion. She constantly trains to stay up-to-date in her field. Her expertise is invaluable, and sought-out by these agencies. She is probably the one-and-only person able to handle this difficult bundle of assignments. And she is OURS!

The 2012 recipient of the Hutchins Award is: Patricia Gilbert.



**BSC West  
DHS Fingerprint Center  
9275 Sky Park Ct. #150  
San Diego, Ca 92123  
Ph 858-609-2609 Fax 858-609-2600**

The Biometric Support Center West provides the Bureau of Immigration and Custom Enforcement within the Department of Homeland Security with a multitude of identification services.

US-Visit's Biometric Support Center (BSC) supports many federal, state and local agencies in identifying terror and criminal suspects, victims and witnesses. These agencies can submit latent or rolled fingerprints related to any unlawful offense to the BSC for identification. The BSC's highly trained forensic analysts verify biometrics 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, helping to solve crimes, identify John and Jane Does and support terrorist investigations.

In Fiscal year 2011 the BSC verified over 2,500,000 latent prints, manually verified 631,533 fingerprints in less than 3.5 minutes on average. 12 to 13,000 verifications are made on a weekly basis using the Unified Ident Database

Our normal automated fingerprint checks search IAFIS (FBI) and IDENT (DHS/Immigration). IAFIS searches are only conducted for DHS offices or agencies working in conjunction with an ICE or CBP investigator, or medical examiner offices.

The Biometric Support Center has access to over 100 million fingerprint records in Ident and US Visit alone. 70% of these records are not found in the IAFIS/FBI database. IAFIS maintains a ten print file, which in the future will be linked to the IDENT system.

The Fingerprint Center registers the fingerprints of criminal aliens into the DHS database. Crime scene latent prints and the fingerprints of unknown deceased individuals are also searched against and may be enrolled into the DHS fingerprint database.

The BSC West also has the capability to enter special case enrollments into the immigration database for any law enforcement agency if they have a high profile case or wanted individuals

Searches may be requested via fax, e-mail, express or standard mail. Search requests are usually returned within 6-12 hours of initial receipt.

## Instructions for a BSCW Search Request

1. Complete Criminal Search request coversheet as much as possible. Always include requestors name and point of contact
2. Make a standard size copy of the prints or ten print cards and an enlargement, approximately 120-130 %. If the prints are too light or too dark adjust the copy as needed. Do not fax a ten print card since distortion will occur in the faxing process.
3. If prints are sent from a CA driver's license number, the fingerprint image and the CDL number must be sent. It is critical that standard size prints from CA DMV records are sent to confirm proper size of the image.
4. Fax the coversheet and copies of the fingerprint on the highest resolution for the fax machine. This is usually "Superfine," low fax resolution will cause distortion of the prints and may result in the inability to properly read a set of prints.
5. Prints may be received by:
  - a. Fax (858) 609-2600
  - b. E-mail: contact the site for an examiner on duty
  - c. Express mail: Fed Ex or DHL-  
9275 Sky Park Ct.  
Suite 150  
San Diego, CA 92123.
  - d. Standard Mail  
USBP / BSC West  
2411 Boswell Rd.  
Chula Vista, CA 91914
6. You may call 858-609-2609 to confirm receipt of prints or a fingerprint examiner may contact you if the prints are unsearchable.
7. Results will be returned via fax, unless the officer makes a special request. If you would like the search returned by Fed Ex please make sure that you include your account number.

\*The fingerprint examiners are here for your assistance, please feel free to contact them with any questions in regard to a search request or verifications

**BSC West**  
**Department of Homeland Security**  
9275 Sky Park Ct.  
Suite 150  
San Diego, CA 92123

---

## **Submission Guidelines for Latent Fingerprints**

All fingerprints submitted for search to the Latent Print Unit of the Biometric Support Center must be scanned at a minimum of 500 ppi. They should be saved in either a .tif or .jpg format. Make sure that a scale is represented in the image, to ensure correct sizing.

They should be emailed to: [LPU@dhs.gov](mailto:LPU@dhs.gov) along with a cover sheet explaining the type, nature of the case and reason for the requested search.

Alternatively, latents may be submitted as COPIES (photographs or digital files on diskette or CD) to the address below. Copies of latents will NOT be returned. Do not FAX latent fingerprints. **Do not send original evidence.**

If you have any questions please call the Latent Print Unit at 858-609-2666.

Fed Ex, UPS or DHL requests can be sent to:

USBP / BSC West

9275 Sky Park Ct.

Suite 150

San Diego, CA 92123

US mail may be sent to

USBP / BSC West

2411 Boswell Rd.

Chula Vista, CA 91914



The FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division is completing the development of Next Generation Identification (NGI) Increment 3 which will be deployed in March 2013. Increment 3 will provide additional and improved latent services to the criminal justice community. In addition, NGI Increment 3 establishes the National Palm Print System.

**National Palm Print System** (NPPS) – The National Palm Print System will provide a repository of known palm prints. The NPPS will provide expanded investigative processes by allowing the automated search of the system with latent palm prints. The CJIS Division has collected over 5 million palm prints to date to populate the system at deployment and is continuing to increase this collection.

**Latent Print Services** – NGI Increment 3 will provide a nearly 3 times improvement in the accuracy of latent searches over the current IAFIS. Users will be able to search a larger portion of the repository per search with the increased penetration rates provided with NGI.

**Event Based Repository** – NGI latent functionality will leverage a Friction Ridge Investigative File composed of all retained events for an individual, instead of just one composite image set per identity. Multiple events in the repository increase latent search accuracy and allow for additional event image retrieval to support difficult casework.

