



KING COUNTY REGIONAL IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

2012 Annual Report





Karim Miller
AFIS Advisory Committee Chair
Forensic & Digital Imaging Manager
Seattle Police Department

Message from the AAC Chair

On behalf of the AFIS Advisory Committee, I am proud to present the King County Regional AFIS annual report for 2012. It was an important year for the program as it asked voters to consider renewed funding for AFIS technology and services. The proposed ordinance was overwhelmingly supported by city and county elected officials, local law enforcement agencies, and community groups who reviewed both the outcomes of the current expiring levy and the new six-year plan. In November, citizens showed their support as well by approving continued funding for the program.

It was also the final year of the 2007-2012 levy period. The program successfully completed all of its goals and initiatives for the six years, while at the same time pursuing and achieving the first local laboratory accreditation in the State of Washington. Conservative spending and sensible fund management allowed the AFIS Program to reduce the levy rate over the last six-years, totaling more than \$18 million in savings to taxpayers.

It is impressive to see a program continually improve its services while lowering its costs. I can't say enough about the AFIS team and their delivery of outstanding results. I encourage you to learn more about the program's achievements by reviewing this report, which is also available online at www.kingcounty.gov/afis.



Contents

Program Overview 3
Finances 4
AFIS in Numbers 5
2013-2018 Levy 6
Lab Accreditation 7
Other Highlights 8
Initiative Updates 9
Services 10

AFIS Advisory Committee

Chair

Karim Miller
Forensic & Digital Imaging Manager
Seattle Police Department

Vice-Chair

Doug Palmer
Budget Analyst
King County Office of Performance,
Strategy, and Budget

Members:

Chief Paul Ayers
Issaquah Police Department

Cathy Schrock
Civilian Operations Manager
Federal Way Police Department

Major Mike Johnson
Bellevue Police Department

Penny Bartley
SCORE Director

Lt. Mark Mount
Seattle Police Department

Don Berard
Budget Supervisor
Seattle Police Department

Candice Livingston
Budget & Policy Analyst
City of Seattle

Clif Curry
Senior Legislative Analyst
King County Council

Chief Robin Fenton
King County Sheriff's Office

Carol Gillespie
Regional AFIS Manager
King County Sheriff's Office

**A special thanks to our outgoing members: David Cline, Michael Katz, Rick Kieffer, John Manning, and John Resha.*

The AFIS Program would like to thank the individuals who contributed to this report, including program staff, the AFIS Advisory Committee, and those who shared their experiences and success stories.

Mission

The Regional AFIS Program promotes public safety and contributes to crime reduction by providing expert fingerprint identification services to criminal justice agencies throughout King County.

“AFIS is our number-one crime-fighting tool in King County, solving more crimes than all other forensic sciences combined.”

*-Prosecuting Attorney Dan Satterberg
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office*

King County Regional Identification Program

What does the AFIS Program do?

King County's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) is a levy-funded, countywide program with two primary purposes:

- To quickly identify arrested individuals, preventing the wrongful release of those using false names and establishing accurate criminal history information.
- To identify crime scene fingerprints and palmprints that aid in investigations and provide evidence in court.

What are the benefits of AFIS?

The regional program funds the staff and technology to support criminal fingerprint identification services for all 39 cities and unincorporated areas. The AFIS Program provides electronic fingerprint devices called Livescans at police stations and jails throughout the county. Livescan allows for direct transmission of fingerprints to the AFIS database for print matching and identification prior to release of the inmate. It also allows for timely updates of criminal rap sheets.

