

CURRICULUM VITAE

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Alex Taflya has a BS in Biology, an MS in Forensic Science, and 25 years of experience in forensic science with City and County law enforcement agencies, including 23 years with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Crime. He has been court qualified in firearms examination, shooting incident reconstruction, crime scene processing, blood spatter interpretation, gunshot distance determination, and trace evidence examination. He holds expertise in firearms examination, shooting scene reconstruction, crime scene processing, and blood spatter analysis.

I. Relevant Work Experience

Senior Forensic Scientist June 2023- Present
Forensic Analytical Crime Laboratory

Services Provided: Firearms Examinations and Comparisons, Crime Scene Reconstruction, Gunshot Residue Pattern/ Distance Determination, Laboratory Firearms Report Review and Interpretation

Forensic Consultant April 2021- Present
AT Your Forensic Services

Services Provided: Crime Scene Reconstruction, Laboratory Report Review and Interpretation, Automated Ballistic Identification System Assistance, Photography Training, Crime Scene Processing Training

Criminalist Feb 2022- June 2023
Oakland Police Department

Duties: Examination of firearms to determine functionality and entry of cartridge cases into the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS).

Deputy Sheriff Criminalist July 1998- March 2021
Contra Costa County, Office of the Sheriff
Forensic Services Division

Duties: Crime scene investigations such as crimes of violence, property crimes, and officer involved shootings, where duties consist of documentation, identification, and collection of physical evidence, as well as reconstruction of the crime scene. Examination of firearms to determine functionality, entry of cartridge cases into the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) and Evofinder ballistic imaging databases, serial number restoration on

firearms, make and model determination of bullets and cartridge cases, and microscopic comparison of firearms-related evidence. Previous duties included examination of submitted evidence items for trace evidence, including analysis and comparison of hairs, fiber, and glass. Processing of evidence items for indented writing and physical matches.

HazMat Technician
1998

Sept. 1995- July

University of California, Los Angeles
Office of Environment, Health, & Safety

Duties: Managed the day-to-day hazardous chemical waste produced throughout UCLA; responded to and mitigated emergency chemical releases; conducted laboratory inspections and fumehood certifications.

I. Education

a. Formal

California State University, Los Angeles
M.S. Criminalistics June 2003

Sept. 1996- June 1998

University of California, Los Angeles
B.S. Biology

Sept. 1989- Dec 1993

b. Training Classes

Emergency Medical Technician
UCLA Office of Prehospital Care
Los Angeles, CA

April 1995

Emergency Responder HAZWOPER
UCLA-LOSH
Los Angeles, CA

November 1995

Black & White Photography
Santa Monica College
Santa Monica, CA

June- August 1995

Hazardous Waste Standards Refresher
UCLA-LOSH
Los Angeles, CA

June 1998

b. Training Classes (continued)

Basic Law Enforcement Academy Los Medanos College Pittsburg, CA	July-December 1998
Hair Examination and Comparison CA Criminalistics Institute Sacramento, CA	January 11-15, 1999
Introduction to Crime Scene Investigation CCCSO Criminalistics Laboratory Martinez, CA	January 25-29, 1999
DEA Clandestine Laboratory Training CCCSO Muir Laboratory Martinez, CA	May 10-11, 1999
Hazardous Waste Standards Refresher Compliance Solutions Martinez, CA	November 12, 1999
Courtroom Presentation of Evidence CA Criminalistics Institute Sacramento, CA	December 8-10, 1999
Basic Practical Microscopy CA Criminalistics Institute Sacramento, CA	May 15-19, 2000
CLANWOPER Department of Justice San Jose, CA	January 8-12, 2001
Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Federal Bureau of Investigation ERT Training Center Oakland, CA	March 26-30, 2001
Interpretation of IR Spectra CA Criminalistics Institute San Diego, CA	October 2-4, 2001
Laboratory Safety Officer CA Criminalistics Institute Sacramento, CA	October 26-30, 2001

b. Training Classes (continued)