**Automated Unsolved Latent File (ULF) Management** – Legacy IAFIS ULF management transactions (e.g. ULAC) are replaced with “lights-out” ULF management. Latents deposited into the ULF upon searching (via the LFIS/LFFS EBTS transaction) can be automatically removed upon an identification using the Biometric Decision (BDEC) EBTS transaction.

**Expanded Repository Searching** – In addition to the existing capability to search latent prints against the criminal repository, latent users will be able to search latent prints against the civil and ULF repositories, using the new Name of Designated Repository (NDR) EBTS field within latent search (i.e. LFIS, LFFS) transactions.

**Increase Examiner Workload Efficiency** – NGI will accept LFFS searches using only Region of Interest and/or Quick Minutiae search markup as defined in 2011 American National Standard Institute. NGI removes the ridge counting request for LFFS searches.

**Expanded Cascaded Searches** – Incoming criminal **and** civil submissions (ten print, palm print, and supplemental fingerprint) will cascade against the Unsolved Latent File (ULF), instead of only criminal records cascading.



**Enrollment and Management** – In addition to the existing direct fingerprint enrollment capability, NGI Increment 3 will allow direct enrollment and deletion of palm prints and supplemental fingerprints.

The latest version of the FBI's Universal Latent Workstation (ULW) software can be made available to authorized agencies upon request. Installation of this version of the ULW software will provide agencies access to the new and enhanced latent capabilities. The *Electronic Biometric Transmission Specification 9.3* is also available for agencies interested in taking advantage of the NPPS. This version of the EBTS can also provide agencies that do not use the ULW software, with the changes that need to be made to allow participation in the enhanced latent capabilities.

Questions about the new and expanded services can be directed to the Next Generation Identification (NGI) Program Office, Implementation and Transition Unit at 304-625-3437.

## Local AFIS: A concept whose time has come

*By: Scott Howard from AFIX Technologies*

Automated fingerprint identification systems (AFIS) represent a quite mature technology, having now been in use for over thirty years. Authorities agree that the first AFIS system was put into operation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1977<sup>1</sup>. Since that time AFIS has become the cornerstone of biometric identification for law enforcement agencies around the globe; however, due to the high cost these systems, for many years AFIS was implemented almost exclusively at national or state level. In 1998 that model changed dramatically with the introduction of the first true “local AFIS”, the PC-based AFIX Tracker system, developed by The Phoenix Group (now AFIX Technologies), of Pittsburg, Kansas. Advances in both the processing and storage capabilities of the personal computer platform enabled the development of this low-cost AFIS, providing the opportunity for even the smallest of agencies to add AFIS capabilities to their arsenal of crime scene investigation tools. Since the introduction of the technology in 1998, PC-based local AFIS systems have been widely adopted both in the U.S. and around the world, with systems now in use in well over four hundred agencies in the U.S. and in more than thirty other nations.

Although, AFIS technology had previously been judged appropriate only for very large agencies, as eminent latent print expert and instructor Ron Smith noted in a 2003 interview, “local AFIS for local crime is a concept whose time has come.” Smith highlighted one of the facts that makes local AFIS such a dramatically efficient tool – that at least 85% of identifications made on latent prints submitted to a state or national-level AFIS system actually end up identifying a perpetrator who comes from the same local or regional jurisdiction which submitted the latent print to the state or national system for examination. The old saying “local criminals commit local crime” continues to be borne out by analysis of AFIS statistics, and makes the implementation of local AFIS one of the most effective investments a local law enforcement agency can make.

In searching a locally-developed database, the local AFIS user enjoys a number of advantages including absolute quality control, smaller database size and focus, accessibility and responsiveness and freedom from the restrictive limitations sometimes imposed by state or national systems.

- **Quality Control.** A basic truth for all data systems is the old cliché “garbage in, garbage out”. Implementation of a local AFIS provides the potential for excellent overall database quality. Generally, most large, centralized systems try to accept as many record prints as possible, potentially resulting in a less-than-desirable level of database quality. Local AFIS administrators can much more easily control the quality of prints entered into their own database.
- **Database Size.** When considering the accuracy and effectiveness of AFIS database searches, in many ways smaller is better. The smaller the database, the more efficient and accurate the system can be. For example, if a large database is searched with a small fragment of a latent print – one with very few minutiae – there is a lesser chance of finding the matching print than if the search were conducted on a smaller database because the fragment pattern is “competing” with fewer minutiae sets on the smaller database. The large database will contain many more patterns that closely resemble the fragment, with the likelihood that a resulting candidate may appear much lower on the candidate list than when a smaller, local database is searched.

- **Database Focus.** Local crimes are committed mostly by local criminals. As we have noted, over 85% of latent print identifications made at state AFIS levels involve perpetrators whose record prints were submitted by the same local or regional agency that also submitted the latent print for search. It is not unusual for a local AFIS user to find that they have made a “hit” on their local database, and then see that same print searched against the state system *knowing that the suspect’s prints are in the state database* without the suspect appearing in the resultant candidate list. This happens most often when the minutiae count is small, and is simply the result of searching against a large database containing many more similar minutiae patterns.
- **Accessibility and Responsiveness.** Local ownership means local control. Agencies without local AFIS are competing with all other agencies for time on the state or national AFIS, and for the expertise of the state’s examiners. Local AFIS users may search prints against their local database at any time and as often as they choose. Advances in local AFIS technology now also provide total scalability. Local agencies can determine the performance levels required based on their specific volume and needs, and implement a system that delivers that exact performance capability.
- **Freedom from Restrictive Limits.** The sheer volume of search requests received forces some state and national AFIS system administrators to impose limits on latent submission, either by accepting only cases which represent high felonies, or by queuing all latent submissions received based upon the same type of triage/priority assignment. In the first scenario local agencies may never be able to get searches for unqualified latent submissions, and in the second the lower priority may mean that the case will not be searched for weeks or even months. Most searches on local AFIS databases are completed within minutes.

