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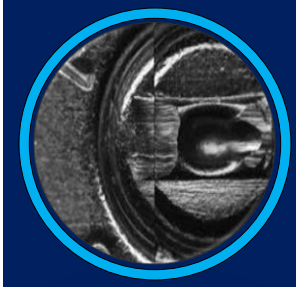
UNDER THE SCOPE

WISCONSIN CRIME LABORATORY BUREAU QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S INSIDE



NIBIN

Pg 2.

Dig Event

Pg 3.

CWAC

Pg 5.

WSCLB in the News!

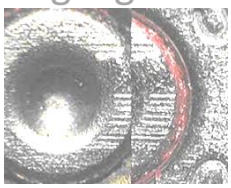
By: Jen Naugle, Forensic Scientist Supervisor

On August 31st, 2017, AG Schimel fielded questions from several news outlets. Our Crime Laboratory Director, Nikki Roehm was also on hand to answer questions from the media and did a great job of explaining what the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory Bureau does and how we all accomplish our mission for the state of Wisconsin.

Several analysts were also on hand and filmed during the day, showcasing their hard work while exemplifying the mission of the crime lab. Great work WSCLB team!

THE NIBIN LINK

Discipline Highlight: NIBIN



The National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) was launched in 1990 by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). To use NIBIN, firearms examiners and NIBIN technicians, including both civilian and sworn law enforcement personnel, enter cartridge case evidence into the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) units that are deployed to participating agencies. Irregularities found on the surfaces of the firing pin, ejector and breech face are caused by the manufacturing process and continuing use of the firearm.

These irregularities impart marks onto the casing. These marks are imaged by the IBIS unit and compared to thousands of captured images already in the database.

Using an algorithm, the IBIS unit narrows the choices to the most probable images for a match and returns the list back to the NIBIN Technician for review. Should the NIBIN Technician identify a possible association between cases, all agencies involved will be notified of the investigative lead by the generation of a High Confidence Correlation Alert provided by the state crime lab.

Hits identified through the use of NIBIN can provide analysts and investigators with critical tactical and strategic information. Tactically, NIBIN hits can link shooting case incidents quickly and efficiently and provide real-time leads, enabling investigators to identify and apprehend suspects before they can commit additional crimes. Strategically, intelligence obtained through the use of NIBIN can be used to better understand gun crime pattern, including gun sharing and trafficking. Regional programs, such as the DOJ program, can assist in these endeavors by reaching across jurisdictional lines. Every eligible firearm, and/or firearm and/or casing, left at crime scenes should be entered into NIBIN.

> "The only way to do great work is to **love** what you do.
>
> -Steve Jobs

When firearms are submitted to be test fired and entered, they will correlate with all previous and future entries that have been or will be entered. Therefore, it is crucial that expended cartridge casings and eligible firearms are submitted for entry, ideally, within 24-72 hours of a shooting incident or firearm related crime.

As of November 2016, the Milwaukee Crime Laboratory has acquired over 9000 images and linked over 2000 cases using the NIBIN system.

-Information provided by Kyle Anderson, Forensic Scientist Supervisor

Did You Know?

Today's technology takes a 3D image of ballistic evidence and identifies possible matches to evidence from other violent crime scenes allowing LE to connect separate shooting incidents and help identify those responsible.

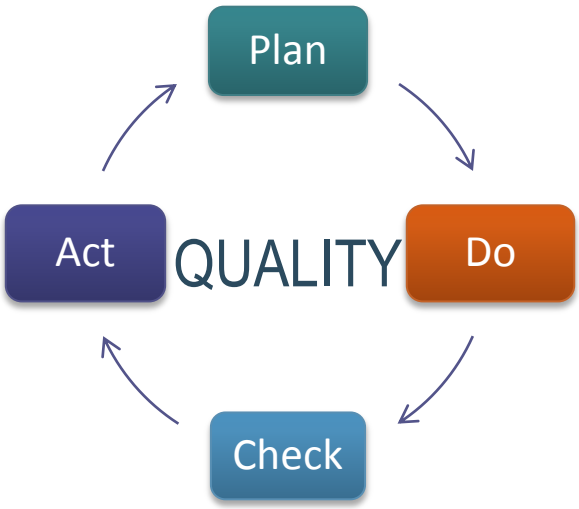
Crime Scene Training: Dig Event

-Nita Bolz, Laboratory Manager

During the week of October 2, members of the CSR team participated in Outdoor Body Recovery training. Forensic entomology, dentistry, anthropology and botany training was included along with mapping before the "dig event" took place. Several bears were previously buried so the CSR team could practice locating, documenting and excavating the remains. In addition recent road kill was placed in the area to allow the team to collect larvae, maggots and blow flies from the decomposing animals.

WISCONSIN STATE CRIME LAB

"If you set goals and go after them with all the *determination* you can muster, your gifts will take you places that will amaze you." -Les Brown



As you may already know there have been big changes in the accreditation arena this year. ASCLD/LAB merged with ANAB and in turn we received new accreditation requirements (ARs).

