

Presentation to the NCFS

**Feedback from Professional Organizations: Forensic Science
Practitioner Perspectives Panel**

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National Sheriffs' Association and Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office

Thank You

- The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office (JPSO) want to thank the Commissioners for their hard work and dedication in this endeavor
- NSA and JPSO want to thank the various subcommittee members and all the individuals who participated in this process through drafting recommendations and views statements or providing public comments



Local Perspective

- JPSO Laboratory Services Division
 - Overview
 - Organization has approximately 1,500 employees
 - Laboratory Services Division has 62 employees
 - Provides analysis for local, state, and federal agencies
 - Comprised of the following disciplines:
 - Crime Scene Processing
 - Forensic Identification
 - Forensic Chemistry
 - DNA Analysis
 - Digital Forensics Unit
 - Quality Assurance and Quality Control
 - Photo Lab
 - Property and Evidence Division



Local Perspective

- JPSO Crime Laboratory and DNA Laboratory
 - Housed within a 45,000 square foot facility
 - New facility opened Fall of 2010
 - ISO 17025 accredited laboratories



Local Perspective

Laboratory Mission Statement and Objectives

It is the mission of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory to provide scientific and technical support to various law enforcement agencies, educate members of the criminal justice system, and act as a leader in the field of forensic science. The objectives utilized to achieve this mission include:

- ◆ Providing scientific support in the fields of Forensic Chemistry, Forensic Identification, and Crime Scene Analysis
- ◆ Providing accurate and impartial forensic analysis of evidence collected from a crime scene or suspicious incident
- ◆ Providing effective expert witness testimony in courts of law
- ◆ Developing forensic science educational and training programs for members of the criminal justice system and the general public



National Sheriffs' Association

- NSA represents 3,088 sheriffs, deputies and other law enforcement personnel, public safety professionals, and concerned citizens nationwide
- NSA is a key player in shaping national policy on critical criminal justice and homeland security issues that are important to the nation's law enforcement professionals
- Commissioner, Sheriff Greg Champagne is the current president of the NSA



National Sheriffs' Association

- Findings from the Recent Census of Publicly Funded Forensic Crime Laboratories
 - Number of personnel by type of jurisdiction
 - State Laboratories 6,600
 - County Laboratories 2,900
 - Municipal Laboratories 2,700
 - Local law enforcement rely upon these entities for the vast majority of casework



Durose, M. (January 10, 2017). Findings from the Recent Census of Publicly Funded Forensic Crime Laboratories. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://www.justice.gov/hcfs/page/file/933526/download>



NCFS Accomplishments

- Placed a spotlight on the importance of forensic science as a crucial component in the criminal justice system
 - NCFS meetings, recommendations, views, etc.
 - Demonstrated the need to strengthen organizations like OSAC
 - Demonstrated the need for greater education within the legal community on forensic science issues
- Recommendation for universal accreditation
 - Supported across the forensic science community
 - Importance of funding to help support the process



NCFS Accomplishments

- Recommendation on proficiency testing
 - Supported across the forensic science community
 - Apply to all forensic science service providers conducting analysis, not just those working in publicly funded crime laboratories
 - Importance of funding to help support the process
- Code of Professional Responsibility, as adopted by the Department of Justice
 - Revised from NCFS recommendation
 - Supported across the forensic science community



NCFS Accomplishments

- Automated Fingerprint Information System Interoperability
 - Supported across the forensic science community
 - Asks for funding to implement and maintain
 - Allows OSAC to determine the standard format
- Uniform Terminology
 - Supported across the forensic science community
 - Supports the ongoing work of OSAC



NCFS Scheduled to Sunset: Position of NSA Moving Forward

- Forensic science is a key component of law enforcement investigations and plays a vital role in the criminal justice system
- Follow state laws and legal precedents, when it comes to the practice of forensic science and the admissibility of forensic evidence
- Support OSAC's efforts to strengthen the use of forensic science across disciplines



NCFS Scheduled to Sunset: Position of NSA Moving Forward

- Greater funding is needed to support state and local law enforcement laboratories in the following:
 - Obtaining and maintaining accreditation
 - Training (forensic scientists, law enforcement, and attorneys)
 - Resources (personnel, equipment, and facilities)
 - Crime laboratory and university research partnerships



Questions & Answers