Local AFIS has, since its inception, been focused on the belief that the best and most effective search begins with the local database. Another inherent component of local AFIS philosophy is that when a search of the local database does not yield results, communication capabilities must allow the search of adjacent local databases, or state and national systems. The ability to selectively search the databases of adjacent or distant agencies has led to the development of regional networks of local AFIS systems, providing search options and capabilities never been available before.

Another advantage provided by local AFIS, and one that has had remarkable impact on the ability of agencies to effectively process and search evidence processed at crime scenes, is the introduction of palm print capabilities. Consider the fact that more than 30% of identifiable latent impressions recovered at crime scenes are from palms. Without a system capable of processing palm prints the law enforcement community has been giving up almost one-third of its potential automated identifications – simply because there was no database to search. The first commercially-available system (of any type, pc-based or otherwise) to provide the ability to capture, search and match known and latent palm prints was the same AFIX Tracker system noted earlier as the first local AFIS. Palm print capability was added to the AFIX Tracker system in mid-2000, and by the end of that year over 130 palm-capable local AFIS/APIS systems were in use across the U.S. The growth of palm-capable local AFIS/APIS has led to numerous high-profile latent palm print identifications in recent years, and state and national systems are working to provide this capability as quickly as possible.

Local AFIS/APIS can now be employed as a powerful tool for criminal investigation by agencies of virtually any size, especially when used in concert with live scan systems providing high quality fingerprint and palm print records for inclusion in the local database. It is important to remember that AFIS/APIS systems are tools which will enable the efficient and rapid search of data that might otherwise take weeks or months to search, but the final identification process is still one that requires the skill and experience of a qualified latent print examiner. Implemented properly, the addition of local AFIS/APIS will dramatically enhance an agency's ability to efficiently and successfully investigate and close cases.



## GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

3121 Panthersville Road  
P.O. Box 370808  
Decatur, Georgia 30037-0808

Vernon M. Keenan  
Director

### GBI Unsolved Latent Database Registration

Effective March 1, 2012, the following criteria must be met for Remote Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) personnel to register latent fingerprints to the GBI Unsolved Latent Database (ULD):

1. International Association for Identification (IAI) Latent Print Certification.

**or**

2. Successful completion of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) Latent Print Examiner training series. Courses in this series include Intermediate Friction Ridge Analysis I and II, Palm Print Comparisons, Advanced Friction Ridge Analysis and Latent Print Expert Testimony.

**and**

- a. Actively perform latent print comparisons during the course of their job duties and has performed this duty for at least two (2) years prior to the registration request;
- b. Recommendation letter from a Latent Fingerprint Examiner who has ULD registration rights;
- c. Successful completion of proficiency tests administered by GBI Latent staff. These proficiency tests consist of the following two tests:
  - i. Comparison test similar to the Collaborative Testing Services (CTS) Latent Print test where the applicant must show proficiency in making comparisons. If proof is provided of successful completion of a CTS Latent Print test within the year prior to the registration request this requirement will be waived.
  - ii. AFIS Search Test. The applicant must demonstrate proficiency in using the AFIS by searching latent prints with known results.

**NOTE:** Registration requirements will not be retroactively applied therefore those individuals that have GBI ULD registration rights prior to the March 1<sup>st</sup> effective date will not be required

to meet the criteria noted above but instead will be “grandfathered in;” however these same individuals will be subject to re-certification requirements.

#### Re-Certification Requirements

Effective January 1, 2013 **all** individuals that have GBI ULD registration rights will be required to re-certify every five-years. The re-certification time period will begin on the date that GBI granted registration rights. For those individuals that were grandfathered in, they will be required to re-certify before December 31, 2013.

The re-recertification process will consist of successfully completing proficiency testing administered by GBI Latent staff. If your agency requires an annual proficiency test through CTS and you successfully pass the CTS Latent Print test only the AFIS Search Test, described above, will need to be taken.



Manager, Business Operations Analyst  
Plans & Program Development  
Georgia Crime Information Center  
[Debra.brown@gbi.ga.gov](mailto:Debra.brown@gbi.ga.gov)  
404-270-8646

## **New Latent Series Program at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center**

The following information was provided by Lee Croxton, Forensic Instructor for the Georgia Police Academy and from the Georgia Public Safety Training Center's website: <http://www.gpstc.org/>.

The Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) is a comprehensive training complex for use by all state and local public safety related units of government within the state of Georgia. This group is typically defined as law enforcement, corrections, fire service, 911 communication centers, coroners, emergency management, rescue and other emergency service personnel. The Training Center is designed to service an average daily student population of 500.

The Georgia Public Safety Training Center offers a series of courses related to Latent Prints and Crime Scene Investigations. These courses have been approved and delivered for many years.

The Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T) is the regulatory agency that approves the courses that Georgia Public Safety Training Center delivers to law enforcement personnel and offers certain specialized certifications. One such certification is the Crime Scene Technician Certification.

The addition of a new series of fingerprint courses held at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center will improve the skills required to be a fingerprint expert across the State of Georgia. The International Association for Identification's Latent Print Certification was used as one of the benchmarks for the outline of these series of courses. The Georgia Public Safety Training Center will, at the appropriate time, request that P.O.S.T consider some type of fingerprint/latent print technician certification.

