









## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

PART I: R	ACI DDA			
DVKII.K	CEL PRI	11 - K / IVI	IIVERVI	I – WV

**PART III: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** 

	About Operational Technology Division	
	Message from the Assistant Director	6
	About RCFL	8
	RCFL Website	9
	RCFL Locations	10
	Program Accomplishments	12
	Laboratory Achievements	14
	Partnership	16
	Asset Forfeiture Program	17
	Assuring Quality Services	18
	On the Horizon for FY23	19
Ά	RT II: RCFL PROFILES Chicago RCFL	22
	Greater Houston RCFL	24
	Heart of America RCFL	26
	Intermountain West RCFL	28
	Kentucky RCFL	30
	New England RCFL	32
	New Jersey RCFL	34
	New Mexico RCFL	36
	North Texas RCFL	38
	Northwest RCFL	40
	Orange County RCFL	42
	Philadelphia RCFL	44
	Rocky Mountain RCFL	46
	San Diego RCFL	48
	Silicon Valley RCFL	50
	Tennessee Valley RCFL	52
	Western New York RCFL	54



## **Technology and Collaboration**

The Operational Technology Division (OTD) is celebrating 20 years of creating and delivering technology-based solutions that enable FBI special agents, fellow law enforcement officers, and foreign counterparts to do their jobs successfully.

OTD provides innovative technical support and training to FBI field personnel across our counterterrorism, counterintelligence, cyber, and criminal programs. The FBI maintains its technological edge through the application of applied science and engineering resources by OTD's electronic surveillance experts, communications specialists, and technical staff.

Since the resilience of law enforcement can be measured by its response to the challenges of new and emerging technologies, OTD also engages in collaboration with federal, local, state, and international partners. The FBI's Regional Computer Forensics Laboratories are a stellar example of the type of collaboration OTD pursues. Helping to train state and local digital forensic examiners only makes all of law enforcement more resilient.

As technology evolves, our approach to technical problem-solving and collaboration must keep pace. OTD is proud to support the successful execution of the FBI mission and to do our part in helping create our nation's next generation of solutions to technological challenges facing law enforcement.



#### **OTD Mission**

To deliver technology-based solutions which enable and enhance the FBI's intelligence, national security, and law enforcement operations.

#### **Digital Forensics and Analytics Section**

The Digital Forensics and Analytics Section (DFAS) is dedicated to supporting digital forensic processing; electronic device analysis; forensic personnel training, certification, and development; multimedia exploitation and training; forensic tool test, development, and deployment; critical incident/surge support for digital forensic operations; and the RCFL.

The mission of the RCFL NPO is to provide innovative solutions and strategic leadership to new and existing RCFLs. The following are key goals of the RCFL program:



#### Goal 1

Provide timely, professional, and technically advanced digital forensic services to the law enforcement agencies in a laboratory's service area.



#### Goal 2

Fully utilize legal, applied science, and engineering capabilities to support digital forensic examinations.



#### Goal 3

Increase the confidence of investigators, prosecutors, and judges in the digital forensic examination discipline through standardized training and forensic protocols.



## **FROM THE ASSISTANT** DIRECTOR

As the Assistant Director of the FBI's Operational Technology Division (OTD), I am pleased to present to you the 2022 Regional Computer Forensics Laboratories (RCFL) Annual Report.

Given the technological and fiscal challenges facing law enforcement, the prospect of each law enforcement agency individually taking on technology-driven challenges is neither realistic nor prudent. As a former FBI Supervisory Special Agent in the Counterterrorism Division, I served as a staff detailee to the ClA's Counterterrorism Center - WMD Department where I coordinated intelligence sharing. I later oversaw detailees to the CIA, NCTC, and NSA. I am aware of how new diverse and complex communications technologies threaten investigative capabilities every day, and the need for collaboration between federal, state, and local partners.

I can confidently say the FBI's RCFLs are a great example of collaboration between the FBI and state and local law enforcement partners. The RCFL model originated from a shared need across our community to develop digital forensic best practices for the admissible recovery and authentication of stored digital evidence in judicial proceedings. Today, there are 17 RCFLs located around the country, not only recovering and processing petabytes of critical digital evidence, but also acting as a force multiplier. These RCFLs help train state and local digital forensic examiners, who frequently return to their home agencies to expand their own digital evidence capacity.

"RCFLs are a great example of collaboration between the FBI and ... law enforcement partners."



#### **Michael Paul**

**Assistant Director** 

Operational Technology Division

As technology evolves and becomes more novel, so too must our teamwork. Knowledge gained or shared with fellow law enforcement agencies is one of the most valuable means of strengthening our response to the pace of technological change. I am encouraged by our collaboration and impressed with the collective results it is producing. I hope you enjoy reading about the achievements of the RCFL program in FY22, as well as the individual RCFL success stories.

Given every agency must continually monitor and react to the relentless evolution of technology, I look forward to our sustained and continued collaborations and successful partnerships throughout FY23.

## Our Executive Management Team executes the day-to-day operations of OTD by setting and implementing a strategy for achieving successful outcomes.

#### **Meet our Executive Staff**



Antonio Santiago

Deputy Assistant Director

Technical Collections Analysis Readiness



Gabriel Rodriguez
Assistant Section Chief
Digital Forensics & Analytics



Jeffrey Coburn
Section Chief
Digital Forensics & Analytics



**Linda Grody Unit Chief**Digital Evidence Field Operations

## **ABOUT RCFL**



Digital forensics is the application of science and engineering to the recovery of digital evidence in a legally acceptable method. Digital Forensic Examiners (DFEs) use tested and validated tools, techniques, and procedures to locate and analyze potential legal evidence in a variety of electronic devices, software programs, operating systems, removable media, and other digital technologies capable of storing data.

This report chronicles the progress and accomplishments of the RCFL program during FY22, which covers October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022.



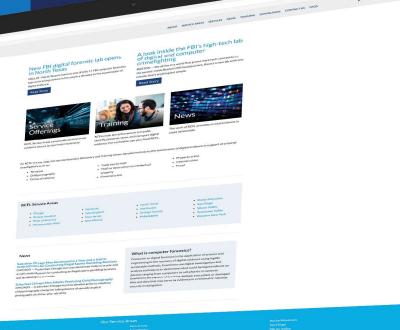
#### **RCFL National Program Office (NPO)**

The RCFL NPO supports the RCFL program—a national network of FBI-sponsored accredited digital forensic laboratories and training centers devoted to the examination of digital evidence in support of all investigations ranging from criminal to counterterrorism.

The RCFL program seeks accreditation through the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) formerly American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/ Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD). Currently, all 17 RCFLs hold international accreditation under the CART Headquarters accreditation. Collectively, the program is providing expert digital forensic services and training available to approximately 4,800 law enforcement agencies. We estimate that a third of law enforcement agencies in the United States have participated in RCFL training.

#### **RCFL Website**

Check out the RCFL.gov website. It provides information on services and trainings offered at the RCFLs and news on investigations supported by the RCFL examiners.





#### **RCFL WEBSITE**

The RCFL.gov website is the singular point of presence on the internet for the RCFL program. The website provides a wide variety of information about the program, the various RCFLs, and how law enforcement agencies around the country benefit from the services provided by the program.

News stories are highlighted on the website that relate to cases the laboratories have supported, but other topics are also covered -- for example, laboratory openings or anniversary events, accreditation news, links to feature stories about the RCFLs that appear in other news outlets, etc. The RCFLs offer training to our law enforcement partners. Workshops and courses are offered on their websites and range from beginner to advanced on various digital forensic tools and techniques.

#### Some of the services provided are:



EVIDENCE SOON

**Pre-Seizure Consultation** 

**On-site Seizure and Collection** 







Prompt, Accurate, and Impartial Forensic Examinations of Digitally Stored Media





## **RCFL Locations**

There are 17 fully operational RCFLs. **RCFLs provide coverage to 23 states** throughout the United States.



#### <u>Alabama</u> Huntsville, TVRCFL

#### **California**

Los Angeles, OCRCFL Menlo Park, SVRCFL San Diego, SDRCFL

#### **Colorado**

Centennial, RMRCFL

#### Illinois

Chicago, CGRCFL

#### **Kentucky**

Louisville, KRCFL

Massachusetts Chelsea, NERCFL

#### Missouri

Kansas City, HARCFL

#### **New Jersey**

Hamilton, NJRCFL

#### **New Mexico**

Albuquerque, NMRCFL

#### **New York**

Buffalo, WNYRCFL

#### **Pennsylvania**

Philadelphia, PHRCFL

#### **Oregon**

Portland, NWRCFL

#### **Texas**

Dallas, NTRCFL Houston, GHRCFL

Salt Lake City, IWRCFL





## **PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

During FY22, the RCFL program provided the following services to the federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies they support. The following statistics reflect work completed by the RCFLs.

**Increase in Examiner Testimony** 

52%

#### **Courtroom Testimony**

In FY22, the total number of times RCFL forensic examiners testified in court increased by 52% from FY21. Our Digital Forensic Examiners are fully trained and certified in being expert witnesses in court. The significance of this increase indicates the trust our law enforcement partners have in our examiners ability to extract digital evidence and to provide expert testimony on their findings.

#### **Agencies Requesting Assistance**



LOCAL

**584** 



**FEDERAL** 

**71** 



**STATE** 

43

Number of agencies that requested RCFL assistance.

## **Service Requests Received**



**LOCAL** 

4,505



**FEDERAL** 

4,425



STATE

**705** 

Number of requests for assistance received by all RCFLs.

#### **Digital Forensic Services**



**Searches** 

615

Number of requests for assistance where lab personnel conducted a search on-site.



Examiner Court Testimony\*

**76** 

Number of times RCFL examiners testified in court and/or at hearings.



**Free RCFL Program Training\*** 

2,495

Number of law enforcement personnel who received training in use of digital forensic tools and/or techniques at the RCFLs.

\*Training and examiner testimony statistics are maintained locally by each RCFL.

## LAB ACHIEVEMENTS

Laboratories within the RCFL program have played a key role in many high-profile investigations, including terrorism, child exploitation, and criminal investigations to name a few. Certified RCFL Digital Forensic Examiners (DFEs) conduct examinations on various electronic devices, such as computers, mobile devices, and other digital media, in the controlled setting of the laboratory. The examiners counsel law enforcement on the proper techniques associated with seizing and handling sensitive electronic equipment and assist with on-site seizure of same.

Although much of the work performed by the RCFL personnel on a day-to-day basis goes unnoted in major news outlets, it is often the most critical part of an investigation. In addition to the RCFL pages, this page recognizes those employees or RCFLs who have made noteworthy accomplishments or contributions.

The categories for recognition of an achievement include the following:

- RCFL staff member award
- Technical achievement in research and development
- · Case related achievement
- · Milestone for the RCFL
- Space enhancement to the RCFL





- Award: Task-Force Officer, DFE Kurt Buhts, received a Positive Specific Contacts Award from Kentucky State Police for his outstanding performance during a federal on-site search.
- Achievement: DFE Natalie Nemeth finished the FBI's intensive Senior Forensic Examiner program.



- Technical: Senior DFE Justin
  Lazenby created a macro-based
  Microsoft Office template system
  automating notes and digital report
  creation for use by all laboratory
  personnel.
- Achievement: All examiners completed the Forensic Audio Visual Program (FAVP) certification.



Technical: The PHRCFL increased the equipment and technical capabilities at the PHRCFL by adding and updating examiner equipment provided by the Operational Technology Division (OTD), Digital Evidence Field Operations (DEFO) Unit.



