

**SWGGUN**

**Scientific Working Group  
for Firearms and Toolmarks**

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# SWGGUN.org

The purpose of SWGGUN is to develop a series of consensus guidelines for the firearm and toolmark discipline and to disseminate SWGGUN guidelines, studies, and other findings that may be of benefit to the forensic community. The SWG meets twice annually.

## [Announcements](#) (*archives*)

### [April 2010 SWGGUN Meeting Summary](#)

The SWGGUN met in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for their semi-annual meeting from April 12-15, 2009. Eighteen members of the Board and the current AFTE President, James Krylo, were present. Three Board members were absent.

Topics and issues covered during this meeting are listed below.

The SWGGUN Chair reported the following contacts and actions since the last meeting:

- SWGGUN was provided an update on the National Science & Technology Council, Sub-Committee on Forensic Science's mission in responding to recommendations in the 2009 NAS Report. In this update, work by the Research, Development Testing & Evaluation (RDT&E) Interagency Working Group (IWG) was emphasized as



### Recently Updated

[SWGGUN Guidelines](#)

[Admissibility Resource Kit](#)

[Appendix I-Visual Aids](#)



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for Firearms and Toolmarks

- **SWGGUN**
  - Established by the FBI in 1998
  - Comprised of up to 22 voting members
    - 21 regular appointed members
    - AFTE President
  - Meet twice a year

- **Mission or Purpose**

To develop a series of consensus guidelines for the firearms & toolmark discipline and to disseminate SWGGUN guidelines, studies & other findings that may be of benefit to the forensic community.

- Membership
  - International representatives of the experience and knowledge in FA/TM ID, i.e. discipline experts
  - New members:
    - Nominated by SWGGUN board members
    - Apply for membership
    - Approved by 2/3 vote of the Board

## **Member Selection Criteria**

- Background- Assess technical & scientific accomplishments, as well as interpersonal skill sets.
- Diversity- Consider international, national & regional representation balance.
- Sponsor Support- Candidate's employer must commit to support participation.



