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## ***STANDARD FOR REPORTING FRICTION RIDGE EXAMINATIONS (LATENT/TENPRINT)***

### **Preamble**

SWGFAST recognizes the importance of providing the recipient with an accurate, comprehensive and understandable friction ridge examination report. A report is a summary of the friction ridge impression examinations performed in a case (case as defined by agency policy). Additional materials and case documentation may be available.

### **1 Scope**

This document provides the minimum information that shall be included in a report. Additional information may be included.

For purposes of this document, automated responses generated by an AFIS are not considered reports.

### **2 Required Elements**

- 2.1** Title of report (e.g., type of report )
- 2.2** Reporting agency and location
- 2.3** Pagination including total number of pages
- 2.4** Submitting agency or individual
- 2.5** Case identifier on each page
- 2.6** Date of report
- 2.7** Evidence or request information, as applicable
  - 2.7.1** Description
  - 2.7.2** Unique identifier
- 2.8** Exemplar information

Exemplar information for all comparisons, except exclusions as a result of an AFIS search, shall be listed in the report.

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- 2.8.1 Name, to include alias if necessary (per agency policy)
  - 2.8.2 Anatomical source (e.g., fingers, palms, or foot)
  - 2.8.3 Origin of exemplar (e.g., provided or obtained from archive or database)
  - 2.8.4 Personal identification number (e.g., FBI number or State ID number)
  - 2.8.5 If no personal identification number available, the date of birth, if available
  - 2.8.6 Unique identifier of exemplar, if applicable
  - 2.8.7 Statement indicating exemplar(s) (e.g., tenprint card or palm prints) added to file
- 2.9 Examination Results
- 2.9.1 Description of item and unique identifier, from which suitable, non-suitable or no friction ridge impressions were detected by the reporting examiner. For non-original evidence (e.g., lift, photographs, and digital), description of original item shall also be indicated, if available.
  - 2.9.2 For all conclusions, the following shall be documented in the report:
    - 2.9.2.1 Name on exemplar, to include alias if necessary (per agency policy)
    - 2.9.2.2 Unique identifier of exemplar, if available
    - 2.9.2.3 If no personal identification number available, the date of birth, if available
    - 2.9.2.4 Description of item and unique identifier, from which suitable friction ridge impressions were detected. For non-original evidence description of original item shall also be indicated.
    - 2.9.2.5 For identification conclusions, simultaneous impressions shall be reported if an identification conclusion is reached and none of the impressions stand alone.
- 2.10 AFIS, if applicable
- 2.10.1 Statement that searches were conducted
  - 2.10.2 Databases searched (local, state, or federal)
  - 2.10.3 Search results (this is not intended to require or recommend the inclusion of individual candidate information).
  - 2.10.4 Statement indicating unidentified friction ridge impression(s) registered to unsolved latent database
  - 2.10.5 Statement indicating exemplar(s) (e.g., tenprint card or palm prints) added to file by reporting examiner
- 2.11 Identity of examiner
- 2.12 Signature of examiner (identity and signature of examiner may be provided electronically).
- 2.13 Glossary or explanation of technical terms and abbreviations, if applicable

### **3 Suggested Elements**

- 3.1** Indication of end of report
- 3.2** Date of request
- 3.3** Date evidence received
- 3.4** Friction ridge impression detection techniques (e.g., black powder, chemicals, or digital imaging software)
- 3.5** Total number of suitable friction ridge impressions per item
- 3.6** Statement indicating friction ridge impression comparison process(es) used (e.g., ACE-V or a mathematically based model)
- 3.7** For all conclusions (identification, exclusion, inconclusive)
  - 3.7.1** Anatomical source to include specific finger, palm, toe, etc.
  - 3.7.2** Unique identifier of friction ridge impression
- 3.8** Statement of verification(s) performed, if applicable
- 3.9** Identity of verifier(s)
- 3.10** Statement indicating conflicting conclusions resolved by agency policy and not due to an examiner changing their decision (e.g., agency policy dictates the most conservative conclusion is reported out).
- 3.11** Disposition of evidence
- 3.12** Statement that materials (e.g., case notes or standard operating procedures) are on file.
- 3.13** Qualifying statements indicating the significance of conclusions (e.g., the presence of a friction ridge print on an item of evidence does not necessarily indicate the significance or time frame in which the print was deposited).