- Award: Senior DFE Michael
  D'Angelis was recognized for
  his technical and analytical work
  regarding an Alabama attorney and
  former staff member of Governor
  Kay Ivey's office who pleaded guilty
  to possession of child pornography.
  Upon being arrested, the subject's
  cell phone was seized, and
  Senior DFE D'Angelis discovered
  approximately 69 videos and four
  images of child sexual abuse
  material (CSAM).
- Case Related: DFE Jeff Baker was instrumental in the conviction of Stephen Frederick Ott to 320 years in prison followed by a lifetime of supervised release. A forensic examination of the Secure Digital (SD) card belonging to Ott had approximately 165 images of a minor victim.
- Technical: TVRCFL obtained a second Mobile Unlock Service (MDUS) device / license to enhance the laboratory's mobile device unlocking capabilities.



Award: Special Agent Forensic Examiner (SA/FE) Scott Romus and DFE Nicholas Rogers were presented with Letters of Commendation from the Cheektowaga Police Department for their digital forensic examination of a subject vehicle used in a hit-andrun "which provided the officers the essential evidence needed to arrest the person responsible" for leaving an elderly man in grave condition.

### **PARTNERSHIP**

#### Welcome!

The first RCFL was established in San Diego, California, in 1999 and began as a cooperative effort between the FBI and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to address digital evidence.

The most significant resource RCFLs possess is their talented staff of digital forensic examiners. This year, the RCFL was fortunate enough to have 135 law enforcement partners from state, local, and federal agencies, including the following new participating agencies:



#### **New Participating Agencies**

**Heart of America RCFL (HARCFL)** Belton, Missouri, Police Department

**New England RCFL (NERCFL)** U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Northwest RCFL (NWRCFL) Clark County Sheriff's Office

Orange County RCFL (OCRCFL) Garden Grove Police Department

Philadelphia RCFL (PHRCFL) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

San Diego RCFL (SDRCFL) California National Guard



#### **RCFL Benefits of Participation**

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 (MOU) with the FBI become participating agencies in the RCFL. In this capacity, participating agencies detail personnel to staff the laboratory, and in return, they and their personnel receive the following benefits of participation:

- Participating agencies receive priority service for analysis.
- Detailees from state and local agencies receive the same sophisticated technical training that is provided to FBI's certified digital forensic examiners.
- Detailees from state/local agencies have the potential to receive compensation for overtime worked and the use of a government-leased automobile while on official duty.
- Detailees from state and local agencies are provided stateof-the-art forensic equipment for use at the RCFLs. The FBI invests significant funds on computer examination workstations and advanced software for all certified and forensic examiners in training.
- Participating agencies receive access to mobile device unlocking services and other advanced forensic techniques.
- Participating agencies receive immediate access to expert analysis and advance technology—not only the examiners at that particular RCFL, but nationwide due to the forensic network.
- Participating agencies receive a stake in the management of the RCFL.

# ASSET FORFEITURE PROGRAM



#### **Program Overview**

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Asset Forfeiture Program's (AFP) mission is to use asset forfeiture as a tool to deter, disrupt, and dismantle criminal enterprises by depriving criminals of the instruments of illicit activity. The AFP touches federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the country.

The AFP's primary goals are:

- To punish and deter criminal activity by depriving criminals of property used in or acquired through illegal activities
- To promote and enhance cooperation among federal, state, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement agencies
- To recover assets that may be used to compensate victims when authorized under federal law
- To ensure the AFP is administered professionally, lawfully, and in a manner consistent with sound public policy

To achieve these goals, DOJ uses asset forfeiture to the fullest extent possible to investigate, identify, seize, and forfeit the assets of criminals and their organizations, while ensuring that due process rights of all property owners are protected. Asset forfeiture plays a critical role in disrupting and dismantling illegal enterprises, depriving criminals of the proceeds of illegal activity, deterring crime, and restoring the property to victims. The effective use of both criminal and civil asset forfeiture is an essential component of the Department's efforts to combat the most sophisticated criminal actors and

organizations—including terrorist financiers, cyber criminals, fraudsters, human traffickers, and transnational drug cartels.

Since 1994, DOJ has made funding available from the Asset Forfeiture Fund (AFF) for the payment of various costs incurred by sworn state and local law enforcement officers participating in joint law enforcement operations with federal agencies.

The FBI is partnered with DOJ in the AFF Program. This partnership allows the RCFL program to support reimbursement of overtime and training as well as provide leased vehicles to sworn officers assigned to the laboratories. The RCFL program has benefited from its ongoing partnership with AFF each year since 2006.



#### **How the Program Works**

Each year, the RCFL NPO, as part of the annual request for allocation of resources from the AFF, submits a proposal for funding to allow the FBI to support the offsetting of costs to sworn state and local law enforcement officers.

Because AFF resources are awarded to the FBI on an annual basis, there is no guarantee that these benefits will be available from one year to the next.

## **ASSURING QUALITY** SERVICES

The RCFL program is deeply committed to providing the highest quality digital forensic services to the law enforcement community and is recognized by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB). The accreditation is a formal demonstration of competence, reliability, and trusted results. Conforming to the international forensic community standards further enhances and strengthens public confidence in the laboratories. Recognizing the objective of the quality program to continuously improve, the accreditation is reviewed on a four-year cycle.

The ANAB/American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) program is a voluntary initiative in which any crime laboratory can participate to demonstrate its management, operations, personnel, procedures, and safety protocols meet established standards.

In April of 2016, ASCLD/LAB merged into the ANAB organization. The RCFLs began transitioning to the ANAB accreditation program beginning in FY18. The RCFL program is now fully transitioned to the ANAB banner under the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standards.





#### **Benefits of Accreditation**



Although RCFLs follow strict FBI protocols and quality assurance/ quality control procedures, additional benefits of earning ANAB accreditation include:

#### Improves Quality —

Accreditation heightens the quality of RCFLs services because an independent. impartial, and objective team of experts review the laboratory's findings and operations. Accredited laboratories must follow appropriate quality controls and quality assurance procedures.

Strengthens Operations — Accreditation ensures an RCFL is abiding by criteria that are designed to assess performance, while also strengthening operations.

#### Promotes Standards —

The general public and RCFL customers are assured that the laboratory is following established and widely accepted standards

#### Guarantees Examiner

**Qualifications** — ANAB requires that laboratories have certified examiners on staff. All RCFL examiners undergo the FBI's Computer Analysis Response Team (CART) certification process and cannot perform examinations independently without successfully completing this process. The certification implies that an examiner has a certain body of knowledge and counters a recent trend where an investigator takes a short course in digital forensics and is deemed an "expert."

#### Protects Evidence —

Accreditation will reinforce the program's already stringent handling procedures.

#### **Ensures Accurate Results** —

Accreditation can enhance forensic results by requiring sufficient written protocols that serve as an empirical basis for the most basic and complex procedures.

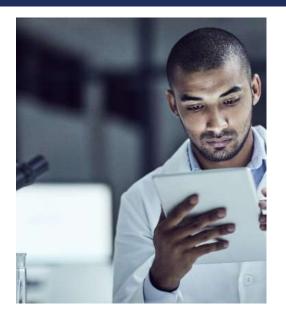
## ON THE HORIZON FOR FY23

#### **Master Digital Forensic Examiner Certification**

It is essential that CART Digital Forensic Examiners (DFEs) continue to grow and develop. CART's mission presents a great number of challenges that tests the skills and abilities of even the most seasoned and experienced examiner. The Digital Evidence Staffing Education and Development Unit (DESEDU) is charged with providing the DFEs with the training and development resources to cultivate the skills to meet those challenges. The levels of CART Digital Forensic Examiner Certification are:

- Digital Forensic Examiner (DFE)
- Senior Digital Forensic Examiner (SDFE)
- Master Digital Forensic Examiner (MDFE)

The MDFE Certification process has been designed as a process for SDFEs to demonstrate that they have reached CART's highest tier of forensic examiner, MDFE. Within CART, the MDFE is intended to be a master in the field of digital forensics and able to meet the demands of the MDFE role as described in the Information Technology Specialist (ITS) DFE GS-14 Master position description. The MDFE Certification process is in its final stages of approval and should begin accepting applications for candidates in FY23.



#### **CART-X Conference**



Due to Hurricane Ian, CART-X Conference had to be cancelled in September 2022 and postponed. DESEDU plans to reschedule the conference to the spring of FY23 in Orlando, Florida. Attendees will be exposed to a variety of topics during this 3-day conference. As the demands of the FE community increases, in both quantity and complexity, it is important to gather representatives from across the Bureau to assist in workforce modernization, share best practices, and learn about resources and capabilities.

#### **Mobile Lab**



The CART Mobile Lab is a self-contained digital forensic laboratory housed within a modified cargovan chassis. It gives RCFL DFEs the ability to acquire, process, and analyze digital evidence on-scene, or on the move, for operations ranging from standard search operations to large critical incidents and mass casualty events. Currently, eight of the 17 RCFLs in the country have a Mobile Lab (Silicon Valley RCFL, Orange County RCFL, Chicago RCFL, Heart of America RCFL, Intermountain West RCFL, Kentucky, New Mexico RCFL, and North Texas). On the horizon in FY23, Chicago, Kentucky, North Texas, and Silicon Valley RCFLs will receive new Mobile Labs. With future funding, RCFL NPO is hoping to replace and/or add additional Mobile Labs to the RCFLs.



## **PART II: RCFL PROFILES**



Partnership is at the core of the RCFL program. Each RCFL is managed and led by a Local Executive Board (LEB), consisting of federal, state, and local law enforcement organizations known as participating agencies. These boards oversee the operations of the individual RCFL with which they are affiliated.

Chicago RCFL	22
Greater Houston RCFL	24
Heart of America RCFL	26
Intermountain West RCFL	28
Kentucky RCFL	30
New England RCFL	32
New Jersey RCFL	34
New Mexico RCFL	36
North Texas RCFL	38
Northwest RCFL	40
Orange County RCFL	42
Philadelphia RCFL	44
Rocky Mountain RCFL	46
San Diego RCFL	48
Silicon Valley RCFL	50
Tennessee Valley RCFL	52
Western New York RCFL	54





































The CGRCFL provides assistance to law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction in northern Illinois. The Local Executive Board (LEB) has authorized the RCFL Director to accept significant cases from any agency in the service area.







Laboratory Director

Director John T. Dziedzic

Cook County

Sheriff's Office



Since **2003** 



Service Area
Northern Illinois



Since 2009



# of Agencies in area:364

#### **TOP FIVE CRIMES**

- 1. Homicide
- 2. Obscenity
- 3. Dangerous Drugs
- 4. Weapon Offense
- 5. Assault

#### **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

- Berwyn Police Department
- Carol Stream Police Department
- Chicago Police Department
- Cook County Sheriff's Office
- Cook County State's Attorney's Office
- FBI—Chicago Division
- Joliet Police Department
- Lombard Police Department
- Oak Park Police Department
- Rockford Police Department
- Romeoville Police Department
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Will County Sheriff's Office

#### **NOTABLE NEWS**

#### **Sex Trafficking**

Charles Fears and Samuel Nichols were indicted for conspiracy to engage in the sex trafficking of minors and sex trafficking of adult and minor victims by force, fraud, and coercion. The men used force, fraud, and coercion to cause multiple women and children, some as young as 13-years-old, to engage in commercial sex acts. The men would flash money in social media posts to flaunt their roles as traffickers and use the trafficking money to fund a Chicago-area rap group. Fears pleaded guilty to federal conspiracy and sex trafficking charges, and he received a 30-year prison term, court supervision for life, and ordered to pay more than \$1.6 million in restitution to the victims. Nichols pleaded guilty as well and received a sentence of life in prison.

CGRCFL examiners processed multiple devices recovered from Fears and Nichols. Because of the work of the forensic examiners recovering an overwhelming amount of evidence from these devices, both defendants pleaded guilty.

