

National Science and Technology Council

Committee on Science

Subcommittee on Forensic Science

Interagency Working Group- Outreach and Communication

Trace Evidence Symposium

Clearwater Beach, FL

August 5-7, 2009

IWG-Outreach and Communication

- Agencies represented on the IWG
 - Department of Commerce
 - National Institute of Standards and Technology
 - Department of Defense
 - Department of Homeland Security
 - United States Secret Service
 - Executive Office of the President
 - Office of Science and Technology Policy
 - Department of Justice
 - Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms
 - Drug Enforcement Administration
 - Executive Office for US Attorneys
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation
 - National Institute of Justice
 - Department of Treasury
 - Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
 - National Science Foundation

Outreach and Communication

■ Co-Chairs

- Frank Shults, DOJ, Executive Office for US Attorneys (currently detailed to ATF)
- Eric Steel, National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Cary Oien, Federal Bureau of Investigation

■ Executive Secretary

- Rachel Voiles, United States Secret Service

IWG-Outreach and Communication

- Tasking from the Forensic Science Sub-Committee
 - Develop general messaging strategy and talking points
 - Assist members in determining suitability of conference participation, and developing talks
 - Lead subcommittee efforts to host conference(s), if needed
 - Develop websites

IWG-Outreach and Communication

- Who are the Stakeholders in the Forensic Science community?
 - Government entities
 - State and local law enforcement laboratories
 - Federal law enforcement laboratories
 - Other government entities
 - Non-government entities
 - Universities
 - Professional organizations
 - Private laboratories
 - Public
 - Legal system
 - Others?

IWG-Outreach and Communication

- Disseminate the work product from other IWG's to the Forensic Science community
 - Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation
 - Standards, Practices and Protocols
 - Education, Ethics and Terminology
 - Accreditation and Certification

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- Of equal importance will be to solicit information from stakeholders, catalog it, and make it available to all stakeholders
 - Presentations at existing conferences
 - Develop/host conferences
 - Website

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- Possible website content
 - Data collected from IWG's
 - Description/outline of current Government forensic science activities
 - User supported, searchable database of forensic science information
 - Research
 - News
 - Upcoming events
 - Technical literature

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- Examples of websites we could model ours after
 - www.biometrics.gov
 - www.biometricscatalog.org.
- This is how the biometrics community handled a similar “problem” in the past

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- Parting thoughts
 - Collaboration from the all Forensic Science stakeholders will be key to our success
 - The goal is to develop a product that will be useful to the community
 - We want this to be a dynamic product, that all users have the ability to access, share and obtain information

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■ Parting thoughts

- From the survey that Sandy² presented on Wed.
 - Responses identified a “lack of a centralized forum in which we can exchange ideas and analytical techniques”
 - Also identified that 95% of respondents are doing some sort of outreach already
- The product that we hope to make available to everyone (which contains input from everyone, not just the IWG's) will be an invaluable asset to all users as the central landing point for sharing and obtaining information about forensic science

IWG-Outreach and Communication

- Contact us with your thoughts and ideas, we want and need your input!
 - Frank Shults
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 - Eric Steel
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 - Cary Oien
 - cary.oien@ic.fbi.gov
 - Rachel Voiles
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Questions?