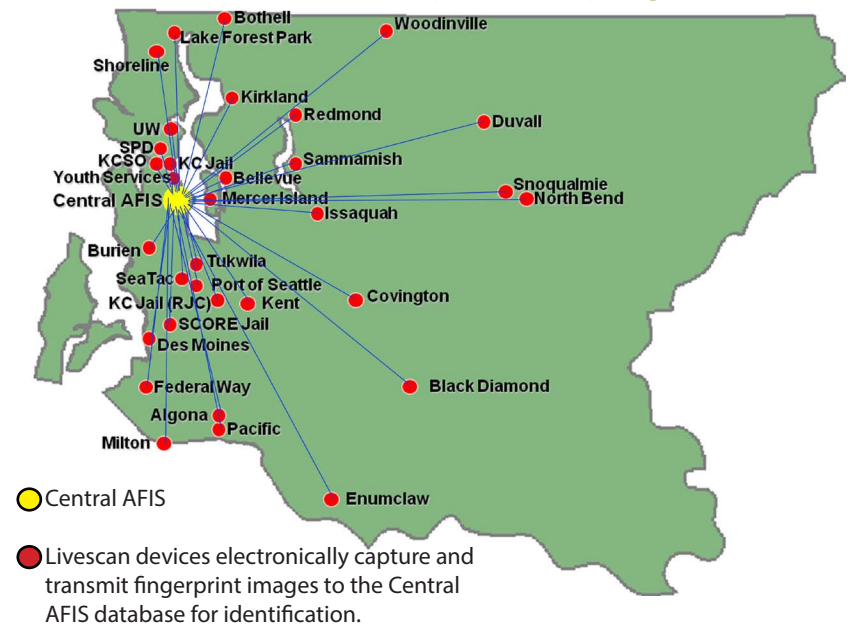
AFIS offers support to regional task forces, auto theft and burglary initiatives, and investigations of illegal drug operations. Staff also identify unknown criminals and victims at hospitals and the Medical Examiner's Office. The program's centralized technology, forensic staff, and shared resources leads to greater efficiency in crime-solving efforts and contributes to safer communities.

2012 Goals

The AFIS Program had a successful year; more details are highlighted in the pages to follow. While wrapping up the initiatives set forth in the 2007-2012 levy period including the completion of the Mobile ID pilot project, the following goals were also achieved:

- A 2013-2018 operational/levy plan was created along with a proposed ordinance for a levy renewal, which was placed on the general election ballot in November and approved.
- King County's Latent Unit earned laboratory accreditation through Forensic Quality Services.

Serving the Community AFIS Connections (Livescan) in your Area



Collecting Palmprints Pays Off

King County's recently upgraded AFIS can match unsolved crime scene palmprints to those collected from inmates at jails. In July 2012, an Identification Technician collected a writer's palm (side of the palm that makes contact with a surface when writing) from an inmate at the King County Correctional Facility. The suspect was brought in by Des Moines PD on a warrant for obstructing an officer. The writer's palm was searched through AFIS and matched to a previously unidentified print that had been collected from a homicide, giving detectives critical information to further their investigation.

Capturing a good writer's palm is difficult, but it's crucial to investigations since it frequently makes contact with surfaces. AFIS staff in the Jail ID Unit have been capturing high quality palmprints for many years and with the recent AFIS upgrade, these efforts are paying off.



Finances

Program Funding

Through King County's Regional AFIS Program, services are provided to all police departments within the county. By state law, local police agencies representing incorporated cities are required to handle their own identification services, an investment that local police agencies would not be able to fund on their own. There is no county- or state-level mandate or funding mechanism for a shared regional program of this nature.

In 1986, King County voters approved a property tax levy for the purchase of a shared regional AFIS computer, and have renewed their support five times over the last 25 years. This technology and regional approach enhanced the limited criminal identification services previously handled by individual police agencies or provided by Washington State Patrol (WSP). The levy provides funding not only for technology, but also the staff that support the identification services.

Taxpayer Savings

The property tax levy approved in 2006 supported services from 2007-2012 with an authorized levy rate of \$0.0568 per \$1,000 of assessed value. During this time period less was spent than predicted, a **total savings of about \$18 million** from the originally projected revenues, which benefitted taxpayers by reducing the tax rate. The savings to taxpayers is shown in the *Cost to Taxpayer* table where the owner of a \$350,000 home paid less in taxes in 2012 to support the AFIS Program than in 2007 without a reduction of service or change in commitment to the voters.

The total savings is also laid out in the chart to the right, which shows the expenditures authorized to

collect versus actually collected. Because of sound fund management, \$8 million dollars will be carried over to the next levy period for operational and capital expenses.