#### **Mass Shooting**

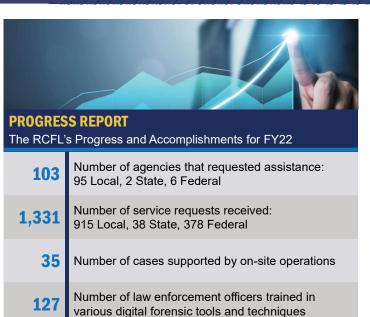
A subject, Robert Crimo III, age 21, has been indicted on 117 felony counts, all of which include murder, attempted murder, and aggravated battery. Crimo allegedly killed seven people and wounded 48 others during the Highland Park Fourth of July parade. Crimo dressed in women's clothing and wore makeup to hide the tattoos on his face, so he would not be recognized on the day of the attack. He had climbed stairs of a building at the northwest corner of Central Avenue and Second Street to reach the rooftop, where he opened fire to the crowd below. He then ran down the alley dropping a rifle wrapped in a cloth, all of which was caught on video. After an eight hour manhunt and a brief car chase, he was finally arrested.

CGRCFL examiners immediately responded to the scene of the mass shooting in which a Fourth of July Parade was targeted. CGRCFL examiners assisted in the collection and processing of video captured in the incident. Examiners were quickly able to identify the perpetrator and provide the footage to the local police, leading to the identification of the perpetrator. Subsequently, CGRCFL examiners processed multiple devices recovered from Robert Crimo III after his arrest.



The CGRCFL is a unique partnership that promotes quality and strengthens computer forensics capacity.







Number of times personnel testified in court

## **GOALS** for FY23

- **Staffing:** Increase staffing at the CGRCFL from current levels.
- Accreditation: Maintain requirements for ANSI-ASQ
   National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accreditation, and complete annual audits and training.
- **3 Certification:** Increase the number of fully certified examiners at the CGRCFL.
  - **Expansion:** Establish the CGRCFL's second satellite location in the South Suburban Chicagoland area.





- Accreditation: The CGRCFL met all requirements for the ANAB accreditation, and submitted all documents as required.
- **Examiners:** The CGRCFL added one additional certified forensic examiner in FY22.

**Training:** Through participating agencies and other government agencies, the CGRCFL was able to procure funding and host vendor training enabling the growth of our examiners.

**Transition:** Due to limitations and functionality issues in Digital Content Analysis Platform (DCAP) 2.0, the CGRCFL has not been able to fully transition as planned.









All law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction in the Greater Houston RCFL's service area are eligible to request and receive assistance. The service area includes Harris County and 39 southern counties in Texas.







**Laboratory Director SSA Scott Ma FBI Houston Division** 



Since 2005



Service Area **Southern Texas** 



Since 2009



# of Agencies in area:327

#### TOP FIVE CRIMES

- 1. Homicide
- 2. Smuggling Aliens
- 3. Sexual Exploitation/Enticement of a Minor
- 4. Dangerous Drugs
- 5. Assault

#### **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

- FBI—Houston Division
- Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office
- Harris County Sheriff's Office
- Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection

#### **NOTABLE NEWS**

**Drug Trafficking** 

Jason Edward Simpson, a 34-year-old Houston man, has been ordered to federal prison for numerous drug and firearm convictions. The jury deliberated for approximately three hours before convicting Simpson, following a four-day trial. He was convicted of two counts of possession with the intent to distribute controlled substances and conspiracy to do so, as well as conspiracy to carry or possess a firearm in relation to and in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. The judge ordered Simpson to serve 168 months in federal prison followed by five years of supervised release.

At the hearing, the court heard additional information, including evidence of Simpson's violent prior convictions. The court also heard about Simpson boasting as to his leadership role in the Gangster Disciples on social media, in emails, and phone calls he made while in custody. He had also claimed he provided "A1" ecstasy to the "entire third ward." In handing down the prison term, the judge noted Simpson's criminal history, which included convictions for aggravated robbery, assaulting a law enforcement officer, burglary of a vehicle, and various controlled substance offenses.

The GHRCFL assisted with this case by examining three submitted cellular phones.

#### Material Support to ISIS

Asher Abid Khan of Spring, Texas, was convicted of providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization. Khan pleaded guilty to providing material support to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), aka ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham). U.S. District Court Judge sentenced Khan to 144 months in federal prison to be immediately followed by 15 years of supervised release.

The GHRCFL assisted with a search warrant and examinations of over a dozen evidence items to include a desktop, laptop, cell phones, hard drives, and thumb drives.



The GHRCFL is a unique partnership that promotes quality and strengthens computer forensics capacity.





Number of service requests received: **580** 235 Local, 21 State, 324 Federal

Number of cases supported by on-site operations

Number of law enforcement officers trained in various digital forensic tools and techniques

Number of times personnel testified in court



#### **GOALS** for FY23

1

28

44

- Certification: Enhance and expand examiners' skills and knowledge through online and in-person courses and certifications.
- Enhancements: Enhance laboratory capabilities and practices through the acquisition of additional technology and hardware.
- Accreditation: Adhere to high quality standards on work performed and maintain ANŚI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accreditation.
- Training: Provide or host Case Agent Investigative Review (CAIR) and other forensic technology related trainings to federal, state, and local investigators. Foster Partnerships: Provide mobile device unlock and repair services to agencies within the Houston

area and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Support: Provide forensic support to other Field Offices and FBIHQ through examinations and temporary duty assignments when needed.



Enhance Training: All Digital Forensic Examiners (DFEs) completed at least one continuing education training. Digital Forensic Examiner Trainees (DFETs) completed various training courses towards their certification, including a Capstone. One DFE completed his Senior Moot Court.

Enhance Laboratory Capabilities: The GHRCFL received and implemented equipment for Digital Content Analysis Platform (DCAP) 2.0. The GHRCFL installed an application on the wide area network and SQL server on DCAP 2.0 for case agent review accessibility. The GHRCFL completed the Mobile Device Unlocking Service (MDUS) work area extension.

> Maintain ANAB Accreditation: The GHRCFL completed an internal audit and addressed the findings. The GHRCFL performed 100 percent of technical and administrative reviews to maintain ANAB accreditation.

Provide Training: The GHRCFL provided Digital Video Retrieval Training (DIVRT) and CAIR trainings to FBI and local agencies.

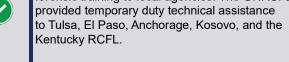
> Foster Partnerships: The GHRCFL provided mobile forensic training to local agencies. The GHRCFL provided temporary duty technical assistance to Tulsa, El Paso, Anchorage, Kosovo, and the Kentucky RCFL.

**Completed** 











Welcome to the HARCFL. The HARCFL is a ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) certified Computer Forensics Laboratory located in Kansas City, Missouri.







Laboratory Director SSA Zachary Jury FBI Kansas City Division



Since **2003** 



Service Area Kansas and Western two-thirds of Missouri



Since **2007** 



# of Agencies in area:867

#### **TOP FIVE CRIMES**

- 1. Homicide
- 2. Assault
- 3. Exploitation/Enticement
- 4. Dangerous Drugs
- 5. Robbery

#### **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

- Clay County, Missouri, Sheriff's Office
- FBI—Kansas City Division
- Gladstone, Missouri, Police Department
- ■Independence, Missouri, Police Department
- Kansas Bureau of Investigation
- Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department
- Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department
- ■Lawrence, Kansas, Police Department
- Lee's Summit, Missouri, Police Department
- Missouri State Highway Patrol
- North Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department
- Olathe, Kansas, Police Department
- Overland Park, Kansas, Police Department
- Platte County, Missouri, Sheriff's Office
- U.S. Attorney's Office—District of Kansas
- U.S. Attorney's Office—Western District of Missouri

#### **NOTABLE NEWS**

#### **Swatting**

Shane Gaskill, a Wichita man, pleaded guilty to his role in a swatting case that resulted in a fatal police shooting of Andrew Finch. Gaskill was one of three subjects charged in the swatting incident. While playing a video game, Gaskill had gotten into an argument with subject, Casey Viner. Viner recruited a third subject, Tyler Barriss, to "swat" Gaskill. The term "swatting" is a form of retaliation where someone reports a false emergency to get law enforcement, particularly the S.W.A.T. team, to be called to the scene.

Subject Barriss called the police and made a false report stating there had been a shooting and kidnapping at the alleged address of Gaskill. However, the address provided was outdated and lead the Wichita Police Department's S.W.A.T. team to Finch's address, where he was shot and killed by a Wichita Police Officer. Barriss received a 20-year sentence, and Viner received a 15-month sentence. Gaskill could face up to a maximum of 20 years in prison.

A HARCFL Digital Forensic Examiner (DFE) provided extensive evidence linking Gaskill and the two other subjects, which led to the guilty plea by Gaskill in the swatting incident.

#### **Child Sexual Exploitation**

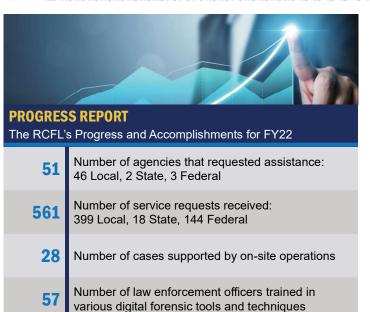
Michael Mastel, a former Wyandotte County Sheriff's Deputy, was sentenced to life in prison for child sex crimes. Mastel was found guilty of rape and three counts of sexual exploitation of a child. According to testimony, Mastel regularly raped the child, touched her inappropriately, and on one occasion forced her to perform oral sex. The victim testified that the abuse began in 2011 when she was around six years old.

A HARCFL DFE discovered a derogatory photo in the slack space of one of the subject's phones that led to corroborating results of the physical forensic exams of the victim. This evidence contributed to the conviction of the subject in the second trial. The DFE testified in both the original trial, which ended in a hung jury, and then subsequently at the second trial, which led to the conviction and life sentence.



The HARCFL's mission is to provide quality law enforcement support through competent, thorough, and professional digital forensic examinations for participating agencies and agencies in our service area.







Number of times personnel testified in court

#### **GOALS**

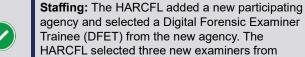
1

**16** 

for FY23

- Reduce Backlog: The HARCFL will address the backlog by having each fully certified DFE complete 40 cases each in FY 23.
- Training: The HARCFL will conduct investigator 2 trainings to increase knowledge of the HARCFL capabilities to participating agencies.
- Accreditation: The HARCFL will maintain high level of quality standards to meet ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accreditation requirements.





agency and selected a Digital Forensic Examiner Trainee (DFET) from the new agency. The HARCFL selected three new examiners from participating agencies.

Accreditation: HARCFL monitored and ensured compliance with ANAB accreditation requirements.

Digital Content Analysis Platform (DCAP) 2.0: The HARCFL hosted employees from the Multimedia Exploitation Unit (MXU), Operational Technology Division (OTD), to train all DFEs and DFETs on DCAP 2.0. In addition, all DFEs and DFETs completed digital analog training for DCAP 2.0.









Our mission is to provide the highest quality digital forensic services and assistance to law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction in Utah, Idaho, and Montana.







Laboratory Director SSA Randy Kim FBI Salt Lake City Division



Since **2005** 



Service Area
Utah, Idaho, and
Montana



Since 2008



# of Agencies in area: 432

#### **TOP FIVE CRIMES**

- 1. Exploitation/Enticement
- 2. Homicide
- 3. Dangerous Drugs
- 4. Assault
- 5. Burglary

#### **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

- Ada County, Idaho, Sheriff's Office
- Billings, Montana, Police Department
- Boise City, Idaho, Police Department
- Davis County, Utah, Sheriff's Office
- FBI—Salt Lake City Division
- Salt Lake City, Utah, Police Department
- Sandy City, Utah, Police Department
- Utah Attorney General's Office
- Utah Department of Public Safety

#### **NOTABLE NEWS**

#### **Mass School Shooting Thwarted**

A 15-year-old female student was arrested by the Weber County Sheriff's office after police say she claimed she was making explosives and planning a mass casualty incident against her school, Weber High School. The investigation began when Weber County Sheriff's deputies received a report of messages from an Instagram account containing terroristic threats including the act of committing a mass school shooting. The FBI had acquired the messages and contacted the Sheriff's Office when learning the account allegedly belonged to a juvenile in Weber County.

