



# ANNUAL REPORT

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005



# RCFL

REGIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS LABORATORY

## FOREWORD

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This report documents the accomplishments and progress of the Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory (RCFL) Program for fiscal year 2005 (FY05), which covers the period from October 1, 2004, to September 30, 2005. This was another year filled with growth and productivity for the program, with the addition of five new laboratories in Hamilton, New Jersey; Menlo Park, California; Houston, Texas; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Portland, Oregon. By the end of FY05, nine operational RCFLs were in place, with another four laboratories scheduled to open in calendar year 2006.

During FY05, RCFLs supported some of the most high-profile criminal investigations in the country, including the murder of a young pregnant woman in Missouri, the capture of the serial killer known as “BTK,” and the murders of Federal Judge Joan Lefkow’s husband and mother—just to name a few. This report discusses the role that both the RCFLs and digital evidence played in these and several other prominent investigations.

As we proceed into the future, the RCFL Program finds itself in a unique position. As new laboratories

join the network, our existing facilities continue to mature and evolve—developing new and improved techniques, processes, and tools that greatly benefit every participant in the program. This continuous flow of information and sharing of resources has created an innovative and collaborative environment that is positively impacting a whole generation of digital forensics Examiners.

In closing, I want to pay tribute to Examiner Rod Gregg, who is assigned to the North Texas RCFL (NTRCFL). While teaching a class, he became seriously ill, and after spending months in the hospital, is fortunately back at work. Rod personifies all the qualities that make our RCFL Examiners great—ingenuity, commitment, and a strongly held belief in the power of digital forensics to solve crimes. This report is dedicated to Rod, his fellow RCFL Examiners, and our participating agencies, whose many contributions and commitment to the program led Harvard University to recognize the RCFL Program as one of the “best and brightest” initiatives in the Federal Government today. This report illustrates why we couldn’t agree more.

—Gerard J. Cocuzzo  
Unit Chief, RCFL National Program Office

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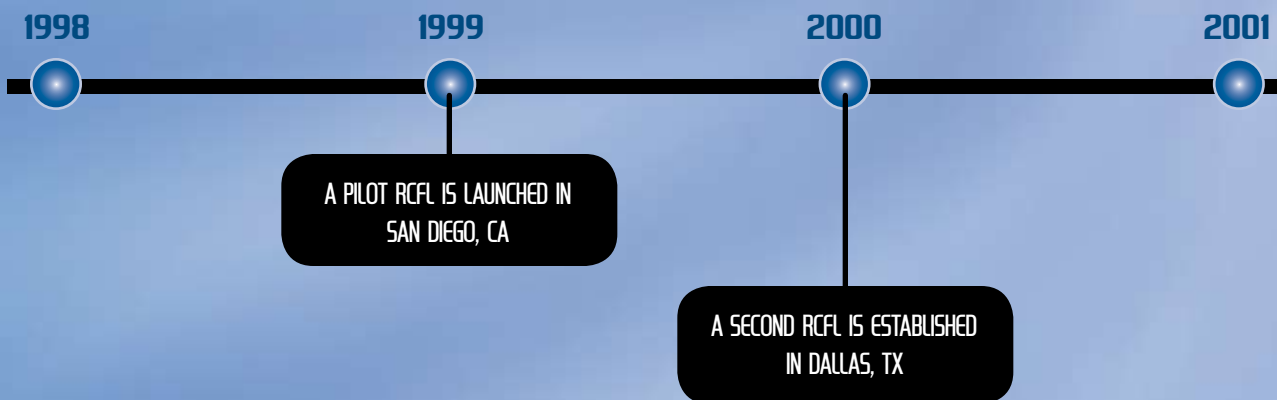
Now in its sixth year, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory (RCFL) Program has emerged as a world-class network of digital evidence laboratories and training centers. Each facility is entirely devoted to the examination of digital evidence in support of criminal investigations such as, but not limited to—

- Terrorism
- Homicide
- National security
- Violent crimes
- Child pornography
- Theft or destruction of intellectual property
- Fraud.

According to the Scientific Working Group on Digital Evidence and Imaging Technology's Glossary of Terms, computer forensics "...involves the

scientific examination, analysis, and/or evaluation of digital evidence in legal matters." This means that digital artifacts, such as e-mails, chat room logs, Internet searches, documents, and graphic images, when properly handled, can yield critical evidentiary value in a court of law. Moreover, digital evidence is providing investigators and the legal community the proof needed to secure criminal convictions—particularly when there is a lack of physical evidence found at a crime scene.

As stated in the past two editions of this report, digital evidence continues to gain significance in a wide range of criminal investigations. This is attributable to the proliferation of high-technology and electronic devices such as computers, cell phones, personal digital assistants, digital cameras, video recorders, and more. Because of their wide availability and user friendliness, these common devices are used by criminals from all walks of life to facilitate unlawful acts. As a result, investigators are encountering digi-



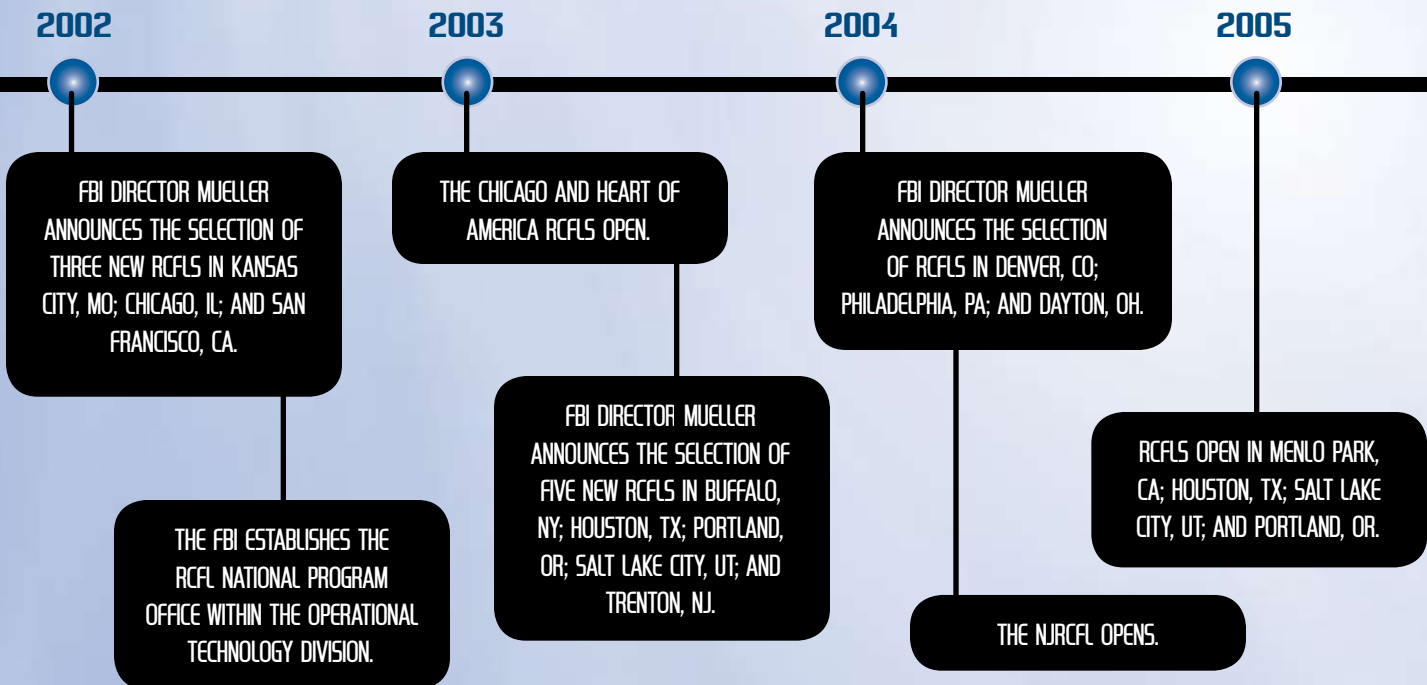
tal evidence in nearly every case they see, but it takes the special skills of a trained Examiner to extract this evidence and typically requires the use of forensic software programs and sophisticated electronic equipment.

From the program's beginnings in 1999, RCFL personnel have strived to increase awareness about the importance and proper handling of digital evidence within the law enforcement community. Over the past few years in particular, the public has also become more aware of digital evidence's existence through popular television dramas such as "CSI." Although RCFLs might resemble CSI—thanks to the FBI's investment of millions of dollars in high-technology equipment—the similarities end there. While investigations portrayed on crime shows are easily solved by legions of skilled technicians applying an unending array of high technologies, law enforce-

***"Digital evidence is the DNA of the future."***

—Angela Wilson  
Assistant District Attorney,  
Douglas County, Kansas

ment personnel face a much different reality. This report contains the program's significant progress and contributions on a number of fronts, including casework, training, research and development, and education.



Upon request, an RCFL can assist any law enforcement agency in its service area (at no cost to that agency) in four service categories—

**LABORATORY**—During FY05, the bulk of the work performed by RCFLs, on average 89 percent, was conducted in the laboratory. RCFLs maintain “controlled settings,” meaning that the staff adheres to standardized security, quality assurance, and quality control procedures. By consistently following these procedures, RCFL Examiners protect the integrity of the evidence while it is in their custody and ensure that the results are verifiable, repeatable, and can stand up in court.

When requesting an RCFL’s assistance for digital forensics services, law enforcement personnel must complete a service request form, and they are also encouraged to either meet or speak with the Examiner assigned to their case. All operational RCFLs have posted their service request forms on their respective Web sites. (A full listing of all FBI-sponsored RCFLs is available on [www.rcfl.gov](http://www.rcfl.gov).)

**TECHNICAL**—Any law enforcement agency may contact an RCFL for advice on preparing a search warrant or affidavit pertaining to the seizure or potential seizure of digital evidence. RCFL Examiners can also counsel law enforcement on the proper techniques associated with seizing and handling sensitive electronic equipment encountered during a criminal investigation.

**ON-SITE**—On occasion, RCFL personnel must deploy to various locations to execute a search warrant. As with in-house operations, Examiners follow a strict regimen of handling procedures to protect the integrity of the evidence while it is in their possession. During FY05, RCFL staff supported 288 on-site operations.

**“...With every new RCFL, law enforcement’s ability to investigate and solve a whole range of crimes, as well as the detection and prevention of terrorism, is significantly strengthened.”**

—Kerry E. Haynes  
Assistant Director, Operational  
Technology Division

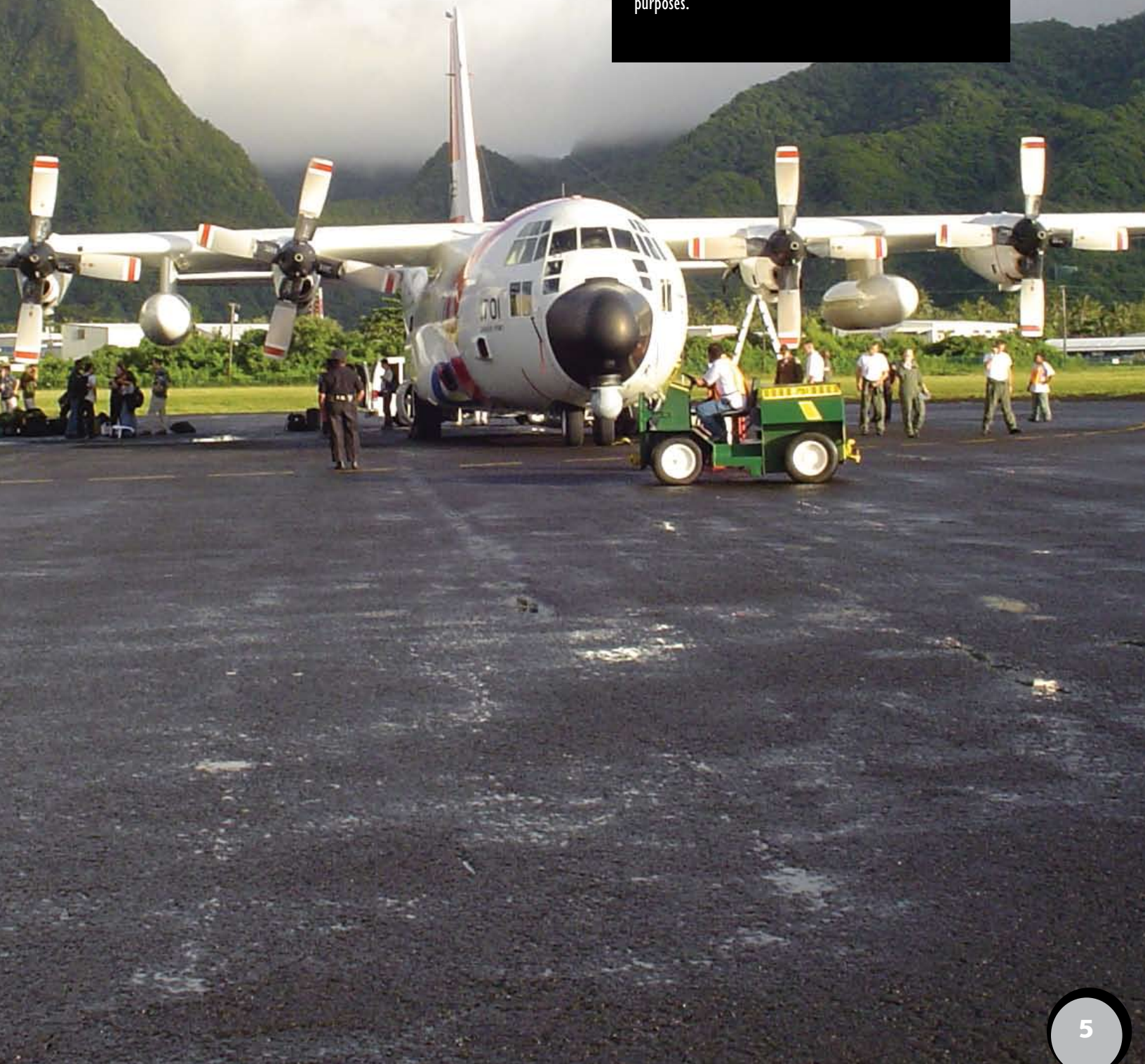
**TRAINING**—Every RCFL has a modern classroom where digital forensics training is conducted by Computer Analysis Response Team (CART) certified instructors. This training is free of charge to any law enforcement agency residing in an RCFL’s service area. In FY05, RCFL personnel trained 3,262 law enforcement personnel in various digital forensics tools and techniques.

