



Questioned Documents – 2018

J7 Deployment of the Counterfeit Detection Training Electronic Learning Course

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be aware of the deployment strategy for the Document Security Features electronic learning course and how government agencies may request access.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing a resource for comprehensive, broad, and scalable training on security feature technologies used in passports, identity cards, birth records, and other security documents worldwide.

In the United States Department of State, the Bureau of Consular Affairs and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security have developed a broad strategy for deployment of fraud document detection training to a geographically diverse mix of consular and law enforcement staff that must assess a broad range of national identity and travel documents. To address this need, the Bureaus jointly authored and deployed the e-learning course Document Security Features to audiences throughout the Department of State in 2017.

Document Security Features is composed of a series of electronic learning modules that cover a variety of anti-counterfeiting and anti-alteration technologies used in documents, including substrate features used in paper and plastics, printed security features, specialty inks, optically variable devices, and features based on lens technologies. Users are trained to recognize and authenticate these technologies independently of document type or the issuing source agency. Because this broad scope familiarizes users with discrete technologies rather than their specific deployments in individual national documents, users can rapidly assess and self-train on the security features in an unfamiliar document even where no additional background information can be obtained.

It is in the interest of both Bureaus to encourage better understanding of document security technologies within other government agencies at the United States federal, state, and local levels, and also among our partners in the international community. One of the key advantages of e-learning is that once the training is developed, delivery can be scaled in ways that are simply impossible for classroom-based training, because no instructors, classrooms or scheduling logistics are required. Accordingly, once the internal Department of State deployment was completed, the Bureaus commenced work on a second version of Document Security Features that could be offered to external audiences.

The external version of Document Security Features includes information on all of the same topics as the internal version, though some content has been adjusted for non-Department of State audiences. During this presentation, the course content, teaching format, and exercises will be demonstrated using the externally approved version of Document Security Features. For government agencies interested in using Document Security Features to train their own staff, procedures for requesting a copy and completing the required Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of State will be discussed.

Counterfeit, Training, E-Learning