The messages referenced needing firearms, bullets, alcohol, and bombs. The student described the act that she was about to perform as a "Columbine-style mass casualty event." The student had electronic videos of herself making and lighting a substance on her home's driveway and describing it as napalm, an incendiary mixture. Upon a search of the home, a diary belonging to the subject was found and an entry in the diary stated she had made napalm and was storing it in a shed. A search warrant stated it was evident she had begun preparing for some type of terroristic event.

The IWRCFL reviewed and processed numerous items of digital evidence, which proved to be invaluable during the investigation.

#### Civil Disorder

Jackson Stuart Tamowski Patton, of Salt Lake City, was sentenced to 24 months in federal prison for his role in the burning of a police car during the civil unrest in Salt Lake City. He was ordered to pay \$2,500 in restitution and serve 36 months of supervised release after completing his prison sentence. In a plea agreement, Patton admitted he was protesting the killing of George Floyd and that he participated in the burning of the overturned patrol car with the intent and purpose of obstructing, impeding, and interfering with law enforcement officers. Patton pleaded guilty to one felony count of civil disorder for his role.

The IWRCFL enhanced the videos that were submitted to identify the subject in this matter.



To better accommodate our expansive service area, the IWRCFL Satellite Network (ISN) was created and has laboratories in Billings and Boise.







# for FY23 1 Staffing: Enhance staffing. 2 Advanced Certification: Maintain/increase examiner advanced certification. 3 Minimize Backlog: Continue efforts to decrease or maintain minimal backlog. 4 Accreditation: Maintain requirements for ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accreditation, and complete annual audits and training.



Staffing: The IWRCFL replaced retired Digital Forensic Examiners (DFEs) with Task Force Officer (TFO) Forensic Examiner Trainees (FETs) from Sandy Police Department and ADA County Sheriff's Office.

Certification: The IWRCFL staff attended Digital Content Analysis Platform (DCAP) 2.0 training presented by Multimedia Exploitation Unit (MXU), Operational Technology Division (OTD). DFEs completed software trainings in data recovery, mobile device forensics, vehicle digital forensics, and Windows forensics.

**Minimize Backlog:** The IWRCFL decreased the backlog to zero by the end of the fiscal year.

Accreditation: The IWRCFL met with the Quality Assurance (QA) manager to ensure all examiners' work met all ANAB guidelines.









The KRCFL's mission is to provide quality law enforcement support through competent, thorough, and professional digital forensic examinations for participating agencies and agencies throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.







Laboratory Director

SSA Kimberly Milka

FBI Louisville Division



Since **2006** 



Service Area
State of Kentucky



Since 2009



# of Agencies in area: 420

#### **TOP FIVE CRIMES**

- 1. Homicide
- 2. Dangerous Drugs
- 3. Exploitation/Enticement
- 4. Sexual Assault
- 5. Assault/Aggravated Assault

#### **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

- ■FBI—Louisville Division
- Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
- Kentucky State Police
- Louisville Metro Police Department
- University of Louisville

#### **NOTABLE NEWS**

#### **Murder and Robbery Plot**

Jacob Lugmayer, 28, and Krystal Erbelding, 34, were arrested for the murder of Kathy Erbelding, who was Krystal's mother. Krystal had purchased a firearm that Lugmayer used to shoot Krystal's mother. The money used to purchase the handgun was transferred from the victim's account. The victim was shot and killed in her home in Hardin County, Kentucky. Lugmayer made an open plea to charges of complicity to commit murder, complicity to commit first-degree robbery, and abuse of a corpse. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Krystal was sentenced to 22 years imprisonment. Her charges were amended to criminal facilitation to commit murder with a set five-year penalty; 12-years to serve for the robbery charge and five-years to serve on the abuse of a corpse charge with all sentences to run consecutively.

KRCFL provided support in processing evidence and was instrumental during this investigation. According to Kentucky State Police, Lugmayer changed his plea to an "open plea" when he discovered that the KRCFL and Operational Technology Division (OTD) examiners were able to access his phone.

#### Former Narcotics Detective

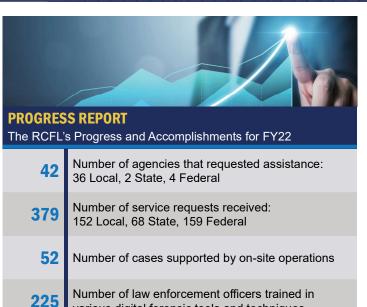
Christopher Wayne Livingood, of Lexington, Kentucky, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 360 months in federal prison for the production of child pornography. Livingood knowingly used an infant victim to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing visual depictions of his conduct. Livingood admitted to producing the pictures on a cellphone and camera, produced outside of Kentucky, as well as transmitting the images to an individual in Indiana via the internet. Livingood used a social media application to communicate with the individual about sexual acts that he wanted to perform on same minor. Livingood was sentenced to 30 years in prison, which was the maximum within statutory guidelines. Livingood was a former narcotics detective with the Paris Police Department in Kentucky.

The KRCFL forensic examiners assisted in the search of Livingood's home and two additional locations. The KRCFL received two mobile devices for advanced processing. The on-site triage of digital evidence by the KRCFL examiners assisted in the arrest of Livingood.



The KRCFL will provide digital forensic services and training to any law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the state of Kentucky.







various digital forensic tools and techniques

Number of times personnel testified in court

#### **GOALS**

for FY23

- Communication: The KRCFL will increase communication with federal, state, and local agencies to promote services, updates, and trainings.
  - Increase Participation: The KRCFL will attempt to add another partner agency from the agencies that have submitted evidence to the KRCFL.
  - Training: The KRCFL will provide and host training for state and local agencies on the seizure and handling of digital evidence and other specific topics.
  - Efficiency: The KRCFL will average 75 service request status changes per examiner by the end of FY23.
  - Certification: The KRCFL will ensure the two Forensic Examiner Trainees (FETs) attain their Digital Forensic Examiner (DFE) certification in FY23.



Increase Participation: The KRCFL increased partner participation by adding a Task Force Officer (TFO) from one of the participating agencies. The KRCFL Lab Director met with the United States Secret Service (USSS), Homeland Security Investigations, and the Georgetown Police Department to recruit as new partner agencies.

Maintain Staffing: The KRCFL increased the number of certified DFEs. The KRCFL now has six certified DFEs and 2 FETs. The KRCFL hosted a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) recruiting event in collaboration with the Computer Scientist and Information Technology Specialist (ITS) positions.

> Training: The KRCFL hosted and provided several trainings for partner agencies. The KRCFL also provided training to FBI personnel and hosted a mobile forensic tool training. The KRCFL leveraged opportunities to provide information to new detectives as well.

Efficiency: For FY22, the KRCFL closed 249 service requests which was an average of 47.9 per DFE.

**Transition:** The KRCFL provided tours to University of Louisville's class in computer forensics and U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer. KRCFL increased communication with stakeholders. KRCFL provided informal tours to customers and FBI employees and leveraged a DFE's senior project to increase FBI Louisville's knowledge of services offered by the KRCFL and its workflow process.











The NERCFL exists to assist federal, state, and local agencies in enforcing criminal laws related to computer-related crimes through the forensic collection, recovery, preservation, processing, analysis, and presentation of digital evidence.







Laboratory Director

SSA Bruce Hartung

FBI Boston Division



Since **2019** 



Service Area
States of Rhode Island,
New Hampshire, Maine
and Massachusetts



Since **2021** 



# of Agencies in area: 759

#### **TOP FIVE CRIMES**

- 1. Weapon Offense
- 2. Exploitation/Enticement
- 3. Homicide
- 4. Dangerous Drugs
- 5. Assault

#### **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

- Boston Police Department
- Brookline Police Department
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- ■FBI—Boston Division
- Framingham Police Department
- Massachusetts State Police
- U.S. Attorney's Office—District of Massachusetts
- ■U.S. Customs and Border Protection www.

#### **NOTABLE NEWS**

#### Kidnap and Murder

Louis D. Coleman III, of Providence, Rhode Island, was found guilty for the kidnap and murder of Jassy Correia. Ms. Correia went out with friends to a nightclub in downtown Boston. Just after 2:00 a.m., Ms. Correia became separated from her friends and tried to get a ride home from an Uber driver who was idling in front of the nightclub. The driver was waiting for a larger group and refused to give Ms. Correia a ride. Seconds later, video surveillance captured Coleman approach Ms. Correia. According to evidence presented at trial, Coleman tricked Ms. Correia into believing he would give her a ride back to her friend's apartment.

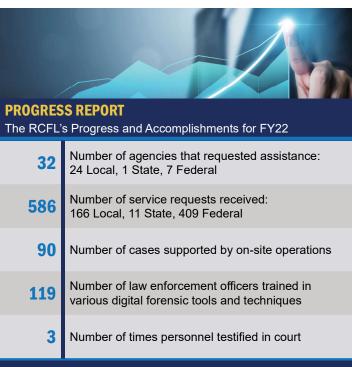
Surveillance footage from Coleman's apartment building showed him walking from the car to the front of the building carrying Ms. Correia's body over his shoulder. Surveillance video from inside his building showed Coleman dragging her towards the elevator and subsequently to his apartment. Days later, Coleman wheeled a suitcase containing the victim's body out of his apartment and into the parking lot where his vehicle was parked. That afternoon, Coleman's vehicle was stopped by law enforcement near Wilmington, Delaware. Officers ordered Coleman out of the vehicle and asked him if anyone else was in the vehicle with him, to which Coleman replied, "she's in the trunk." Officers discovered Ms. Correia's body in the trunk of Coleman's vehicle.

NERCFL examiners found artifacts of internet searches for the terms "how to clean for embalming," "can a person fit in a suitcase," "how to pull a tooth that's not loose," and "target sanitizing bleach." Waze data recovered by the NERCFL was used to recreate Corriea's movements and identify video cameras that had recorded Coleman's actions that night as well as his efforts to cover up what he had done. At the time, Waze data was not parsed by commercial tools, so NERCFL personnel manually analyzed and parsed the raw database entries. NERCFL examiners testified to their examinations. Coleman was sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole.



The NERCFL can examine a wide variety of digital media including, but not limited to, computers, digital storage media, and mobile devices.







**1** Enhancement: Continue to support the Bedford Resident Agency (RA) buildout by staffing and deploying equipment for examiners.

**Efficiency:** NERCFL will continue to keep the number of requests closed at or over the number of requests received to minimize backlog.

**Certification:** Increase the number of certified Digital Forensic Examiners (DFEs).

**Training:** Provide training to investigators on seizure of digital devices, review tools, and other topics to allow them to make better use of NERCFL services.



Increase Efficiency: NERCFL completed a total of 648 requests.

Certification: Two examiners completed their certification. A Task Force Officer (TFO) forensic examiner completed all training up to the Capstone.

Installation: The NERCFL Sytem Administrator completed all assigned objectives related to the rollout of the Digital Content Analysis Platform (DCAP) 2.0 installation with the help of the Operational Technology Division (OTD), Digital Forensics and Analytics Section (DFAS) units.

Training: NERCFL provided courses in Mobile Device Unlocking Service (MDUS), parsing data software, and new agent familiarization. NERCFL completed legal training to U.S. Attorney's Office about the NERCFL, standard operating procedures, and quality program; and to NERCFL and Digital Extraction Technician (DExT) personnel about legal issues relevant to our area of responsibility.









The NJRCFL is an ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) certified Computer Forensics Laboratory located in Hamilton, New Jersey. The NJRCFL provides digital forensic services to any law enforcement agency within the State of New Jersey.