Below, the San Diego RCFL’s training room





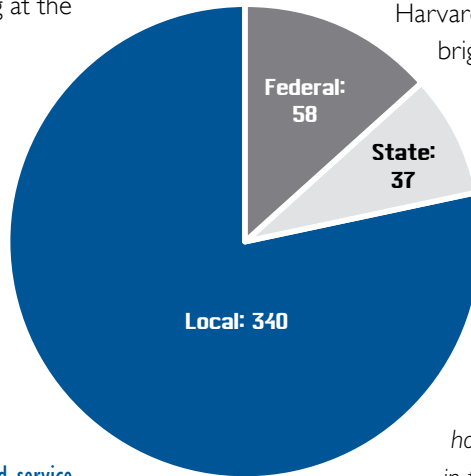
RCFL personnel sometimes partner with their Computer Analysis Response Team (CART) colleagues to support active criminal investigations. Below is the cargo plane that brought members of CART and the North Texas RCFL (NTRCFL) to American Samoa where authorities were investigating a public corruption case involving the Governor and Lt. Governor. The Examiners searched data and training centers within the subjects' offices and obtained critical tax information. Both subjects were brought to trial and were convicted of committing fraud against the Government by taking funds from the Department of Education and other government agencies and using them for other than their designated purposes.



In FY05, the RCFL Program achieved a host of notable goals and breakthroughs—earning both national and international recognition for these efforts. A description of these major milestones follows:

- **Increased Level of Service**—In FY05, the RCFL Program conducted 2,977 examinations—a 100-percent increase relative to FY04; processed 457 terabytes of data; and received 3,434 requests for assistance from 435 law enforcement agencies operating at the state, local, and federal government levels. A majority of the requests came from law enforcement agencies operating at the local level.
- **Program Growth**—Five RCFLs opened in FY05—raising the total to nine operational facilities that are available to more than 3,500 law enforcement agencies across 11 states.
- **Received National Recognition**—The program was one of 50 semi-finalists in Harvard University's 2005 Innovations in American Government Awards—only the second FBI initiative to achieve this status in the competition's 18-year history.

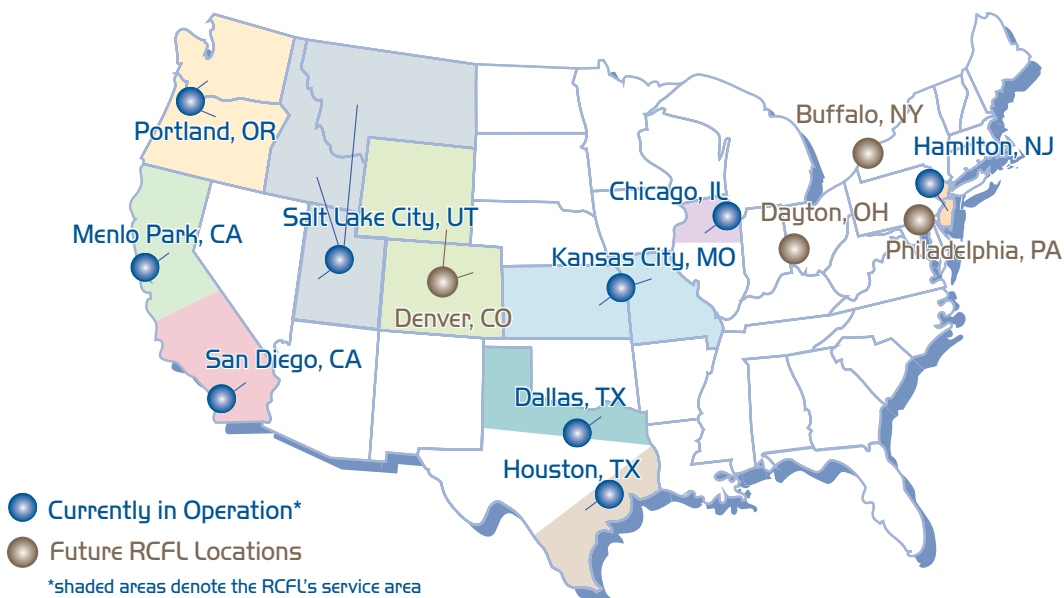
In FY05, the RCFL Program received service requests from 435 agencies. The chart above displays these requests by agency affiliation.



**FAST FACT: To get a better understanding of how voluminous a “terabyte” actually is: just 1 terabyte is equivalent to 250 million pages of text, or 50,000 trees made into printed paper. In FY05 alone, the RCFL Program processed 457 terabytes of data—that’s enough to fill up 228 academic libraries.**

More than 1,000 government organizations submitted applications, which, according to Harvard, “...represents the best and brightest in government.”

Four criteria were used to evaluate each application: novelty, effectiveness in addressing important problems, significance, and the potential for replication by other government entities. FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III said, “It is an honor to have the FBI recognized in this prestigious competition. We are grateful for the opportunity to showcase the importance of strengthening law enforcement’s digital forensics capacity...”





- **Enhanced Training**—In FY05, the RCFL Program trained 3,262 law enforcement officials in various digital forensics tools and techniques. In January 2005, the program launched a user-friendly online enrollment system—logging 1,200 registrations in nine months.

- **Supported Major Investigations**—During FY05, RCFLs supported several high-profile criminal investigations—a number of which garnered substantial media attention. As a result, the general public was exposed to the science of digital forensics and its role in criminal investigations. According to Corporal Jeffrey Owen, the RCFL Examiner assigned to

**“...By combining partnerships and technology, the RCFL Program is blazing a bold, new path for all of law enforcement.”**

—Robert S. Mueller III  
FBI Director

the Stinnett murder investigation, “Most people had never seen or even heard of digital evidence before this case, but now have an understanding of how such things as e-mails and IP addresses can produce results that can help both victims of crime and first responders.” (See Major Investigations section for a complete description of the Stinnett investigation.)

- **Increased Number of Participating Agencies**—In FY05, the RCFL Program welcomed three new participating agencies to its ranks—increasing the total to 90. Participating agencies including the FBI, provide the personnel that staff RCFLs; with more Examiners on staff, productivity is greatly enhanced. Of the 90 agencies, 13 are state, 54 are local, and 23 are federal.

- **Reduced Backlogs**—To reduce backlogs, the NPO hired a team of system administrators. Having this type of administrative support greatly increases an RCFL’s efficiency—enabling Examiners to devote more time to supporting investigations. System administrators are primarily responsible for establishing and maintaining all network connections and systems within the laboratory; maintaining the storage area network; troubleshooting network and local configurations and operating systems, and; ensuring that all systems/software are regularly updated.

- **Piloted a Customer Satisfaction Survey**—The RCFL NPO, in conjunction with the NTRCFL, successfully launched a Web-based customer satisfaction survey to measure customers’ opinions and experiences. The survey was successfully tested on the NTRCFL’s Web site—and the results were overwhelmingly positive. This tool has been made available programwide.



### FY05 RCFL Program Accomplishments at a Glance

- Accepted 3,434 requests for assistance
- Trained 3,262 law enforcement personnel
- Conducted 2,977 digital forensics examinations
- Available to more than 3,500 law enforcement agencies across 11 states
- Participated in 288 search and seizure operations
- Processed 457 terabytes of data

Left, Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), speaking at the Intermountain West RCFL’s opening day press conference, as SAC Timothy J. Fuhrman FBI Salt Lake Division looks on.

In response to the numerous requests for examinations of electronic devices, such as cell phones and audio/video equipment from customers, the RCFL NPO, in conjunction with the FBI's Cryptologic and Evidence Analysis Unit (CEAU) and the Forensic Audio/Video and Image Analysis Unit (FAVIAU), created training and certification programs for Examiners in the following disciplines—

## Cell Phone Forensics Certification

RCFLs regularly receive requests for cell phone examinations. To meet this demand, the RCFL NPO, in consultation with the CEAU, created a week-long cell phone examination training course exclusively for RCFL Examiners. The course teaches Examiners how to analyze most types of cell phones using a variety of commercial software products and in-house designed software tools. To date, 30 RCFL Examiners have been FBI-certified to conduct cell phone examinations.

### Cell Phone Forensics: RCFLs in Action—

*As the following story reflects, RCFL Examiners are putting the cell phone forensics training to good use.*

**PEEPING TOM ARRESTED**—After months of investigative work, the Plano Police Department arrested a suspected “peeping Tom.” After executing a search warrant and seizing several of the suspect’s cell phones and his computer, the equipment was submitted to the NTRCFL for examination. The Examiners discovered numerous voyeuristic photo-

**A Chicago RCFL technician demonstrates the use of cell phone examination equipment.**



***“Our participation in the Greater Houston Regional Computer Forensics Lab has been very beneficial for the Harris County Sheriff’s Office and has given us direct access to a variety of digital forensic skill sets. Our detective, John Pohutsky, has obtained FBI Computer Forensics Examiner certification and has been instrumental in processing cell phones, which are critical pieces of evidence in drug investigations and other cases.”***

—Major George Sturgis  
Member of the GHRCFL Executive Board,  
Harris County Sheriff’s Office, Texas

graphs on both devices—including those taken from outside the homes of several victims.

## Audio/Video Forensics Certification

The FBI’s FAVIAU, in working with the RCFL NPO, created a two-week certification course in audio/video forensics. The course goals are to provide students the necessary skills to extract requested evidence from submitted media, such as video cameras, and to analyze audio recordings that primarily originate from crime scenes. Examiners are required to take additional courses to further enhance their skills in this discipline.

### Audio/Video Forensics: RCFLs in Action—

*As the following case studies illustrate, digital evidence extracted from audio/video equipment can provide valuable clues during criminal investigations.*

**SERIAL RAPIST CAUGHT**—A detective assigned to a sexual assault investigation requested the NTRCFL to examine two digital video surveillance systems—with the hope that they might provide crucial information to break the case. The first system, located at an apartment complex where the victim lived, could not be moved, so NTRCFL personnel went to copy data directly from the system on scene. During processing at the laboratory, the data revealed a suspicious vehicle both entering and departing the premises.



An Examiner from the Chicago RCFL conducts an examination of a videotape.

The data from the second video surveillance system, located at a grocery store visited by the victim prior to the assault, showed the same vehicle leaving the parking lot at the same time as the victim. By reviewing the two video captures, it became evident that the suspect saw the victim at the grocery store and then followed her home where he sexually assaulted her.

Upon closer examination, the NTRCFL surmised that the vehicle in question was a cable television truck. Images of the vehicle were distributed to area patrol officers, and within a week, the vehicle was located, and the suspect, a serial rapist that had assaulted five women over a year and a half, was placed in police custody.

**Pedophile Captured**—In another case, NTRCFL Examiners used a combination of video forensics equipment and imaging software to clarify video images that were unclear. After providing the enhanced video in both printed copies and video footage to the submitting agency for distribution to area law enforcement and the local media, a suspect was arrested and charged with attempted sexual assault on a juvenile—all within 48 hours of the video's broadcast.

## Digital Camera Forensics

Although digital camera forensics is not considered a specialization, increasingly, RCFLs are receiving requests to search the contents of these popular devices. Their findings are helping both investigators and prosecutors secure criminal convictions—as the following real-life examples demonstrate:

### Digital Camera Forensics: RCFLs in Action—

**PEDOPHILE JAILED**—During a routine forensics examination of several electronic devices obtained during a child pornography investigation, the Heart of America RCFL (HARCFL) uncovered an electronic file containing images of child pornography captured by a digital camera. Realizing that a digital camera had been seized as part of the search warrant, the Examiner took additional steps to confirm that the photograph contained in the questionable file had indeed been taken with the seized digital camera. Once verified, this finding was immediately brought to the attention of the investigator, who identified the victim in the picture as living near the subject. This additional piece of information resulted in the subject pleading guilty to the charges against him. The subject received a 35-year jail sentence.

**CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN**—In another child pornography investigation, the HARCFL discovered several photographs of a male child being sexually assaulted. Although the child was clearly visible in the pictures—only the adult's arms and hands were depicted. The photographs were provided to the investigator, who determined that the child was being afforded day care by a male neighbor. Control photographs of the neighbor's arms and hands were taken and sent along with the photographs obtained during the forensics analysis to the FBI's FAVIAU for an image analysis comparison. After a positive match was made, the charge was elevated from simple possession of child pornography to the more serious charge of manufacturing child pornography and sexual assault. The prosecution is still pending because the subject is in custody on other charges.

**LOST & FOUND**—Investigators working at a fatal automobile accident took photographs at the scene using a digital camera—later saving the images to a floppy disk for downloading. As the case was being prepared for prosecution, it was discovered that the images thought to be contained on the floppy disk were gone. The disk was submitted to the NTRCFL—where, every image was successfully recovered intact.

## RCFLs: A Valuable Resource for Law Enforcement

The RCFL Program supported some of the most notorious and far-reaching criminal investigations conducted by law enforcement in all of FY05—placing the program and the science of digital forensics squarely in the spotlight. A description of these investigations follows—

**STINNETT MURDER**—Rural Skidmore, Missouri, population 300, was the unlikely backdrop for one the most gruesome murders in recent history. On December 16, 2004, 23-year old Bobbi Jo Stinnett was found strangled in her home—her unborn fetus cut from her womb. The clues that would eventually lead investigators to Ms. Stinnett's murderer and baby—were found on personal computers (owned by the victim and suspect) by Corporal Jeffrey M. Owen, Missouri State Highway Patrol, and Mark Johnson, United States Attorney's Office, Western District of Missouri. Both men are Examiners assigned to the HARCFL. Based on tips provided by the public and upon examining Ms. Stinnett's computer, Corporal Owen found e-mail messages from Lisa Montgomery sent via an Internet message board. Ms. Montgomery was posing as a prospective buyer in the victim's dog breeding business. Corporal Owen also found Ms. Montgomery's "Internet Protocol" or IP address, which law enforcement used to obtain her street address.



Zeb Stinnett holds daughter Victoria Jo in a Topeka hospital the day they were reunited.

***"The Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory agents' quick action and innovative use of the new provisions of the Patriot Act greatly benefited the investigation of the murder of Bobbie Jo Stinnett and the recovery of her kidnapped infant daughter.... Her safe return to her father is a credit to investigators in this case, who played an instrumental role in her survival."***

—Todd P. Graves  
United States Attorney,  
Western District of Missouri

After examining Ms. Montgomery's home computer, evidence was located that confirmed that she had exchanged e-mails with Ms. Stinnett. Additional examinations of her computer revealed that she had searched the Internet for information on caring for a premature infant and how to deliver a baby.

A combination of excellent police work, coupled with Examiner Owen's finding of critical digital information, led investigators directly to the suspected murderer, Lisa Montgomery. This occurred less than 24 hours after the murder of Ms. Stinnett, resulting in the arrest of the suspected murderer and the return of the kidnapped infant to her father.

Ms. Montgomery was indicted for the kidnapping of the infant, Victoria Jo Stinnett, and for the murder of her mother Bobbi Jo. She entered a plea of not guilty and is awaiting trial in federal court. Corporal Owen received the "National Officer of the Year" award from the Department of Justice and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. He said that ...*"Working on this case was both meaningful and important, and helped refocus my priorities."* Corporal Owen continues to serve as an Examiner in the HARCFL.



**“BTK”**—After nearly 25 years of silence, serial killer Dennis Rader—who dubbed himself “Bind, Torture, and Kill” (BTK) resumed contact with police. Rader began his murderous rampage in 1974, when the scientific disciplines of DNA and digital forensics did not exist. However, in 2005, technology prevailed as Wichita authorities used digital forensic tools to bring one of the most notorious serial killers to justice.

