Benefits of Participation

INTRODUCTION

A Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory (RCFL) is a computer forensics laboratory and training center that is devoted entirely to the examination of digital evidence in support of criminal investigations, such as, but not limited to—

- Terrorism
- Murder
- Child pornography/crimes against children
- Crimes of violence
- The theft or destruction of intellectual property
- Financial, property, or Internet crimes
- Fraud
- Trade secret theft.

RCFLS BENEFIT LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

An RCFL is a partnership between the FBI and other law enforcement agencies operating within a geographic region. Organizations that enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the FBI become participating agencies in the RCFL. In this capacity, they detail staff members to staff the laboratory, and in return, they and their personnel receive—

- Access to digital forensics examination and advisory services
- Seven weeks of the same sophisticated technical training that is provided to FBI's certified computer forensics Examiners
- Compensation of any overtime worked
- Exposure to the most technologically advanced computer equipment available. The FBI invests an estimated $26,000 per workstation and updates the equipment approximately every two years
- Broad experience in a variety of digital forensics cases
- An RCFL-issued cell phone and use of a government-leased vehicle
- A stake in the management of the RCFL.

TRAINING IS KEY

RCFL detailees receive the same training and certification that is provided to the FBI's Computer Analysis Response Team (CART). Many RCFL Examiners cite the opportunity to obtain the prestigious CART certification and follow-on training as one of the greatest benefits of joining the Program. The FBI invests an average of $13,000 in their first year and $10,000 in the second year per new Examiner.

THE NEED FOR COMPUTER FORENSICS EXPERTISE CONTINUES TO RISE

The RCFL Program represents a national effort to use digital evidence to prosecute white-collar and violent crimes. Today, RCFLs are available to over 4,000 law enforcement agencies spanning 17 states with locations in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Buffalo, New York; Centennial, Colorado; Chicago, Illinois; Dallas, Texas; Dayton, Ohio; Hamilton, New Jersey; Houston, Texas; Kansas City, Missouri; Louisville, Kentucky; Menlo Park, California; Orange, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Portland, Oregon; Salt Lake City, Utah, and; San Diego, California.

The widespread use of computers has led to an increasing number of cases in which digital media is presented as evidence. In Fiscal Year 2012, the RCFL Program achieved the following accomplishments —

- Received **5,060** requests for service
- Conducted **8,566** digital forensics examinations
- Trained **6,500** law enforcement personnel
- Processed **5,986** TB of data
- Provided assistance in **553** onsite operations conducted by law enforcement

For more information, contact the National Program Office:

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