Polarized Light Microscopy McCrone Research Institute Chicago, IL	March 15-19, 2004
HAZWOPER Refresher NES Martinez, CA	July 29, 2004
Hair and Fiber Microscopy McCrone Research Institute Chicago, IL	October 25-30, 2004
Forensic Digital Photography ANTE Group South San Francisco, CA	December 1-2, 2004
Forensic Application of Textiles North Carolina State University Durham, NC	August 9-12, 2005
Detection, Recovery, and Examination of Footwear Impression Evidence William Bodziak Jacksonville, FL	April 3-7, 2006
Core Safety Series Safety Center Martinez, CA	July 31-Aug 2, 2007
Serial Number Restoration CA Criminalistics Institute Sacramento, CA	October 2-4, 2007
Integrated Ballistics Identification System ATF/FTI Training Center Largo, FL	January 14-18, 2008
Conducting Training Programs & Presentations Safety Center Martinez, CA	January 29-31, 2008
Advanced Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Federal Bureau of Investigations ERT Training Center Oakland, CA	February 4-8, 2008

b. Training Classes (continued)

Firearms Safety CA Criminalistics Institute/CCCSO Clayton, CA	April 22- 25, 2008
Shooting Incident Reconstruction CA Criminalistics Institute/ CCCSO Clayton, CA	July 7-11, 2008
Armorer Course- Ruger Mini 14 and P-89 CAC Workshop Long Beach, CA	May 16-17, 2011
3D Laser Scanning Leica Systems San Ramon, CA	August 2012
Firearms and Toolmarks Introduction I CCI Firearms Academy Rancho Cordova, CA	December 4-7, 2012
Digital Imaging CCI Firearms Academy Rancho Cordova, CA	December 10-14, 2012
Firearms and Toolmarks Introduction I Lab CCI Firearms Academy Rancho Cordova, CA	Jan 28- Feb 8, 2013
Firearms and Toolmarks II CCI Firearms Academy Rancho Cordova, CA	March 11-15, 2013
Technical Writing for Criminalists CCI Firearms Academy Rancho Cordova, CA	March 18-20, 2013
Firearms Manufacturer Tours CCI Firearms Academy Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and California	April 29-May 10, 2013
Suppressors Design and History CCI Firearms Academy Clayton, CA	May 29-31, 2013

b. Training Classes (continued)

Toolmark Comparison Criteria CCI Firearms Academy Rancho Cordova, CA	July 8-19, 2013
Armorer Courses Sig Sauer, Colt 1911, AR rifle CCI Firearms Academy Rancho Cordova, CA	September 12-13, 2013
Courtroom Presentation of Evidence CCI Firearms Academy Rancho Cordova, CA	November 2013
Full Auto Conversion CCI Firearms Academy Rancho Cordova, CA	November 2013
Leica Scanner Level II/ Processing Training Leica Systems San Ramon, CA	December 2013
Advanced Firearms Identification Research CCI Firearms Academy Rancho Cordova, CA	March 2014
Firearms Manufacturer Tour CCI Firearms Academy Rancho Cordova, CA	March 2014
Evofinder Training Evofinder USA at CCCSO Martinez, CA	May 2014
IBIS Trax HD3D Training FT-Ultra at CCCSO Martinez, CA	November 2015
ISO Preparation Course CCCSO Martinez, CA	May 2016
Subclass Workshop AFTE Conference Denver, CO	May 2017

b. Training Classes (continued)

Armorer Course S&W M&P Pistol AFTE Conference Denver, CO	May 2017
UV-IR Photography Fujifilm XT-1 Camera Napa, CA	July 2018
NIBIN Coaching Session ATF Laboratory Walnut Creek, CA	August 2018
Analysis of Shooting Reconstruction Using Mathematics Association of Crime Scene Reconstruction Workshop Nashville, TN	February 2019
Projectile Impact Evaluation Workshop Association of Crime Scene Reconstruction Nashville, TN	February 2019
Fire Investigation for Crime Scene Investigators CAC Study Group Meeting at CCCSO Martinez, CA	September 2019
Leica Scanner CAC Study Group Meeting at CCCSO Martinez, CA	September 2019
Statistical Thinking for Firearms Practitioners CSAFE at SFPD Laboratory San Francisco, CA	January 2020
CAC Bloodstain Pattern Workshop CA Criminalistics Institute Online webinar	July 2020
Crime Scene Unit Workshop CA Criminalistics Institute Online webinar	December 2020
Glock Talk presentation CA Criminalistics Institute Online webinar	January 2021

c. *Informal Training*

Crime Scene Investigation Dec 1998- Oct 1999

Training including the identification and preservation of evidence at crime scenes; collection methods; and reconstruction methods used at crime scenes.

