



### **D43 Field-Purposing Technologies: Placing Forensic Tools Into the Hands of Field Practitioners for Timely Intelligence**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be provided with insight into this leading-edge area of forensic science, including overview of how Department of Defense (DoD) units analyze evidence in the field to develop forensic intelligence, insight into the training requirements of field personnel, overview of the development of field protocols and procedures, examples of portable forensics technologies already deployed, benefits and limitations of on-site analysis, deployable forensics laboratories and reach back support, and a description of the Forensic Technologies CoE technology evaluation process.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by explaining how these efforts hold the potential of producing dramatic gains in public safety. This combination of technology, quality assurance and support to practitioners at the point of need provides field personnel with the ability to conduct examinations and quickly develop actionable intelligence. In addition, by utilizing proper protocols, practitioners can run tests while maintaining the integrity of the evidence for follow-up laboratory analysis as needed. By deploying our nation's forensic technologies and knowledge into the field, agencies can increase their capability to predict and prevent events rather than react to them.

As the military, law enforcement and homeland security communities are called to meet challenges such as narco-terrorism, border incursions, and terrorist threats; the need for rapid analysis of forensic evidence becomes paramount. To provide field personnel with the forensic intelligence to conduct investigations and aid missions, agencies are equipping first responders and military service members with portable forensic analysis tools. These technologies allow complex analyses to be conducted outside of the conventional laboratory environment. This capability serves to not only expedite the rapid development of intelligence to lead the investigation, but also to dramatically reduce unnecessary processing by already backlogged laboratories.

However, providing practitioners with deployable technologies is only part of the solution. Ensuring practitioners also have the knowledge, skills and support to properly apply these tools to analyze compounds and gather vital forensic data is just as important.

This presentation will provide an overview of how the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC) has assisted the Department of Defense (DoD) in this effort by developing programs of instruction, providing reach back assistance, and establishing field techniques and protocols. In addition, an overview of the technology evaluation activities conducted by the Forensic Technologies Center of Excellence (FTCoE) will be presented. Through the FTCoE, forensic scientists evaluate emerging technologies by furnishing unbiased information regarding the performance and usability of new tools. These evaluation reports provide agencies with impartial data to assist them in making the selection of the most appropriate technologies for meeting their operational objectives.

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#### **Forensic Intelligence, Portable Technologies, Technology Evaluation**