Laboratory Director

SSA Shaun Rodman

FBI Newark Division



Since **2004** 



Service Area
State of New Jersey



Since 2006



# of Agencies in area:526

#### **TOP FIVE CRIMES**

- 1. Exploitation/Enticement
- 2. Dangerous Drugs
- 3. Homicide
- 4. Weapon Offense
- 5. Burglary

#### PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

- FBI—Newark Division
- Hudson County Prosecutor's Office
- Mercer County Prosecutor's Office
- Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
- New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice
- New Jersey State Police

#### **NOTABLE NEWS**

**Child Endangerment** 

John Jackson, a former United States Army Major, and his wife, Carolyn Jackson, were convicted on multiple counts of child endangerment. The Jacksons conspired to engage in a constant course of neglect and cruelty by physically assaulting the children causing the children fractured bones; failed to seek medical attention for their injuries; withheld water; force-fed the children hot sauce and red pepper flakes to cause pain and suffering; and caused one child to ingest excessive sodium while being deprived of water. The Jacksons told their biological children not to report the physical assaults to others, justifying their actions by stating they were "training" the adopted children on how to behave. When Mr. Jackson was informed that his oldest biological child had spoke of the abuse, he informed Mrs. Jackson, and as a result, she beat the biological child 30 times with a belt.

Since the crimes were committed on a military base, the Jacksons were each found guilty in Newark federal court of one count of conspiracy to endanger the welfare of a child. Carolyn Jackson was found guilty of 11 substantive counts of endangering the welfare of a child. John Jackson was found guilty of nine substantive counts of endangering the welfare of a child. The NJRCFL forensically examined digital evidence items that were instrumental to this investigation.

#### **Distribution of Child Pornography**

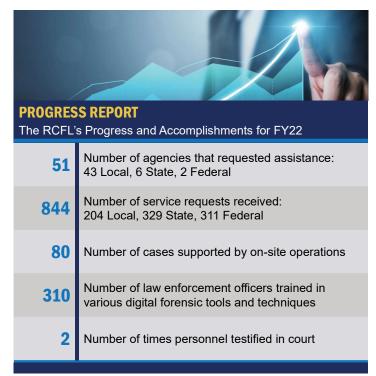
Edwin Torres, of Bridgeton, New Jersey, has been charged by complaint with one count of distribution of child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography. A user from an internet provider linked to Torres' residence uploaded multiple videos of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) to a public chat group. When law enforcement executed a search warrant at Torres' residence, a Google account, associated with the distributed videos, contained over 100 videos of CSAM including the distributed videos. Law enforcement also seized Torres' cellular telephone, which has been used to access the same Google account.

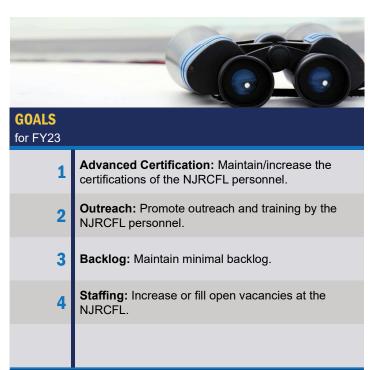
The NJRCFL forensically examined digital evidence items that were instrumental to this investigation.

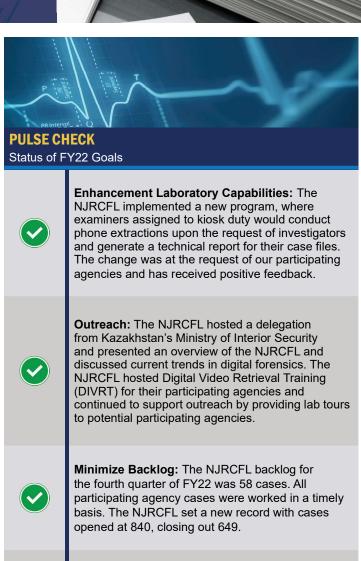


The NJRCFL's mission is to provide quality law enforcement support through competent, thorough, and professional digital forensic examinations for federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the State of New Jersey.













Installation: The NJRCFL rolled out the new

Digital Content Analysis Platform (DCAP) 2.0 and have been using it to support our local partners.





The NMRCFL will provide digital forensic services and training to any law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in New Mexico.







Laboratory Director SSA Andrew Young FBI Albuquerque Division



Since **2011** 





Since **2014** 



# of Agencies in area: 135

#### **TOP FIVE CRIMES**

- 1. Homicide
- 2. Exploitation/Enticement
- 3. Dangerous Drugs
- 4. Assault
- 5. Weapon Offense

#### **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

- Albuquerque Police Department
- Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office
- FBI—Albuquerque Division
- Homeland Security Investigations
- New Mexico State Police Department
- Rio Rancho Police Department
- ■U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement
- University of New Mexico

## NOTABLE NEWS Child Porngraphy

Donald Alvin Tolbert was sentenced to 35 years in prison. Tolbert, 53, of Albuquerque, pleaded guilty to 12 counts of distribution, receipt, and possession of videos and images containing child pornography. According to the plea agreement and other court records, Tolbert sent and received numerous images and videos of child pornography by email. Tolbert then transferred several of those pornographic images and videos between his multiple email accounts. Tolbert also stored videos and images of child pornography on his mother's computers. At the time Tolbert committed these crimes, he had been convicted of sexual offenses previously in New Mexico.

"The U.S. Attorney's Office will bring the full weight of the law to bear upon those who sexually exploit children," said U.S. Attorney Uballez. "This case is an example of how federal, state, and local law enforcement cooperate together to keep our children safe." Upon his release from prison, Tolbert will be subject to 10 years of supervised release and must register as a sex offender.

NMRCFL examiner provided support by processing digital evidence relating to this investigation. Because the work performed by the NMRCFL examiner was so thorough, the defense saw no other option than to plea.

#### **Bank Robbery**

Rhonda Quintana, of Ālbuquerque, New Mexico, was found guilty on one count of aiding and abetting and bank robbery. Quintana drove James Verdream to the Rio Grande Credit Union in Albuquerque. Verdream entered the credit union and passed a demand note to a teller. Verdream took money from the teller, returned to the car, and fled with Quintana. Verdream pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Quintana faces up to 20 years in prison.

NMRCFL examiners assisted investigators in obtaining data from their cellphones and providing expert testimony at trial.



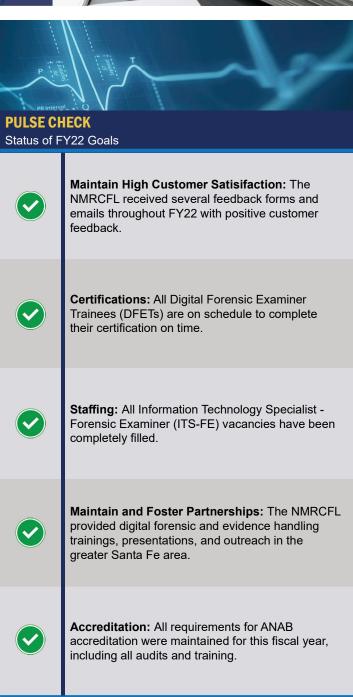
Benefits of participation in an RCFL are numerous. Partner agencies contribute personnel and resources to staff and maintain the operations of the NMRCFL.







backlog.



**In Progress** 

Completed

**Accomplished** 



The NTRCFL service area is represented by 137 counties in Texas. The service area is about 119,360 square miles. The population is about 7,636,000, and there are about 30,000 law enforcement officers.







Laboratory Director

SSA Thomas Tedder

FBI Dallas Division



Since 2000



Service Area
All of North Texas,
including Dallas-Fort



Since 2004



# of Agencies in area: 573

# **TOP FIVE CRIMES**

- 1. Homicide
- 2. Dangerous Drugs
- 3. Stolen Vehicle
- 4. Sexual Assault (2-way tie)
- 5. Assault (2-way tie)

# PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

- Dallas Police Department
- ■FBI—Dallas Division
- Frisco Police Department
- Plano Police Department
- Richardson Police Department

# **NOTABLE NEWS**

## **Capital Murder**

Blake Richards, of Plano, Texas, was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for capital murder. The Richardson Police Department received a call from a man stating Richards confessed to killing his sister, Brittany Richards, and her boyfriend, Ross Escalante. A Richardson police officer contacted Richards on the phone where Richards confessed that he had "hurt" his sister. Richardson police officers located and arrested Richards while finding a loaded rifle in his car. Richardson and Plano officers then responded to his house where he lived with the victims. The officers found Ms. Richards and Mr. Escalante's bodies, having died from gunshot wounds. A search at the home found a handgun and shell casings. Firearms testing revealed that the rifle in Richards' car and the handgun found at the home were the two murder weapons. DNA was recovered from both firearms and tested positive for Richards' DNA. Witness interviews revealed Blake and Brittany's mother had recently passed away, and the two siblings were arguing over the life insurance policy.

NTRCFL examiners extracted text messages corroborating the fighting between Richards and his sister, and it was used at trial to convict Richards of capital murder.

# **Weapon of Mass Destruction**

Erfan Salmanzadeh, a naturalized citizen, pleaded guilty to use and attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction (WMD). Salmanzadeh admitted to law enforcement that he had used homemade triacetone triperoxide (TATP) to set off a bomb in his backyard. When law enforcement arrived to investigate the explosion, Salmanzadeh admitted to flushing a gallon-sized jar of TATP powder down the toilet and concealing a suicide vest and nail bomb in the dumpster in the alleyway. Bomb technicians collected residual TATP from the toilet and a white PVC pipe with TATP residue hidden in his bedroom closet. In the dumpster, officers recovered the suicide vest, with several sewn pockets filled with red cylindrical tubes labeled "dynamite," and the nail bomb.

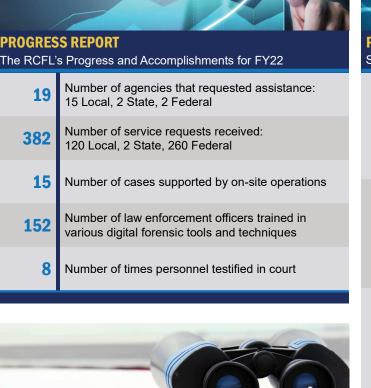
NTRCFL examiners provided live previews of suspect's computers and cell phone. This allowed investigators to find his manifesto outlining his plans to blow up a local high school.



The NTRCFL's Local Executive Board (LEB) comprises senior representatives from each of the participating agencies and is chartered to review any policy, procedure, practice, and/or rule affecting the day-today operations of the RCFL.









#### **GOALS** for FY23 Maintain Staffing: Replace retiring and departing 1 examiners. Promote Outreach: Increase participating agencies 2 at the NTRCFL. Support Partnerships: NTRCFL will work with Assistant U.S. Attorney's Office, District Attorney's Office, and customers to meet their needs. Enhance Capabilities: Enhance laboratory capabilities and practices through the acquisition of

additional technology and hardware.

maintain minimal backlog.

Minimize Backlog: Continue efforts to decrease or



Maintain Staffing: The NTRCFL hired a new Information Technology Specialist (ITS) - Forensic Examiner Trainee (FET) and Operational Support Technician (OST) to replace retiring or departing employees.

Promote Outreach: The NTRCFL added an additional Task Force Officer (TFO) from the Dallas Police Department. The NTRCFL Laboratory Director met with the Texas Department of Public Safety about becoming a participating agency and placing one full-time employee at the NTRCFL.

Support Partnerships: The NTRCFL examiners worked with the U.S. Attorney's and District Attorney's Offices with regards to testifying in federal trials.

Advance Capabilities: The NTRCFL Laboratory Director met with personnel from Digital Evidence Field Operations (DEFO) Unit, Operational Technology Division (OTD), regarding the need for and delivery of a new Mobile Laboratory. It is due to be delivered in the first quarter of FY23.









