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2012 FORENSIC LABORATORY SERVICES BUREAU

Lt. Rob Sharpe—Impaired Driving

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Effective March 1, 2012, Lieutenant Rob Sharpe will be the Impaired Driving Section's new Section Commander. He replaces retired Lieutenant Rob Reichert. The Impaired Driving Section (IDS) is made up of the Breath Test, Drug Recognition Expert, Ignition Interlock, Standardized Field Sobriety Test and Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Programs of the Washington State Patrol. The Impaired Driving Section also coordinates and supports the Mobile Impaired Driving Unit (MIDU), which is a self contained 36 foot motor home that travels across the state in support of all law enforcement efforts during Driving Under the Influence emphasis. Welcome back, Lt. Sharpe!

IBIS—Integrated Ballistic Identification System

Each firearm leaves unique, reproducible markings on expended bullet and cartridge cases. The barrel, firing pin, firing chamber, extractor, ejector and other parts of the gun leave these marks, called toolmarks, on the bullet and cartridge case headstamps. Individually and collectively, these markings function as the "signature" of the firearm.

Integrated Ballistic Identification Systems (IBIS) are specialized computer hardware/software combinations that capture, store and rapidly compare digital images of bullets and cartridge cases.

When a cartridge case is entered into IBIS, it is rapidly compared to other cartridge cases in the system and can be used to provide physical links between crime scenes that were previously thought not connected.

The IBIS system has 117,000 entries in the database and has provided over 400 hits between cases all across the state, including one group of 24 scenes, all linked through the comparison of cartridge cases!

IBIS has four key components:

- The Scanner, which captures the images of the bullets and cartridges
 - The Signature Extraction Unit, which uses a mathematical algorithm to extract unique signatures from the images
 - The Data Storage Unit, which serves as the main storage
 - The Correlation Server, which handles the actual comparison of images.
- Contact the Seattle, Tacoma, or Spokane lab for more information on how this important service can help to solve crime!

Special points of interest:

- IBIS and Firearms
- Forensic Services Guide
- Request for Laboratory Examination
- Leaf Marihuana Technician Class
- DNA Work Product Return
- Impaired Driving Symposium

POPS—Property Crimes DNA Pilot Program

DNA analysis of property crimes is a service in heavy demand by law enforcement agencies. Because of the high quantity of cases and lack of resources, crime labs have been reluctant to accept all property crimes cases.

In 2008, 86 property crimes were received in the Vancouver lab. As a pilot project in 2009-2010, the DNA section in Vancouver accepted property crimes submitted by its user agencies. In these two years, when all property crimes were accepted, the lab received almost 600 cases, over 200% more than normal. Only cases in which blood or saliva samples were submitted were examined.

In those cases, 96% of the blood samples and 84% of the saliva samples analyzed produced usable profiles. When entered into CODIS, 92 matches to convicted offenders were obtained (64%) and provided to the agencies for their investigations.

Research has shown that a habitual burglar will commit on average 240 crimes per year, with the added risk of these criminals having the unfortunate potential to engage in more violent crimes later in their "careers".

The project demonstrated that as sufficient staffing and resources become available, acceptance, analysis, and adjudication of property crimes can play a significant role in identifying offenders and bringing them to justice.



Forensic Services Guide

Infectious evidence—Use universal precautions when handling biological specimens or stains

(i.e., act under the assumption that the specimen or stain contains a dangerous pathogen, particularly HIV or Hepatitis B).

Use appropriate protective equipment, such as face, eye, hand, and shoe protection.

Always Be Careful!

FSG—Forensic Services Guide

The WSP FLSB Forensic Services Guide has been revised and is now posted and available on the WSP website (http://www.wsp.wa.gov/forensics/docs/bureau/forensic_services_guide.pdf)

The FSG revision includes updates to lab contact information and services offered, a new map showing the various service areas, new requirements on submitting explosives evidence and weapons and many other changes.

The Toxicology Lab has revised and clarified procedures for submitting samples for analysis and describe the types of cases and the necessary submission forms typically received in the lab.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the labs; we should be able to help answer your questions.

RFLE—Request for Laboratory Examination

The CLD has placed its Request for Laboratory Examination (RFLE) online at the CLD website [RFLE](#)

The RFLE has been in place for several months and the results have been very supportive. Using the template involved, the submissions are much cleaner and we are having fewer mistakes made in transcription. We hope to be away from the old tri-

copy forms completely in the next few months.

Just a few reminders:

- We do need your handwritten signatures with the submission.
- Remember to give us your email address, so that the scientist can contact you if necessary.
- This form is for Crime Lab use only. The submission forms for the Toxicology lab

can be found on the Tox website:

[Tox Requests](#)



Seattle from Pike Place

WSP FLSB Facebook, Twitter, YouTube

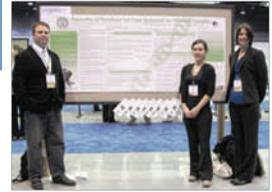
You can now follow the WSP and the FLSB on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube!

WSP has a Facebook page that features activities of the agency ([WSP Facebook](#)). The FLSB doesn't post often, but we do like to share!

Also, you can follow the agency and separate divisions on Twitter. Check out on Twitter @wastatepatrol, or the FLSB @wspcrimelab.

WSP Video Productions page is now on YouTube ([WSP YouTube](#)). You can watch a short profile of a scientist in our Seattle DNA section, Ms. Denise Rodier ([Denise](#)) and find out why Forensic Science is so interesting!