Looking Ahead

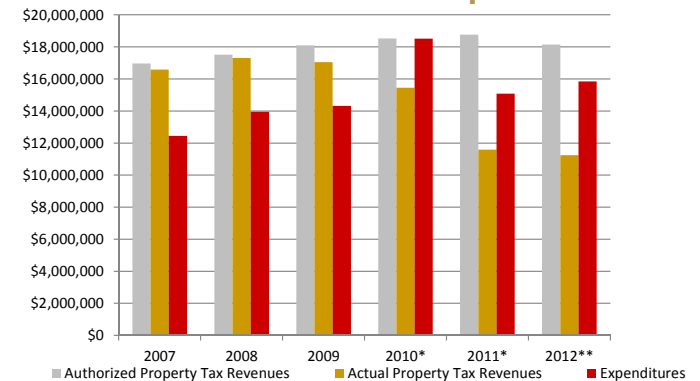
In November 2012, King County voters approved a continuation of the AFIS property tax levy for the sixth time. The new levy largely continues to fund current operations through 2018, starting in 2013 with a rate of \$.0556 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The financial plan for the next six years also includes \$11.5 million for moving or renovating the AFIS evidence processing lab and \$1.5 million for remote fingerprint capture devices.

Cost to Taxpayer (Based on a \$350,000 home)

Year	Assessed Levy Rate ¹	Cost to Taxpayer ²
2007	\$0.0568	\$19.88
2012	\$0.0353	\$12.36
2013	\$0.0556	\$19.46
2018	\$0.047	\$16.45

¹Rate determined by County Assessor's Office after preparation of budget.
²Home Value set at \$350,000 for comparison purposes. This number multiplied by assessed levy rate divided by 1,000 equals the cost to taxpayers.

Authorized to Collect vs. Actual Collection and Expenditures



*2010 and 2011 expenditures include the purchase of a new AFIS computer.
 ** Numbers as of 1/22/2013.

2012 Revenue*

Property (Levy) Taxes	\$11,247,230
Investment Interest	\$55,659
Interfund Transfer for IT Project	\$2,187,386
Other (e.g. excise tax)	\$65,171
Total	\$13,555,446

2012 Expenses*

Salaries & Benefits	\$9,034,616
City of Seattle	\$4,486,793
Intergovernmental Overhead	\$1,502,111
Supplies & Services	\$491,062
Capital Equipment	\$330,817
Total	\$15,845,399

For 2012, the total revenue is less than the total expenditures because a healthy fund balance allowed for a reduced levy rate, thus lowering revenue, but allowing for current planned expenditures.

*Numbers for revenue and expenses as of 1/22/2013.

AFIS by the Numbers: 2012

80,400 Livescan (fingerprint/palmprint) records searched through AFIS

29 New cold case leads since the AFIS upgrade in 2011, some of which dated back to the 1970s

403

Requests for specialized crime scene assistance

4,321

Crime scene fingerprints identified

814

Crime scene palmprints identified

15,185

Items of evidence processed for prints

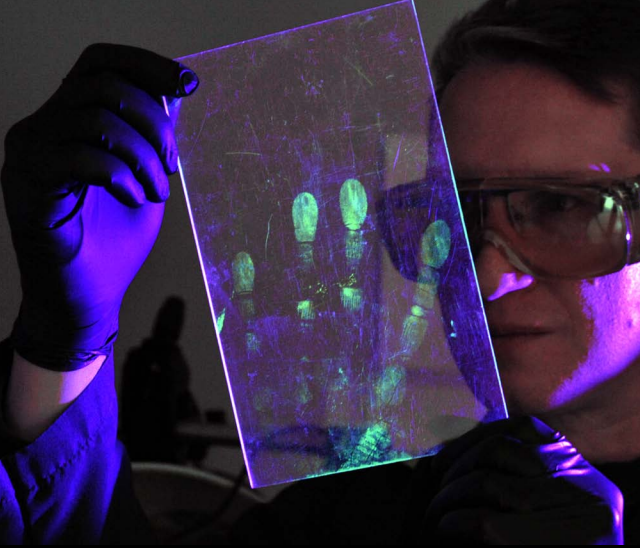
754 Individuals identified as giving false names upon arrest

\$3.3 million in warrants found

53 no bail 'wants'

Fingerprints Recovered in Case of Stolen ATM

In June 2012, an examiner was called to assist with lifting prints from a robbery of an ATM in Bellevue. The ATM was recovered in a van. The ATM itself was covered in oil to obliterate fingerprint evidence, but the examiner was able to lift prints from inside the stolen van. Ten of the lifted fingerprints were identified to a subject who was taken into custody.