The successful completion of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center's new series of fingerprint courses and the successful completion of proficiency tests administered by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's (GBI) Latent staff will allow that person to register latent fingerprints to the GBI Unsolved Latent Database (ULD) for his or her agency. Courses in this series include: Intermediate Friction Ridge Analysis I and II, Palm Print Comparisons, Advanced Friction Ridge Analysis and Latent Print Expert Testimony.

Below is an outline of each of the new series of fingerprint courses:

**Intermediate Friction Ridge Analysis I - Prerequisite:** Completion of the three basic fingerprint courses sponsored by the Georgia Police Academy, or their equivalents. A letter from an agency head or designee which states: (1) that the applicant will attend all five courses in the annual session, and (2) the applicant actively performs latent print comparisons during the course of his or her duty and has performed this duty for at least one year. Students must read *The Science of Fingerprints* and *Quantitative Qualitative Friction Ridge Analysis* prior to attendance. A test over the *Science of Fingerprints* must be passed with an 80% or better following registration in order to stay in the class.

This 40-hour course will cover the history of friction ridge comparison and the analysis portion of the most predominantly accepted friction ridge identification methodology. A post-test will be given at the end of the course and to pass the course successfully each student must pass with an 80% or better.

**Intermediate Friction Ridge Analysis II** – **Prerequisite:** the Successful completion of the Intermediate Friction Ridge Analysis I. A pre-test over the Science of Fingerprints and Quantitative Qualitative Friction Ridge Analysis must be passed with an 80% or better in order to stay in the class.

This 40-hour course will cover topics such as the comparison, evaluation, and verification portions of the most predominantly accepted friction ridge identification methodology. A post-test will be given at the end of the course and to pass the course successfully, each student must pass with an 80% or better.

**Palm Print Comparisons** – **Prerequisite:** the Successful completion of Intermediate Friction Ridge Analysis I and II. A pre-test over the Science of Fingerprints and Quantitative Qualitative Friction Ridge Analysis must be passed with an 80% or better in order to stay in the class.

This 40-hour course is an advanced level course on friction ridge analysis that is the third of the five-part series of latent print courses. Topics will include analysis, comparison, evaluation and verification of palm impressions for problematic latent impressions. A post-test will be given at the end of the course and to pass the course successfully each student must pass with an 80% or better

**Advanced Friction Ridge Analysis** - **Prerequisite:** the Successful completion of the following courses: Intermediate Friction Ridge Analysis I and II and Palm Print Comparisons. A pre-test over the Science of Fingerprints and Quantitative Qualitative Friction Ridge Analysis must be passed with an 80% or better in order to stay in the class.

This 40-hour course will cover topics such as the analysis, comparison, evaluation, and verification of fingerprint and palm impressions which present special challenges to the examiner. It will be the most challenging latent print examination course offered by the Georgia Public Safety Training Center and is the fourth course in a proposed series of advanced latent print courses. A post-test will be given at the end of the course and to pass the course successfully each student must pass with an 80% or better.

**Latent Print Expert Testimony** – **Prerequisite:** the Successful completion of the following courses: Intermediate Friction Ridge Analysis I and II, Palm Print Comparisons and Advanced Friction Ridge Analysis. A pre-test over the Science of Fingerprints and Quantitative Qualitative Friction Ridge Analysis must be passed with an 80% or better in order to stay in the class.

This 40- hour course will cover topics such as current case law, Daubert and other challenges, how to prepare and present friction ridge evidence and the construction of demonstrative evidence for court. It is the fifth in a proposed series of advanced latent print courses and will be the terminal latent print examination course offered by the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. A post-test will be given at the end of the course and to pass the course successfully each student must pass with an 80% or better.

## **Changes to the Crime Scene Technician Certification**

The following information was provided by Lee Croxton, Forensic Instructor for the Georgia Police Academy.

### *Background:*

The Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) offers a series of courses related to Latent Prints and Crime Scene Investigations. These courses have been approved and delivered for many years but, given the current environment, changes were recommended to these courses and the related Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T) Identification Technician Certification.

### *Implemented Changes to the Certification:*

In order to prepare law enforcement and civilian crime scene unit personnel for future challenges, GPSTC proposed changes to a number of the forensic training courses and to the P.O.S.T Identification Technician certification. P.O.S.T has implemented these changes to the Identification Technician Certification and they have been implemented as of July 1, 2012.

### **Training Center Courses**

#### **Latent Print Identification Course**

The GPSTC has made changes, with P.O.S.T approval, to the current Latent Print Identification course. Latent Print Identification course was renamed to the Friction Ridge Comparison course and comparisons taught were restricted to rolled to rolled impressions.

The Friction Ridge Comparison course provides a better foundation in fingerprints which prepares the students for more advanced training. The new topics and the title of the course will be more realistic for a class that is the first in a series for a student who wishes to progress to more advanced courses. It will, at the same time, be a safe terminal course for those who do not want to continue with fingerprint training.

### **POST Certification**

#### **POST Identification Technician Certification**

The GPSTC suggestions have been approved by P.O.S.T for the certification for Identification Technician is as follows:

1. The P.O.S.T Identification Technician Certification was renamed to the P.O.S.T Crime Scene Technician Certification to reflect the actual content and abilities of the student who becomes certified.
2. The Crime Scene Technician course was renamed to Crime Scene Investigations course. It was a name change only.
3. The Privacy and Security Act course is no longer required.
4. Bloodstain Pattern Analysis was added to the list of required courses.