## Appendix A

### Example Report 1 (short version – emphasizing content, not format)

ABC Police Department (ABC, USA)

Latent Print Unit – Latent Print Analysis Report

**Case Number:** 2010-12345

**Requestor:** Detective Toni Roberts, ABC PD

**Exemplars:**

**Submitted fingerprint records:**

MICHELE TRIPLETT, DOB 08/15/1995

MITCH HOLLARS, DOB 08/31/1994

**Fingerprint record printed from AFIS<sup>1</sup> archive:**

HERMAN BERGMAN, PIN 123

**Evidence:**

5 Latent lifts collected at scene submitted by Crime Scene Unit Supervisor Melissa Gische as follows:

Latent lift #1(A) – fingerprint – “rear passenger panel”

Latent lift #2(A-B) – fingerprints – “outside rear roof passenger side”

Latent lift #3 – outside rear passenger window passenger side”

Latent lift #4(A) – fingerprint (tip) – “outside driver door”

Latent lift #5(A) – fingerprint – “outside driver door”

### **RESULTS OF ACE-V<sup>2</sup> COMPARISON PROCESS:**

TRIPLETT, HOLLARS, and BERGMAN were excluded as the source of latents #1A, 2A, 2B, and 5A.

TRIPLETT, HOLLARS, and BERGMAN were inconclusively<sup>3</sup> compared to latent #4A. Exemplars from the tip area of the fingers are needed.

Latent lift #3 contains insufficient friction ridge detail for comparison.

**VERIFICATION<sup>4</sup>:**

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<sup>1</sup> AFIS – The acronym for Automated Fingerprint Identification System, a generic term for a fingerprint matching, storage, and retrieval system.

<sup>2</sup> ACE-V – The acronym for a scientific method; Analysis, Comparison, Evaluation, and Verification (see individual terms).

<sup>3</sup> Inconclusive – The determination by an examiner that there is neither sufficient agreement to individualize, nor sufficient disagreement to exclude.

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Forensic Latent Print Examiner Kasey Wertheim verified the conclusions.

Leonard Butt

September 16, 2011

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Leonard Butt

Date

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<sup>4</sup> Verification – The independent application of the ACE process as utilized by a subsequent examiner to either support or refute the conclusions of the original examiner; this may be conducted as blind verification. Verification may be followed by some level of review as specified by agency policy.

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**Example Report 2 (long version – emphasizing content, not format)**  
**(Requirements highlighted in blue)**

ABC Police Department (ABC, USA)

Latent Print Unit

123 Main Street

Washington D.C. 20035

Latent Print Analysis Report

To: Detective Toni Roberts  
ABC PD

Date: September 16, 2011

Case Number: 2010-12345

Case Title: Bank of ABC  
123 ABC Blvd.  
ABC, USA  
Feb. 28, 2010  
Bank Robbery

Date specimens received: March 3, 2010

Fingerprint Analyst: Leonard Butt

The items listed below were examined in the Latent Print Unit:

Item #	Description	
1	Demand note beginning, "I have a gun..."	Submitted
2	Bank of ABC withdrawal form	Submitted
3	Pen with chain	Submitted
4	Lift indicated as coming from customer counter	Submitted
5	Fingerprints of MICHELE TRIPLETT, ABCPD #123456	Printed from ABCAFIS archive
6	Fingerprints of MITCH HOLLARS, ABCPD #987654	Printed from ABCAFIS as a result of an automated search

*Table 1: Items examined in Latent Print Section*

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## Results of Examinations:

Items of evidence submitted to the Latent Print Unit for examination may be examined visually, examined with various light sources, or processed with chemicals and powders to detect the presence of latent friction ridge prints. The specific sequence of examinations and processes depends upon the nature of the evidence.\*

ABC PD conducts friction ridge print examinations using the Analysis, Comparison, Evaluation, and Verification (ACE-V) process. The first step in the process is Analysis, which is conducted independently on first the latent then the known prints. During this step, each print is analyzed for both the quality and quantity of information present. The quality and quantity of information observed during the Analysis phase determines whether the print contains suitable information to conduct a comparison with another print. I detected four latent fingerprints on Items 1, 2, and 4 that were suitable for comparison:

Item #	Description	Processing techniques applied	# of prints	Processing technique
1	Demand note beginning, "I have a gun..."	Visual, LASER, UV, Crimescope, DFO/LASER, Ninhydrin, Physical Developer	2 (L1a, L1b)	1 DFO/LASER, 1 Ninhydrin
2	Bank of ABC withdrawal form	Visual, LASER, UV, Crimescope, DFO/LASER, Ninhydrin, Physical Developer	1 (L2)	Ninhydrin
3	Pen with chain	Visual, LASER, UV, Crimescope, Cyanoacrylate fuming, RUVIS, Cyanoacrylate dye stain/LASER/UV/Crimescope, White Powder	0	No friction ridge impressions detected
4	Lift indicated as coming from customer counter	Visual – see crime scene log for additional information	1 (L4)	Black powder lift

Table 2: Processing techniques applied and prints determined to be suitable for comparison

In the Comparison phase of the ACE-V process, I conducted a side-by-side comparison of a latent print with an exemplar. I examined both prints for similarities and differences, assessing ridges sequentially for agreement or disagreement in all levels of detail.