Hair Comparison Dec 1998- Jan 2000

Training and Proficiency Testing of intrapersonal and interpersonal human hair examinations; screening for and identification of animal hairs.

Basic Serological Identification March-April 1999

Training and Proficiency Testing for presumptive testing of blood and identification of human blood.

Indented Writing Materialization February 1999

Training in the use of the ESDA apparatus.

Glass Analysis May 1999

Training and Proficiency Testing in glass analysis, including density and refractive index comparisons.

Phosphine Monitor Training April 2001

Use and calibration of monitoring equipment.

Fibers Comparison August 2001

Training on screening, manipulation, and examination of fiber evidence; including microscopic and instrumental analysis.

FTIR Spectrophotometer November 2001

Training on the use of the FTIR for fiber analysis.

GRIM 2 January 2002

Training in the use of the GRIM apparatus for glass refractive index comparisons.

Footwear and Tire Prints February 2005

Observed documentation of in-progress shoeprint case

SEM/EDX July 2005

Training on sample preparation and use of SEM/EDX for glass analysis

Shoe Test Prints and Chemical Enhancement November 2006

Training on how to make test prints and use of chemical enhancement reagents for shoeprint evidence.

Function Test Training March-May 2007

Background reading and training to conduct function testing of firearms

c. *Informal Training (continued)*

Amido Black Training on use of amido black reagent for blood enhancement	May 2008
Camera Troubleshooting Training on camera settings and correcting exposure issues	November 2008
Make and Model Determination Background reading and training on how to conduct examination of bullets to determine the possible make and model of firearm fired from.	December 2008
Daubert Issues Presentation by Dr. J. Thornton	January 2009
Bluestar Blood Reagent Training on use of Bluestar blood enhancement reagent	September 2010
Drug Recognition at Crime Scenes Training on visual recognition of common drugs	September 2011
VeriPic training Introductory training to VeriPic Digital Image storage	July 2013
Evofinder Training Updated training for use at Laboratory	September 2014
Evofinder Training Version update training	January 2015
Crime Scene Impressions training Laboratory-wide refresher training on documenting and collecting impression evidence	November 2016
Crime Scene Latent Print training Laboratory-wide refresher training on processing for latent prints	December 2016
Searching for Blood Webinar Bluestar and Luminol	February 2017
Luminol and Bluestar training Laboratory-wide refresher training on use of blood reagents	February 2017
Crime Scene Reconstruction Laboratory-wide refresher training on crime scene reconstruction	February 2017

c. *Informal Training (continued)*

Forensic Entomology Laboratory-wide refresher training collection of insect evidence	March 2017
Trajectory training Laboratory-wide refresher training on trajectory documentation	April 2017
Naloxone Usage training Hands-on training for naloxone delivery system	August 2017
3D Microscopy for Firearms Identification Webinar to discuss latest techniques	January 2018
Leica BLK360 scanner training Hands-on training to use BLK360 scanner	January 2018
CMS Theory and Application webinar Review of Consecutive Matching Striations	February 2018
Bloodstain Pattern training Laboratory-wide refresher training for bloodstain pattern interpretation	April 2018
Machining Fundamentals webinar Review of machining processes that leave toolmarks	April 2018
EvidenceOnQ training Introduction to use of EvidenceOnQ database	May 2018
Photography Refresher Laboratory-wide review of crime scene photography	August 2019
Accutrans for Casting Decendent Fingerprints Laboratory-wide hands-on training using Accutrans	October 2019
Bullets and Glass presentation Laboratory-wide presentation about bullet interactions with glass	December 2019
Toolmarks Refresher Laboratory-wide refresher training on toolmarks found at crime scenes	January 2020

d. Training Conducted

Trace Evidence Presentation at Saint Mary's College Demonstrated polarized light microscopy use for fibers and glass examination	About 2007
Created and conducted crime scene photography training In-house training for newer crime scene responders	July 2012
Trace Evidence Presentation at Saint Mary's College Demonstrated polarized light microscopy use for fibers and glass examination	February 2013
Firearms Safety Presentations Safety presentations for Police Academy, Patrol Re-Entry, and CSI groups Demonstrated how to safely handle and unload recovered firearms.	Multiple since 2015
Firearms Safety and Court Presentations Safety presentations and introduction of firearms evidence for court for Attorneys (Prosecution and Defense)	Multiple since 2015