Because of the willingness of our participating agencies to contribute personnel and resources, the NWRCFL has become a valuable asset available to area law enforcement personnel. We are grateful for their dedication and commitment to the program and providing some of their best and brightest people to work at the RCFL.



**SSA Betsy Bartko FBI Portland Division** 



Since 2005



Service Area **Oregon and Southwest** Washington



Since 2008



# of Agencies in area: 109

# **TOP FIVE CRIMES**

- 1. Homicide
- 2. Exploitation/Enticement
- 3. Fraud
- 4. Assault
- 5. Dangerous Drugs

# PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

- Clark County Sheriff's Office
- FBI—Portland Division
- Gresham Police Department
- Hillsboro Police Department
- Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
- Oregon State Police
- Portland Police Bureau

# **NOTABLE NEWS**

# Murder of Washington State Trooper

William Thompson pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and first-degree attempted murder for intentionally hitting and killing Washington State Patrol Trooper Justin Schaffer. A pursuit began after Thurston County Sheriff's Office deputy identified Thompson as a suspect in a shoplifting incident and initiated a traffic stop. In an effort to stop the suspect's speeding vehicle, Trooper Schaffer was putting down spike strips on Interstate 5 when Thompson swerved around the strips and intentionally hit the trooper. The attempted murder charge stemmed from Thompson sideswiping the patrol car of Trooper Michael Farkas, breaking off its steel PIT maneuver bar, and hitting Trooper Farkas in the chest.

NWRCFL provided audio/video enhancement and timeline production, using numerous videos and dispatch audio for this investigation.

# Digital Evidence Retained in Appeal

Edgar Minor-Osuna, who was previously convicted of rape of his step-daughter, was granted an appeal hearing. The defense filed motions to have all the digital evidence thrown out from his original court proceedings.

The NWRCFL Digital Forensic Examiner (DFE) testified for several days, resulting in all digital evidence being retained. Subject was sentenced to 400 months in state prison. This kept the victim from having to testify again and kept the subject in prison.

#### **Prison after Probation Violation**

Michael Lea, a child sexual abuse subject, was on probation and found to be using unauthorized digital devices on supervised release. He attempted to hide images of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) in hidden applications and folders not readily found during a routine examination.

NWRCFL DFE discovered the CSAM in hidden secure folders and testified for several hours during Lea's trial. The subject was convicted and sent back to prison.



Upon request, the Northwest RCFL will provide computer forensic services to any law enforcement agency operating in Oregon and the Southwest Washington area.

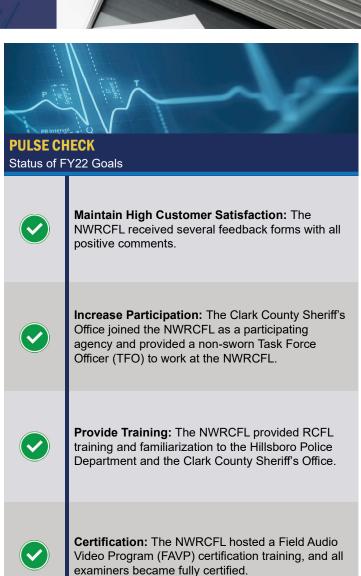






various digital forensic tools and techniques

GOALS for FY23	
1	Increase Participation: NWRCFL will add one new participating agency in FY23.
2	<b>Provide Training:</b> NWRCFL will provide RCFL training and familiarization to police departments to include Case Agent Investigative Review (CAIR).
3	<b>Accreditation:</b> Maintain requirements for ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accreditation, and complete annual audits and training.
4	<b>Training:</b> Bring outside vendor training to the NWRCFL for examiners and outside agencies.











The OCRCFL's service area comprises the Central District of California, which includes approximately 250 law enforcement agencies. Our 15 participating agencies include local and federal agencies from Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties.







Laboratory Director

SSA Glenford Gillett

FBI Los Angeles

Division



Since **2011** 



Service Area
Central District of
California



Since **2013** 



# of Agencies in area: 252

# **TOP FIVE CRIMES**

- 1. Homicide
- 2. Sexual Assault
- 3. Dangerous Drugs
- 4. Crimes Against Person
- 5. Exploitation/Enticement

# **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

- Corona Police Department
- FBI—Los Angeles Division
- Fontana Police Department
- Garden Grove Police Department Max
- Irvine Police Department
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Los Angeles Police Department
- Murrieta Police Department
- Newport Beach Police Department
- Ontario Police Department
- Orange County District Attorney's Office
- Palm Springs Police Department
- Riverside County District Attorney's Office
- Riverside Police Department
- San Bernardino District Attorney's Office
- Santa Ana Police Department

# **NOTABLE NEWS**

# Mass Shooting in Uvalde, Texas

Salvador Ramos, an 18-year-old high school student, legally purchased two assault rifles and ammunition on his 18th birthday. On the morning of the attack, Ramos sent a message on a social media platform stating, "I'm going to shoot an elementary school." He then shot his grandmother in the face, stole the family truck, and drove to Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. After entering the elementary school with an assault rifle and tactical vest, Ramos began shooting children and teachers, and eventually, barricaded himself in a classroom. Ramos shot and killed 19 students and two teachers, before a Border Patrol Tactical Unit and local law enforcement breached the room, shooting and killing Ramos. In addition to the 21 victims he killed, Ramos injured another 17 victims during the massacre.

The OCRCFL received and processed a mobile phone of a former acquaintance of the shooter, based on consent, and provided assistance to the case agents during their investigation.

# Fentanyl and Murder

David Pearce, of Beverly Hills, California, has been arrested and charged with two counts of murder, along with two felony counts of sale/transportation/offer to sell a controlled substance, fentanyl. An accomplice, Brandt Osborn, has also been charged with two counts of accessory to murder.

The two victims had met up with Pearce at a rave party held at a warehouse. Both victims had left the party with Pearce, Osborn, and another individual and went to an apartment shared by Pearce and Osborn. Later, the lifeless bodies of both women were dropped outside of two separate hospitals by two masked men. According to the coroner's office, both victims died of "multiple drug intoxication." After Pearce was arrested on murder charges, multiple victims came forward and claimed Pearce had sexually assaulted them. Pearce has remained in jail in connection with these alleged sexual assaults.

The OCRCFL examined the cell phone belonging to one of the suspects, whose lawyer advised contained video of the incident. This is an ongoing investigation.



The OCRCFL does not hire personnel directly, but is staffed from its participating agencies. Benefits of RCFL participation are numerous – contact the Laboratory Director - SSA Glenford Gillett to learn more about the opportunities for your agency to join the OCRCFL.















Upon request, the PHRCFL will provide digital forensic services and training to any law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the Philadelphia region and the counties in the eastern half of Pennsylvania.







Laboratory Director

SSA Jeffrey Tanzola

FBI Philadelphia

Division



Since **2006** 



Service Area
Philadelphia and
Eastern Pennsylvania



Since **2009** 



# of Agencies in area:500

# **TOP FIVE CRIMES**

- 1. Homicide
- 2. Robbery
- 3. Dangerous Drugs
- 4. Obscenity
- 5. Assault

# **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

- ■Bucks County District Attorney's Office
- Chester County District Attorney's Office
- Delaware County District Attorney's Office
- FBI—Philadelphia Division
- Montgomery County District Attorney's Office
- Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General
- Philadelphia Police Department
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# **NOTABLE NEWS**

## **Murder-for-Hire**

James Haines was convicted of first-degree murder, criminal solicitation of murder, conspiracy, and criminal use of communication facility (F3). Haines hired two co-conspirators, Aaron Page and Edwin Martinez, to carry out a drug-related murder-for-hire plot that resulted in the death of Kristian Eldridge. Video surveillance footage captured the rental vehicle that Page and Martinez used during this heinous crime. The PHRCFL provided forensic vehicle analysis, which revealed crucial GPS data and call detail records that significantly aided investigators in obtaining arrest warrants.

While serving an arrest warrant at Page's residence, Page barricaded himself inside and committed suicide. After conducting a search of a cell phone found at Page's residence, investigators uncovered evidence in the form of text messages and CashApp data that revealed details of the murder plot made to Page from Haines. The other co-conspirator, Martinez, is awaiting extradition from New Jersey to Philadelphia.

The PHRCFL provided support in processing digital evidence for this investigation and provided expert testimony that secured a conviction.

#### **Homicide**

Jaquez Brown was charged with criminal homicide in the death of Shaheim Carr. Surveillance camera footage outside the victim's home captured Brown and two co-conspirators shooting at the victim. The victim attempted to flee the area through a breezeway when Brown and the two co-conspirators ran after him. Seconds later, Brown and his two co-conspirators are seen walking back through the breezeway. One of the co-conspirators is seen picking up the victim's cell phone and a bag he was carrying, before fleeing. Surveillance footage captured Brown and his co-conspirators leaving in a gold Fusion that had been reported stolen. Brown was captured on surveillance wearing an Adidas track suit, later identified as the same suit Brown was wearing in photos on his social media account.

PHRCFL retrieved usable video from the surveillance system that was ultimately utilized to swiftly locate and arrest Brown.



Benefits of participation in an RCFL are numerous. Partner agencies contribute personnel and resources to staff and maintain the operations of the PHRCFL.





Number of law enforcement officers trained in

various digital forensic tools and techniques

Number of times personnel testified in court



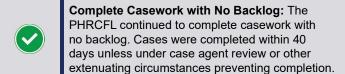
# **GOALS**

# for FY23

410

- Complete Casework with No Backlog: Cases should be completed within 40 days (unless extenuating circumstances prevent the completion).
  - Staffing: The PHRCFL will backfill positions from participating agencies and recruit one new participating agency to provide an examiner.
  - Training: Provide Digital Video Retrieval Training (DIVRT) and cellphone exploitation training to the Philadelphia Division and participating agencies.





Maintain or Increase Staffing: PHRCFL added the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a new participating agency who assigned a Task Force Officer (TFO) to the PHRCFL. Chester County District Attorney's Office has assigned a TFO to the PHRCFL.

> Training: The PHRCFL provided training to FBI Philadelphia Division and to agency partners in DIVRT, cell phone exploitation, and other subject matter areas.









Upon request, the RMRCFL can provide computer forensic services to any law enforcement agency operating in Colorado and Wyoming, with priority given to participating agencies.







Laboratory Director

SSA Michael Bergner

FBI Denver Division



Since **2006** 



Service Area
Colorado and
Wyoming



Since 2008



# of Agencies in area:269

# **TOP FIVE CRIMES**

- 1. Homicide
- 2. Exploitation/Enticement
- 3. Robbery
- 4. Sexual Assault (2-way tie)
- 5. Assault (2-way tie)

# **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

- Adams County Sheriff's Office
- Castle Rock Police Department \*
- Colorado Bureau of Investigation
- Denver Police Department
- Douglas County Sheriff's Office
- FBI—Denver Division
- Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
- Littleton Police Department
- Lone Tree Police Department \*

# **NOTABLE NEWS**

**Shooting Rampage** 

Lyndon James McLeod, a 47-year-old man, began a shooting rampage by killing two victims, Alicia Cardenas and Alyssa Gunn-Maldonado, at the Sol Tribe Tattoo and Piercing in Denver, Colorado, while wounding a third victim. McLeod then broke into a building and shot and injured two victims before setting a van on fire in an alley behind the building. He then shot and killed another male victim, where it was later found he dressed in tactical gear and wore a police logo to gain entry into the building. McLeod then continued his rampage by fatally shooting a male victim, Danny Scofield, at a tattoo parlor.

Law enforcement saw the suspect's van near a Wells Fargo Bank in the Belmar shopping area and exchanged gunfire with McLeod when McLeod escaped into a Hyatt hotel. While at the Hyatt, McLeod fatally shot a clerk, Sarah Steck, who was working the front desk. After leaving the Hyatt, a Lakewood Police Officer and the suspect exchanged gunfire. McLeod shot and wounded the officer, and the officer was able to return fire killing the suspect.