On February 16, 2005, Rader sent a floppy disk containing a message to a television station in Wichita. Examination of the disk properties revealed the words “Dennis” and “Christ Lutheran Church,” as well as other words relating to the Park City, Kansas, government. These discoveries prompted an Internet search for those terms, which revealed Mr. Rader’s role as president of the church congregation and an employee of the city.

At that point in the investigation, Examiners from the HARCFL were asked to support the Wichita Police Department’s Computer Forensics Unit in the BTK investigation. Not only did the HARCFL assist with the analysis of the floppy disc and several surveillance videotapes, but the laboratory dispatched five Examiners to Wichita to support the simultaneous execution of several search warrants. The search warrants were directed at Dennis Radar’s residence, his office, the Christ Lutheran Church, and the Park City Public Library. The Examiners imaged numerous computers on site, as well as the governmental server for Park City.

Thanks to both DNA and digital evidence found by forensics Examiners, law enforcement could finally put a name and a face on the illusive BTK. Rader was arrested blocks from his home at a traffic stop in Park City. He was tried, convicted, and sentenced to 10 consecutive life terms in prison, totaling 175 years.

**PUBLIC CORRUPTION—THE CUNNINGHAM CASE**—On July 1, 2005, an investigative team from the San Diego FBI, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, executed a search of former Congressman Randy “Duke” Cunningham’s estate in San Diego, California. As part of an ongoing joint investigation, the SDR CFL provided extensive assistance with the

## ***“Invite your friends and have them bring their toys.”***

—Wichita Detective Randy Stone referring to the HARCFL’s support of the BTK investigation

collection, preservation, and examination of computers obtained from Mr. Cunningham’s residence, as well as the MZM corporate headquarters in Washington, DC.

As an influential member of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Mr. Cunningham used his position to ensure MZM received numerous federal contracts worth millions of dollars. In July, the Department of Justice announced that the FBI had opened an inquiry into Congressman Cunningham’s 2003 sale of his Del Mar house to defense contractor Mitchell Wade, who later sold it at a \$700,000 loss. In documents filed on August 25, 2005, prosecutors said that Mr. Cunningham sold the house in return for his influence in Congress, where he was serving on the House subcommittee that oversees Pentagon spending. Wade’s defense contracting firm, MZM, received \$65 million in federal funds in 2004.

Daniel Dzwilewski, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s San Diego Field Office, said *“Corruption involving public officials undermines the people’s trust and confidence in government. It cannot, and will not, be tolerated. Public corruption is the number one priority of the FBI’s Criminal Investigative Division.”* The SDR CFL played a key role by processing nearly nine terabytes of digital evidence, and continues to be a vital part of this ongoing investigation.

## **PUBLIC CORRUPTION—STRIPPER-GATE—SAN DIEGO CITY COUNCIL—**

The SDR CFL provided computer forensics support to federal investigators and prosecutors who were investigating one of the most far-reaching, scandal-ridden public corruption cases in California’s history; nicknamed “Strippergate.” In May 2003, the San Diego FBI, with the support of the SDR CFL, executed search warrants at San Diego City Hall and three strip clubs. Subsequently, the SDR CFL dedicated more than 400 staff-hours to the successful processing and examination of digital evidence



***“The San Diego RCFL has given our agency an opportunity to collocate our brightest and most talented professionals from the law enforcement community, thereby creating an unprecedented regional resource. Our participation in the RCFL has been critical to the work we do and the results we have achieved. It’s a stellar partnership based on trust, commitment, and mutual respect.”***

—Jonathan Lee  
Division Chief, Naval Criminal Investigative Service  
Member of the SDR CFL Executive Board

recovered from these sites in support of this ongoing investigation.

Following an extensive investigation, a San Diego federal grand jury returned indictments against San Diego’s acting mayor Michael Zucchet and city councilmen Ralph Inzunza and Charles Lewis for wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud. The group allegedly accepted thousands of dollars in bribes from the owner of a local strip club in exchange for abolishing the city’s no-touch rule. The strip club owner believed the rule was hurting business and turned to his elected representatives for assistance.

In July 2005, Inzunza and Zucchet were convicted by a jury of conspiracy. Charges against Mr. Lewis were dropped after his death in May 2004.

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**—It appeared to be a simple case of theft; however, the stolen laptop computer taken from the inner offices of the Graduate Division of the University of California (UC), Berkeley, contained sensitive information on more than 98,000 students and others affiliated with the university—thrusting California’s flagship academic institution squarely in the midst of a potentially massive identity theft case. In response, UC Berkeley officials sent e-mails and letters to all the individuals who might be affected, while campus police aggressively pursued available leads and

tips. Eventually, the computer was located in South Carolina where an unsuspecting buyer purchased the laptop from an Internet auction site. Prior to the sale, the computer was in the possession of a San Francisco man who bought the laptop from a woman whose description matched that of the individual seen leaving the campus with the laptop.

UC Berkeley police requested the Silicon Valley RCFL's (SVRCFL) assistance in examining the laptop. SVRCFL Examiners discovered that the hard drive and all its files had been erased and written over with a new operating system installation—making it virtually impossible to determine whether the campus' password-protected files were ever accessed. To date, campus police have learned of no pattern of identity theft or credit card fraud involving those individuals whose records were on the computer.

**ENRON TASK FORCE**—A group of federal prosecutors, and FBI and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents formed the Enron Task Force in the weeks following Enron's announced bankruptcy in 2001 to investigate the company's collapse. The Greater Houston RCFL (GHRCFL) is providing a variety of computer forensics support for the task force—examining digital media, processing e-mail information, assisting in discovery requests, and applying full search capabilities to evidence obtained during the investigation. The Enron Task Force will continue its investigation into the foreseeable future.

**OPERATION GEAR GRINDER**—The SDR CFL supported "Operation Gear Grinder" an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation led by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The task force targeted eight major steroid manufacturing companies, their owners, and their trafficking associates as part of the largest steroid enforcement operation in U.S. history. After extensive review and analysis, the task force concluded that 82 percent of the steroids seized and analyzed were of Mexican origin—with the large majority originating from eight companies targeted in Operation Gear Grinder. These businesses conducted their sales via the Internet, with estimated sales totaling \$56 million per year.

***"The RCFL Program represents the very best in modern law enforcement, both in its use of cutting-edge technology and in its creation of effective partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. In my state alone, the New Jersey RCFL played a critical role in investigations that charged 39 defendants with sharing child pornography on the Internet. RCFLs will continue to be an invaluable tool for protecting children and others who use the Internet and for apprehending criminals who see the Internet as a new frontier for their lawless activities."***

—Peter C. Harvey  
Former New Jersey Attorney General

The DEA has been a participating agency in the SDR CFL since its inception in 1998. William Phillips, Director of DEA's Southwest Laboratory and SDR CFL Executive Board member, said, "The SDR CFL's technical contributions to the task force have been immeasurable. The companies we're investigating rely on technology to conduct their business; therefore, having access to the expertise and equipment provided by the RCFL has significantly strengthened our efforts toward securing indictments and stopping the flow of illegal drugs into the United States."

The task force will continue its investigation during FY06, with additional criminal indictments and/or arrests expected mid-year.

**OPERATION GUARDIAN**—The New Jersey RCFL (NJRCFL) provided critical digital forensics support for a landmark investigation dubbed "Operation Guardian" by a task force of law enforcement personnel headed by the New Jersey State Police. Operation Guardian led to the arrests of 39 individuals ranging in age from 14 to 61, including a high-school hockey coach, a lawyer, and a pediatric neurosurgeon. All are accused of possessing and/or transmitting video images of child pornography and

abusive acts toward children. Ernie Allen, President of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, said that Operation Guardian is a “*tremendous example of how improved technology, law enforcement training, and teamwork can make a difference.*”

**GROENE KIDNAPPING/MURDER**—Shasta Groene, 8, and her brother Dylan, 9, of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, had been missing since May 16, 2005, when the bound and beaten bodies of their mother, older brother, and the mother’s boyfriend were found in their rural home. Police apprehended Joseph Duncan on July 2, 2005, when he was spotted with Shasta at a restaurant. The day Shasta was found, the arresting agency seized computers owned by Duncan and requested the Intermountain West RCFL’s (IWRFCFL) assistance with imaging and examining the hard drives. Meanwhile, Duncan was charged with two counts of first-degree kidnapping in connection with the abduction of the children, and the authorities believe that he is also responsible for both the murders of their family and the kidnappings. He pleaded not guilty—prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

*Below, Shasta Groene, age eight, and her brother Dylan, age nine*



### **MURDERS OF FEDERAL JUDGE’S**

**FAMILY**—The Chicago RCFL (CGRFCFL) played a crucial role in the joint investigation by the FBI and the Chicago Police Department of the murders of U.S. District Court Judge Joan Lefkow’s husband and mother by Bart Ross. During this high-profile and intense investigation, hundreds of federal, state, and local investigators, including Examiner Lee Lillie, from the Northwest RCFL (NWRFCFL) in Portland, worked around the clock. The CGRCFL imaged, processed, and reviewed dozens of pieces of digital evidence. On March 9, 2005, Ross was pulled over as a result of a broken tail light, but committed suicide before officers could question him. DNA found at the Lefkow home matched Ross’.

**SCHARTZMILLER INVESTIGATION**—The San Jose police refer to Dean Arthur Schwartzmiller as “...possibly the most prolific child molester—ever.” Upon his arrest in May 2005, investigators discovered notebooks with more than 36,000 handwritten entries of boys’ names, descriptions of their anatomy, and codes for suspected sex acts.

The SVRCFL is assisting the San Jose Police Department with this case, successfully imaging the contents of a seven-foot tall cabinet containing several computer servers. Processing all the data alone took the Examiner assigned to the SVRCFL from the San Jose Police Department approximately one month. Schwartzmiller was arrested on more than 80 counts of child molestation over a 35-year period, involving at least 13 boys in five states. If convicted of

***“Under the direction of the FBI, the collaborative efforts of the member agencies of the RCFL offer a high level of expertise with a timely response, combined with the latest in technological resources; all of which serve to render professional forensics investigation and credible results.”***

—Bud Corbett, Captain,  
Pasadena Police Department, Texas,  
Member of the Greater Houston  
RCFL Executive Board





these latest charges, Schwartzmiller faces a maximum penalty of 153 years to life in prison.

**NATIONWIDE PRESCRIPTION DRUG SCHEME**—In March 2005, a federal grand jury indicted two Salt Lake City residents for playing a central role in a nationwide prescription drug ring. The pair is accused of selling illegally obtained drugs to unsuspecting pharmacies around the country. Because the drugs lacked the required paperwork vouching for their origin, both doctors and patients had no idea where the drugs were manufactured, what formulations were used, the age of the drugs, and whether they were properly handled. This information is crucial to ensuring the safety of the medications. The NWRCFL analyzed 20 computers associated with the investigation. The two suspects are scheduled to go on trial in federal court in 2006.

**CYBER STALKER CAPTURED**—The Northwest RCFL (NWRCFL) supported a case involving the virtual stalking of a woman by a disgruntled employee. The suspect, a former co-worker of the victim, incorrectly believed that she was responsible for his dismissal. Seeking revenge, the suspect continuously bombarded both her business and home computers for approximately six months with mass e-mails containing extremely disturbing pictures. After the incidents were reported to police, an Examiner from the NWRCFL inspected the victim's

computer and successfully found an IP address in the sent e-mails—revealing the suspect's home address. Based on this information, a search warrant was issued, and the suspect's home computer was seized for examination. Several audio recordings linking the suspect to the victim were extracted. The suspect confessed to the crime, and the judge ordered that he be taken to jail in handcuffs where he spent four weeks. As part of his punishment, he also received more than a year of probation.

**VALENTINE'S DAY SUICIDE**—The NWRCFL supported a case in which the suspect was soliciting people nationwide via the Internet to participate in a mass suicide on Valentine's Day 2005. One report had a mother traveling to Oregon with her two children to meet the suspect, where the plan was to kill the children and themselves. Fortunately, it was just a rumor, but the Klamath County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) still wanted to interview the suspect. Meanwhile, authorities in the Midwest interviewed another female with whom the suspect chatted online and forwarded their findings to the KCSO. The KCSO contacted the suspect online in an undercover capacity and eventually obtained a search warrant to seize and examine his computer. After submitting the computer to the NWRCFL for examination, child pornography was discovered—despite the suspect's unsuccessful attempt to destroy the contraband. The suspect was indicted for solicitation to commit murder and is being evaluated to determine his fitness for trial.

***"Little did we know what a visionary McGruff the Crime Dog really was when he said, 'Take a byte out of crime.' The RCFL concept allows law enforcement to cooperate in making outstanding contributions in the area of digital evidence, byte-by-byte."***

—Michael Gilmore  
Assistant Section Chief, Digital Evidence Lab  
Director, Digital Evidence Section,  
Operational Technology Division, FBI

As the RCFL Program continued opening more laboratories in diverse regions across the country in FY05, the importance of uniform reporting requirements became even more evident. The reported information serves several purposes. Initially, it is used to evaluate the impact RCFLs are having on their own region, and second, the aggregate data is used to evaluate the national impact. Because of the diversity of the program's participating agencies, their areas of jurisdiction, and investigative authority, the RCFL NPO decided to reprioritize the top crime categories to more accurately reflect the national priorities—while also taking into account the multitude of crimes that are critical to the participating agencies operating at the local and state levels. These new classifications are as follows—

- 1) **Terrorism**—Neutralize, dismantle, and prevent terrorist acts against American citizens and assets.
- 2) **Counterintelligence**—Expose, prevent, and investigate illegal activities on U.S. soil with a focus on keeping weapons of mass destruction and other embargoed technologies from foreign enemies, protecting the secrets of the U.S. intelligence community, protecting the secrets of the U.S. Government and contractors, protecting our nation's critical national assets; and focusing on countries that pose the greatest threat to the United States.
- 3) **Cybercrimes**—Track and trace persons who use the Internet and computers to illegally penetrate business and government computer systems, including stealing trade secrets and intellectual property, trafficking in child pornography, enticing children from the safety of their homes, and infrastructure protection such as computer networks and power grids.
- 4) **Public corruption**—Investigate public officials and those acting under the color of law to seek financial gain based on the public's trust. These acts include embezzlement, voter fraud, subsidy fraud, illegal kickbacks, and bribes committed by government and/or elected officials.
- 5) **Civil rights**—Investigate hate crimes, involuntary servitude/slavery, and blocking patients from accessing health clinics.
- 6) **Organized Crime**—Investigate and infiltrate entire organizations that are established for the purpose of committing a host of criminal activities for financial gain or territorial control through various means, including threats, intimidation, and collusion.
- 7) **White Collar Crime**—Investigate and trace financial transactions that are deliberately deceptive and have the sole purpose of deriving unlawful financial gain at the public's expense. Corporate fraud can take place in the areas of health care, mortgage lending, identity theft, insurance, telemarketing, and asset forfeiture/money laundering.
- 8) **Major Thefts/Violent Crime**—Investigate and prevent crimes against children, such as molestation, kidnappings, and those criminal acts, including homicide, committed by gangs and drug traffickers.