Courtroom Testimony

Testimony given in the following areas:

- Clandestine Laboratory Processing
- Hair Comparison
- Miscellaneous Trace Examination
- Bloodspatter
- Homicide Scene Investigation
- Crime Scene Reconstruction
- Physical Match
- Firearms Function
- Firearms Make and Model Determination
- Firearms Comparison/ Microscopic Identification
- Distance Determination

Publications

Master's thesis on forgery analysis CSULA Los Angeles, CA	June 2003
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Research, Presentations, and Special Reports

Unusual Firing Pin Aperture (M&P pistols) Northern CA Firearms Study Group meeting Hayward, CA	May 2012
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Forensic Use of Photography Contra Costa Camera Club Pleasant Hill, CA	August 2013
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Evofinder vs IBIS Heritage: Comparison of Two Ballistic Imaging Systems CCI FATME Academy Rancho Cordova, CA	December 2013
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Evofinder vs IBIS Heritage: Comparison of Two Ballistic Imaging Systems Presented at AFTE Conference in Seattle, WA	May 2014
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Trace Evidence at Crime Scenes Refresher CCCSO Martinez, CA	February 2020
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Membership in Professional Societies

California Association of Criminalists	Member since 1996
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American Academy of Forensic Scientists	Member since 1996
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Association of Firearms and Toolmarks Examiners	Member since 2011
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Association of Crime Scene Reconstruction	Member since 2018
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Seminars, Symposia, and Workshops Attended

Chemical Compatibility and Storage HazMat West Long Beach, CA	June 1996
Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Terrorism EMAT West Long Beach, CA	June 1997
Topics in Firearms Examination AAFS/AFTE Conference Los Angeles, CA	July 1997
GC/MS Troubleshooting CAC Conference Irvine, CA	Sept 1997
CAC Conference Oakland, CA	May 1999
Microspectrophotometer Workshop Digital Evidence Presentation AAFS Annual Meeting Reno, NV	Feb 21-26, 2000
Shooting Incident Investigation & Reconstruction CAC Workshop Emeryville, CA	Sept 13, 2001
CAC Conference Trace Evidence at Crime Scenes Workshop Los Angeles, CA	October 2001
CAC Trace Study Group Gallo Glass Tour Modesto, CA	June 2005
CAC Conference Tape Workshop Martinez, CA	May 2006

Seminars, Symposia, and Workshops Attended (continued)

CAC Conference Paint Workshop Soil Workshop Temecula, CA	October 2006
AFTE Conference SigSauer Armorer Workshop San Francisco, CA	May 2007
Wound Ballistics Workshop CCCSO Martinez, CA	September 2009
SHOT Show Las Vegas, NV	January 2010
SHOT Show Las Vegas, NV	January 2011
CAC Conference Long Beach, CA	May 2011
NIBIN 13 Critical Questions Workshop Santa Clara County Crime Lab, San Jose, CA	February 2011
Northern CA Firearms Study Group MVTf Tour	July 2011
AFTE Conference Seattle, WA	May 2014
AFTE Conference Denver, CO	May 2017
ACSR Conference Nashville, TN	February 2018
Northern CA Firearms Study Group Rancho Cordova, CA	September 2018
CAC Firearms Study Group Meeting Online webinar	July 2020

CAC Firearms Study Group Meeting
Online webinar

December 2020

Seminars, Symposia, and Workshops Attended (continued)

ACSR Conference
Web-based

March 2021

CAC Firearms Study Group Meeting
Sacramento, CA

November 2023

CAC Firearms Study Group Meeting
Sacramento, CA

October 2024