5. Changes to the current required courses for the P.O.S.T Crime Scene Technician certification are as follows:

### Crime Scene Technician Certification Implemented Changes

Course Name (Old)	Course Name (New)	Comments
A. Fingerprint Classification (40 hr)	A. Fingerprint Classification (40 hr)	No change.
B. FBI Advanced Fingerprint (40 hr)  <i>or</i>  FBI Latent Print Identification (24 hr)  <i>and</i>  FBI Latent Print Development (24 hr)	B. Friction Ridge Comparison (24 hr)  <i>and</i>  C. Latent Print Development (24 hr)	The FBI Advanced Fingerprint Course no longer exists and removed has an option.  The name of the FBI Latent Print Identification changed to Friction Ridge Comparison.  Latent Print Development replaced the title FBI Latent Print Development course.
C. Crime Scene Technician (40 hr)	D. Crime Scene Investigations (40 hr)	Course Name change only.
D. Evidence Presentation (16 hr)	E. Evidence Presentation (16 hr)	No change.
E. Photography for Criminal Investigators (40 hr)	F. Basic Photography & Digital Imaging (40 hr)	Course name previously changed.
F. Privacy and Security Act (4 hrs)	G. Blood Pattern Analysis (40 hr)	The Privacy and Security Act course is no longer needed for this certification.  Privacy and Security Act course is deleted as a course requirement and being replaced by Blood Pattern Analysis (40 hr).

## *Get to Know Your Fellow Forensic Units*



## Profile of the Georgia State Patrol's Specialized Collision Reconstruction Team

Written By: Mark Bentley, Georgia State Patrol, IAI #725

Sergeant First Class, Mark Bentley is the Administrative Officer of the SCRT under the unit commander, LT. Wade Chaffin. He is a 30 year veteran of the GSP and an original member of the SCRT. He holds a B.A. in Behavioral Science and a Masters in Public Administration. He is a Certified Emergency Manager (GA) and a POST Certified Crime Scene Technician and proud past president of the GA Division of the IAI (2012)!

In 1990's, settlements in vehicle collisions were becoming "big money." As criminal charges have an effect upon the outcome of civil cases, defendants were putting up more resistance than previously in the courts. Prosecutors often found they were outgunned; responding to expert witnesses with large price tags with only a two-page wreck report from which to work. In 1997, in response to the prosecutors' request for more substantial assistance, the leadership of Georgia State Patrol formed the Specialized Collision Reconstruction Team (SCRT). A small number of Troopers from around the state were trained to thoroughly investigate collisions in terms of dynamics, engineering and forensics, to determine what happened and why. The findings were to be provided to the District Attorneys for prosecutorial support. The initial philosophy at approach to a collision was to assume that it was a crime scene until it was known otherwise. This was to prevent a cognitive blind spot that might permit an intentional act such as murder to be covered up by a "traffic accident." Certainly, SCRT members have been involved in the investigation of a number of murder cases around the state.

The members first took or reviewed the collision investigation and reconstruction courses available at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. Generally: on-scene investigation levels, critical speed, falls flips & vaults, momentum, time & distance, and Energy (or speed from damage). Then, weeks of additional training began. Many courses were advanced expansions upon those above. Others were: applied physics, basic forensic crime scene (crime scene procedures, collecting friction ridge impressions, tire track impressions, DNA & blood samples), forensic mapping, computer diagramming, photography, interviews & interrogations, evidence presentation, and many others. Additionally, there were math analysis courses in Pedestrian & Bicycle, Motorcycle, and Commercial Vehicle collisions. During this training and over the years, the SCRT has drawn upon the expertise of many agencies and entities. Among them: Prosecuting Attorney's Council of GA, CSX Railroad, G.B.I., GA Public Service Commission, GPSTC, Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Texas A&M Univ. Engineering (TEEX), Univ. of N. Florida (IPTM), Professional Society for Forensic Mapping, Collision Safety Institute, Vericom Computers, Michelin NA, Midland-Grau, Mack Truck and Southeastern Freight. Since that time, newer members are trained as they learn their job and by attending training classes as they progress.

From that time to the present, information available through a vehicle's electronic control module (ECM) has expanded. The growth in Crash Data Retrieval is in both the variety of vehicle models making it available and in the breadth of information provided. For that reason, most members are trained and certified as

Technicians, able to image the data available in the ECM, and as Analysts, able to interpret the data and apply it as it fits with the other evidence in the collision.

Many members have proceeded much further over time with their training. Some have tended to specialize in an area. There are those that specialize in teaching the subjects above to new members and those outside the team. Some have specialized in commercial vehicles (CV). Commercial vehicles present a large body of knowledge in themselves (configuration, equipment, dynamics, air brakes, law), and they have their own electronic data retrieval systems that change continually. To that end, the SCRT has Division of Motor Carrier officers assigned to each SCRT unit as a team member. Their training in CV enforcement is now amplified by SCRT CV collision investigation training, and they are receiving training in CV data retrieval. A number of SCRT members excel in their handling of forensic mapping, or in diagramming the wrecks for presentation. The outcomes of some cases have been decided based upon the quality of a member's evidence collection. Several members have an extraordinary ability to mathematically analyze the dynamics of a complicated wreck and produce an easily understood presentation.

An additional area of specialization started in the SCRT was in animation. Five members began training to produce computer generated representations of the dynamics of a given wreck. It is complicated and exacting work, but it gives jurors a visual concept of what took place as a collision developed, beginning to end. Several very fine presentations were produced. Unfortunately, due to a number of unrelated causes, the program has temporarily ceased. It is hoped that it will be revived and progress in the near future.