An Examiner at work in the SVRCFL



Nine operational RCFLs provided technical expertise and assistance in thousands of criminal investigations involving a wide range of offenses during FY05. The tables below illustrate the top five crime categories where RCFLs provided assistance—

### San Diego

1. Major Thefts/Violent Crime
2. Cybercrime
3. White Collar Crime
4. Organized Crime
5. Counterintelligence

### North Texas

1. Cybercrime
2. White Collar Crime
3. Public Corruption
4. Counterterrorism
5. Major Thefts/Violent Crime

### Chicago

1. Cybercrime
2. Major Thefts/Violent Crime
3. White Collar Crime
4. Organized Crime
5. Counterterrorism

### Heart of America

1. Cybercrime
2. Major Thefts/Violent Crime
3. White Collar Crime
4. Counterterrorism
5. Counterintelligence

### New Jersey

1. Cybercrime
2. Major Thefts/Violent Crime
3. White Collar Crime
4. Organized Crime
5. Counterterrorism

### Silicon Valley

1. Cybercrime
2. White Collar Crime
3. Counterintelligence
4. Major Thefts/Violent Crime
5. Organized Crime

### Greater Houston

1. Cybercrime
2. White Collar Crime
3. Major Thefts/Violent Crime
4. Counterterrorism
5. Organized Crime

### Intermountain West

1. Cybercrime
2. White Collar Crime
3. Major Thefts/Violent Crime
4. Organized Crime
5. Counterintelligence

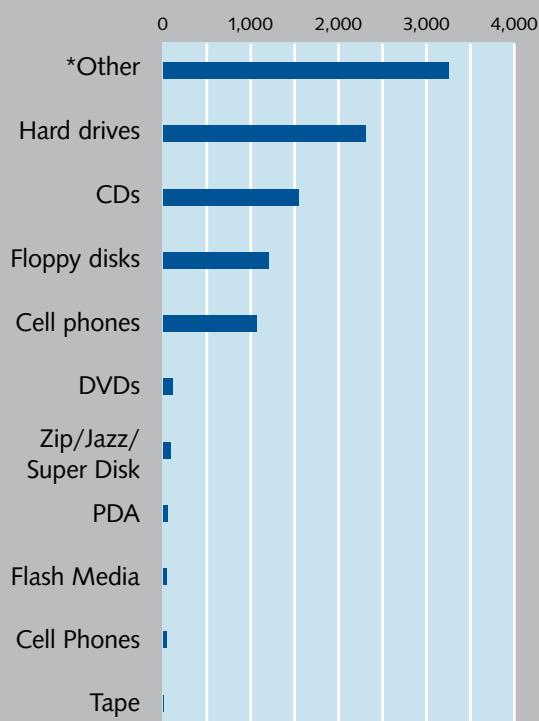
### Northwest

1. Cybercrime
2. Violent Crime
3. White Collar Crime
4. Counterintelligence
5. Counterterrorism

## Measuring Productivity— Piece by Piece

During the final three months of FY05, the program began recording the individual number of items or “media types” examined by each RCFL. Media types are classified under nine categories that describe the kinds of electronic equipment examined by RCFL personnel (e.g., thumb drives, hard drives, cell phones, etc.).

The chart below displays the number of media types collectively examined by RCFLs. Because the data was only captured for one quarter, it represents a snapshot in time. Nonetheless, the statistics are impressive and show, if only partially, how productive RCFLs truly are.

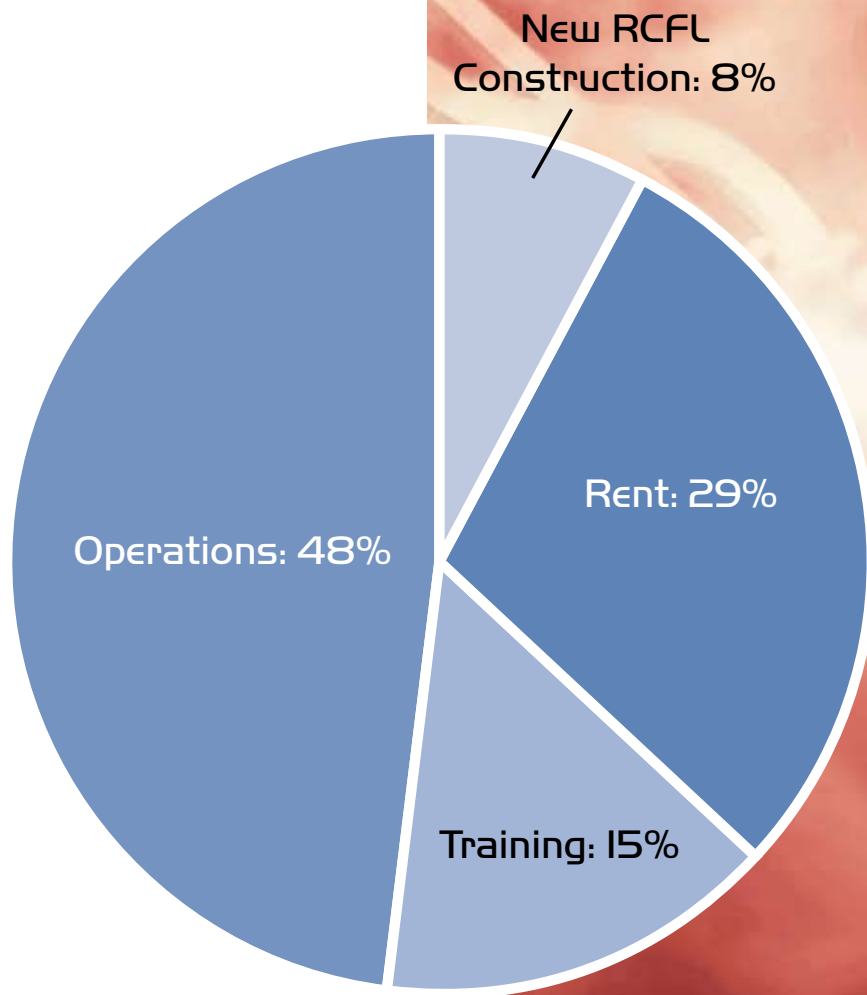


**Total: 8,740**

\* Prior to the new reporting requirements being instituted in July 2005, some media types were simply defined as “other.” At the close of FY06, these numbers will drop dramatically as media types are placed into one of the nine specific categories.

The RCFL Program received \$11,033,949 in congressional funding for FY05. These funds were used to operate and establish 13 FBI-sponsored RCFLs, along with the activities performed by the RCFL NPO.

The pie chart below displays, by percentage, the activities funded by the RCFL Program.





As stated in previous editions of this report, RCFLs support many investigations that involve child pornography and/or crimes against children. RCFL personnel are making an important difference by locating crucial digital evidence and then testifying in court about their findings. For example—

**EXAMINER'S TESTIMONY LEADS TO CONVICTION**—During a child pornography trial, an Examiner from the NJRCFL refuted the defense's claim that the subject purchased his computer hard drive from an online auction site, with child pornography images already on the computer. During her presentation in court, the Examiner expertly explained the difference between how files are stored while surfing the Internet and how files are downloaded and stored for later viewing. The prosecutor in the case said the Examiner's testimony significantly contributed to the defendant's conviction.

**OPERATION HAMLET**—Spearheaded by the San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, "Operation Hamlet" focused on a group of individuals that were distributing photographs and videos via the Internet of themselves molesting children as young as two years of age. Due to the volume of digital evidence to be collected and reviewed, as well as several technical challenges, the SDRCLF invested more than 500 staff-hours in support of Operation Hamlet. As a result, Paul Whitmore, a former counselor for autistic children, and 24 other individuals in Europe and North America were arrested for their involvement in the Internet child porn ring. Following a lengthy trial, Whitmore, a major subject in the investigation, was convicted of 51 counts of molesting children and having them pose for pornographic photographs that were posted and/or distributed among associates via the Internet. During the trial, a former SDRCLF Examiner also provided expert testimony that played an instrumental role in the successful conviction of the named defendants.

### ***A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety***

***is available online at***

***[www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguide.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguide.htm)***

### **Travelers—A Disturbing Trend Emerges**

RCFLs, along with many others in law enforcement, are witnessing growth in the incidence of a disturbing Internet-related crime against children involving individuals referred to as "travelers." Travelers meet their victims, typically minors, in Internet chat rooms. After ingratiating themselves with the child, the traveler escalates the cyber relationship—asking to meet in person. The growth in the incidence of this activity is raising concern among many in the law enforcement community and parents—for good reason. According to Highlights of the Youth Internet Safety Survey, conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice, "one in five children (10 to 17 years old) receives unwanted sexual solicitations online." Law enforcement is taking action in combating travelers. Under the Innocent Images National Initiative, the FBI teams work with local police in proactive task forces across the country. Posing as kids in Internet chat rooms, the officers' main goal is prevention—keeping potential predators away from actual children.

### **CHAT FRAGMENTS YIELD KEY EVIDENCE**

**RCFLs are doing their part to help law enforcement apprehend travelers—as the following case study illustrates**—The NWRCLF assisted the Multnomah County (Oregon) Sheriff's Office with a traveler case involving the rape of a 13-year-old girl by a 37-year-old man she met on the Internet. After examining the victim's computer hard drive, the Examiner discovered "chat fragments" containing names of both the victim and the suspect. These snippets of conversations between the two contained clear and explicit language detailing their intended actions. Moreover, the Examiner successfully identified corresponding dates and times of computer usage by the suspect, even identifying the public locations where the specific computers were used. The suspect confessed to the rape, was convicted and received a three-year jail sentence.

All FBI-sponsored RCFLs serve a dual purpose—functioning both as first-rate digital forensics laboratories and as training centers. Each facility is outfitted with a contemporary training classroom that can accommodate at least 20 students at a time and specifically designed to offer participants actual hands-on experience with digital forensics. The instructors are either current or former certified Examiners and therefore bring a mix of law enforcement experience and technical know-how into the classroom. This blend of high-technology training provided by seasoned instructors has earned the program high marks from past students. In FY05, RCFLs hosted and trained 3,262 law enforcement personnel in various digital forensics tools, techniques, and procedures.

Because training is such an important component of the RCFL Program, more than two dozen courses for all skill levels were offered during FY05 on a range of subjects, including affidavit workshops, basic data recovery and analysis, an overview of Internet crimes, and the investigation of child pornography, just to name a few. The durations of training courses vary from a half-day to an entire week, with some courses tailored to meet the specific needs of both law enforcement executives and first responders.

In January 2005, the program began offering online registration for RCFL training courses. With a few simple clicks of a mouse, more than 1,200 students registered for training via the Internet, with more expected to do so in FY06. To ensure consistency throughout the program, each RCFL has a designated training coordinator who schedules the facility's

***“Training is one of the most sought-after and valued resources within the RCFL Program. The sharing of resources and expertise is at the core of the RCFL Program and is what has contributed to the overall success of the program.”***

—Anthony P. DiClemente  
Section Chief,  
Digital Evidence Section, OTD

coursework in consultation with the NPO's training manager.

**ASSOCIATE EXAMINER INITIATIVE**—In last year's edition of this report, the “Associate Examiner Initiative” was introduced. The SDR CFL created this offering that provided former RCFL Examiners and their parent agencies an option that enables the trained Examiner to maintain his/her critical skills, and allows the agency to continue its affiliation with the RCFL.

The Associate Examiner Initiative began as a pilot project and has now evolved with the adaptation of a written agreement between the Associate Examiner candidate, the participating agency, the RCFL, and the RCFL NPO. This agreement solidifies the

Students attend class at the SVRCFL



**In FY05, the RCFL Program trained 3,262 law enforcement personnel in various digital forensics tools and techniques.**

In addition to educating more than 3,000 students, the RCFL Program achieved the following training milestones in FY05:

- ◎ **Audio/Visual Training/Certification**—In FY05, 15 RCFL Examiners successfully completed this training and received certification in this discipline. FBI policy requires Examiners to hold this certification in order to perform these types of exams.
- ◎ **Cell Phone Training/Certification**—The initial five-day course was held in August 2005 at the SVRCFL, with 30 RCFL Examiners in attendance. All 30 received their certification and are permitted to conduct these types of examinations for the RCFL Program.

commitment by all parties involved and guarantees the necessary time and resources to ensure that the candidates maintain the Program's high standards in forensics. According to SDRCFL Director, Randall L. Bolelli, *"This program is a smart and practical way for former Examiners to maintain their digital forensics skills. Unfortunately, not everyone who returns to his or her parent agency continues as a forensics Examiner. That's a loss we can't afford. By helping past Examiners maintain their FBI CART certification and forensic skills, we're continuing to build our region's digital forensics capacity. It's a worthy investment for us all."*

In FY06, the RCFL NPO plans to implement the Associate Examiner Initiative programwide.

**CASE AGENT INVESTIGATIVE REVIEW (CAIR) TRAINING**

—To help investigators navigate the Review Net system (a tool enabling investigators to review the forensic results of an examination via the FBI's Intranet), the RCFL NPO developed a one-day training course entitled "CAIR." As part of the CAIR training, students receive an instruction manual, participate in hands-

on exercises, and receive a certificate upon successful completion of the course. Students are also provided a computer-based training CD that serves as a "refresher course" should they need it. In FY05, the RCFL NPO trained and certified 22 CAIR instructors and has plans to hold another "train-the-trainer" workshop in mid FY06.

**Why Training Matters**

*One of the greatest benefits cited by the program's participating agencies is the training provided by the FBI's CART Unit. The following case clearly demonstrates how this training is making a difference on the front lines—*

**FROM ACADEMIA TO PRISON**—A homicide investigation involving Thomas Murray, a former professor at Kansas State University, revealed scant physical evidence linking him to the murder of his ex-wife. However, after an 11-month investigation, it was digital evidence uncovered by the HARCFL that helped Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Angela Wilson prove her case.

Dean Brown, an Examiner on assignment from the Lawrence, Kansas Police Department to the HARCFL, began supporting the investigation by suggesting appropriate computer-related wording for the search warrants that granted law enforcement legal access to examine Mr. Murray's computer. While examining that computer, Examiner Brown found search terms such as, "the best way to murder someone," "how to hire an assassin," and "how to poison someone." In addition, Examiner Brown discovered that several of the Web sites visited by Mr. Murray dealt with bludgeoning or stabbing—the very methods used to murder Murray's ex-wife, Carmin Ross-Murray. Further examinations of recovered e-mail messages described a looming child-custody battle between Murray and his ex-wife, which included the statement, "...we're joined at the hip by (our daughter) and probably will be till one of us dies."