Services Renewed 2013-2018

At \$0.0556 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the annual cost to a homeowner in King County is \$19.46 for a home valued at \$350,000.



Levy Approved

A levy planning group, comprised of program staff and financial and policy advisors, created a new six-year operational/levy plan. A proposed ordinance for a levy renewal was presented to the King County Executive, approved by the County Council, and placed on the general election ballot. **Thanks to the support of the citizens of King County the levy was approved** and will allow for the continuation of AFIS services through 2018.

Operations

Over the next six years, King County AFIS will eliminate nine positions through attrition. This will be achieved by revised staffing models and new efficiency efforts. Seattle Police Department (SPD) will eliminate two positions, add one Latent Print Examiner to address increased workload, and reduce its overtime budget by 50 percent.

Technology

Livescans and other technology that support business operations will be replaced as they reach end-of-life.

The 2007-2012 levy included initiatives to 1) conduct a Mobile ID pilot project and 2) conduct a Court ID feasibility study and potential pilot project. This new levy provides funding to continue and expand these initiatives.

Funds may be used to purchase additional Mobile or Court ID devices, but will not provide a device for every officer or every courtroom throughout the county. A methodology will be developed and implemented by the AFIS Advisory Committee to distribute devices effectively.

Evidence Processing Lab Replacement

The King County processing lab, which provides service to 37 cities and unincorporated King County, will be replaced to provide more space to address safety and efficiency concerns, and prevent cross-contamination from different types of evidence. This new lab will ensure consistent and timely service for customers. Relocation planning could begin as early as 2013, with a move no earlier than 2015.

Palmprint Provides Closure

In August 2012, a very concerned family from out of state requested that the residence of their relative be checked as they hadn't heard from the individual. Seattle Police checked the residence and found a badly decomposed body. Because of the body's condition, a visual identification was not possible.

SPD Identification Technicians were called to assist. Although fingerprint identification was not possible, the technicians were able to confirm the identity of the person using palmprints. In their grief, the family was grateful for this extra effort to provide closure.



AFIS is an invaluable law enforcement tool that plays a vital role in crime solving throughout the region. The unit's accreditation recognizes the expertise and knowledge of the county employees responsible for the operation of the program.

*-Councilmember Reagan Dunn
King County Council*



Lab Accreditation

King County's Latent Unit achieved laboratory accreditation through Forensic Quality Services in May 2012. SPD's Latent Unit continued its pursuit of lab accreditation, with a goal of completion in 2013.

The Latent Units play an integral part in providing identification information to investigators and prosecutors. Examiners respond to major crime scenes and process evidence in a lab to develop prints. These prints are then searched through the regional AFIS database for matches with known prints.

During the accreditation process, the King County Latent Unit was assessed on every aspect of crime laboratory operations including procedures, technical qualifications, and competence. The process included a two-day inspection where all

latent employees were interviewed. The King County Latent Unit is the first lab in the state to get accredited since the WSP lab. The unit was recognized by the King County Council for achieving international accreditation.

King County residents can be proud of the professional achievements of our AFIS staff in meeting international standards for forensics in fingerprinting and the new palmprinting technology. AFIS is an essential investigative tool that serves all of our law enforcement agencies. We appreciate their continuing dedication to solving crimes and protecting public safety for everyone in King County.

*-Councilmember Kathy Lambert
King County Council*

Guilty Verdict for Armed Robber

In February 2011, a Latent Print Examiner from SPD processed a grocery store, where a victim was robbed at gunpoint by two masked suspects. The examiner watched the surveillance video, which showed the suspects using the door; one with gloves and one without. The examiner processed the glass door, counters, and cash register. An officer collected a plastic bag that the suspect used and a piece of paper used as a money wrapper for a wire transfer. The examiner ran AFIS searches on prints collected, but did not get a hit.