The RMRCFL reviewed and processed numerous items of digital evidence, which proved to be invaluable during the investigation.

# **Mass Shooting Manifesto**

A University of California - Los Angeles (UCLA) Professor, Matthew Christopher Harris, was arrested in Colorado and charged with transmission of threats in interstate commerce. Harris had sent an 800-page document termed a manifesto via email and posted videos threatening violence against UCLA. Harris used words such as "bomb," "kill," and "shoot" more than 12,000 times in the manifesto. Some of the videos included footage from the 2017 mass shooting at the Las Vegas music festival as well as clips from "Zero Day," a film depicting the mass shooting at Colorado's Columbine High School. The investigation began when some of the recipients of the email contacted the FBI regarding the email.

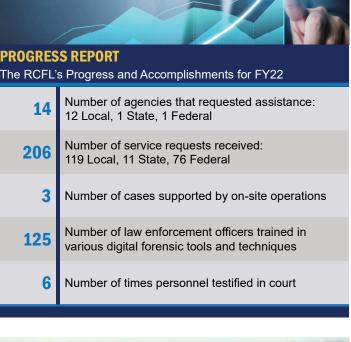
The RMRCFL reviewed and processed numerous items of digital evidence, which proved to be invaluable during the investigation. This investigation is ongoing.



Benefits of participation in an RCFL are numerous. Partner agencies contribute personnel and resources to staff and maintain the operations of the RMRCFL.









#### **GOALS** for FY23

Staffing: Fill our vacant System Administrator (SysAdmin) position and add a Digital Forensic Specialist (DFS) position to the staff.

Increase Participation: Bring one additional participating agency on board by the end of the fourth quarter.

Training: Seek training for the RMRCFL staff to improve RMRCFL capabilities, and provide training to investigative personnel on handling digital evidence.

Customer Satisfaction: Provide the best quality work product in a timely manner according to sound quality standards.

Installation: Work with Operational Technology Division (OTD) units to complete deployment of the Digital Content Analysis Platform (DCAP) 2.0.



Customer Satisfaction: RMRCFL received positive and negative customer feedback. The Laboratory Director (LD) and Quality Manager (QM) investigated the negative feedback and found miscommunication between the Forensic Examiner (FE) and the Case Agent (CA). The LD put measures into place to safeguard against future problems.

Staffing: RMRCFL posted and selected a candidate for the open Information Technology System -Forensic Examiner (ITS-FE) position. A new Task Force Officer (TFO) Forensic Examiner Trainee (FET) joined the RMRCFL. The NMRCFL SysAdmin will assist RMRCFL until the SysAdmin vacancy is filled.

Partnerships: The Laboratory Director had discussions with several agencies and Police Departments (PDs) about participation in the RMRCFL, including Firestone PD, Pueblo PD, and Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI).

Accreditation: The annual ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accreditation audit completed, and all findings addressed.

> Education/Training: The NMRCFL hosted several SANS courses, Mobile Device Unlocking Service (MDUS) training, digital images and videos software platform training, and training on best practices for seizing or preserving digital evidence for state and local investigators.









The mission of the SDRCFL is to effectively meet the digital forensic needs of all law enforcement agencies and departments throughout the San Diego and Imperial Counties. Our mission requires there be highly trained and well-equipped Digital Forensic Examiners available to support federal, state, and local investigations and prosecutions.





**Laboratory Director** 

SSA Neah Fraser (during FY22, SSA Hans Frank) FBI San Diego



Since 1999



Service Area San Diego and **Imperial Counties** 



Since 2008



# of Agencies in area:80

# TOP FIVE CRIMES

- 1. Dangerous Drugs
- 2. Civil Rights
- 3. Homicide
- 4. Exploitation/Enticement
- 5. Smuggling

# PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

- California Highway Patrol
- California National Guard
- Carlsbad Police Department
- Chula Vista Police Department
- Coronado Police Department
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- ■El Cajon Police Department
- ■Escondido Police Department
- ■FBI—San Diego Division
- Homeland Security Investigations
- ■La Mesa Police Department
- National City Police Department
- San Diego County District Attorney's Office
- ■San Diego Harbor Police Department
- ■San Diego Police Department
- San Diego County Sheriff's Department
- U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of California

# **NOTABLE NEWS**

#### **Patriot March Assaults**

Jonathan White, 39, and co-conspirators were charged in connection with eight alleged assaults that occurred during a Pacific Beach "Patriot March" organized by supporters of then-President Donald Trump. The defendants self-identified as affiliated with Anti-fascists, or Antifa. The defendants are accused of using pepper spray, small flag poles, sticks, wooden folding chair, punches, and kicks to attack the Trump followers. Several of the attacks were caught on video and shared online, such as a video of White pepper spraying a dog and its owner. White was charged with conspiracy, assault with a deadly weapon, use of tear gas not in self-defense, and animal cruelty.

Supporting an investigation into illegal Antifa activity, the SDRCFL assisted in a search operation that spanned 9 locations. A total of 22 items of digital evidence were seized and given to the SDRCFL to process. A majority of these devices were cell phones.

# KleptoCapture Task Force Seizure

Fijian law enforcement executed a search warrant freezing a 348-foot yacht, Amadea, that is owned by sanctioned Russian Oligarch Suleiman Kerimov. The Amadea is subject to forfeiture based on probable cause of violations of U.S. law, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), money laundering, and conspiracy. This seizure was coordinated through the Department of Justice (DOJ) KleptoCapture Task Force.

Kerimov is part of a group of Russian oligarchs who profit from the Russian government through corruption and its malign activity around the world. In sanctioning Kerimov, the Treasury Department also cited Kerimov as an official of the Government of the Russian Federation and a member of the Russian Federation Counsel. Kerimov and those acting on his behalf and for his benefit caused U.S. dollar transactions to be routed through U.S. financial institutions for the support and maintenance of the Amadea.

The SDRCFL provided three Digital Forensic Examiners (DFEs) to process the digital evidence that was found on board while the yacht was docked in San Diego.



Our facility has the distinction of being the first established FBI-sponsored RCFL in the country. Today, we are among the leaders, both nationally and internationally, in conducting research and development of tools and procedures for use in the computer forensic and law enforcement communities.















The SVRCFL provides assistance to law enforcement agencies located within Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties. The Local Executive Board has authorized the RCFL Director to accept significant cases from any agency in the Northern District of California on a case-by-case basis.







Laboratory Director SSA Michael Mansuy FBI San Francisco



Since **2005** 



Service Area
Northern District of
California



Since 2006



# of Agencies in area: 125

# **TOP FIVE CRIMES**

- 1. Burglary
- 2. Homicide
- 3. Sex Offense
- 4. Weapon Offense
- 5. Robbery

# PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

- ■FBI—San Francisco Division
- Fremont Police Department
- Newark Police Department
- Palo Alto Police Department \*
- ■San Francisco Police Department

# **NOTABLE NEWS**

#### Theranos Inc.

A federal grand jury indicted Elizabeth Holmes and Ramesh Balwani with crimes in connection with their respective involvement with two multi-million-dollar schemes to promote Theranos Inc. Holmes and Balwani used advertisements and solicitations to encourage and induce doctors and patients to use Theranos's blood testing laboratory services, even though the defendants knew Theranos was not capable of consistently producing accurate and reliable results for certain blood tests.

In January 2022, Holmes was found guilty of one count of conspiracy to commit fraud on investors and three counts of committing fraud on individual investors, which involved wire transfers totaling more than \$140 million. In July 2022, Ramesh Balwani was found guilty of two counts of conspiracy and ten counts of wire fraud through a multi-million-dollar scheme to defraud investors and patients in connection with the operations of Theranos Inc.

The SVRCFL assisted with a search warrant operation which resulted in the seizure of multiple devices with a combined total of approximately 21 Terabytes (TB) of storage. The SVRCFL imaged and processed all digital evidence supporting the investigation.

# **Vehicle Digital Forensics**

In January 2022, an Audi SUV was involved in a hit-and-run accident with a Honda SUV that was being operated as an Uber vehicle at the time in the city of San Francisco. The Uber passenger was taken to the hospital where he died from his injuries. The driver of the Audi SUV fled the scene before police arrived. During the investigation, the officers found the Audi SUV was reported stolen weeks prior to the incident.

The San Francisco Police Department requested the assistance of the SVRCFL to recover digital evidence from the onboard computer of the stolen Audi SUV to generate investigative leads. Because of the severe damage to the Audi SUV, SVRCFL personnel had to develop alternative solutions to recover data from the vehicle because of the inability to deploy the standard vehicle forensic tools. Despite these challenges, SVRCFL examiners were successful in obtaining the required data.



The participating agencies contribute personnel and resources to staff and maintain the operations of the SVRCFL. The RCFL program is grateful for their dedication and commitment to fulfilling this goal.







state partners.





reduced the backlog from 22 to 6 cases in FY22.



Community Outreach: The SVRCFL partnered with National Domestic Communications Assistance Center (NDCAC) to host courses for federal, state, and local law enforcement. The SVRCFL hosted a one-day training on Digital Content Analysis Platform (DCAP) 2.0 by the Operational Technology Division (OTD), Media Exploitation Unit (MXU).



Staffing: The SVRCFL increased their staffing by one Forensic Examiner (FE) and one Forensic Examiner Trainee (FET). The SVRCFL reduced the number of vacancies by one, despite employees retiring or transferring out of the program. Also, the SVRCFL hired three recent college graduates.



Installation: The DCAP 2.0 installation was completed, and some examiner workstations were deployed.



**Increase Agency Participation:** The SVRCFL Laboratory Director met with U.S. Customs and Border Protection about becoming a participating agency.









The TVRCFL is a unique partnership that promotes quality and strengthens computer forensics capacity. Digital Forensic Examiners from participating agencies are highly trained and well-equipped to support federal, state, and local investigations and prosecutions.







Laboratory Director

SSA Benjamin Bridges

FBI Birmingham

Division



Since **2018** 



Service Area
Alabama and Southern
Tennessee



Since **2021** 



# of Agencies in area:417

# **TOP FIVE CRIMES**

- 1. Homicide
- 2. Exploitation/Enticement
- 3. Dangerous Drugs
- 4. Healthcare Fraud
- 5. Domestic Terrorism

# **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

- Alabama Counterdrug Program—National Guard
- City of Madison Police Department
- Etowah County Sheriff's Office
- FBI—Birmingham Division
- Homeland Security Investigations
- Huntsville Police Department
- Lincoln County, Tennessee, Sheriff's Department
- Madison County Sheriff's Office
- The U.S. Attorney's Office Northern District of Alabama

# **NOTABLE NEWS**

### **Unlawful Distribution**

Mark Murphy, M.D., and his wife, Jennifer Murphy, were convicted of conspiracy to unlawfully distribute controlled substances and conspiracy to commit health care fraud, along with various substantive counts related to the same. They were also convicted of conspiring to defraud the United States and receiving kickbacks.

Murphy and his wife owned and operated North Alabama Pain Services (NAPS), which closed its Decatur and Madison offices in early 2017. Over the approximately five-year period leading up to the clinic closing its Alabama locations, Murphy and his wife, who was the office manager, caused over \$50 million in fraudulent or unnecessary medical services to be charged to Medicare, TRICARE, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama, and others. NAPS provided pre-signed prescriptions to thousands of patients a month, including prescriptions written outside the usual course of professional practice without a legitimate medical purpose. The Murphys also solicited and received unlawful payments for referring fraudulent or unnecessary services to patients. Jennifer Murphy was also convicted of tax-related charges for underreporting clinic income.

The TVRCFL assisted in the investigation by 12 service requests, one search assist, and one Case Agent assist with a warrant. The TVRCFL was instrumental during this investigation.