## *Current Members*

**GREG KLEES**, Chair  
ATF National Laboratory Center  
Beltsville, MD

**CHARLES CLOW**  
SW Institute  
Dallas, TX

**DEAN DAHLSTROM**  
RCMP Police  
Saskatchewan, Canada

**SCOTT DOYLE**  
Kentucky State Police  
Louisville, KY

**JILL DUPRE**  
Harris County Regional Laboratory  
Houston, TX

**KIMBERLY HAAG**  
Metro Forensic Science Center  
Albuquerque, NM

**MARK KEISLER**  
Indiana State Police  
Indianapolis, IN

**DOUGLAS S. LANCON**  
Acadia Crime Laboratory  
New Iberia, LA

**CHRISTOPHER M. MONTURO**  
Miami Valley Regional Laboratory  
Indianapolis, IN

**THOMAS L.G. PRICE**  
Kansas Bureau of Identification  
Topeka, KS



## **Current Members**

**KATHERINE T. RICHERT**

Alabama Dept. of Forensic Sciences  
Montgomery, AL

**ANDY SMITH**

San Francisco Police Dept.  
San Francisco, CA

**ERICH SMITH**

FBI Laboratory  
Quantico, VA

**TRAVIS SPINDER**

Montana State Crime Laboratory  
Missoula, MT

**JAMES STEPHENSON**

Connecticut Dept. of Public Safety  
Meriden, CT

**PETER STRIUPAITIS**

Northeast Regional Crime Laboratory  
Vernon Hills, IL

**ED WALLACE**

Bexar County Crime Laboratory  
San Antonio, TX

**JOHN G. WARD**

Virginia State Crime Laboratory  
Norfolk, VA

**R.T. WYANT**

Washington State Patrol  
Seattle, WA

ASLD Representative

**KATHERINE T. RICHERT**

Alabama Dept. of Forensic Science  
Montgomery, AL

AFTE President

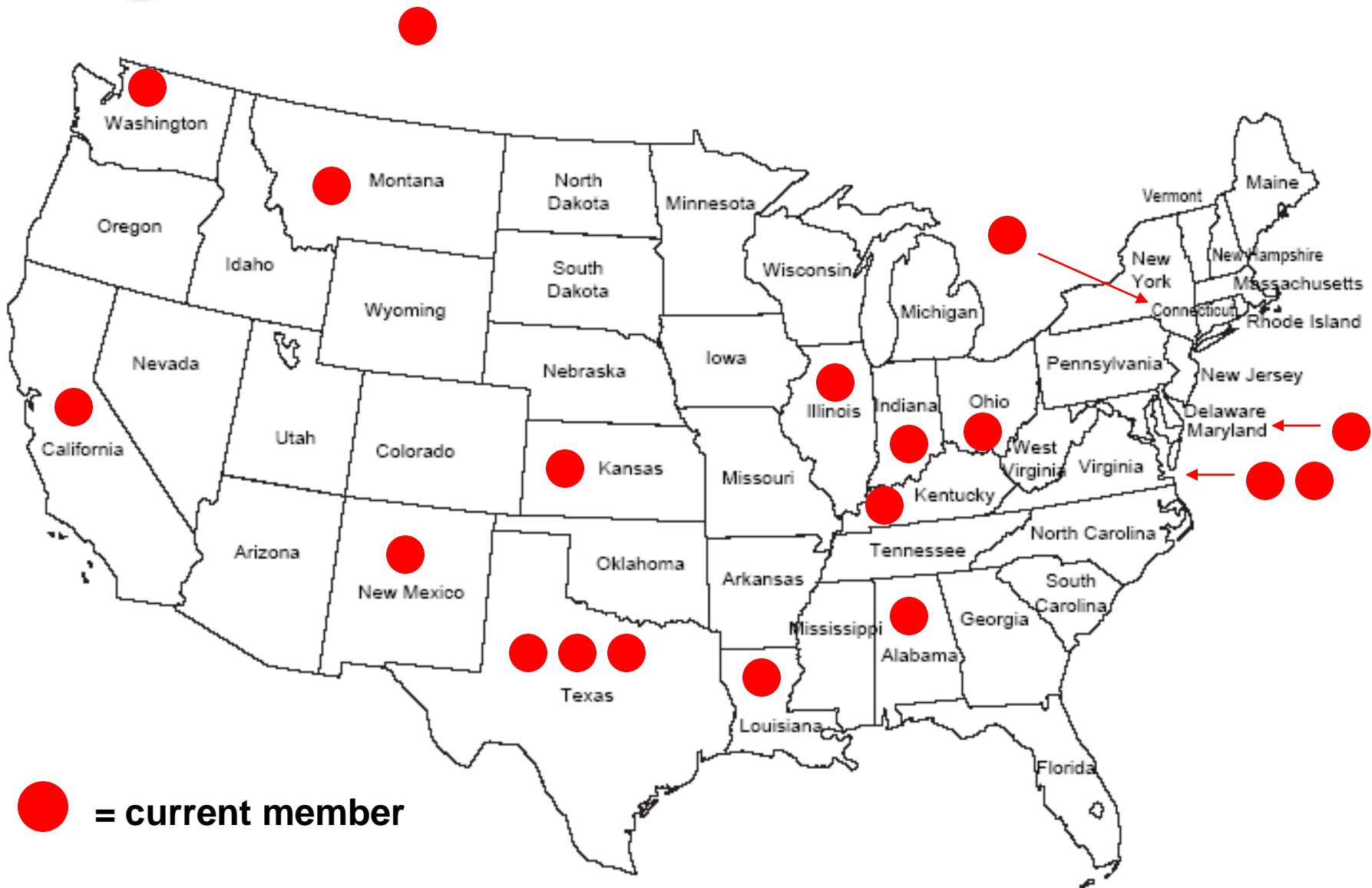
**JAMES KRYLO**

Las Vegas Metro Police Dept.  
Las Vegas, NV



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# Objectives

- Primary Objectives:

- Recommend and disseminate discipline guidelines for quality assurance and quality control.
- Provide guidelines and not mandate decisions of policy.
- Discuss, share and exchange ideas regarding forensic analysis methods, protocols and research.
- Bring together organizations and/or individuals actively pursuing relevant analysis methods for the purpose of exchanging and disseminating information.
- Cooperate with other national and international organizations in developing relevant standards.
- Monitor and disseminate research and technology related to the discipline.