In December 2011, a print from a suspect who had just been arrested on a drug charge hit against the unsolved latent print database on a print from the glass door and one print developed on the paper.

In August 2012, the examiner used chart enlargements in court to demonstrate the matched prints. The video of the crime was played for the jury so they could see a bare hand on the glass door and the examiner pointed to the area where she lifted the prints.

A guilty verdict was reached after only 20 minutes of deliberation.

Other Highlights

Cold Cases Get Another Look

The program continues to see success with its new AFIS computer that was installed in 2011. The technology introduced palmprint matching for the first time in King County and replaced the aging AFIS computer with a faster, more efficient model. Examiners are working with detectives on old cases dating back to the 1970s that had been cold for years with no new leads. Since the installation of the new AFIS computer, examiners have given detectives 29 new suspect names in homicide, rape, and kidnapping cases that had not been previously associated with these cold cases. Detectives are using this information for further investigation so charges can be filed.

Snohomish County Jail Submits Prints to AFIS

For budgetary reasons, some King County agencies have started to book subjects into the Snohomish County Jail. When this began, the AFIS Program did not receive those prints for searching and storing in its database, potentially missing hits on crime scene prints. In May, a software change at the Snohomish County Jail was implemented, allowing transmission of King County bookings to King County Regional AFIS. The program now receives these fingerprints, which increases the likelihood of matching local crime scene prints.

AFIS Examiners Win Award

Six Latent Print Examiners from King County AFIS received the Bill Whyte Hit of the Year Award from the MorphoTrak AFIS User's Executive Board. This award recognizes the team for its significant effort and success, which was aided by the new AFIS palmprint technology. The examiners were recognized for their work on a case that involved the rape of a 12-year old girl in her home. The identification of a palmprint left on a glass surface was key in solving this crime. The suspect pleaded guilty and received the minimum of 25 years to life. The board selected this case as the clear winner for 2012.



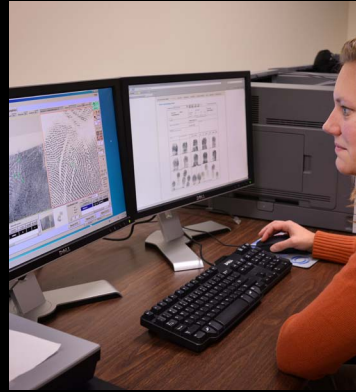
Recipients of the Bill Whyte Hit of the Year Award



The quick response from AFIS and the examiner's desire to walk through the scene with me to help identify the most likely places the suspect might have left prints resulted in an AFIS palmprint hit on a dresser in the victim's room. The speed at which this palmprint was processed and the suspect identified from the print allowed police to arrest the suspect within hours. The speed of the arrest and my ability during the suspect interview to tie the suspect to the palmprint in the victim's room and talk about the inevitable DNA hit we would get from the victim's rape kit was instrumental in getting a full confession. In combination, this all resulted in a plea of 25 years to life. Because the suspect's DNA was not on file this case might have remained unsolved today without the palmprint.

*-Detective Michael Gordon
King County Sheriff's Office*

2007-2012 Initiatives Completed



Livescan Upgrades and Installations

Thirteen Livescans, or electronic fingerprinting devices, were upgraded to capture images at a higher resolution. The sharper image clarity assists examiners in making the more difficult crime scene identifications. The technology that allows Livescans to communicate to the AFIS database was upgraded and consolidated for efficiency and reduced maintenance costs. During the current levy period, 13 additional Livescans were installed at new locations throughout the county to capture arrest fingerprints.