The Crime Laboratory Firearms Section has developed a video for agencies to make their own test fires/operability testing. This video is available at the WSP Video Productions Page ([Firearms Operability](#))



The Convicted Offender DNA Collection Powerpoint training is available through the CJTC. This program provides continuing education credits for law enforcement.

Explosives

CODIS

Explosives:

Last year, the CLD received 27 cases related to explosives analysis. We have scientists in our larger labs who are trained in examination of explosives evidence including post-blast debris, bulk explosives, components of explosive devices, and deactivated explosive devices. When you have a case to submit, please contact the lab for information on submitting the evidence.

Please remember to complete and submit the Explosives Safety Checklist. This helps us in handling the evidence safely when it comes into the lab: [Evidence Safety Checklist](#)

CODIS:

In 2011, the CODIS lab reported 350 'hits' between casework forensic samples and the offender database or between multiple casework forensic samples.

The **Convicted Offender DNA Collection Powerpoint is available through the CJTC**. Completion of the training provides continuing education credits for law enforcement. To register for the training with CJTC, please contact Ana Equihua at aequihua@cjtc.state.wa.us

CODIS has a new **newsletter** out this month! To view this newsletter and past editions, go to the CLD website. [CODIS](#)

Leaf Marihuana Technician Class—June 25-28, 2012

The CLD is sponsoring its yearly Leaf Marihuana Technician class at the WSP Academy during the week of June 25-28, 2012.

The class is designed for Washington law enforcement agencies to complete analysis of leaf marihuana cases in their own jurisdictions.

Completing this testing at the law enforcement agency allows the crime lab to focus on the types of drugs that require analysis in the lab (heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, etc).

The week-long class includes extensive follow-up, including site visits, yearly review of casework, and a refresher course taught every three years in the lab.

To register please contact CLD Headquarters (Sally.Richards@wsp.wa.gov) or call (206) 262-6002. There is no fee for this class; there is a small cost for lodging and food at the WSP Academy.

WSP FLSB
2203 Airport Way S
Seattle WA 98134
(206) 262-6002

George Johnston
(206) 262-6005
george.johnston@wsp.wa.gov

SERVICE WITH
HUMILITY

DNA Work Product Return

The CLD has made a change in handling DNA work product and return to the submitting agency. **Remaining DNA extracts**, cuttings and slides containing sperm and/or trace evidence, which are a product of forensic analysis, **are being returned** inside the packaging of the original submitted items or separately as a new item which will be noted on the RFLE (Request for Laboratory Examination Form). **Returned DNA extracts have been stabilized** and can be stored at room temperature along with the evidence. If you have questions, please contact your local lab or review the Forensic Services Guide for more information.

Offering Training

Over the past year, the FLSB has provided over 100 different training opportunities across the state. Training has been varied, from Investigators to Prosecutors and Defense Attorneys, to Dept of Corrections officers and Fire Investigators and Medical Examiners. Different venues for training included the WSP Academy in Shelton, the CJTC in Burien, as well as numerous agencies all over the state. A wide variety of topics were covered in the training, such as collection of DNA at crime scenes, signature verifications for voter recognition, forensic photography, latent prints collection, and collection of DNA samples for the felon database, among many other topics.

If your agency is interested in having us meet with you to discuss lab capabilities or evidence collection, please contact the lab nearest you. No doubt we will see you at planned training conferences, but we also can set up specific training for agencies.

WSP FLSB:

<http://www.wsp.wa.gov/forensics/flsbhome.htm>

FLSB KUDOS Corner

• The FLSB is proud of its laboratory accreditations through the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) and the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT). In addition to laboratory accreditations, many scientists also have individual certification in specific forensic disciplines. Certifications for staff include the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC), the International Association for Identification (IAI), the International Association of Property and Evidence (IAPE) or the ABFT. These programs require not just satisfactory completion of a very rigorous exam but also have ongoing requirements for yearly recertification. Kudos to FLSB staff who have achieved this level of forensic professionalism.

• In 2011, the FBI conducted audits of the DNA CODIS program in the Marysville and Vancouver Labs. In February 2012, the Marysville CODIS program was audited by the Office of the Inspector General. All laboratories participating in the FBI CODIS program must adhere to national procedures, DNA Quality Assurance Standards, applicable federal and state laws, in addition to the WSP CLD manuals. No adverse findings were noted in any of these audits. This strong commitment to quality by the DNA staff in the Marysville and Vancouver Crime Labs provides the foundation to the success of the CODIS program and we are proud of these accomplishments! Thank you!

• In 2011, several of our labs hosted blood drives for donations to local blood banks. Kudos to Linda Edwards of the Vancouver lab and to Mark Strongman of the Seattle lab for coordinating these very important programs in their labs.

Forensic Links

- American Academy of Forensic Sciences (www.aafs.org)
- American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (www.aafs.org)
- Association of Firearms and Toolmark Examiners (www.afte.org)
- Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists (www.nwafs.org)
- International Association for Identification (www.theiai.org)
- Criminal Justice Training Commission (<http://www.cjtc.state.wa.us/>)

Impaired Driving Symposium

- The Impaired Driving Section is hosting a statewide [Impaired Driving Training Symposium](#) May 3 – 5th, 2012, at the Westin Hotel in Bellevue. This will be a hard-hitting training for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges and treatment/probation officials. Anyone wishing to attend must first receive supervisory approval, and then register via the NEW IDS WEBSITE!
- To register for the Symposium, go to the new Impaired Driving website at: <http://duienforcers.camp7.org/>
- **Early Bird Registration: \$75** (increases to \$100 after April 1st)
- Please sign up well in advance to ensure a spot.