Armed with this powerful evidence, and after meeting extensively on four separate occasions with Examiner Brown, ADA Wilson assembled a strong case against the former academic. Examiner Brown testified before jurors with a wide range of knowl-





**HARCFL Examiner Dean Brown presents evidence in Thomas E. Murray's murder trial in Douglas County District Court. The prosecution highlighted recovered searches from Murray's computer as proof Murray killed his ex-wife.**

edge, from a computer programmer to someone who had never seen the Internet. He skillfully explained his findings and the science behind digital forensics in simple terms—while keeping the more technically savvy jurors engaged. ADA Wilson commented, “Dean was an extremely important witness in the case. He testified for an entire day—never losing the jurors’ interest. It was a complete demystification of the process. Although our police department is very astute technologically, Dean’s FBI CART training was crucial.”

When asked how the HARCFL impacted the investigation, ADA Wilson said, “The resources made available through the RCFL were crucial in this case. They made it possible for a small-town detective to receive training that we would otherwise not be able to afford—this expertise made all the difference in the Murray case.” She went on to add, “Without the HARCFL, and the cooperation it fostered on the Murray investigation, we probably would not have had the resources or the interagency cooperation that we did. The HARCFL helped bring everyone together to solve this case.”

Murray was sentenced to life in state prison with no chance of parole.

*The following success story shows how training provided by RCFLs is also making a positive difference for victims of crime—*

### **PROTECTING CHILDREN: RCFLS IN ACTION**

—The Dallas District Attorney’s (DA) Office had before them a sexual assault case in which the victim was just 12 years old—and the suspect was her father. Two years later, no arrest had been made, despite the fact that she gave the police a detailed statement about the assault. Although the local police department (a non-participating agency in the NTRCFL) legally seized the alleged rapist’s home computer and examined it for evidence of the crime, they found nothing that corroborated the victim’s story. Lacking such information, the case was near dismissal when an investigator assigned to the DA’s office who had taken training offered by the NTRCFL and was familiar with its services, asked the laboratory staff to examine the computer. What the NTRCFL found did not bode well for the suspect.

Because RCFL personnel are trained in the very latest digital forensics tools and techniques, NTRCFL Examiner Don Wills was able to locate encrypted files containing images of the victim taken by her father—which matched her earlier statement given to police. The files also contained photographs taken by the suspect’s digital camera of the victim, again matching her statement regarding the time and date the crime took place. Armed with overwhelming evidence against the victim’s father, the NTRCFL honored the DA’s request to meet with his defense attorney. Examiner Wills described the processes he used to locate the evidence and explained the laboratory’s rigorous operating procedures as dictated by the FBI and the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB). Thanks to the digital evidence recovered by Examiner Wills, the suspect pled guilty to eight counts—each carrying a 20-year sentence. Thanks to training, determination, and skill, a sexual predator that preyed on his own child is now behind bars—for life. The victim is recovering.





Since its inception, the RCFL Program has always valued the involvement of its key stakeholders in both the laboratory's day-to-day operations and on the national level. To engage stakeholders on the local level, each RCFL is required to establish a Local Executive Board (LEB) composed of members from each of the participating agencies (for that facility). These members have a direct say in how the RCFL is managed and operated, and share their views with the laboratory director on a host of matters, including personnel decisions, new technologies, training, etc.

National stakeholders participate in the program through the National Steering Committee (NSC), an intergovernmental advisory group chartered by the RCFL NPO in 2003. The NSC is composed of elected government officials or their representatives, and/or employees of federal, state, and local government agencies who have expertise in the science of digital forensics. The committee meets bi-annually to share advice and opinions on national issues impacting the RCFL Program, and to learn about the program's latest challenges directly from the RCFL directors and headquarters personnel.

In a post 9/11 world, both information sharing and partnerships between law enforcement from all levels of government have proven to be critical components in protecting national security and preventing acts of terrorism. In his testimony before the Senate Committee of the Judiciary, former Vice Chair of the National Commission on Terrorism Attacks upon the United States, Lee Hamilton said, *"Success requires the FBI both to share information and to involve state and local law enforcement authorities in joint operations."* The RCFL Program embodies this philosophy—working side-by-side with representatives from 90 law enforcement agencies at both the staff and senior executive levels. The rewards for everyone have been substantial.

## Governance Board Activities in FY05

### LOCAL EXECUTIVE BOARDS (LEB)

In FY05, LEBs were operating in consultation with the following operational and planned facilities—San Diego, North Texas, Chicago, Heart of America, New Jersey, Silicon Valley, Greater Houston, Intermountain West, Northwest, Rocky Mountain, and Western New York RCFLs.

### THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (NSC)

The NSC met twice during FY05, focusing efforts on ways to raise awareness about the RCFL Program with key stakeholders—including members of the law enforcement community. Although the program is a leader in law enforcement's digital forensics community—many regions remain under-served and are struggling to have their digital forensics needs met in a timely manner. RCFLs cannot possibly be established in every jurisdiction that needs one; however, the NSC is exploring ways in which the RCFLs can share their expertise and knowledge with others, including those law enforcement agencies that reside outside the designated service areas. Work will continue on this initiative in FY06.

***"Our relationship with the FBI has been further strengthened by the (RCFL) partnership, adding one more area where we partner together toward achieving common goals."***

—Lt. Timothy Roberts  
Beaverton Police Department  
Member of the NWRCLF  
Executive Board



## The NSC Roster

The NSC welcomed several new members in FY05 and said goodbye to others. The committee is as follows—

### **CRAIG CHVAL**

Assistant Attorney General, Missouri Attorney General's Office, representing the National Association of Attorneys General

### **GERARD J. COCUZZO**

NSC Co-chair, RCFL NPO Unit Chief

### **BENNY DEL RE**

Director, District Attorney of Santa Clara County Crime Laboratory, representing ASCLD

### **MARK ECKENWILER**

Deputy Chief, Computer Crime & Intellectual Property Section (CCIPS), U.S. Department of Justice

### **JERRY ESTES**

District Attorney General, representing the National District Attorneys Association

### **RUSSELL B. LAINE**

Chief, Algonquin Police Department, representing the International Association of Chiefs of Police

### **GARY T. MAHA**

Sheriff, Genesee County, New York, representing the National Sheriff's Association

### **DR. SUJEET SHENOI**

Professor, University of Tulsa, representing the Governor of Oklahoma

### **DR. GENE SPAFFORD**

Professor and Director, Center for Education and Research in Information, Purdue University, representing the Governor of Indiana

### **PAUL WARNER**

U.S. Attorney, District of Utah, representing the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys

### **LT COL KEN ZATYKO**

NSC Co-chair, Director, Defense Computer Forensics Laboratory, Department of Defense



During FY06, the RCFL Program is working toward achieving the following goals—

- **Expanding the Program**—FBI-affiliated RCFLs located in Denver, Colorado; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Buffalo, New York; and Dayton, Ohio, are scheduled to become fully operational in FY06. Once this milestone is reached, the program will be available to more than 4,000 law enforcement agencies across 16 states.
- **Implementing Review Net**—Review Net is a groundbreaking tool developed by the NTRCFL, in collaboration with Examiners assigned to the HARCFL, CGRCFL, and SVRCFL. This product was created to help RCFL customers review the forensic results of an examination in a more expeditious, productive, and convenient manner. Typically, RCFLs provide their examination results on either a CD or DVD for the investigators to review. On large cases, an RCFL may produce multiple pieces of media (examination results), making the job of reviewing all the data very time consuming for the investigator. With Review Net, investigators can now access the laboratory's results via the FBI's Intranet site, where the data is organized into specific categories, e.g., graphic images, deleted files, e-mails, documents, spreadsheets—and the investigator can perform instantaneous key-word searches of all the examined media. As a result, instead of having to sift through all the data, one file at a time, investigators can quickly refine their search.

At this point in Review Net's development, only personnel who have access to the FBI's Intranet can use this tool. Therefore, the NTRCFL, in partnership with the HARCFL, is upgrading the system so that it can be accessed by state and local agencies within an RCFL. Eventually, the designers plan to offer an upgraded version of Review Net exclusively to participating agencies—enabling them to access the system from designated work stations within their own office space.

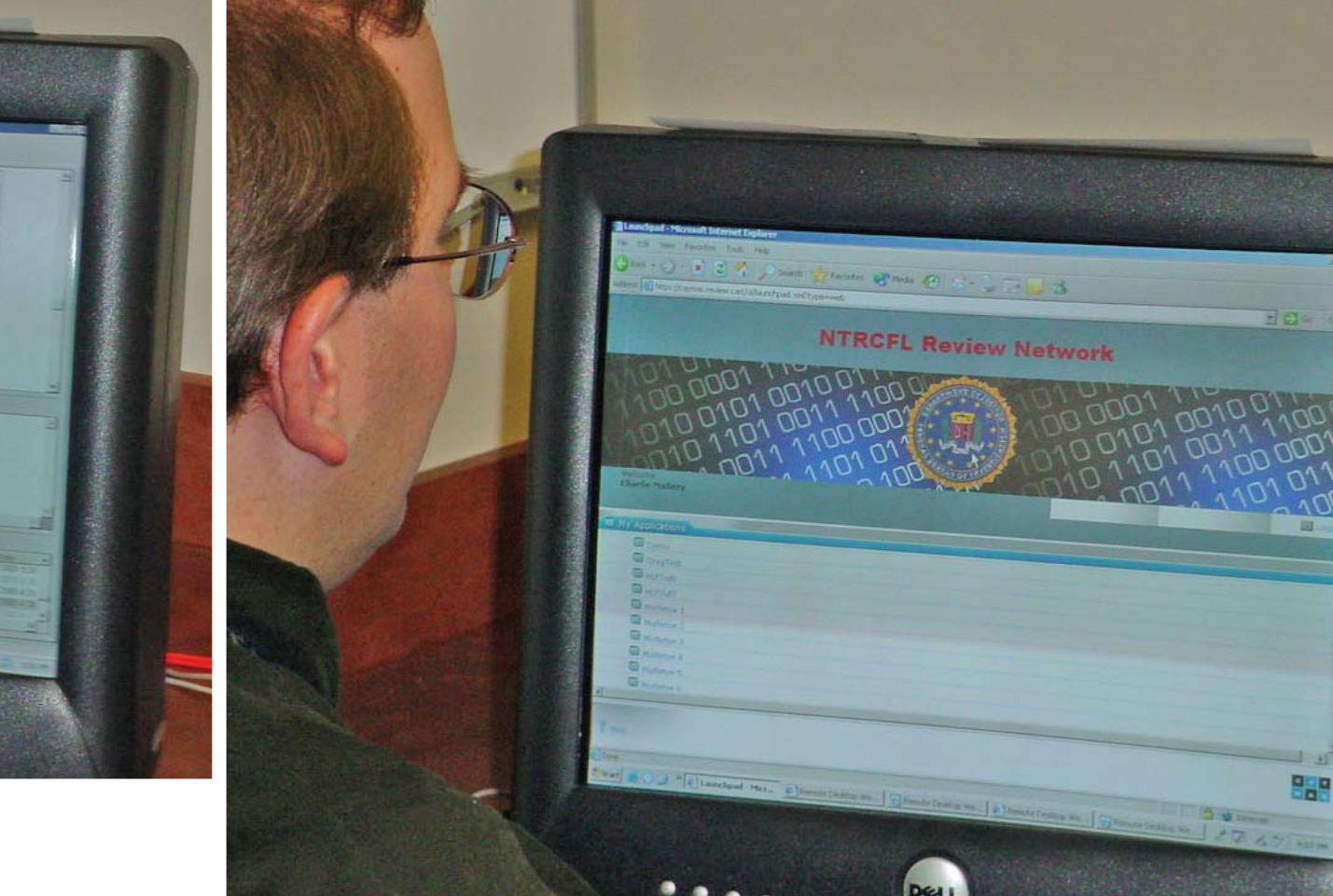


Shown here is FBI Special Agent Charles Mallery using Review Net.

Review Net was developed entirely in-house by RCFL/CART personnel and relies solely on commercial off-the-shelf hardware and software. The fully developed Review Net was reviewed and certified by the FBI's Security Division and was approved for connectivity to the FBI's Intranet.

- **Requesting ASCLD/LAB Accreditation**—The NPO requires each RCFL to seek ASCLD/LAB accreditation, with the NTRCFL being the first facility to accomplish this goal. Obtaining this accreditation requires months of planning; therefore, to help the RCFL Directors prepare for this undertaking, the NPO organized and presented an accreditation preparation workshop in March 2005. In FY06, the SVRCFL, NJRCFL, HARCFL, and NWRFCFL are expected to submit their accreditation applications to ASCLD/LAB.
- **Adding RCFL Personnel**—As stated in last year's report, a key issue in the program's continued success is having enough qualified staff available to meet demanding casework





needs. This problem is expected to intensify as the storage capacity of electronic devices continues to increase—storing record amounts of data with every new upgrade.

During FY05, 149 detailees staffed the RCFLs from their respective participating agencies. Collectively, these 149 individuals received nearly 4,000 requests for assistance from 435 agencies and conducted a record 2,976 exams. To continue providing the highest quality digital forensics services, the program must increase the number of participating agencies. It is a notable challenge because law enforcement agencies across the board are struggling to meet the many demands placed upon them. Nonetheless, in return for detailing staff mem-

bers to the laboratory, participating agencies and their personnel receive—

- Seven weeks of the same sophisticated technical training that is provided to FBI's certified computer forensics examiners
- Exposure to the most technologically advanced computer equipment available
- Broad experience in a variety of digital forensics cases
- A stake in the management of the RCFL.

***In FY05, 149 Examiners were assigned to RCFLs.***







# SAN DIEGO RCFL



**Year Established:** 1999

**Director:** Randall L. Bolelli

**Service Area:** San Diego and Imperial Counties

**Internet Access:** [www.rcfl.org](http://www.rcfl.org)



***"The San Diego RCFL is one of the most productive and innovative partnerships I have ever been involved with in all my years as a law enforcement professional. By combining resources, we have significantly enhanced not only my Department's capability, but that of the entire law enforcement community here in Southern California. It's an innovative arrangement that serves us well."***

—Sheriff William Kolender  
San Diego Sheriff's Department,  
Member of the San Diego Local Executive  
Board

## Participating Agencies:

- California Highway Patrol
- Department of Homeland Security—  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- Department of Homeland Security—  
Customs and Border Protection
- Federal Bureau of Investigation—  
San Diego Field Office
- Naval Criminal Investigative Service
- San Diego County District Attorney's Office
- San Diego Police Department
- San Diego Sheriff's Department
- U.S. Attorney's Office—  
Southern District of California
- U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

## Progress and Accomplishments

The SDRCFL is the oldest and one of the busiest facilities in the program, receiving a record-breaking 751 requests for service during FY05. Director Randall Bolelli attributes this to the growing awareness of digital evidence and its direct impact on virtually every type of crime. No longer a novelty, the SDRCFL has been in operation since 1999—and is now a vital part of the investigative and prosecutorial process in San Diego. On average, the SDRCFL devoted 17 forensic staff-hours to each service request it received in FY05—less than the 25 staff hours were reported in FY04.