# Objectives

- Primary Objectives (continued):
  - Work closely with the Association of Firearms and Tool Mark Examiners, which is a discipline specific professional organization.
    - Guidelines, procedures & protocols
    - External human resources- Technical, scientific, legal and scientific advisors
    - Research data resources

# **Guidelines / Procedures**

- **Guidelines for Trigger Pull Analysis**
- **Recommended Education/Experience Requirements for Experienced Level Firearm and Toolmark Examiners**
- **Recommended Education Requirements for Entry Level Firearm and Toolmark Examiner Trainees**
- **Recommended Guidelines for Developing a Training Manual**
- **SWGUN Quality Assurance Guidelines**
- **Elimination Factors Related to FA/TM Examinations**
- **Projectile Path Reconstruction Essential Elements**
- **Forensic Examination Guidelines for Silencers**
- **Guidelines for the Criteria for Identification**
- **Guidelines for the Standardization of Comparison Documentation**

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## **Committees, Projects & Programs**

- 10 active guideline committees
- 6 active projects and programs.

## **Current Committees**

ARK Maintenance  
ASTM Standards  
By-Laws  
Document & Document Archive  
Gunshot Residue Pattern Testing  
International Liaison  
Report Writing  
Science  
SWGGUN Publications  
Training

## **Current Projects**

FA/TM ID Report on Foundational Issues

Admissibility Resource Kit Maintenance

Admissibility Testimony Training

## **Major Programs**

- **Admissibility Resource Kit**
- **International Outreach Initiative**
- **Admissibility Training Program**



# *SWGGUN Admissibility Resource Kit (ARK)*

## Overview

The Admissibility Resource Kit (ARK) is a repository of pertinent information designed to primarily assist Firearms and Toolmark Examiners in quickly preparing for evidence admissibility hearings. The information contained in the ARK consists of general & foundational text, listed documents, related internet website links and visual aids that serve as an effective educational tool. The layered or nested formatting of this information will hopefully provide a progressive learning vehicle that will quickly educate the end-user on the critical elements that should be mastered to articulate the underlying scientific principles of the Firearms and Toolmark Identification forensic discipline.

# **SWGGUN International Outreach Initiative**

## **Overview**

The IOI is an effort to:

- Forge closer liaison with international professional firearms organizations to address mutual concerns.
- Cultivate partnerships with these groups to standardize guidelines, synchronize research efforts and consolidate reference data.
- Launched at 2009 ENFSI Meeting.



Bundeskriminalamt

ENFSI Expert Working Group Firearms/GSR - Workshop Firearms

October 23rd, 2009 - Bundeskriminalamt, Wiesbaden, Germany



Expert Working Group:  
Firearms / GSR

## *Admissibility Training*

### Overview

- Provide examiner testimony training for admissibility hearings:
  - > Launched first training class- ISP, Chicago, November 2009
  - > Second training class LAFS- Baton Rouge, April 2010
  
- Develop admissibility testimony training program of concise court responses with up to three levels of detail.

## *Upcoming Activities*

- Impression and Pattern Evidence Symposium – Clearwater, FL
  - August 2010
    - Poster Session for ARK
    - Presentation on Systemic Issues Response
- SWGGUN Fall Meeting – Columbus, OH



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## **What is the process for establishing the guidelines and standards?**

- Form a committee to formulate a guideline draft.
- Present draft to the Board.
- Review and edits made by Board.
- Draft is then posted for peer review for 90 days.
- All PR feedback is sent to Board for evaluation and edit.
- Draft is then re-posted for further PR.
- Board then finalizes of draft guideline (by 2/3 vote).
- When finalized, guideline then electronically posted.



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## **What is the process for establishing the guidelines and standards? (continued)**

\*Guideline formation is not a static process but is constantly in flux.

- After final posting, external input is constantly solicited.
- Any finalized guideline can be revised/updated at any time.



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## **What are the guidelines/standards for each of these disciplines?**

- All finalized guidelines are electronically posted.
- Attempts are also being made to publish all finalized guidelines in a peer reviewed journal.
- All SWGGUN work products are presented annually at the Association of Firearms & Tool Mark Examiner's convention.





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## How is quality control/assurance monitored and enforced?

- SWGGUN only recommends general guidelines and procedures.
- SWGGUN is **not** a regulatory body.



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## **What recommendations has SWGGUN made and have they been implemented ?**

- Refer to all established guidelines
- Systemic report response to NAS Report- April, 2009
- 2008 NAS Report court ruling updates



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## What is needed?

- More regulatory authority.
- Refer to objectives

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*"...to recommend and disseminate discipline guidelines for quality assurance and quality control and not to mandate decisions of policy."*



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