AFIS

KING COUNTY REGIONAL
Automated Fingerprint Identification System

2016
Annual Report

Message from the AAC Chair

Chief Patti Cole-Tindall
King County Sheriff's Office
AFIS Advisory Committee Chair

On behalf of the AFIS Advisory Committee, I am excited to share with you the King County Regional AFIS Program's 2016 annual report that showcases the program's achievements.

Being appointed to the position of Chief of the Technical Services Division of the King County Sheriff's Office in late 2015, I did not have a lot of previous exposure to the fingerprint industry. To remedy this, I attended an International Association for Identification annual conference to learn more about this fascinating biometric field. At the conference, I gained valuable insight into the type of work the AFIS Program performs and was impressed. King County Regional AFIS helps solve crimes. The program's regionalized approach offers forensic identification services countywide, at no cost to local jurisdictions.

By learning more about fingerprinting, I also saw that the program's success can be attributed to its hard working, well trained employees. AFIS employees are committed to providing high quality services and continually receive training to enhance their expert identification skills. They work hard to keep and grow the trust that law enforcement agencies within King County have for the program.

In 2016, the program progressed on initiatives outlined in the levy plan. A site was selected for the new King County processing lab as well as a building design with construction scheduled to begin in 2017. The Livescan replacement project made huge progress with the installation of 48 Livescans. Other work included the creation of a Processing Unit after a successful pilot project. The pilot received such great response from law enforcement that the unit will expand the areas it will serve. These are just a few highlights of the work the program accomplished in 2016.

I encourage you to learn more by reviewing this 2016 report. It can also be found online at:
www.kingcounty.gov/afis.
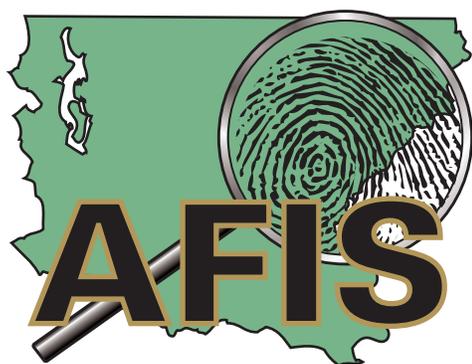
Mission

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

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I see no more than you, but I have trained myself to notice what I see. -Sherlock Holmes

Program Overview

Operations

What is the King County Regional AFIS Program?

The Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) is a searchable database of finger and palm print records used to verify people's identities and crime scene prints.

King County's Regional AFIS is a levy-funded, countywide program that provides the staff and technology to support criminal fingerprint identification services in all 39 cities and the unincorporated areas within King County. The first levy was approved in 1986 and has been renewed by voters five times.

What are the benefits of AFIS?

Since AFIS is a regional program, it provides enhanced services at a reduced cost through economy of scale. This regional approach:

- Provides a network of over 40 Livescan devices to capture high quality fingerprints and transmit them electronically to AFIS for fast identification
- Invests in shared staff and technology with an overall lower cost
- Builds a larger and higher quality database, resulting in more identifications
- Contributes to information sharing between agencies
- Supports task forces, special initiatives, and major crime investigations

2016 Review & Look Forward

With more than half of the levy term over, AFIS continues to make steady progress on planned initiatives, including the Livescan replacement project, selection of a site and designer for a new processing lab, and continued deployment of Mobile ID devices. After a successful pilot, the program also established a unit to improve fingerprint processing for auto thefts and residential burglaries.

Moving into the last two years of the levy, the program will focus its efforts on completing the processing lab and wrapping up remaining projects. The program also continues to pursue other initiatives such as operational efficiencies, replacement of end of life technology, and expansion of the AFIS database to include photos.

What are the primary purposes of the program?

- **To quickly identify arrested individuals, preventing the wrongful release of those using false names.**

- **To identify crime scene fingerprints and palmprints that aid in investigations.**

"The King County Regional AFIS Program continues to serve the public by embracing the latest technology and techniques. Law enforcement needs fast and accurate fingerprint identification, and AFIS delivers - quickly, efficiently, and economically."

Executive Dow Constantine King County

Finances

Local law enforcement agencies are primarily responsible for costs associated with their own criminal identification. However, local jurisdictions typically cannot independently afford the significant investment required to implement biometric identification technology. The AFIS property tax levy allows jurisdictions throughout King County to benefit from this technology by pooling regional resources to provide shared identification services.

