



## Digital & Multimedia Section – 2009

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### **B1 Evidence From Explosives Correlated With Digital Evidence Examinations**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will see how high explosives create large amounts of evidence in small fragments and the manner in which the explosive scene is triaged can have a correlation with the large amounts of data in digital evidence coming into laboratories for processing.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by showing that it is all about process. Forensic processes come and go as new evidence evolves. The theory of certain processes can be applicable to various diverse forms of evidence that seem to have nothing in common. However, the desired outcomes are the same, find the most probative evidence as quickly as possible.

When I participated in the evidence collection and processing post-blast scenes resulting from an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) for the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, it was the rule that “everything” within the scene would be brought to the laboratory for examination. The vast majority of IEDs encountered utilized low explosives. The fragments were large and the damage to the environment varied. However, when an IED utilizing a high explosive detonates, the volume of debris from the environment of the crime scene is tremendous. A new approach for evidence collection and the redefining of “everything” are necessary.

Bombing scenes are very much like hard drives; bomb scenes are divided into grids and hard drives are divided into sectors. Each grid and each sector are evaluated to determine the presence of environmental debris and the presence of evidence. The solution for the high explosives crime scenes processing may be a clue to working a large digital evidence case with terabytes of data. Stay tuned!

**Digital Evidence, Large Volumes, Processes**