In FY05, the laboratory also expanded its service offerings to include cellular telephone and audio/video forensics. Asked how they manage one of the most demanding workloads in the program, Director Bolelli said they rely on a business approach, keeping a constant eye on productivity, quality, resources,



and training. "We faithfully adhere to a strict set of operating standards while promoting efficiency and timeliness in everything we do. We must take this approach if we are to keep pace with the rapid advancements and diversity in electronic technologies. Less can lead to more—our mission is to perform as efficiently as possible, without ever sacrificing quality. Technology is our greatest asset, but it is also our greatest challenge."

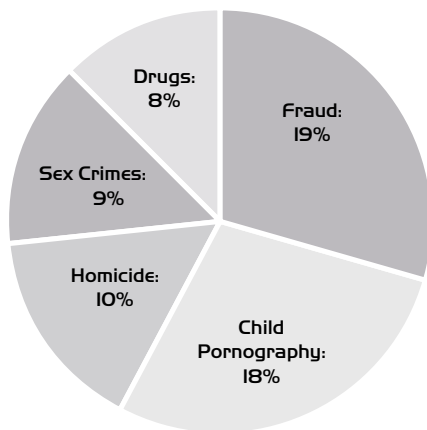
## FY05 Statistics

The following tables display the SDRCFL's accomplishments during FY05—

### CASEWORK

Number of agencies in service area	Approx. 80
Number of service requests	751
Participation in search and seizure operations	67
Number of exams performed	1,039

### CUSTOMER REQUESTS BY CRIME CLASSIFICATION



### TRAINING

Number of law enforcement officers trained in various digital forensics tools and techniques	656
Number of RCFL detailees that received FBI-sponsored training in FY05	22

### PERSONNEL

Total number of detailees	21
New detailees	5

## The Year Ahead

The SDRCFL, in consultation with its Executive Board, set the following goals for FY06—

- Increase Regional Participation**—To maintain an ever-increasing caseload, the SDRCFL hopes to add at least three new Examiners to its roster.
- Complete Storage Area Network (SAN) Installation**—In order to maximize performance and expand current capabilities, the SDRCFL will complete installation and fully integrate the SAN into all laboratory functions.
- Expand Training Program**—To more fully educate first-line officers, investigators, and agents in the areas of audio, video and cellular telephone technologies, the SDRCFL is planning to expand its training program in these disciplines because it will apply to future forensics requests and/or services.
- Seek ASCLD/LAB Accreditation**—After conducting extensive research, obtaining additional training, and implementing numerous policies and procedures in FY05, the SDRCFL will apply for ASCLD/LAB accreditation by the end of calendar year 2006.

# NORTH TEXAS RCFL



**Year Established:** 2000

**Director:** Michael S. Morris

**Service Area:** 137 Counties in North Texas

**Internet Address:** www.ntrcfl.org



***"The NTRCFL continues to amaze us with its range of accomplishments on so many different levels—from its growing list of R&D successes, its new abilities in working with cell phone technology, to simply helping investigators solve crimes through its street smarts and command of high technology. The participating Chiefs are very proud that the NTRCFL has become the first accredited digital forensics laboratory in Texas. For these reasons alone, our partnership with the RCFL has benefited our agency many times over, and we look forward to another year of advances and successes."***

—Chief Larry Zacharias  
Richardson Police Department,  
Former Chair  
NTRCFL Local Executive Board

## Participating Agencies

- Dallas Police Department
- Federal Bureau of Investigation—  
Dallas Field Office
- Garland Police Department
- Grand Prairie Police Department
- Plano Police Department
- Richardson Police Department
- Texas Attorney Generals Office
- U.S. Attorney's Office—  
Northern District of Texas

## Progress and Accomplishments

The NTRCFL continued to solidify its reputation as a technology innovator during FY05, developing, in coordination with personnel from the HARCFL, CGRCFL and SVRCFL, the FBI's latest digital forensics tool—Review Net.

Asked why the NTRCFL is such a trailblazer, Director Mike Morris said, "When a mission-critical need arises, you can either wait for someone to solve your problem or tackle it yourself. Our goal is to pursue research and development projects that benefit not just us—but everyone that does this work. Last year it was the Transportable Storage Area Network (TSAN), this year Review Net. Both have been extremely successful. If you give us a hill, we'll climb it—the mission will succeed."

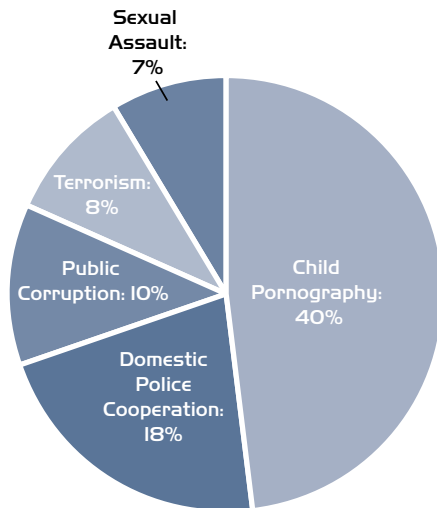
## FY05 Statistics

The following tables display the NTRCFL's accomplishments during FY05—

### CASEWORK

Number of agencies in service area	573
Number of service requests	447
Participation in search and seizure operations	38
Number of exams performed	404

### CUSTOMER REQUESTS BY CRIME CLASSIFICATION



### TRAINING

Number of law enforcement officers trained in various digital forensics tools and techniques	712
Number of RCFL detailees that received FBI-sponsored training in FY05	12

### PERSONNEL

Total number of detailees	13
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## The Year Ahead

In consultation with its Executive Board, the NTRCFL set the following goals for FY06—

- Manage its increasing caseload by adding two new participating agencies
- Complete and deploy Review Net for use by state and local customers
- Identify additional resources to support NTRCFL operations
- Obtain additional resources, including more capacity on the SAN and an additional server.

# CHICAGO RCFL

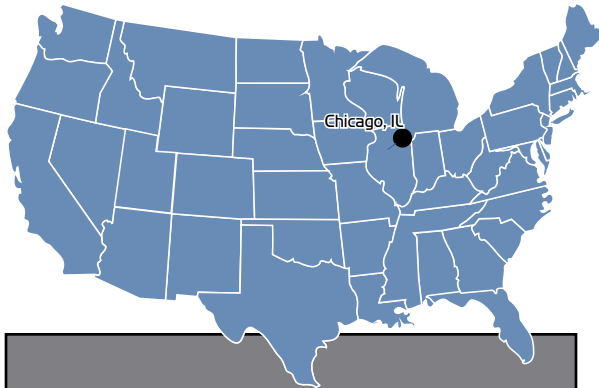


**Year Established:** 2003

**Director:** Rick Voss

**Service Area:** 19 Counties in Northern Illinois

**Internet Address:** [www.chicagorcfl.org](http://www.chicagorcfl.org)



***"Before the CGRCFL, my agency and many others working in area law enforcement struggled to meet the demand for digital forensics services. In just two years, our situation has improved dramatically—thanks to this laboratory. The challenges that once seemed insurmountable, no longer are. Instead we're focusing on educating first responders about properly handling digital evidence, while receiving the highest quality digital forensics services and training. That's progress."***

—Commander Dave Peters  
University of Illinois at Chicago Police Department, and Chair of the CGRCFL Local Executive Board

## Participating Agencies

- Chicago Police Department
- Cook County Sheriff's Office
- Federal Bureau of Investigation—Chicago Field Office
- Kane County Sheriff's Office
- Illinois Attorney General's Office
- Illinois State Police
- Palatine Police Department
- University of Illinois at Chicago Police Department
- U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
- Will County Sheriff's Office
- Will County State's Attorney's Office

## Progress and Accomplishments

Since opening in March 2003, the CGRCFL completed its second full year of operations—recording more than 800 requests for service from 69 agencies. In FY05, the CGRCFL expanded its service offerings to include cellular telephone and audio/video forensics, and enhanced its capabilities overall by increasing its SAN storage space by eight terabytes. The laboratory also received a CART quality award for consistently providing a high degree of service and excellent products. Laboratory Director Rick Voss said, "This year, our focus was squarely on refining our services and raising awareness about the RCFL in our region. After achieving several significant milestones in a number of areas, such as training, R&D projects, including CARTSAN and Review SAN, we are well positioned to build on this momentum well into the future."



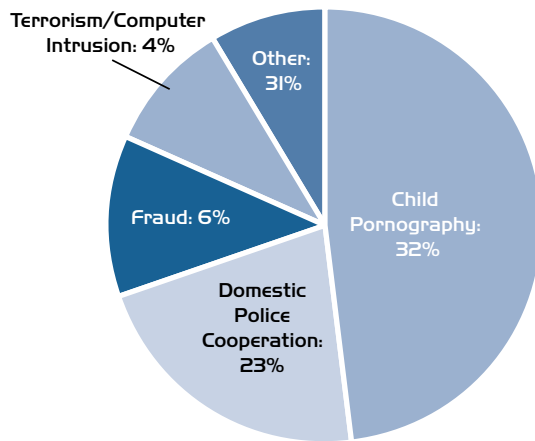
## FY05 Statistics

The following tables display the CGRCFL's accomplishments during FY05—

### CASEWORK

Number of agencies in service area	364
Number of service requests	337
Participation in search and seizure operations	34
Number of exams performed	249

### CUSTOMER REQUESTS BY CRIME CLASSIFICATION



### TRAINING

Number of law enforcement officers trained in various digital forensics tools and techniques	433
Number of RCFL detailees that received FBI-sponsored training in FY05	14

## PERSONNEL

The CGRCFL acquired one new Examiner from the Cook County Sheriff's Office and added another four officers from the Chicago Police Department. This sudden increase in staff required existing personnel to devote a considerable amount of time preparing the new Examiners for the rigors associated with CART certification.

Total number of detailees	20
New detailees	8
Number of detailees returned to their home agencies	2

## The Year Ahead

The CGRCFL, in consultation with its Local Executive Board, has identified the following goals for FY06—

- Raise Awareness**—To help law enforcement agencies in its service area better understand the CGRCFL's many service offerings, the laboratory will conduct at least one informational mass mailing to these departments. The CGRCFL also partners with the North East Metropolitan Regional Training Center to schedule and publicize at least two training classes per month and works with various Mobile Training Units to identify opportunities to provide training to outlying law enforcement agencies.
- Apply for ASCLD/LAB Accreditation**—The CGRCFL will apply for this accreditation by the end of FY06. During FY05, the laboratory's Quality Manager participated in an ASCLD/LAB workshop, and Director Voss attended ASCLD/LAB inspector training.
- Reduce Average Processing Time for Requests**—With increased SAN capacity and a staff of 20, the CGRCFL is aiming to reduce the average time it takes to process each request.

# HEART OF AMERICA RCFL

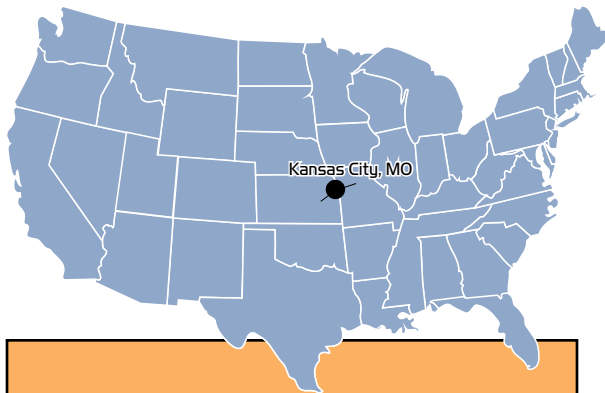


**Year Established:** 2003

**Director:** Kevin Steck

**Service Area:** State of Kansas and the Western Two-Thirds of Missouri (Total of 171 Counties)

**Internet Address:** [www.harclf.org](http://www.harclf.org)



***"Of all the cooperating partnerships to which we belong, the RCFL has directly returned the most—not only through the mission they serve, but the outside training and experience our officers receive and ultimately bring home."***

—John Douglass  
Chief, Overland Park,  
Kansas Police Department and  
Chairman of the HARCFL Executive Board

## Participating Agencies

- Federal Bureau of Investigation—  
Kansas City Field Office
- Jackson County, Missouri Sheriff's Office
- Johnson County, Kansas Sheriff's Office
- Kansas Bureau of Investigation
- Kansas City, Kansas Police Department
- Kansas City, Missouri Police Department
- Lawrence, Kansas Police Department
- Lenexa, Kansas Police Department
- Missouri State Highway Patrol
- North Kansas City, Missouri Police Department
- Platte County, Missouri Sheriff's Office
- Shawnee County, Kansas Sheriff's Office
- Overland Park, Kansas Police Department
- U.S. Attorney's Office—District of Kansas
- U.S. Attorney's Office—  
Western District of Missouri
- U.S. Department of Agriculture—  
Office of the Inspector General

## Progress and Accomplishments

FY05 was a busy and exciting time for members of the HARCFL. Supporting some of the most high-profile criminal investigations in the nation, coupled with the addition of three new participating agencies, left little time to reflect on the year's many accomplishments. Nonetheless, Director Kevin Steck said, *"This was a remarkable year not only for us—but for all of law enforcement in our region. It's inspiring to see the dedication and teamwork that working in a close-knit community brings. The entire staff of the HARCFL is committed to sharing our resources with all*

of law enforcement, and this year alone proved just how valuable having an RCFL close by can be in assisting investigators with resolving a myriad of different and difficult cases.”

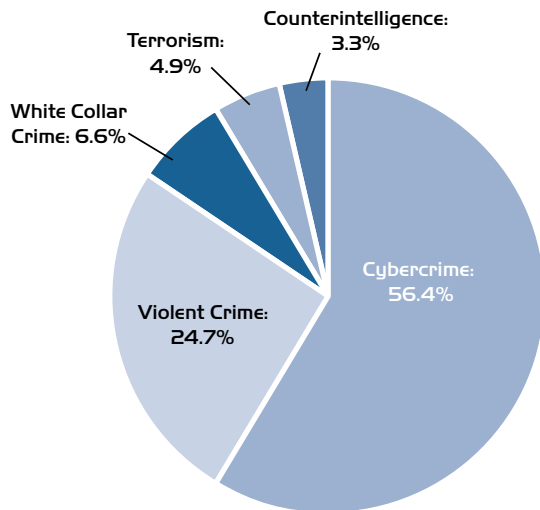
## FY05 Statistics

The following tables display the HARCFL’s accomplishments during FY05—

### CASEWORK

Number of agencies in service area	867
Number of service requests	334
Participation in search and seizure operations	24
Number of exams performed	245

### CUSTOMER REQUESTS BY CRIME CLASSIFICATION



### TRAINING

Number of law enforcement officers trained in various digital forensics tools and techniques	145
Number of RCFL detailees that received FBI-sponsored training in FY05	18

### PERSONNEL

Total number of detailees	19
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## The Year Ahead

The HARCFL, along with its Executive Board, is committed to meeting the following goals for FY06—

- Full Implementation of the Case Agent Preliminary Search (CAPS) System—** Once digital evidence is submitted to the HARCFL, the CAPS system allows investigators to use specialized software to quickly review digital evidence. The HARCFL is in the process of bringing the CAPS system online through a secure law enforcement Internet network, making it available throughout the service area. Requisite training is also being provided to interested investigators.
- Enhanced Training—**The HARCFL is developing a one-day workshop entitled “Computer Search and Seizure Field Applications” and plans to offer the course starting in March 2006.
- Launch of Professional Virtual Network—** Because many law enforcement agencies within the laboratory’s vast service area have digital forensics Examiners on staff, the HARCFL plans to establish a professional virtual network that will allow them to share and exchange information about the field. The virtual network will use the laboratory’s video conferencing capabilities to foster a collaborative environment in which the participants can discuss topics such as training, technology, and investigations.

