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**Law Enforcement Sensitive  
MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**Event:** Forensic Document Laboratory

*Formerly U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service*

*Currently DHS, BTS, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement)*

**Type of event:** site tour and meeting, (not responsive to a formal briefing request)

**Date:** July 18, 2003

**Special Access Issues:** none

**Prepared by:** Janice Kephart-Roberts on July 22 and August 4, 2003, SG

**Team Number:** 5

**Location:** 8000 Westpark Drive, Suite 325

McLean, VA 22102

**Participants - Non-Commission:**

Kathryn E. Sheehan, Director

John James Ross, Jr., Supervisory Forensic Document Examiner

[Redacted] Chief Intelligence Officer

Jim Ross (Mideast Supervisor)

**Participants - Commission: Team 5-**

Betty Swope

Janice Kephart-Roberts

Susan Ginsburg

Thomas Eldridge

**FDL facts received during site tour.**

Pre 9/11, FDL only had 9 staff. Now 20.

FDL was under INS intel. FDL now under ICE investigations, and lost CBP and BCIS.

- FDL is developing the Edison Database: international law enforcement initiative supported by six countries to develop a image database of international travel identification documents. Training: 1000/year and state/locals foreigners
  - FDL produces Document Intelligence Alerts
  - RT assistance to field
  - 5 fingerprint: state forms verification and case development
- 5 document examiners:  
12 document examiners:
- All FDL examiners have masters in forensic science and usually prior USSS or FBI. Only about 550 qualified document examiners in US.

Of the 2000 cases in drawer:

- do 3 day turn around on cases where an individual is in custody
- do 30 day turn around on administrative cases, usually benefit fraud
- 60% cases are passport cases, 20% of these are stolen

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Systems using:

- IDENT: only non-US citizens
- IAFIS: Auto Fingerprint ID System – (use latent prints to try to ID alien) FBI Clarksberg
- Western ID Network: AFIS for West USA

FDL working to help others make documents more secure. “US documents are not particularly secure; other governments spend more dollars on secure document than us.”

- National Association Public Health Certificates: trying to standardize birth certificates to make more secure.
- American Association of Motor Vehicles: standardize security features in driver’s license.
- DoS: working with State to produce better passport security.
- SSA: try to tie birth and death certificates together; try to include data of individuals upfront so verification can happen via database as opposed to verification due to phone calls and faxes.
- Works with Interpol on their digitize database of stolen passports.

FDL has the only comprehensive library of every type of supporting, identification and travel documents over the world. Have 20 years worth of documents; collection of documents very difficult. CIA, FBI, and DHS all rely upon FDL resources. *[what is backup?]*

*Note:* JKR looked in library at Saudi books, where there is a notice of a “deport me to America” scam in intelligence section of Saudi document book. DOS cable: Afghani arrives in Bangkok. Has a California driver’s licenses with US fraud documents and ticket “Karachi-Bangkok-L.A.” and an Afghan passport issued in Washington D.C. But had no boarding pass. Asked to be “deported to U.S.” Sent back to Karachi.

FDL keeps millions of **green cards** – to 1977 – lots of fraud. Can use green cards from abroad if lose proper documents to regain entry to the US. Variety of ways to commit fraud:

1. counterfeit card
2. photo substitution
3. good cards gained fraudulently

*Note:* Only now can CBP pull these up because web based and at LESC’s. Don’t know if JTTF’s may have access.

FDL currently working on MOU with DoS which will enable FDL to gain access to US passports for photo verification. DoS now has photo phone and access via Datashare. 200 photophones around world, including some embassies. Many ports of entry already have the photophones.

The following email was hanging up in the lab:

“Please provide the imagining re:

Foil No. 27334344

Control #: 20000P180320001

Visa Post: Dubai

ALSHEHHI, Marwan Yousef Mohamed R. Lekrof 9 May 1978 UAE

MRV Requests related to subjects

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[Redacted]

Email from 9.17.2001"

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**Information obtained in meeting after tour.**

**1. FDL work on travel documents of the 19 and Al Qaeda.**

FBI lab bought over travel documents of 19 that survived WTC and Pennsylvania crashes. Jim Ross (Mideast Supervisor) did examination of documents retrieved from WTC. *Note: As of July 31, Team 5 received reports on these documents from FDL.* FDL also did Richard Reid case.

Documents found: recovered from crash scenes; those found in safe houses; all genuine documents with genuine passports. Lab got 4 or 5 passports. Looked at entry/exit stamps to determine timeline. Did itinerary checks as well. Checked NIIS. Did produce a report to INS headquarters and gave to FBI as well. Not classified.