The SCRT has regularly provided technical support in all these areas to other officers in their own investigations; however, the primary purpose of the team's development was to train investigators with the tools to complete a thorough analysis of a collision. Primarily, the collisions are prosecutable fatalities. The analysis is then compiled with the supporting evidence and documentation into a report with a summary. It is provided to the prosecutor to assist them as they determine if a prosecution is warranted and if so, to provide comprehensive support. SCRT members are proud of their hard work, and their level of success in the courtroom.

Moving ahead, the department is considering scanning devices that require only one operator for mapping a scene, rather than the two or three currently needed. Through experience, SCRT members have consolidated their equipment needs to the point that the heavy emergency-body truck formerly used is no longer seen. Needed equipment is transported in the cars and SUV's, with the heavier equipment in trailers to be deployed as needed. The team is also being reorganized to be more in line with the troop organization of the Georgia State Patrol.

## Profile of the Gwinnett County Police's Crime Scene Investigations Unit

Written By: Crime Scene Specialist II, Geoffrey Gallant



The Gwinnett County Police Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) Unit is a civilian support entity located within the hierarchy of the Criminal Investigations Division (CID). Among the primary responsibilities of the CSI Unit is the processing of crime scenes which typically involves the following:

- Documenting each scene using digital photography and storing all photographs on the Foray Digital Acquire System
- Making notes detailing each scene to

include measurements and sketches

- Collecting and documenting physical evidence
- Collecting and documenting possible biological evidence
- Applying appropriate powders, chemicals or adhesives to surfaces in an attempt to locate any identifying evidence left behind by possible perpetrator(s)
- Securing and documenting any evidence collected at scenes
- Recording evidence collected from scenes and securing in the Evidence Unit to maintain the integrity of the chain of custody

CSI further supports CID and other departments within the Gwinnett County Police by preparing photographic line ups; processing evidence collected at scenes by uniformed officers or detectives; testing marijuana; processing vehicles for the presence of physical and/or biological evidence; assisting with the execution of search warrants by documenting the activity using digital photography and collecting any physical or biological evidence found to be present.

Within the CSI Unit is the Identification Unit. The Identification Unit stores fingerprint cards for individuals who have been arrested in Gwinnett County. The Identification Unit has the ability to compare latent fingerprints found at scenes or on evidence using AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) with the ultimate goal of identifying a perpetrator.

The Gwinnett County Police Department CSI Unit is currently staffed with one (1) manager; three (3) supervisors and 15 Crime Scene Technicians who are all supported by a staff assistant. Technicians are available 24 hours Monday through Friday and on call for weekends and holidays.

## Profile of the Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department's Forensic Unit

Written By: Michele Schiro

Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department's Forensic Unit serves a community of roughly 271,544; this territory includes everything from urban downtown to rural countryside. The unit is part of the Criminal Investigation Division and is made up of one lieutenant, two sergeants and twelve investigators. Out of those twelve, two are assigned to the office to handle requests for video and computer work as well as latent print comparisons and AFIS work. Ten investigators, working in rotating ten-hour shifts, diligently hit the streets each day to handle a wide variety of calls ranging from entering autos to homicides.

Metro's Forensic Unit is comprised of officers from both the former Savannah Police Department and the former Chatham County Police Department. When the two agencies merged back in 2005, the two units came together to form a diverse team of crime-fighting talent. In 2008, the City created two civilian positions in the Forensic Unit. This afforded the unit a new flexibility; the civilians were able to handle call volume during events when police were primarily needed elsewhere such as St. Patrick's Day Parades, etc. The civilian technicians perform the same duties as the sworn forensic investigators, with the exception of those specific law enforcement functions; they attend the same training and work all of the same types of scenes.

The team has access to state-of-the-art technology to include FRED, Forensic Recovery Evidence Device, which allows specially-trained technicians to search hard drives for evidence in cases such as sex crimes, identity theft, homicides, etc. We also make use of AVID software for editing and composing media. Most commonly, this is used for video evidence captured at businesses during robberies. One of our more recent technological upgrades includes the newest version of AFIS; it came online in Savannah just this last September 2012. We also use AFIX for our ever-growing local palm database. For crime scenes that may require more detailed processing, the unit enjoys the use of a mobile command center that goes to scenes and carries more equipment than any one investigator; typically, we use it mostly for homicides. Metro has been known to hold a scene for as long as it takes, sometimes days, to document, process and collect evidence necessary to prove guilt or innocence.

Our unit stays quite busy, riding as many as 6000 calls for service a year. Our fingerprint matches average between 200 and 300 per year. With all the activity, we consider ourselves very fortunate to have a civilian administrative assistant who holds it all together. She's been with the unit longer than most of us, so we rely on her to coordinate some of our call volume, field calls from the public, and generally to keep us well-organized.

We are privileged to have people of many varied interests and training specialties. Seven out of our number hold state certifications as Crime Scene Investigators, and one holds a current international certification. Five out of those seven are trained in blood pattern analysis. One is an arson investigator; one is a state and federally certified bomb technician, and one is a graduate of the National Forensic Academy, class XXV. Our

forensic investigators interview for their positions and truly want to be here. The unit's latent print examiner is currently working on a state certification in a first-of-its-kind program specifically designed for latent print examination. We hold our own training sessions to help our newest members become and stay proficient with their equipment, and it keeps our team enthusiasm high.

We are a customer-service oriented unit and proud to be of assistance, not only to our own department, but other local agencies throughout the area and Federal Agencies such as the FBI, ATF and Secret Service and any others who may request our expertise or services.