## NEW JERSEY RCFL

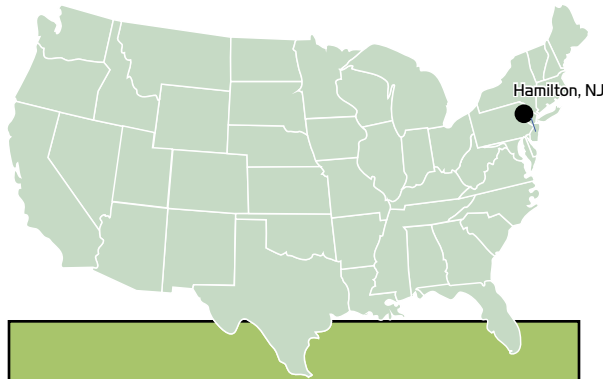


**Year Established:** 2004

**Director:** Larry Depew

**Service Area:** State of New Jersey

**Internet Address:** [www.njrcfl.org](http://www.njrcfl.org)



***"Since opening in November 2004, the NJRCFL has made an immediate contribution to law enforcement agencies throughout the State of New Jersey by providing the highest quality digital forensic services. In addition, RCFL personnel have trained nearly 500 New Jersey first responders and investigators to give them an understanding of potential importance of digital evidence as well as proper procedures for acquiring and preserving such evidence.***

***The NJRCFL services are possible because of the dedication and commitment of its personnel from the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General New Jersey, New Jersey State Police, New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, Essex County Prosecutor's Office, and the police departments of Franklin Township, Jersey City, South Brunswick Township—in a partnership with the FBI. The laboratory is energized through a strong sense of teamwork and dedication and a shared commitment to excellence and continuous quality improvement."***

—Leslie G. Wiser, Jr.  
Chair, NJRCFL Local Executive Board

## Participating Agencies

- Essex County Prosecutor's Office
- Federal Bureau of Investigation—Newark Field Office
- Franklin Township Police Department
- Jersey City Police Department
- New Jersey Attorney General's Office
- New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice
- New Jersey State Police
- South Brunswick Police Department

## Progress and Accomplishments

Marked by a high degree of cooperation from New Jersey's leading law enforcement agencies, the NJRCFL had a positive impact almost as soon as it opened for business on November 23, 2004. Since then, it has achieved several key goals, including—

- Certifying 16 new forensics Examiners
- Reducing an 18-month backlog to approximately six months with the goal of turning cases around in 30–60 days for routine investigative matters
- Instituting a quality system for the continuous quality improvement of laboratory operations and examinations
- Implementing a "Continuity of Operations" plan in the event of a catastrophic event and a Health and Safety Program
- Preparing test and validation plans for several hardware and software digital forensic tools.

Director Larry Depew said, *"In our first year, we focused our efforts on building a strong sense of teamwork among the Examiners and our participating agencies, as well as developing high-quality standards for measurable and repeatable processes that meet*



our client's expectations. These are absolutely critical to achieving our goals for long-term success and have empowered us to work more efficiently and effectively together."

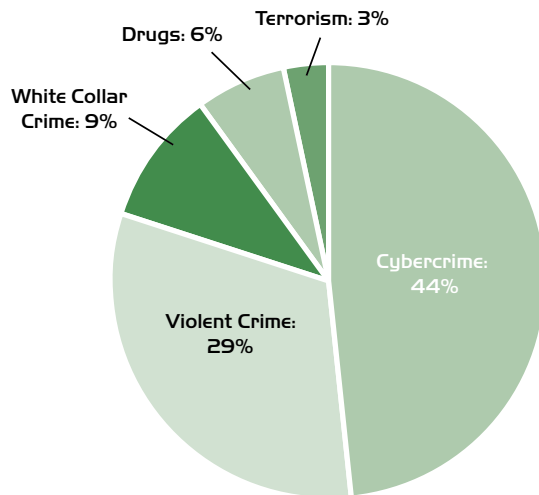
## FY05 Statistics

The following tables display the NJRCFL's accomplishments during FY05—

### CASEWORK

Number of agencies in service area	571
Number of service requests	491
Participation in search and seizure operations	35
Number of exams performed	197

### CUSTOMER REQUESTS BY CRIME CLASSIFICATION



### TRAINING

Number of law enforcement officers trained in various digital forensics tools and techniques	469
Number of RCFL detailees that received FBI-sponsored training in FY05	22
Number of Examiners that received CART certification	16

### PERSONNEL

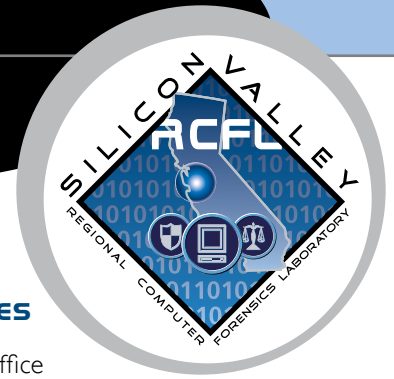
Total number of detailees	25
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## The Year Ahead

In consultation with its Executive Board, the NJRCFL set its sights on achieving the following goals during FY06—

- Applying for ASCLD/LAB accreditation
- Converging laboratory administrative operations with the New Jersey Forensic Science Laboratory—quality systems, training, budget and funding, evidence management, and laboratory information management system
- Adding two new participating agencies—one each from the local and county levels
- Making continuous quality improvements to enhance laboratory operations
- Completing the forensics network.

# SILICON VALLEY RCFL

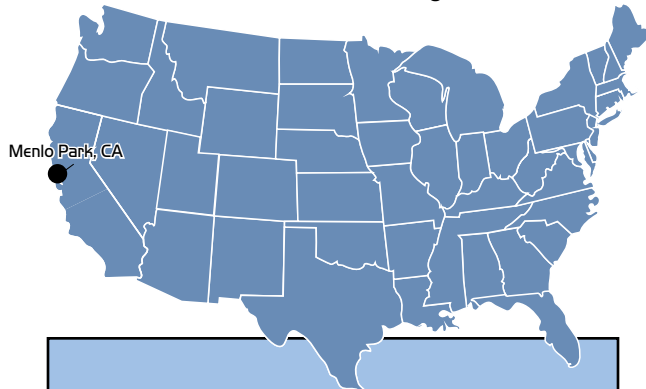


**Year Established:** 2005

**Director:** Chris Beeson

**Service Area:** Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties

**Internet Address:** [www.svrcfl.org](http://www.svrcfl.org)



***“The Silicon Valley is the epicenter of the nation’s high-tech industry, so having an RCFL in our area seemed only natural. Participation in the RCFL has had benefits for our organization as a whole and for the officer we have assigned to it. In today’s world, there are not many crimes that are committed that do not have some connection to computers. Having access to top-notch technological as well staffing resources to assist in our investigations is invaluable. Our investigator assigned to the RCFL has received a significant amount of training and experience that he will be able to bring back to our department when his term is up. The RCFL partnerships forged between the FBI and local law enforcement agencies have resulted in an extremely important tool to fight crime in the 21st century.”***

—Chief Lynne Johnson  
Palo Alto Police Department,  
Member of the SVRCFL Executive Board

## Participating Agencies

- Alameda County Sheriff’s Office
- Federal Bureau of Investigation—  
San Francisco Field Office
- Palo Alto Police Department
- San Jose Police Department
- San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office
- Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office

## Progress and Accomplishments

The SVRCFL was the first new RCFL to begin operations in 2005—starting the year with a well-attended press conference that attracted more than 25 journalists from the San Francisco media. Since then, the SVRCFL has received a warm reception from the general public, the area’s prominent high-technology industry, and the law enforcement community. Director Chris Beeson said, *“This has been a great first year for us. The team we hand-picked has really proven itself—both in its forensics capabilities and in its strong commitment to making this RCFL the success that it is. I look forward to welcoming more participating agencies to our ranks—so they can reap the many benefits and rewards this program has to offer.”*

In addition to its official opening and acceptance of nearly 300 requests for services, the SVRCFL achieved the following milestones in FY05—

- Finalized buildout and infrastructure requirements
- Completed a readiness inspection for ASCLD/ LAB accreditation
- Added two additional full-time Examiners
- Had four members of the staff certified so they could perform cell phone examinations—further widening the SVRCFL’s expertise and service offerings.

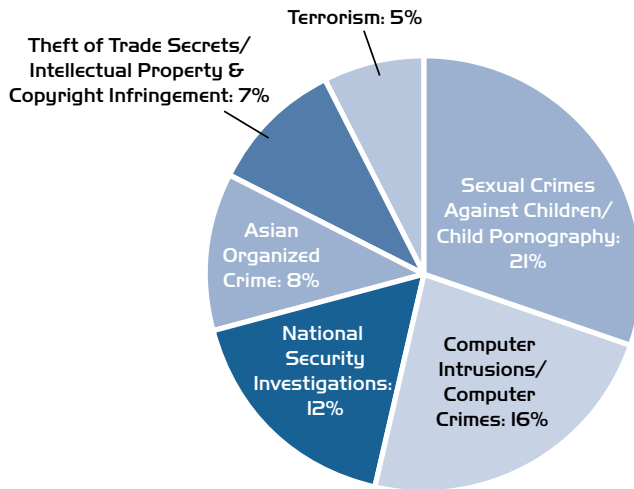
## FY05 Statistics

The following tables display the SVRCFL's accomplishments during FY05—

### CASEWORK

Number of agencies in service area	91
Number of service requests	295
Participation in search and seizure operations	34
Number of exams performed	134

### CUSTOMER REQUESTS BY CRIME CLASSIFICATION



### TRAINING

Number of law enforcement officers trained in various digital forensics tools and techniques	335
Number of RCFL detailees that received FBI-sponsored training in FY05	12

### PERSONNEL

Total number of detailees	12
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## The Year Ahead

The SVRCFL, in coordination with its Executive Board, has identified the following goals for FY06—

- **Increase the Number of Participating Agencies**—To help manage the increasing case-load, the SVRCFL plans to add two new participating agencies to its ranks.
- **Seek ASCLD/LAB Accreditation**—The SVRCFL will apply for this accreditation in mid-FY06.

# GREATER HOUSTON RCFL

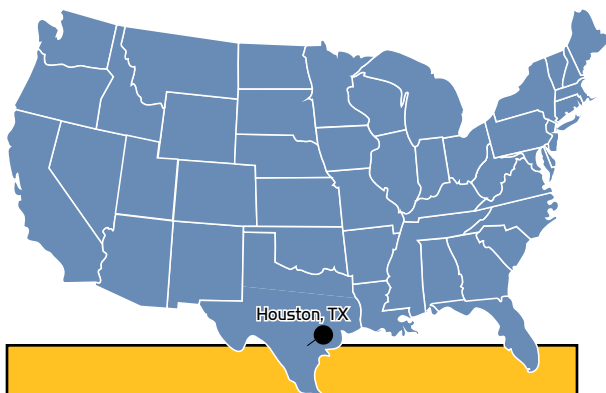


**Year Established:** 2005

**Director:** Dennis Williams

**Service Area:** Harris County, and 39 Southern Counties in Texas Covering the Territory of Beaumont, Galveston, Huntsville, College Station, and Corpus Christi

**Internet Address:** [www.ghrcfl.org](http://www.ghrcfl.org)



## Participating Agencies

- Federal Bureau of Investigation—Houston Field Office
- Harris County Precinct 4 Constable's Office
- Harris County Precinct 5 Constable's Office
- Harris County Sheriff's Office
- Houston Police Department
- Pasadena Police Department
- Tomball Police Department

## Progress and Accomplishments

Although the GHR CFL has not moved into its permanent laboratory space, this has not deterred the laboratory from providing first-rate digital forensics and training to one of the largest law enforcement communities in the country. Since officially announcing that it would accept requests for service from its colleagues in March 2006, the GHR CFL has thrived, supporting both the Enron Task Force and a wide range of criminal investigations, including numerous Amber Alerts. Laboratory Director Dennis Williams said, "Because our service area is so large, many of our peers in law enforcement are just learning about our laboratory. Once they pass through our doors, they are pleasantly surprised at the range of expertise, equipment, and knowledgeable Examiners. When they see there's no charge for our service—surprise turns to awe."

***"I have been extremely pleased to be a part of the Greater Houston RCFL since its inception a year ago, and the access to world class training and forensic expertise has increased the integrity of our computer crimes capabilities immensely. Supporting the alliance formed through this coalition of agencies has been well worth the expenditure of manpower necessary to staff the lab. With the increase in involvement of computers and technical complexity of crime in society today, it is critically important that we maintain the advantage the RCFL provides member agencies."***

—Ron Hickman, Constable  
Harris County Precinct 4 Constable's Office,  
Member of the GHR CFL Executive Board



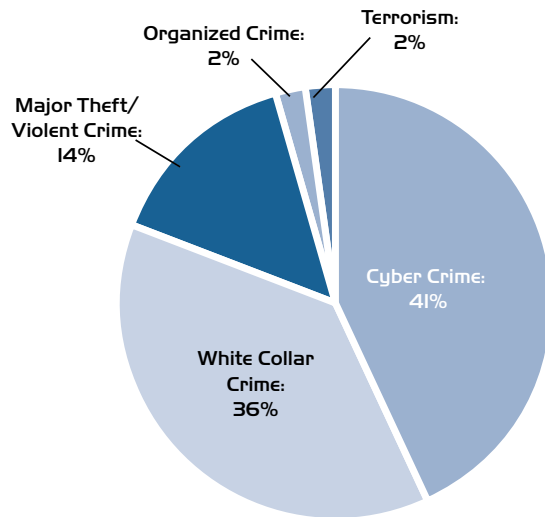
## FY05 Statistics

The following tables display the GHRCFL's accomplishments during FY05—

### CASEWORK

Number of agencies in service area	320
Number of service requests	293
Participation in search and seizure operations	41
Number of exams performed	220

### CUSTOMER REQUESTS BY CRIME CLASSIFICATION



### TRAINING

Number of law enforcement officers trained in various digital forensics tools and techniques	385
Number of RCFL detailees that received FBI-sponsored training in FY05	15
Number of Examiners that became CART certified	4

### PERSONNEL

Total number of detailees	15
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## The Year Ahead

In consultation with their Executive Board, the GHRCFL is focusing its efforts on achieving the following milestones during FY06—

- Locate and build out new space to house the GHRCFL
- Conduct 225 digital forensics examinations
- Participate in 50 search and seizure operations
- Train 200 law enforcement officers in digital evidence processing, tools, and techniques.

