

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, and trace evidence examination. He holds expertise in firearms examination, shooting 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, Laboratory Report Interpretation

Forensic Consultant April 2021- Present
AT Your Forensic Services

Services Provided: Crime Scene Reconstruction, Laboratory Report 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 Sept. 1995- July 1998
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.

II. Education

a. Formal

California State University, Los Angeles Sept. 1996- June 1998
M.S. Criminalistics June 2003

University of California, Los Angeles Sept. 1989- Dec. 1993
B.S. Biology

b. Training Classes

Emergency Medical Technician April 1995
UCLA Office of Prehospital Care
Los Angeles, CA

Emergency Responder HAZWOPER November 1995
UCLA-LOSH
Los Angeles, CA

Black & White Photography June- August 1996
Santa Monica College
Santa Monica, CA

Hazardous Waste Standards Refresher June 1998
UCLA-LOSH
Los Angeles, CA

Basic Law Enforcement Academy Los Medanos College Pittsburg, CA	July- Dec 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
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
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
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
Armorer Courses CCI Firearms Academy Rancho Cordova, CA	April 8-12, 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
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
3D Laser Scanning Leica Systems San Ramon, CA	December 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 User 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
Armorer Course S&W M&P Pistol AFTE Conference Denver, CO	May 2017
UV-IR Photography Fujifilm XT-1 Camera Napa, CA	July 2018

c. Informal Training

Crime Scene Investigation Training including the identification and preservation of evidence at crime scenes; collection methods; and reconstruction methods used at crime scenes.	Dec 1998- Oct 1999
---	--------------------

Hair Comparison Training and Proficiency Testing of intrapersonal and interpersonal human hair examinations; screening for and identification of animal hairs.	Dec 1998- Jan 2000
---	--------------------

Basic Serological Identification Training and Proficiency Testing for presumptive testing of blood and identification of human blood.	March-April 1999
--	------------------

Indented Writing Materialization Training in the use of the ESDA apparatus.	February 1999
--	---------------

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

Amido Black May 2008
Training on use of amido black reagent for blood enhancement

Camera Troubleshooting November 2008
Training on camera settings and correcting exposure issues

Make and Model Determination December 2008
Background reading and training on how to conduct examination of bullets to determine the possible make and model of firearm fired from.

Daubert Issues January 2009
Presentation by Dr. J. Thornton

Bluestar Blood Reagent September 2010

Training on use of Bluestar blood enhancement reagent	
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 Refresher training on documenting and collecting impression evidence	November 2016
Crime Scene Latent Print training Refresher training on processing for latent prints	December 2016
Searching for Blood Webinar Bluestar and Luminol	February 2017
Luminol and Bluestar training Refresher training on use of blood reagents	February 2017
Crime Scene Reconstruction Refresher training on crime scene reconstruction	February 2017
Forensic Entomology Refresher training collection of insect evidence	March 2017
Trajectory training 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 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

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
Forensic Use of Photography Presentation for the Walnut Creek Photography Forum	September 2003
Firearms Safety Presentations Safety presentations for Police Academy, Patrol Re-Entry, and CSI groups Demonstrate 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 2016

III. Research, Publications, Presentations, and Special Reports

Master's thesis on forgery analysis	June 2003
Evofinder vs IBIS Heritage: Comparison of Two Ballistic Imaging Systems Presented at AFTE Conference in Seattle, WA	May 2014

IV. Membership in Professional Societies

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

V. 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

VI. 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
CAC Conference Paint Workshop Soil Workshop Temecula, CA	October 2006
AFTE Conference SigSauer Armorer Workshop San Francisco, CA	May 2007
Wound Ballistics Workshop CCCSO	September 2009

Martinez, CA

SHOT Show
Las Vegas, NV

January 2010

SHOT Show
Las Vegas, NV

January 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

ACSR Conference
Web-based

February 2021