## Profile of the Albany Police Department's Crime Scene Investigations

Written By: Corporal Jennifer Hausman



This day in time, crime seems to have become a part of everyday life. There are multiple types of crimes ranging from theft to homicide. A violent crime, such as armed robbery, aggravated assault, homicide, etc., occurs in the United States every 22.8 seconds. Crime is everywhere and Albany, Georgia is no exception. Many city or county police/sheriff departments call for assistance from the State Bureau when investigating violent crimes; however, some departments

utilize their own personnel for these investigations. The Albany Police Department is one such department, employing a specialized unit under the Investigations Division labeled as the Crime Scene Unit.

The Albany Police Department Crime Scene Unit (CSU) is comprised of three (3) employees: one Lieutenant and two Corporals, all with a combined 43 years of law enforcement experience. This unit is tasked with completing investigations at crime scenes deemed necessary for more extensive investigation. This is determined either by the uniform division supervisors or investigators responding to the incident locations. CSU regularly responds to the more violent crimes including armed robberies, home invasions, aggravated assaults, rapes, business burglaries, and deaths (natural, suicide, and homicide); however, it is not unlikely for the unit to be called upon to respond to residential burglaries, thefts, recovered motor vehicles, and other non-violent crimes or to be requested to perform other duties as well.

CSU has a multitude of responsibilities. CSU's personnel also process's evidence. Processing evidence isn't just "dusting for fingerprints" as civilians would say. Processing evidence entails various things and could be anything from dusting for prints, collecting trace evidence, photographing, collecting DNA from items, testing marijuana, collecting and processing weapons and video surveillance footage, etc. Each person assigned to the unit is tasked with processing evidence whether they collected it from a scene or it's logged into Property Management by uniform patrol officers. Some personnel have specialized areas they are tasked with, including ATF Traces, Marijuana Identification, and Video Enhancement and Processing.

Although Crime Scene Investigation sounds easy; it can be hard on one's life because there are a lot of hours spent on the job away from families. The Albany Police Department currently only has three (3) Crime Scene Investigators for the entire city. Sometimes the case load is tremendous and requires a lot of overtime hours. Also, each Crime Scene Investigator is on call for a seven (7) day rotation; they are still at risk of being called to a scene if it's something major like a Homicide. For cases of this magnitude, all three (3) crime scene

investigators are called to process the scene because a homicide scene requires a lot of work. All in all, being a Crime Scene Investigator is exciting; however, it takes a special person dedicated to the life of a law enforcement officer to do the type of work we do.



## Profile of the Morgan County Sheriff's Office's Crime Scene Unit

Written By: Ellen Welch

The Morgan County Sheriff's Office has expanded their department to include a brand new Crime Scene Unit.

A civilian is now serving as both Crime Scene Specialist and Evidence Custodian of the fifty-seven member full service law enforcement agency. This position provides the county with around the clock forensic services and expertise in support of its enforcement efforts. The Crime Scene Specialist provides the community with the most up to date knowledge and techniques of the forensic science discipline obtained by more specialized crime scene training in crime scene photography, latent print development, and bloodstain pattern analysis than that of typical deputy. Having one individual dedicated to processing crime scenes and evidence and acting as Evidence Custodian has helped to decrease the workload to our investigators.

In the past, an investigator was assigned to act as the Evidence Custodian as well as processing the incoming evidence while balancing a full caseload. This new addition allows investigators to do more of what they are here to do, investigate crime, while leaving the processing, organization, documentation, and inventory of the evidence and evidence vaults to the full time Crime Scene Specialist.

Currently the Morgan County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit is a single person operation with an investigator as a backup, but as our county and department continues to grow, we expect our Crime Scene Unit to expand to meet the daily needs of the community.



## Profile of the Columbus Police Department's Crime Scene Unit

Written By: Cpl. David Jury, CSI

510 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Columbus Ga. 31902  
(706) 653-3460  
Fax (706) 653-3474

The Columbus Police Department Crime Scene Unit originally started out as a combined unit of the crime scene unit and record room unit. The record room unit keeps all records for the department such as police reports, warrants, and report supplies. The unit had around 10 members because of the dual role the unit dealt with. Sometime around the 1960's the dual role unit separated and became a dedicated crime scene unit with 11 members including the commanding officer, 1-Lieutenant, 3- Sergeants, and 7- Corporals. In 1982 the unit commander, Lt. Ronnie Griffin, took over the crime scene unit. Around 1987 Lt. Griffin added a latent print examiner (LPE) position which increased the unit size to 12 members with 8-Corporals. In 2010 Lt. Griffin added a Sergeant position to make four squads of three people (1-Sergeant and 2-Corporals) from three squads of four people (1-Sergeant and 3-Corporals).

The LPE (Corporal George Gottfried) stays in the office as the latent print examiner and computer operator (AFIX, AFIS, and IAFIS). Cpl. Gottfried is also the latent print custodian and manages all the latent prints and latent print computers for the Crime Scene Unit. Several surrounding counties send latent prints to Cpl. Gottfried for comparisons and/or to be entered into the computer databases. Cpl. Gottfried is also subject to respond to crime scene calls and averages less than ten crime scene calls a year.

The others seven Corporals respond to crime scene calls of all types, process items brought to the office by investigators, photograph various ceremonies, finger print juveniles charged with felonies, finger print applicants for employment, make and assist investigators and patrol officers with developing a photographic line up for investigative purposes, and rarely teach basic latent print development classes at the regional police academy.

The Sergeants supervise the Corporals and assist in the duties of Corporals. They also have administrative duties such as keeping track of daily activity sheets, monthly reports, approving reports, and completing monthly inspection reports.

The Lieutenant supervises the units personnel work schedules, oversees the unit's budget, equipment, supplies, and responds to various crime scene calls to supervise the scene.