Mobile ID Pilot Project

Mobile identification enables the officer on the street to search the fingerprints of an individual with a questionable identity. Since December 2011, King County Regional AFIS has been conducting a Mobile ID pilot using a handheld device made by MorphoTrak. This device allows an officer to record and search a person's index fingerprints against prints in the King County AFIS database. An ID response is returned in under two minutes. The individual is quickly identified, despite any false names he or she may give the officer. This remote search keeps the officer in the field, instead of transporting the person to a police station or jail to print. The pilot included four testers, one from each of the following agencies: Metro Transit, Maple Valley PD, Burien PD, and SeaTac PD. Due to the success of the pilot project plans are underway to expand this technology throughout King County.

Court ID Feasibility Study

The AFIS Program worked with a consultant to survey stakeholders and conduct a study on the feasibility of capturing fingerprints of individuals as they appear in court. Many subjects are cited in the field and never fingerprinted. Collecting fingerprints at a court appearance could: improve the accuracy of court records, add charges to state/federal rapsheets, and register fingerprints to AFIS for future identification and crime solving. The study, completed in July 2011, detailed steps that should be taken before pursuing a court identification initiative. The program is continuing to review options with the courts.

Most Wanted Apprehended

In November 2012, deputies were dispatched to a disturbance call in SeaTac where a male was yelling at a female. When the deputies arrived, the suspect took off running across all lanes of International Blvd S. and was almost hit by several cars. One of the deputies took off after the suspect and when the suspect jumped a fence to get away, the deputy followed and took him into custody. The suspect gave deputies a false name. A deputy used a mobile identification device (portable fingerprint scanner), which revealed the suspect's true identity within 30 seconds. The suspect quickly admitted to his identity and that he had seen himself on Washington's Most Wanted and was hiding out for the past few days at the airport. He had not shown up for court and had a \$20,000 warrant for his arrest. He was charged with Identity Theft in the First Degree for deceiving a woman with dementia, making her travel from store to store to open credit card accounts so he could purchase electronics.

Services

Crime Scene ID Services



Prints recovered from crime scenes are known as latent (hidden) prints. Examiners use various techniques to reveal prints left on evidence to identify potential suspects. If a detective has a suspect name, the examiner's work

is streamlined. When there is no known suspect, the crime scene print is searched against millions of prints stored in the AFIS database. The system produces a list of potential matches based on ridge detail within the print. The examiner then compares the print to the prints on file and determines to whom it belongs. Examiners also testify as experts in court regarding the identifications they make.

Related functions include the intake and return of crime scene evidence, case file record keeping, statistical data tracking, and providing reports to law enforcement.

The AFIS Program also provides equipment and technology for use by examiners at Bellevue Police Department.

“In over thirty years of law enforcement, the largest technological impact I have seen has been the Automated Fingerprint Identification System. The ability to search the huge database for print matches in seconds, as opposed to manually comparing one set of prints at a time, has had an unbelievably positive impact on our ability to investigate crimes.”

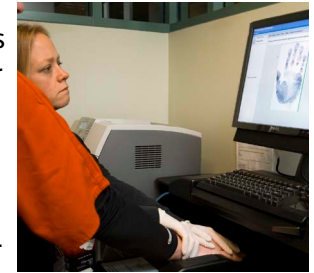
The AFIS staff have always been great to work with. They are very accommodating, enthusiastic and interested in how they can help us with whatever case we may be working on. I've been part of AFIS callouts for various crime scenes, special requests for processing and rush requests. I enjoy my interaction with them, believe they are a tremendous asset to the Sheriff's Office as well as the surrounding agencies, and am proud of the work they do.”

*-Captain Steve Tucker
Sound Transit Police*

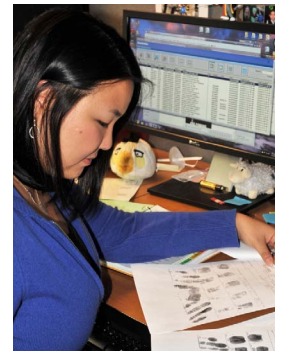


Arrest Identification Services

At correctional facilities and police agencies, Livescan devices are used to electronically capture and transmit fingerprint images to the AFIS database for identification by examiners 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone found to be using a false name is reported to the arresting officer or detention facility immediately. This process ensures that inmates are positively identified prior to release from custody, preventing individuals from evading warrants and hiding criminal records, or being held wrongfully under other's warrants.