Works closely with consular anti-fraud officers.

[Redacted]  
What's come in on travel documents of 19 is clean to date. *As of July 31, Team 5 received reports on* [Redacted]

[Redacted]  
Liaison with FPP will give them that. Wants DOS to digitize new passport photos (doing so now) and then make them accessible.

Good relationship with FBI lab, but none with main FBI.

Do have access to CLASS, but \_\_\_\_\_ .

CHOICEPOINT. Private sector initiative where can run person and can give whole biography. FDL uses it.

**FDL document fraud training.**

FDL is responsible for full training of inspectors. FDL designs FLETC anti-fraud training. Material trainees receive on document fraud, FDL provides. Reality is, learning custody and law. So you're giving them the basics.

In New Mexico, do refreshers on fraud for more experienced to use. 24 per class/2 week classes (2, 4 or 6 hours). Not getting everyone trained.

Skills and needs all different depending on type and size of port of entry, and type of service providing (admission (CBP)v. change of status (BCIS) v. investigation (ICE)).

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On site training customized for issues at that port. All hands on physical and visual training provided. Because of resources, can only do 6 or 8 per year. At ports, do lectures of do 100 at one time and train on actual equipment available. When not training, in secondary, helping on photo phones, etc. But FDL cannot impose a requirement that instructors instruct after receive training.

Document Instructor course: 1 ½ weeks.

1. units on types of documents
2. Level 1: \_\_\_\_\_ and DOS - ALL UNITS  
Level 2: police/law enforcement  
Level 3: airlines, private industry
3. make presentation/take a test

1 trained per INS district )

Border Protection sector )

Overseas ) trained 86 instructors

Remote service centers )

Asylum adjudications )

**Recommendations:**

1. FDL wants document training as a stand alone at FLETC – instead of under ICE.
2. On the frontline. Need proper basic equipment at all POEs. Black light, magnifying glass, flash light and card reader.
3. *Breeder document records*: SSA is doing E-VITAL, where trying to match number to basic identifiers. However to really stem forgery:
  - a. DMV, SSA, Immigration and Customs: should only accept state level issued identifiers for birth certificates, not from the 8,000 localities and hospitals who issue birth certificates.
  - b. AND USE same unique watermark for all certificates. Watermark is very secure. WHEN PAPER IS PRODUCED, but before shipped to each state, serialize them in case of loss or theft (is US, 8000 birth certificates issuing offices and each changes way do so).
  - c. DOESN'T TAKE CARE OF SECURITY OF ISSUING PROCESS: that's where need biometric DNA chip and training in how to read DNA as a pointer, tagged to encoded fingerprint and facial photo, to find document fraud.
4. FOR ISSUING DRIVER LICENSES – limit what can be expected as valid identification in the three categories of applicants for driver's licenses.
  - a. *citizens*, only State issued birth certificate.
  - b. *20 non-immigrant classes*, only national passport, I-94 and visa
  - c. *30 immigrant classes*: only green card, Employment Authorized Document, form H or L
  - d. illegal: if tighten up basic identifiers, should help reduce illegals from getting driver licenses.

## HOW AND WHO TO CONTACT AT THE FDL

The FDL is staffed on a 7-days-a-week, 365 days-a-year basis. This includes all federal holidays. The FDL is staffed Monday through Friday between the hours of 6:00am and 8:30pm (Eastern Time), on Saturday, Sunday, and all Federal holidays from 10:00am to 6:30pm. For after-hours emergencies, contact the Command Center at

### + You can phone or fax us at:

Phone

Fax :

### + For specific assistance, you may contact the:

- FDL Director for matters concerning FDL policy and management
- Chief Forensic Examiner for matters concerning FDL forensic services
- Supervisory Fingerprint Specialist for matters concerning fingerprint services
- Chief Intelligence Officer for matters concerning FDL intelligence services
- Specific FDL staff members may be reached via the FDL Receptionist or directly by cc:Mail.

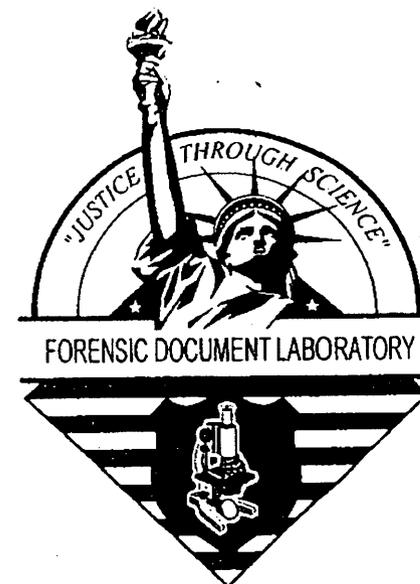
## HOW TO SUBMIT A CASE TO THE FDL

All submissions for forensic examination must be accompanied by a completed "Request for Forensic Examination" form (G-1021), which may be obtained upon request from the FDL or by downloading it from the FDL Bulletin Board on the ICE PowerPort.