The unit has upgraded it vehicles over the years from four door cars to small SUV's and in 2010 started going to large SUV's. The upgrades have been from the increasing amount of equipment and supplies over the years. The SUV also has to tow three light towers and a trailer with equipment inside for larger

scenes that may need to be taken to various crimes. The unit also has a marked crime scene van with an on board generator and various size ladders.

In 1999, the unit received its first latent print computer, AFIS. In 2006 the unit acquired a second computer, IAFIS, and then a third computer, AFIX in 2008. The AFIX database generates the most hits but all databases are searched.

Also in 2008, the unit went totally digital from 35mm film and has a dedicated photograph database server for storage.

In the earlier years of the unit, the detectives would give the crime scene unit leads in cases to be searched and compared to the latent prints. The technology has evolved to where the crime scene unit can search a computer database, compare, make a match (individualization), and give the detectives a possible suspect based on fingerprints and/or DNA. The detectives still provide the LPE with names of suspects to compare latent prints against but it is usually the LPE giving suspect info to the detectives.

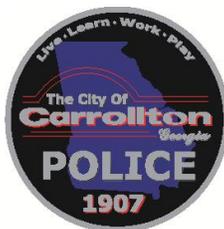
## Profile of the Gainesville Police Department's Crime Scene Unit

Written By: Dan Schrader

The Gainesville Police Department's Crime Scene Unit has come a long way in the last few years. What used to be considered the "crime lab" in the previous police department building was a single car garage which had once served as the sally port for the city jail when it was in use. With no ventilation, heating, or air conditioning, it was not the most ideal facility. The Gainesville Police Department moved into a new facility in 2010 and with that move, came an actual crime lab complete with a built in fuming chamber, and plenty of room for processing and storage. A two car garage, complete with a hydraulic scissor lift, has also been designated for the Crime Scene Unit to use when processing vehicles involved in major crimes. The agency purchased an AFIX Fingerprint/Palm Print database system in January of 2010 and has since built up a database of over 24,000 arrested persons. The unit is currently in the process of adding an IAFIS ULW and hopes to have that operational in the near future.

Inv. Dan Schrader is the Crime Scene Investigator for the agency. He has been employed with the Gainesville Police Department for almost 10 years and has worked in Crime Scene for 7 of those years. Inv. Schrader has been a member of the Georgia Chapter of the IAI since 2007, obtained the Georgia P.O.S.T. Identification Technician Certification in 2008, and has completed over 600 hours of Crime Scene training. Inv. Scott Davenport is the back-up Crime Scene Investigator providing services when Inv. Schrader is unavailable. Both Inv. Schrader and Inv. Davenport also work as General Investigators and are responsible for working criminal cases.

The Gainesville Police Department Crime Scene Unit assists other agencies when requested and has built a good working relationship with other Crime Scene Investigators in the northeast part of Georgia. Additional contacts, and friends, have been made while attending IAI sponsored conferences and training. The Crime Scene Unit strives to provide the best possible service to the Citizens of Gainesville.



## **Carrollton Police Department**

### **Criminal Investigations Unit**

### **Crime Scene Unit**

The Carrollton Police Department Crime Scene Unit has come a long way since the 1970's. The department started with an Identification Unit that was comprised of two employees who were trained in fingerprint classification and identification. Any crime scene processing was done by the investigators in the Criminal Investigations Division. The Crime Scene Unit was formed in the late 1980's. At that time, two employees achieved Identification Certification. The investigators were no longer strapped with the duty of investigating the crime and processing the crime scene.

Today, our Crime Scene Unit is comprised of six sworn officers. We respond to all major crimes as a unit and utilize an on-call schedule for lesser crimes. Our department has a lab that is equipped for chemical development of latent prints and marijuana testing. When requested by other cities and jurisdictions, our Crime Scene Unit will respond to assist with their crime scene processing.

The Crime Scene Unit personnel are encouraged to seek their state certification and also to join the International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) Crime Scene Unit personnel are members of the I.A.I and are actively involved in the organization and the training that is offered. Also, the Captain of Criminal Investigations and Captain of Patrol are members of the I.A.I.

We are often called upon by our city schools and civic organizations to speak in reference to what real life Crime Scene Investigators do, instead of what television portrays. Our goals are to help citizens understand that when evidence is collected and processed, lab results are not back in one hour. We also do not have a suspect identified, in jail, prosecuted or sentenced in one hour. Crime scene processing is a lot more complicated than that. Sometimes we will work a scene for hours, even days and still not have a suspect in custody. A lot of the questions we get from citizens while working a crime scene are referenced to a television show they have seen. The biggest problem with that is the question we hear far too often, "Well I saw it done on television, why can't you do that?"

Once a year we invite our citizens to participate in the Citizen's Police Academy. The citizens participate in all aspects of law enforcement, from patrol, firearms, emergency vehicle operation, criminal investigations, internal affairs, and participate in ride along program. The Crime Scene Unit also participates in this program. Our unit prepares closed case studies for review. This helps with citizen understanding of the difference between television and the real operations of law enforcement.

Our Crime Scene Unit schedules monthly in-service training, which has grown to include other surrounding departments. We train on several topics from photography to blood pattern analysis. Our training topics are chosen by the crime scene personnel who feel they need a refresher in certain topics. Refresher training is a great benefit, because some of the classes that we are required to take are very intense. If you are not processing a scene with blood pattern evidence at least once or twice a month the training becomes stale. Technology is continuously advancing so the training helps us keep up with what is new in the forensic field.

The Carrollton Police Department administration continues to be in strong support of the Crime Scene Unit. Without this support we would not be where we are now with training, education and equipment. We strive year around to be the best we can be to better serve our community.