#### **Murder Plot Thwarted**

Matthias Jacob Edward Mann, 22, was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to attempted kidnapping and attempted inducement of an individual to travel in interstate commerce to commit an illegal sex act. The investigation began when Mann and an undercover detective began a conversation about a post in a social media chat group. Mann posted in the group, asking for someone to abduct and sexually assault a woman from Wisconsin. The undercover detective recorded a telephone conversation with Mann, where he confirmed his request and provided photos and a physical address of the victim.

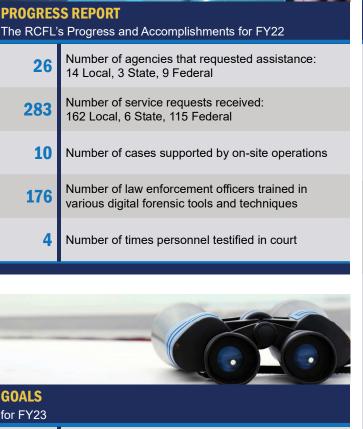
TVRCFL processed four service requests and conducted one search warrant. The TVRCFL forensic examiners provided expert guidance to the agents and investigators during the investigation.



Upon request, the TVRCFL will provide digital forensic services and training to any law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the state of Alabama or south central Tennessee.







Maintain or Increase Staffing: Advertise,

to provide technical assistance and training. Customer Service: Maintain high customer satisfaction, and ensure all negative feedback is

recruit, and fill vacant positions within the TVRCFL.

Community Outreach: Continue to reach out to

state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies

Training: Educate investigators on best practices for recovering digital evidence and how best to

1

addressed.

make use of the TVRCFL.



Examiner (DFE), and two DFETs attended their final Capstone exercise. Additionally, all certified DFEs continued their technical education and advanced certifications.

Maintain Staffing: The TVRCFL successfully advertised, recruited, and filled the vacant Special Agent Forensic Examiner (SA/FE) position.

**Provide Training:** TVRCFL provided training to DFEs in database recovery forensics and mobile device evidence handling to state and local law enforcement agencies. TVRCFL provided numerous tours, training to the National Defense Cyber Alliance (NDCA), and training and presentations to the University of Alabama - Huntsville CyberGen Camp.



Installation: TVRCFL completed the installation and validation of the latest version of the Digital Content Analysis Platform (DCAP) 2.0 and verified its usage with our federal, state, and local partners.









The participating agencies contribute personnel and resources to staff and maintain the operations of the WNYRCFL. Benefits of RCFL participation are numerous. Contact the Laboratory Director SSA Eric Sakovics to learn more about the opportunities for your agency to join the WNYRCFL.







Laboratory Director

SSA Eric Sakovics

FBI Buffalo Division



Since **2006** 



Service Area
17 Counties in Western
New York



Since **2021** 



# of Agencies in area: 137

# **TOP FIVE CRIMES**

- 1. Homicide
- 2. Dangerous Drugs
- 3. Sex Offense
- 4. Sexual Assault (2-way tie)
- 5. Exploitation/Enticement (2-way tie)

# **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

- Erie County Sheriff's Office
- FBI—Buffalo Division
- Monroe County Department of Public Safety
- Niagara County Sheriff's Office

# NOTABLE NEWS

**Child Pornography** 

Joshua Schohn, of Akron, New York, was convicted of two counts of production of child pornography and two counts of possession of child pornography. Schohn was sentenced to 30 years in prison and 20 years supervised release.

The mother of the two victims reported that she had discovered child pornography on a laptop computer belonging to her previous boyfriend, Schohn. In addition, the complainant stated that Schohn took nude videos of her daughters, then eight-years-old and six-years-old. During the investigation, law enforcement determined that Schohn's laptop contained more than 5,000 images and videos of child pornography and that Schohn had produced child pornography involving the two victims.

The WNYRCFL examined the suspect's phone and discovered evidence that greatly assisted in the outcome of this investigation.

#### **Prostitution**

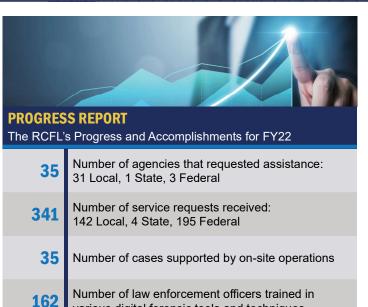
Wallace Waliczek, former Erie County Sheriff's Deputy, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years' probation for promoting prostitution in the fourth degree. Waliczek became the subject of the investigation, by the Human Trafficking Task Force, after his wife, Melissa Waliczek, was arrested for posting an online advertisement seeking money in exchange for sexual relations. An undercover officer responded to the advertisement and arranged a meeting with the defendant's wife. Investigators uncovered evidence that showed the defendant was present at the time of the meeting, observed from another vehicle in the parking lot, and that he knowingly advanced or profited from the prostitution. Wallace, who was employed as a jail deputy with the Erie County Sheriff's Office, was off-duty at the time of the crime.

The WNYRCFL examined and discovered multiple pieces of digital evidence confirming the allegations against Waliczek and his wife.



Upon request, the WNYRCFL will provide digital forensic services and training to any law enforcement agency operating in its 17 county service areas.







various digital forensic tools and techniques

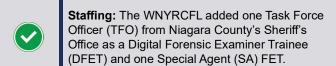
Number of times personnel testified in court

# **GOALS**

# for FY23

- Staffing: Maintain authorized staffing levels to 1 ensure effective and efficient operations.
- Minimize Backlog: Continue efforts to decrease or maintain minimal backlog.
- Accreditation: Maintain ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accreditation, and perform all required audits and training.
- Training: Continue internal quality training provided by the WNYRCFL management to all examiners to maintain consistency across the board.





Minimize Backlog: The WNYRCFL decreased the backlog from 39 cases to 15 cases by the end of

Accreditation: The WNYRCFL completed the internal audit and maintained ANAB accreditation.

Training: The WNYRCFL held quarterly quality time training to keep examiners current on policies and procedures.







# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

"No one who achieves success does so without acknowledging the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude."

~ Alfred North Whitehead





#### TENNESSEE VALLEY RCFL

- Alabama Counterdrug Program—National Guard
- City of Madison Police Department
- Etowah County Sheriff's Office
- FBI—Birmingham Division
- Homeland Security Investigations
- Huntsville Police Department
- Madison County Sheriff's Office
- The U.S. Attorney's Office Northern District of Alabama



## **CALIFORNIA**

#### **ORANGE COUNTY RCFL**

- Corona Police Department
- FBI—Los Angeles Division
- Fontana Police Department
- Garden Grove Police Department
- Irvine Police Department
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Los Angeles Police Department
- Murrieta Police Department
- Newport Beach Police Department
- Ontario Police Department
- Orange County District Attorney's Office
- Palm Springs Police Department
- Riverside County District Attorney's Office
- Riverside Police Department
- San Bernardino District Attorney's Office
- Santa Ana Police Department

#### **SAN DIEGO RCFL**

- California Highway Patrol
- California National Guard NEW
- Carlsbad Police Department
- Chula Vista Police Department
- Coronado Police Department
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- El Cajon Police Department
- Escondido Police Department
- FBI—San Diego Division
- Homeland Security Investigations
- La Mesa Police Department
- National City Police Department
- San Diego County District Attorney's Office
- San Diego Harbor Police Department
- San Diego Police Department
- San Diego County Sheriff's Department
- U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of California

#### SILICON VALLEY RCFL

- FBI—San Francisco Division
- Fremont Police Department
- Newark Police Department
- Palo Alto Police Department \*San Francisco Police Department

\*Non-Voting Participant



## **COLORADO**

#### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN RCFL**

- Adams County Sheriff's Office
- Castle Rock Police Department \*
- Colorado Bureau of Investigation
- Denver Police Department
- Douglas County Sheriff's Office
- FBI—Denver Division
- Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
- Littleton Police Department
- Lone Tree Police Department \*

\*Non-Voting Participant



## **IDAHO**

#### INTERMOUNTAIN WEST RCFL

- Ada County, Idaho, Sheriff's Office
- Boise City, Idaho, Police Department



# **ILLINOIS**

#### **CHICAGO RCFL**

- Berwyn Police Department
- Carol Stream Police Department
- Chicago Police Department
- Cook County Sheriff's Office
- Cook County State's Attorney's Office
- FBI—Chicago Division
- Joliet Police Department
- Lombard Police Department
- Oak Park Police Department
- Rockford Police Department
- Romeoville Police Department
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Will County Sheriff's Office



## **KANSAS**

#### **HEART OF AMERICA RCFL**

- Kansas Bureau of Investigation
- Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department
- Lawrence, Kansas, Police Department
- Olathe, Kansas, Police Department
- Overland Park, Kansas, Police Department
- U.S. Attorney's Office—District of Kansas



## **KENTUCKY**

#### **KENTUCKY RCFL**

- FBI—Louisville Division
- Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
- Kentucky State Police
- Louisville Metro Police Department
- University of Louisville



## **MASSACHUSETTS**

#### **NEW ENGLAND RCFL**

- Boston Police Department
- Brookline Police Department
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- FBI—Boston Division
- Framingham Police Department
- Massachusetts State Police
- U.S. Attorney's Office—District of Massachusetts
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection



# **MISSOURI**

#### **HEART OF AMERICA RCFL**

- Belton, Missouri, Police Department NEW
- Clay County, Missouri, Sheriff's Office
- FBI—Kansas City Division
- Gladstone, Missouri, Police Department
- Independence, Missouri, Police Department
- Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department
- Lee's Summit, Missouri, Police Department
- Missouri State Highway Patrol
- North Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department
- Platte County, Missouri, Sheriff's Office
- U.S. Attorney's Office-Western District of Missouri



#### INTERMOUNTAIN WEST RCFL

■ Billings, Montana, Police Department



## **NEW JERSEY**

#### **NEW JERSEY RCFL**

- FBI—Newark Division
- Hudson County Prosecutor's Office
- Mercer County Prosecutor's Office
- Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
- New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice
- New Jersey State Police



## **NEW MEXICO**

#### **NEW MEXICO RCFL**

- Albuquerque Police Department
- Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office
- FBI—Albuquerque Division
- Homeland Security Investigations
- New Mexico State Police Department
- Rio Rancho Police Department
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement
- University of New Mexico



# **NEW YORK**

#### **WESTERN NEW YORK RCFL**

- Erie County Sheriff's Office
- FBI—Buffalo Division
- Monroe County Department of Public Safety
- Niagara County Sheriff's Office



# OREGON

#### **NORTHWEST RCFL**

- Clark County Sheriff's Office NEWS
- FBI—Portland Division
- Gresham Police Department
- Hillsboro Police Department
- Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
- Oregon State Police
- Portland Police Bureau

# **PENNSYLVANIA**

#### PHILADELPHIA RCFL

- Bucks County District Attorney's Office
- Chester County District Attorney's Office
- Delaware County District Attorney's Office
- FBI—Philadelphia Division
- Montgomery County District Attorney's Office
- Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General
- Philadelphia Police Department
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service NEW



#### **TENNESSEE VALLEY RCFL**

Lincoln County, Tennessee, Sheriff's Department



#### **GREATER HOUSTON RCFL**

- FBI—Houston Division
- Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office
- Harris County Sheriff's Office
- Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection

#### **NORTH TEXAS RCFL**

- Dallas Police Department
- FBI—Dallas Division
- Frisco Police Department
- Plano Police Department
- Richardson Police Department



## **UTAH**

#### INTERMOUNTAIN WEST RCFL

- Davis County, Utah, Sheriff's Office
- FBI—Salt Lake City Division
- Salt Lake City, Utah, Police Department
- Sandy City, Utah, Police Department
- Utah Attorney General's Office
- Utah Department of Public Safety





Engineering Research Facility Attn: RCFL National Program Office Building #27958-A Quantico, Virginia 22135

Email: RCFL-NPO@fbi.gov Website: www.rcfl.gov

