1992-1993 Reports

Numerous committee and subcommittee reports which contain significant information impacting the Association as well as various forensic disciplines were presented at the 78th Annual Conference and Training Seminar in Orlando, Florida. Some were read during the business meeting while others, in lieu of formal reading, were submitted for publication.

The 1993 Conference Speakers and Papers Committee Report was presented in the last issue. Additional reports are printed in this issue, and the remaining communications will be published in future issues, space permitting, as they become available.

AFIS Subcommittee Report

Douglas D. Woodlee, Chair

Two goals of the AFIS Subcommittee since the Atlantic City conference were to raise the awareness of law enforcement, especially administrators, regarding AFIS, and to work toward some type of certification program for AFIS ten-print operators. In partial fulfillment of these goals, the Subcommittee published "An AFIS Status Report" in the January/February 1993 issue of the *Journal of Forensic Identification* and moderated an AFIS Workshop at the Orlando conference. A workshop for Ten-Print Entry and Search Techniques was held, and the following systems and sites were represented: Pierce County, Washington (Tacoma), a MORPHO site, was represented by David Cotton; Georgia Bureau of Investigation, a NEC site, was represented by Willie Smith; and, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department (Florida) was represented by William Schade. All three presentations were well received, and several questions were received by the speakers who stayed for a panel discussion. Next year, the AFIS Subcommittee will try to hold a Latent Print Workshop.

The "AFIS Status Report" included a survey of all 50 state bureaus of identification about their AFIS operations. It included information on the known AFIS vendors and new "players" in the AFIS vendor area, and information on known AFIS sites in countries outside the U.S.A. Reaction to the report has been very positive, and inquiries were received from vendors, potential vendors, users and potential users. Several attempts were made to contact AFIS vendors in China, Germany, India, Korea, South Africa, Switzerland, and the Ukraine. Successful contact was made with Dermalog in Hamburg, Germany; CMC Limited in New Delhi, India; and Union Systems, Inc., in Seoul, South Korea. Very little information has been gathered from these companies.

The report mentioned that an AFIS User's List was being updated by the Subcommittee. Several requests have been received for the list. The list has been completed, following many long distance phone calls, several letters, and fax messages among the Subcommittee, the known AFIS vendors and a large number of the users themselves. The vendors were very cooperative, but it was found that they had limited information available on their customer sites. Therefore, it was necessary to contact approximately 50% of the user sites directly. Many of the overseas sites could not be contacted due to time zone and language barriers, but the vendors were pressed hard to gather the required information. Many of the newer sites still have no equipment installed, but since they are under contract, a contact name, official agency name/address/phone and fax number was requested. It is certain that the list is much more accurate than the information originally provided by the vendors, which in many cases was found to be very out-of-date.

The User's List is (as of July 1993) in the hands of Ashley Crooker. Ashley brought a draft copy to the Board of Directors and the AFIS Subcommittee for review for errors prior to making the list available for purchase. The list, if printed on both sides of a page, and with 12 entries per page, will be approximately 25 pages (including two to four pages of general information on the data, how to use the list, and an index). There will be approximately 525 separate locations throughout the world which are operating an AFIS already, or will have some type of AFIS equipment under contract to be operational within the near future.

It is believed this list will provide invaluable information to administrators seeking to purchase an AFIS (for contact names, RFPs, etc.).

Current AFIS users and non-AFIS users will be interested in contact names in order to be able to send unknown latent prints and certain ten-print cards for search through AFIS databases. The User's List could go a long way towards meeting the goal to raise awareness of AFIS within the law enforcement community.

Another goal was to follow up on a Subcommittee project to collect and collate the AFIS Operational Statistical Form. This project was begun during Mike Fitzpatrick's term as Chair of the AFIS Subcommittee, and was approved by the Board of Directors. A reminder that the forms were due at the end of 1992 was printed in the *JFI*. Only 18 agencies returned the form. David Gavin received most of the responses since they were originally to be returned to him as Chair of the Subcommittee. David and his staff collated the information, and have compiled reports from the 18 responses. The reports were reviewed by the AFIS Subcommittee at its Monday meeting at the Orlando conference. The Subcommittee asked David Gavin to have the information put into a more condensed form for review by the Subcommittee. Once this report is reviewed, the Subcommittee may ask the Editor of the *JFI* to print the report. However, with such a limited response to the form, this project may be dropped as unproductive.

The Subcommittee collaborated on a survey of state bureaus of identification to see how juvenile fingerprinting is allowed within the states and what role the AFIS plays in use of juvenile fingerprinting. Several states had to be contacted two or three times before all responses were received. This report is not finished and will require additional work. Several state bureaus reported recent changes or impending changes in juvenile fingerprinting laws as the reason for their delayed response. Hopefully, some meaningful information can be derived from this survey and printed in the *JFI* at a later date.

The report will show which states allow juveniles to be fingerprinted (and for which crime types-felonies, misdemeanors or both), whether the prints are retained in AFIS, what types of searches are performed against the juvenile prints, and other information.

The survey is based upon the new FBI policy which allows the FBI to retain fingerprints of persons being adjudicated in juvenile court as opposed to their old policy of rejection of prints if the juvenile card was not notated "TREAT AS ADULT".

President Shane appointed Norman Smith and Ray Moore as the IAI representatives to an Image Quality Review Workshop resulting from the NIST Workshop on the Electronic Exchange of Fingerprint Images. Ray Moore has ably documented the proceedings of four scheduled meetings in articles published or to be published in the JFI, thus keeping IAI Members apprised of the results of these meetings. President Shane also appointed Leonard Butt as the IAI representative to the Latent Examiner Working Group. Work is continuing by those three individuals and it is expected that additional reports will be printed in the *JFI*.

The AFIS Subcommittee briefly reviewed the proposed revision of the FBI's standardized criminal fingerprint card. The current AFIS Subcommittee Chair has been invited by the FBI to participate as a member of the NCIC Advisory Policy Boards' Ad Hoc Fingerprint Card Redesign Group. The AFIS Subcommittee welcomes this opportunity to participate in such a project having an impact upon so many IAI members and their agencies.

The AFIS Subcommittee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Subcommittee be made a permanent standing Committee. The Board of Directors agreed, and the AFIS Subcommittee worked with the Resolutions Committee to draft a Resolution for presentation at the Annual Business Meeting. The Resolution passed first reading.

Summary of AFIS Subcommittee 7/93 Vugraphs on Image Quality and Compression

1. At the 1991 educational conference in St. Louis, the IAI adopted a position paper developed by the AFIS Subcommittee stating that it considered that fingerprint images of a quality commensurate with the best attainable, using state-of-the-art capture at a minimum of 500 pixels per inch with 256 shades of gray, would be acceptable for retention and use for all forensic identification applications. In engineering metrics, this corresponds to a resolution of at least 7.0 lp/mm at a modulation of at least 0.2, since these values are readily attainable with state-of-the-art capture methods.*