All items submitted for examination are handled as evidence, and must be properly packaged by the requestor. All evidence must be transmitted inside a sealed inner envelope, with the completed "Request for Laboratory Examination" form attached to the outside of the inner envelope. Multiple cases may be submitted in a single mailer, but each case within must be separately packaged as described above. A Chain of Evidence document must accompany all cases in which a criminal prosecution is anticipated.



# FORENSIC DOCUMENT LABORATORY



U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Bureau of Immigration and Customs  
Enforcement  
Office of Investigations

*Accredited by the American Society of Crime  
Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation  
Board (ASCLD/LAB)*

## The FDL in brief

Established in 1978, the FDL is the only Federal crime laboratory dedicated almost entirely to the forensic examination of documents. It is also unique in that its forensic function is closely integrated with an operational intelligence and training capability.

The FDL is a fully accredited laboratory by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD). As such, its forensic methods and procedures meet the same rigorous scientific and law enforcement standards as all other ASCLD accredited Federal and non-Federal crime laboratories.



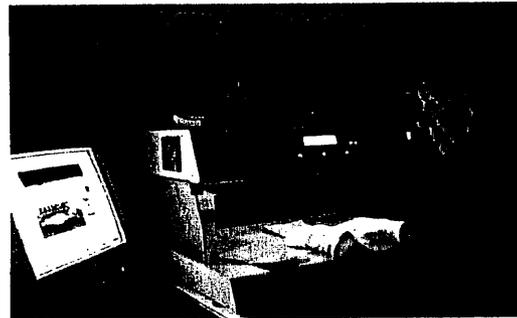
(Alien Resident Card under ultra-violet light)

## The Forensic Section

The Forensic Section consists of document and fingerprint examiners, forensic photographers, and an evidence custodian. The forensic examiners have advanced degrees in forensic science. All of the document and fingerprint examiners are recognized for their technical expertise and commitment to scientific accuracy and responsiveness to requestors' needs. Our photographers are highly skilled in micro, macro, digital, and graphic photography.

Forensic services include:

- **Comparative examinations** of disputed handwriting and handprinting.
- **Forensic examinations** of any foreign or domestic documents, stamps, seals, printing, typewriting, and restoration of obliterated or altered documents.



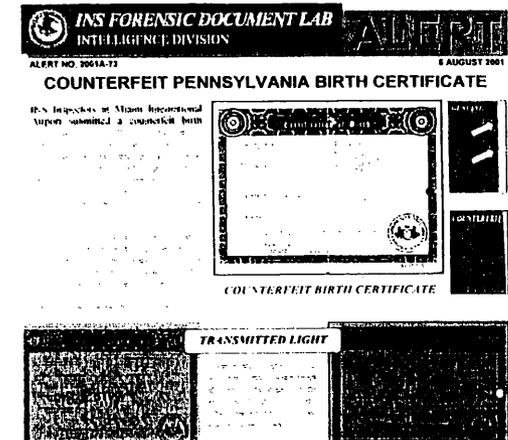
- **Testimony as an expert witness** in judicial proceedings and hearings on forensic examinations conducted.
- **Attempts to link multiple documents** in one case or multiple cases to a common source through common features of handwriting, stamp and seal impressions, copy machines or typewriters.
- **Processing evidence for latent fingerprints** in an attempt to identify the person who handled documents.
- **Ink-to-ink fingerprint comparisons** to determine if the fingerprints belong to the same person or an imposter.

## The Intelligence Section

The Intelligence Section is staffed by senior officers, who have extensive knowledge of U.S. and foreign travel and identification documents, immigration law, and document fraud techniques. They provide direct support to field personnel, and maintain the FDL Library, the largest known repository of known genuine travel and identity documents in the world.

Intelligence services include:

- **Training and technical support** in the detection of fraudulent documents.
- **Document Intelligence Alerts**, which are high-quality, color photo bulletins.



- **Assistance via the Photophone and Image Storage and Retrieval System (ISRS)** in resolving questions concerning suspect travel documents and/or imposters.
- **Active liaison** with other U.S. Federal, non-Federal, and foreign government entities to combat illegal immigration.