While the ANAB ARs are substantially similar to the ASCLD/LAB Supplementals there are some marked differences. If you would like to review these documents, they are both published in Qualtrax. Go to the Documents tree, Accreditation Standards, Certificates and Reports, then either ANAB, ANAB requirements, or ASCLD-LAB, Supplemental Requirements. Here is a list of some of the changes that we will be incorporating into our everyday routine:

- NCIs will include a specified timeframe for completion
- Technical records (notes) will reflect all dates that testing is performed
- Internal audits will now include direct observation of analysis
- New criteria for method validation
- Testimony will be technically reviewed
- Technical Reviewers only need to be competency tested in the discipline and authorized to do technical review – being proficient is no longer required to perform technical review
- Reports will need to include some requirements that we have kept in the case jacket previously

Likely the biggest change in the list is the last bullet. Report requirements are located in section 5.10 of the Supplementals and the ARs.

> *"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."*
> -Socrates

In the Supplementals there was, what we lovingly refer to as, Note 3 that reads in lieu of putting all of the reporting requirements in the report, the Lab can opt to keep them in the case jacket; which is what most forensic labs did. In the ARs, Note 3 was removed so we are formulating how to best incorporate the reporting requirements into our reports. No need for panic, we will make this as seamless as possible for everyone and there will be plenty of communication regarding implementation for all changes that are necessary.

Additionally, ISO/IEC 17025 is in the final stages of being revised with an expected release by the end of October 2017. When the final version of this document is published we will put it in Qualtrax for your perusal.

The Quality Team is planning out an implementation strategy to make the transition to the ARs by December of 2018. When the new 17025 is published we will begin looking into what requirements we already meet and what changes we will need to incorporate into our Quality System. No changes will go into effect until after our next surveillance visit in February 2018.

The Quality Team thanks you for your continued commitment to quality and your ideas, patience, and cooperation throughout this transition. I know sometimes it seems like the only constant in our world is change, but progress is impossible without change.

-Molly Ross, Laboratory Quality Manager

MAKING CONNECTIONS: CWAC

- Jen Naugle, Forensic Scientist Supervisor

Coffee with a Cop (CWAC) was an event hosted by Capital Police on Tuesday, October 17th, in the Madison Crime Laboratory break room. Coffee with a Cop began in California in 2011 and is now a national event with over 300 police agencies participating across the country. The mission of this event is to break down the barriers between the police officers and the citizens they serve via informal one-on-one conversations.

"Coffee with a Cop was an unexpected but great event! We work together with officers every day, but don't always get to put faces to names. It was nice to be able to take some time and get to know the officers more, both personally and professionally. It was also really exciting to meet and learn about Yachi; she was so sweet and well-behaved. I would love to see Coffee with a Cop grow into a reoccurring, multiple-agency event, so that we can get better acquainted with our allies."

-Jenna Scheidt

The officers brought free coffee for the Madison Crime Laboratory and engaged us in excellent conversation. Thank-you to the Capital Police and Sara Thomas for organizing this event.

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."

-Mother Teresa

Getting to Know You…

Sandy, if I gave you three more hours in a day, what would you do?

At work? It would be casework. Due to my other responsibilities, I do not get to do as much casework which is what I really enjoy. Have you seen my desk? I also could really use some extra time to organize and purge all the stuff I have collected over the last 26 years.

Do you belong to any associations (forensic or otherwise)?

Yes, I belong to Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) and have been quite involved in this association over the years. I am also certified by the American Board of Criminalistics in drug analysis.

Can you give us three words to describe yourself?

[redacted]

[redacted]

Sandy Koresch,
Controlled Substances
Technical Unit Leader

"Outside of work, Sandy, what makes you happy?"

"[redacted]"

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Getting to Know You…

Wendi, if I gave you three more hours in a day, what would you do?

Do you belong to any associations (forensic or otherwise)?

WAI , IAI,

Can you give us three words to describe yourself?

Can you tell us about the important people in your life?

Wendi Adams, Identification Examiner- Advanced

"Outside of work, Wendy, what makes you happy?"

I would not be the person I am today without meeting Adrianna Bast. She is the sister I didn't grow up with. I'm older by one month but she gives me guidance and wisdom when I am lost. I hope I give her life a calming presence in this rush of life. Though we should spend a lot more time together visiting zoos and museums!

I am also always grateful for the family that I am a part of at the Wausau Crime Lab. Though the people have changed over my 13 years here, we are very much a family with all the love, support and squabbles. I cannot believe there is a better place for me.

Cryptograms

1. Rit sdvry dmt ljagzhmrdjr. Ar'y cidr ritq dmt ztmvtaftk rh pt ridr ktrtmgajty rit vhlmyt hs tftjry.

Hints: R=T and T=E

2. "Hvl vmkzq czul vzn fql clzppd lyyluhxal blzifq, zqo hvzh xn pzmtvhlc." -- Kzcr Hbzxq

Hints: H=T and L=E

3. Gqw uiex gqpif xuy qsdw gu lu po jzwsgqw. Wdwzxgqpif weow po ukgpuise.

Hints: G=T and W=E