AFIS staff provide arrest information to update state and federal records, or rapsheets. Arrest data is reported quickly and accurately so that courts, law enforcement, and licensing agencies have access to the most current criminal history record information possible. These records are used for criminal and background investigations, warrant checks, and sentencing determinations.



AFIS staff who work in King County correctional facilities also capture booking photos, collect DNA samples, and create photo montages (“line-ups”), which detectives use to help victims identify suspects.

Additional services provided by AFIS staff include working with victims of identity theft, identifying deceased individuals for the Medical Examiner's Office, identifying injured or unconscious hospital patients, and assisting with sex offender registrations.



Photography Services

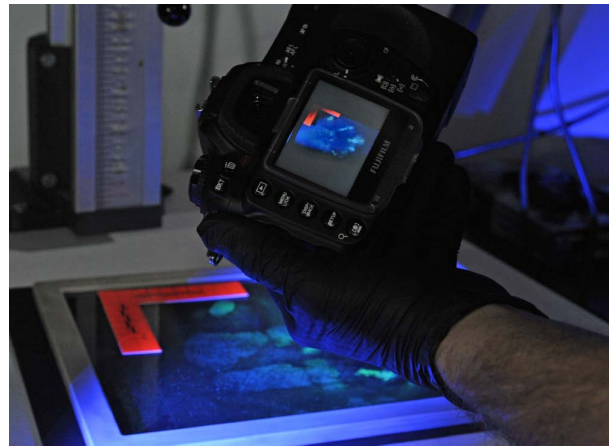
The KCSO and SPD Photo Laboratories provide digital and film photography as well as processing and print production for forensic, crime scene, and public relation purposes. They also train officers on crime scene photography. Although the AFIS levy does not fund these units, it provides supplemental funding due to the high volume of latent photography work performed for the AFIS Program.

Customer Support & Training

This workgroup provides technical instruction and helpdesk support for all AFIS and Livescan customers in King County. It organizes fingerprint related training for officers and examiners, facilitates communication among stakeholders throughout the county, and coordinates community events.

Program & Project Management

Program management oversees daily operations, acquisitions, budget, maintenance, and use of AFIS and Livescan equipment and networks throughout the county. It ensures compliance with state and national industry standards, administers the completion of program initiatives, and responds to issues in the ever-changing biometric and forensic disciplines.



“The latent print hit developed by AFIS from the inside of the victim’s car was the key piece of evidence that permitted detectives to identify a suspect, make a quick arrest, and ultimately solve not just one, but all four stranger rapes the defendant had committed in just under a month. Good detective work in concert with quick, quality work by the AFIS examiners laid the foundation for a prosecution that ended with a guilty plea to four rapes and an agreed minimum sentence of 25 years.”

*-Terry Carlstrom
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office*

Craigslist Case Solved

In January 2010, a woman went to a Skyway neighborhood to respond to a Craigslist ad. A man jumped in the woman’s car and held a knife to her throat. He made her drive around then ordered her to pull over, at which time he sexually assaulted her. He then fled the scene with items from the woman’s purse. AFIS examiners responded to the scene and recovered a fingerprint from inside the victim’s car. The print was searched through AFIS and a suspect identified. This provided a new lead in a similar case that had happened a few weeks earlier. In November 2012, the suspect was sentenced to a minimum of 25 years to life in prison for several rapes and robberies he committed in 2009 and 2010. The suspect pleaded guilty to one count of Rape First Degree, three counts of Rape Second Degree, and two counts of Robbery First Degree.



King County Regional AFIS

516 Third Avenue, Room 1A-04, Seattle, WA 98104

General Information 206-263-2700

Customer Support & Training 206-263-2723

TTY Relay: 711

afis@kingcounty.gov

www.kingcounty.gov/afis



King County

Editor/Designer: Leesha Wilson, AFIS

Contributors: Carol Gillespie, Diana Watkins, Michele Triplett and Patty Klopp, AFIS

Financial Report: Doug Palmer, King County Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget

Photos: King County Sheriff's Office and Seattle Police Department Photography Labs

This report is available in alternate formats