## INTERMOUNTAIN WEST RCFL

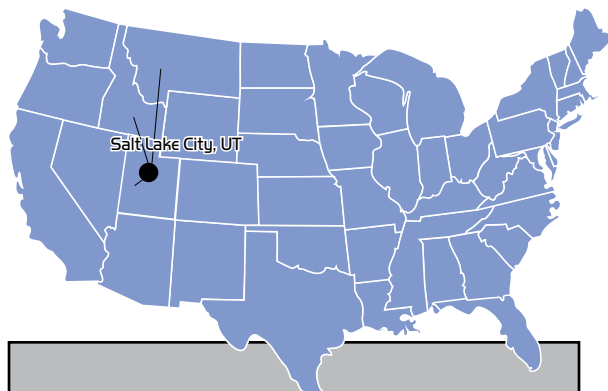


**Year Established:** 2005

**Director:** Roger Call

**Service Area:** States of Utah, Idaho, and Montana

**Internet Address:** [www.iwrcfl.org](http://www.iwrcfl.org)



***“As one of the oldest police departments in the nation, our agency has continuously sought ways to enhance our services through technology, training, and outreach to better protect our citizens. Joining forces with the RCFL Program offered us a tremendous opportunity to meet these important goals and to strengthen our digital forensics capacity. The Intermountain West RCFL is both a valuable asset and partner—and we look forward to working alongside them for many years to come.”***

—Chief Charles F. “Rick” Dinse  
Salt Lake City Police Department,  
Member of the IWRCFL Executive Board

### Participating Agencies

- Ada County Sheriff’s Office
- Federal Bureau of Investigation—  
Salt Lake City Field Office
- Salt Lake City Police Department
- Salt Lake County Sheriff’s Office
- Sandy City Police Department
- U.S. Attorney’s Office—District of Utah
- Utah Attorney General’s Office
- Utah Department of Public Safety
- West Valley City Police Department

### Progress and Accomplishments

As the eighth laboratory to enter the RCFL network on July 6, 2005, members of the IWRCFL were joined by such notables as Senator Orrin Hatch, Utah Lt. Governor Gary Herbert, U.S. Attorney Paul Warner, Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff, and Utah Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Flowers.

Special-Agent-in-Charge Timothy J. Fuhrman (FBI Utah Division) said, *“This high-tech crime lab of the future is a physical reminder of what the power of partnership, collaboration, and a shared vision can do to benefit of our community and the nation.”*

In its first year of operation, the IWRCFL provided assistance to more than 63 law enforcement agencies at the local, state, and federal government levels, and completed more than 300 examinations. After merging with the Utah Computer Forensics Laboratory, the IWRCFL inherited more than 170 cases and aggressively worked to reduce that number to 119 by the end of the fiscal year. Laboratory Director Roger Call said, *“Simultaneously working to complete the construction of the lab, training our Examiners, and*

supporting hundreds of criminal investigations was a tremendous challenge for us. However, the end results were well worth it. Today, the IWRCFL stands as a flagship facility for a region that, before our facility existed, lacked sufficient digital forensics and training opportunities. That situation is no more.”

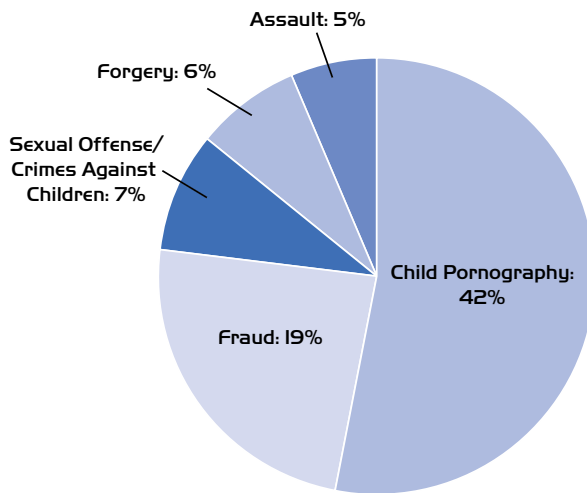
## FY05 Statistics

The following tables display the IWRCFL's accomplishments during FY05—

### CASEWORK

Number of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the service area	400
Number of service requests	281
Participation in search and seizure operations	15
Number of exams performed	313

### CUSTOMER REQUESTS BY CRIME CLASSIFICATION



### TRAINING

Number of law enforcement officers trained in various digital forensics tools and techniques	51
Number of RCFL detailees that received FBI-sponsored training in FY05	12

Number of Examiners that became CART certified	9
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### PERSONNEL

Total number of detailees	14
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## The Year Ahead

In consultation with the Executive Board, Director Roger Call has set the following goals for the IWRCFL in FY06—

- **Increase Staff Levels**—To meet the increasing demand for digital forensics services, the IWRCFL will continue to seek additional participating agencies, while also exploring options to provide increased support for law enforcement in Idaho and Montana.
- **Expand Training**—Given the IWRCFL's tri-state service area, plans are underway to offer additional training opportunities to law enforcement in Utah, Idaho, and Montana.
- **Reduce Turnaround Time**—With new tools and technologies on the market, the IWRCFL plans to use these resources to reduce turnaround time and backlogged cases.
- **Diversify Service Offerings**—IWRCFL personnel will begin training on audio/video forensics, and once certified, they can conduct examinations on this type of equipment.
- **Installation of Network Infrastructure Systems**—Once operational, these systems will increase the capabilities and data storage capacity of the IWRCFL.
- **Seek ASCLD/LAB Accreditation**—The IWRCFL is preparing to apply for this accreditation during FY06.

## NORTHWEST RCFL

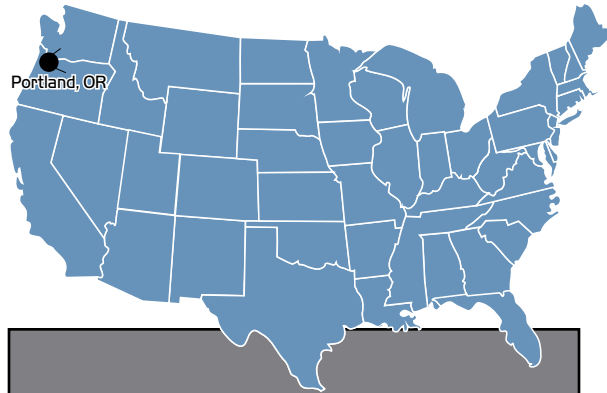


**Year Established:** 2005

**Director:** R. Douglas Fabel

**Service Area:** State of Oregon and Southwest Washington

**Internet Address:** [www.nwrcfl.org](http://www.nwrcfl.org)



*"The Beaverton Police Department has benefited through our partnership with the NWRFCFL in several ways. First, our ability to access professional digital forensics services and expert testimony in court is greatly enhanced. Second, we have been able to "make" several felony cases that simply would not have been prosecutable without digital evidence extracted by the NWRFCFL Examiners. Third, having one of our detectives trained in this area has helped our investigators tremendously. He has taught them new tactics and cleared up some of the mysteries surrounding digital forensics that previously made cases involving such evidence seem overwhelming.*

*Another unexpected benefit is that with the knowledge and training our detective and other Examiners have gained through the RCFL Program, they are now able to provide assistance to other, less capable agencies of the Northwest region that would have almost no chance of accessing these services otherwise."*

—Lt. Timothy Roberts  
Beaverton Police Department,  
Member of the NWRFCFL Executive Board

## Participating Agencies

- Beaverton Police Department
- Federal Bureau of Investigation—Portland Field Office
- Gresham Police Department
- Hillsboro Police Department
- Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
- Oregon State Police
- Portland Police Bureau
- Washington County Sheriff's Office

## Progress and Accomplishments

On September 9, 2005, the NWRFCFL officially joined the RCFL network, becoming the ninth facility to achieve this important milestone. Kerry E. Haynes, Assistant Director of the FBI's Operational Technology Division (OTD), in an official statement said, "With the opening of the NWRFCFL, we have successfully extended our reach across the northwestern region of the country. Starting today, hundreds of law enforcement agencies in Oregon and Washington State will have direct access to first-class digital forensics expertise and training. With the establishment of every new RCFL, law enforcement's ability to investigate and solve a whole range of crimes, as well as to detect and prevent terrorism, is significantly strengthened."

As with most new RCFLs, building these facilities from the ground up, while training your staff and accepting requests for service, requires patience, creativity, and diligence. Director Doug Fabel said, "Our biggest challenge this year was standardizing our practices and procedures to ensure the quality of our work products. We met this goal—having supported a number of investigations where our participation made a real difference. This served as a real motivator for everyone—and demonstrated the value of this program.



Now that we're fully operational, we're looking forward to expanding our services and adding to our growing list of accomplishments."

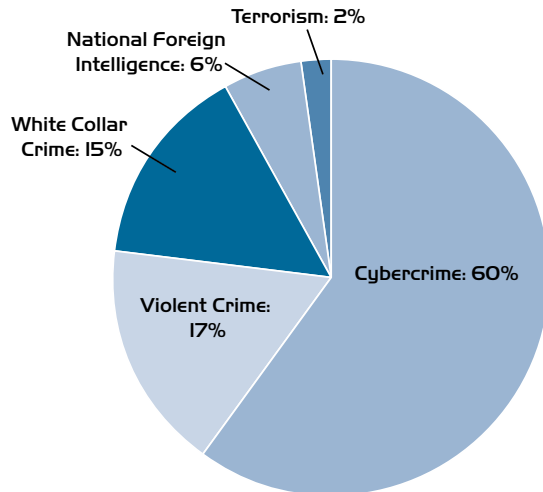
## FY05 Statistics

The following tables display the NWRFCFL's accomplishments during FY05—

### CASEWORK

Number of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the service area	109
Number of service requests	205
Number of exams performed	176

### CUSTOMER REQUESTS BY CRIME CLASSIFICATION



### TRAINING

Number of law enforcement officers trained in various digital forensics tools and techniques	76
Number of RCFL detailees that received FBI-sponsored training in FY05	14
Number of Examiners that became CART certified	8

### PERSONNEL

Total number of detailees	14
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## The Year Ahead

Director Fabel, in consultation with the NWRFCFL Executive Board, set the following milestones for FY06—

- **Seek ASCLD/LAB Accreditation**—The NWRFCFL plans to apply for this accreditation by the end of FY06.
- **Enhance Executive Board Participation**—Now that the laboratory is officially open, the Executive Board can focus its efforts on management and operational issues affecting the NWRFCFL.
- **Expand Training**—The NWRFCFL plans to use its modern classroom and other training resources to educate area law enforcement about the identification, proper care and handling of digital evidence, and various digital forensics tools and techniques.
- **Increase Number of Participating Agencies**—To help manage its demanding caseload, the NWRFCFL will recruit additional law enforcement agencies to join the NWRFCFL. Any law enforcement agency within Oregon and south-west Washington is eligible to join the program.
- **Pursue Research & Development Projects**—The NWRFCFL plans to develop and validate at least one new digital forensics tool or program, and as an FBI-sponsored RCFL, is considering contributing to an ongoing R&D initiative within the program.

The RCFL National Program Office wishes to thank FBI Director Robert S. Mueller, III, and Assistant Director Kerry E. Haynes, Operational Technology Division (OTD), for their ongoing commitment and belief in the mission and vision of the RCFL Program.

We also want to thank the RCFL Directors and staff; OTD Digital Evidence Section, including CART, FSU, FAVIAU, CEAU; the National Steering Committee; and the Local Executive Board members and chairs, including SAC Peter Ahearn, SAC Roderick L. Beverly, SAC Stan Borgia, Lt. Eric Davenport, Chief John Douglass, SAC Daniel R. Dzwilewski, ASAC Sherry Fleming, SAC Joseph Ford, SAC Timothy J. Fuhrman, SAC Guadalupe Gonzalez, Commander Dave Peters, SAC Richard Powers, and Sheriff Dave Weaver for their time and ceaseless dedication throughout the year.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the participating agencies that compose the RCFL Program. Their vision and willingness to serve, not only their communities, but the nation as a whole through this program, deserves the highest praise, respect, and recognition. In alphabetical order, they are—

- Ada County Sheriff's Office
- Alameda County Sheriff's Office
- Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office
- Aurora Police Department
- Beaverton Police Department
- California Highway Patrol
- Chicago Police Department
- Colorado District Attorney
- Cook County Sheriff's Office
- Dallas Police Department
- Denver Police Department
- Department of Homeland Security—  
Customs and Border Protection
- Department of Homeland Security—  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- Douglas County, Colorado  
Sheriff's Department
- Essex County Prosecutor's Office
- Franklin Township Police Department
- Garland Police Department
- Grand Prairie Police Department
- Gresham Police Department
- Harris County Precinct 4 Constable's Office
- Harris County Precinct 5 Constable's Office
- Harris County Sheriff's Office
- Hillsboro Police Department
- Houston Police Department
- Illinois Attorney General's Office
- Illinois State Police
- Jackson County, Missouri Sheriff's Office
- Jersey City Police Department
- Johnson County, Kansas Sheriff's Office
- Kane County Sheriff's Office
- Kansas Bureau of Investigation
- Kansas City, Kansas Police Department
- Kansas City, Missouri Police Department
- Lawrence, Kansas Police Department
- Lenexa, Kansas Police Department
- Missouri State Highway Patrol
- Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
- Naval Criminal Investigative Service
- New Jersey Attorney General's Office
- New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice
- New Jersey State Police
- North Kansas City, Missouri  
Police Department
- Oregon State Police
- Overland Park, Kansas Police Department
- Palatine Police Department
- Palo Alto Police Department
- Pasadena Police Department

- Plano Police Department
- Platte County, Missouri Sheriff's Office
- Portland Police Bureau
- Richardson Police Department
- Salt Lake City Police Department
- Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office
- San Diego County District Attorney's Office
- San Diego Police Department
- San Diego Sheriff's Department
- San Jose Police Department
- San Mateo Police Department
- Sandy City Police Department,
- Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office
- Shawnee County, Kansas Sheriff's Office
- South Brunswick Police Department
- Texas Internet Bureau
- Tomball Police Department
- U.S. Attorney's Office—District of Kansas
- U.S. Attorney's Office—District of Utah
- U.S. Attorney's Office—  
Northern District of Texas
- U.S. Attorney's Office—Southern  
District of California
- U.S. Attorney's Office—Western  
District of Missouri
- U.S. Department of Agriculture—  
Office of the Inspector General
- U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
- University of Illinois at Chicago  
Police Department
- Utah Attorney General's Office
- Utah Department of Public Safety
- Washington County Sheriff's Office
- West Valley City Police Department
- Will County Sheriff's Department
- Will County State's Attorney's Office

Finally, many thanks to the FBI Field Divisions—without their generosity and support, the RCFL Program would not be the formidable success that it is today.

- FBI Buffalo
- FBI Chicago
- FBI Cincinnati
- FBI Dallas
- FBI Denver
- FBI Houston
- FBI Kansas City
- FBI Newark
- FBI Philadelphia
- FBI Portland
- FBI Salt Lake City
- FBI San Diego
- FBI San Francisco



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