In the Evaluation phase of the ACE-V, I considered all of the information gathered during Analysis and Comparison to reach conclusions about the origin of the latent prints. I compared the four latent fingerprints to the fingerprints of MICHELE TRIPLETT, ABCPD #123456, with the following results:

\* See *Processing Guide for Developing Latent Prints*, ABC PD, Revised 2001.

Item #	Description	# of prints	Results of comparison with MICHELE TRIPLETT, ABCPD #123456
1	Demand note beginning, "I have a gun..."	2	2 Identifications
2	Bank of ABC withdrawal form	1	Exclusion
4	Lift indicated as coming from customer counter	1	Exclusion

Table 3: Results of comparisons with MICHELE TRIPLETT, ABCPD #123456

The remaining two unidentified latent fingerprints were searched in the ABC Automated Fingerprint Identification System (ABCAFIS) with the following results:

Item #	Description	# of prints	Results of ABCAFIS search
2	Bank of ABC withdrawal form	1	No Identification effected
4	Lift indicated as coming from customer counter	1	Identification with MITCH HOLLARS, ABCPD #987654

Table 4: Results of ABCAFIS searches

The remaining unidentified latent fingerprint is not a fingerprint of MITCH HOLLARS, ABCPD #987654. The unidentified latent fingerprint L2 was registered to the Unsolved Latent File.

**Summary of Evaluation:**

Item #	Description	# of prints	Evaluation Summary
1	Demand note beginning, "I have a gun..."	2	2 Identifications w/ MICHELE TRIPLETT, ABCPD #123456
2	Bank of ABC withdrawal form	1	Not a fingerprint of MICHELE TRIPLETT, ABCPD #123456, or MITCH HOLLARS, ABCPD #987654
4	Lift indicated as coming from customer counter	1	Identification with MITCH HOLLARS, ABCPD #987654

Table 5: Summary of evaluation

The presence of a friction ridge print on an item of evidence indicates contact was made between the source and the item of evidence. The presence of a friction ridge print alone does not necessarily indicate the significance of either the contact or the time frame during which the contact occurred.



**Results of Verifications and Blind Verifications:**

The Verification step of the ACE-V process consists of an independent application of the ACE process by a subsequent examiner to either support or refute the conclusions of the original examiner. On April 18, 2011, Fingerprint Analyst Kasey Wertheim verified the identifications. There were no conflicts of opinion.

On April 19, 2011, Fingerprint Examiner Herman Bergman conducted a blind verification of the identification to MITCH HOLLARS on L4. In blind verifications, the verifying examiner is unaware of the original examiner's conclusion. This blind verification resulted in conflicting conclusions. Examiner Bergman deemed the comparison inconclusive. On April 20, 2011, Fingerprint Examiner Andre Moenssens blind verified the identification to MITCH HOLLARS on L4. There were no additional conflicts of opinion.

Additional documentation, including bench notes and annotated images of the latent prints for both the primary analyst and verifiers, is retained as part of the case record and can be provided upon request. The ABCPD Latent Print Unit's *Quality Assurance Manual and Standard Operating Procedures* can be found online at [www.ABCPD.gov](http://www.ABCPD.gov).

For questions about the content of this report, please contact Fingerprint Analyst Leonard Butt at (202) 123-4567.

The specimens are being returned under separate cover.

Leonard Butt  
Leonard Butt

Fingerprint Analyst

**Example Report 3 (short version – emphasizing content, not format)**

ABC Police Department (ABC, USA)

AFIS Identification Unit – Inked Print Analysis Report

**Case Number:** 2010-12345

**Requestor:** Detective Toni Roberts, ABC PD

**Exemplars:**

**Fingerprint record printed from AFIS<sup>i</sup> archive:**

HERMAN BERGMAN, PIN 123

**Item:**

Item 1 – pawn ticket #1234 from John’s Pawn Shop

**RESULTS OF ACE-V<sup>ii</sup> COMPARISON PROCESS:**

BERGMAN was excluded as the source of the inked impression present on pawn ticket #1234 from John’s Pawn Shop (Item 1).

**VERIFICATION<sup>iii</sup>:**

Forensic Examiner John Black verified the conclusion.

Leonard Butt	September 16, 2011
Forensic Examiner Leonard Butt	Date

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<sup>i</sup> AFIS – The acronym for Automated Fingerprint Identification System, a generic term for a fingerprint matching, storage, and retrieval system.

<sup>ii</sup> ACE-V – The acronym for a scientific method; Analysis, Comparison, Evaluation, and Verification (see individual terms).

<sup>iii</sup> Verification – The independent application of the ACE process as utilized by a subsequent examiner to either support or refute the conclusions of the original examiner; this may be conducted as blind verification. Verification may be followed by some level of review as specified by agency policy.