Voters approved the current six-year levy in November 2012, authorizing property taxes averaging $19.8 million per year from 2013 through 2018. The levy rate may increase between one and three percent each year; however, it has decreased in each year of the levy to date. In 2016, the levy raised $20,117,166 while reducing the rate to $.04765 per $1,000 of assessed value, or $19.06 for a home valued at $400,000. AFIS has spent less in the current levy to date than anticipated in the original levy plan.

The AFIS levy funds 90 employees under the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) and 37.5 under the Seattle Police Department (SPD). These numbers include staff that support forensic science as well as program administration and project management.

The levy provides new and replacement fingerprint technology to local law enforcement agencies to support efficient identification services. Capital investments included the replacement of aging Livescan devices used by local police agencies and the distribution of nearly 260 Mobile ID devices, enabling police officers to identify suspects by scanning fingerprints in the field.

For the first four years of the levy, the AFIS fund has grown its fund balance in anticipation of the expense of replacing the aging and inadequate King County processing lab. In 2017 and 2018, AFIS will spend this reserve on construction of a new lab in the county-owned Blackriver building in Renton.

2016 Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	
Property (Levy) Taxes	$20,117,166
Investment Interest	$161,519
Other *(e.g. excise tax and timber sales)*	$115,535
Total**	**$20,394,220**
Expenditures	
Salaries & Benefits	$9,407,959
City of Seattle*	$4,512,017
Intragovernmental Overhead	$2,001,000
Supplies & Services	$743,374
Capital Equipment	$563,939
Total**	**$17,228,289**

*City of Seattle includes accrual for fourth quarter of 2016.
**Numbers for revenue and expenses as of 1/20/2017.

Revenue and Expenditures for Current Levy
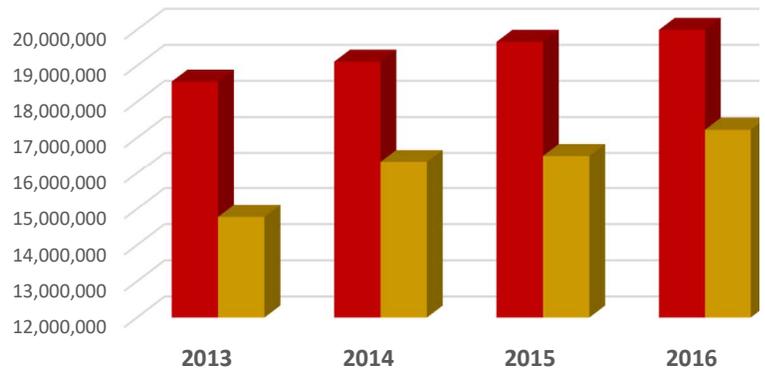
■ **Revenue*** ■ **Expenditures**

*Revenues collected beyond annual expenditures are held in the AFIS fund balance. This fund balance is earmarked for capital expenditures such as Mobile ID devices, Livescan replacements, and the processing lab relocation.

Cost to Homeowner
(Based on a $400,000 home)

Year	Assessed Levy Rate[1]	Annual Cost[2]
2013	**$.05920**	**$23.68**
2014	**$.05588**	**$22.35**
2015	**$.05069**	**$20.28**
2016	**$.04765**	**$19.06**

[1]Rate determined by County Assessor's Office after preparation of budget.
[2]Home Value set at $400,000 for comparison purposes. This number multiplied by assessed levy rate divided by 1,000 equals the cost to taxpayers.

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*Follow the evidence wherever it leads.* **-David Hoffman, Author**

Program Highlights

Livescan

Livescan devices are used to electronically capture and transmit fingerprint images to the AFIS database for identification. The fingerprints are searched locally and transmitted to the state and federal identification systems. Livescans provide an important function to the program and are located throughout the county as shown on the map to the right.

At the beginning of 2015, the project to replace all of the Livescans throughout the county began. By the end of September 2016, all 48 new Livescans had been installed. AFIS staff worked closely with the vendor, Biometrics4All, on this project. Photo capture for mugshots and tattoos is now included with some of the devices.

⬤ Central AFIS

⬤ Livescan devices electronically capture and transmit fingerprint images to the Central AFIS for identification.

**Livescan records
searched through AFIS**

79,099
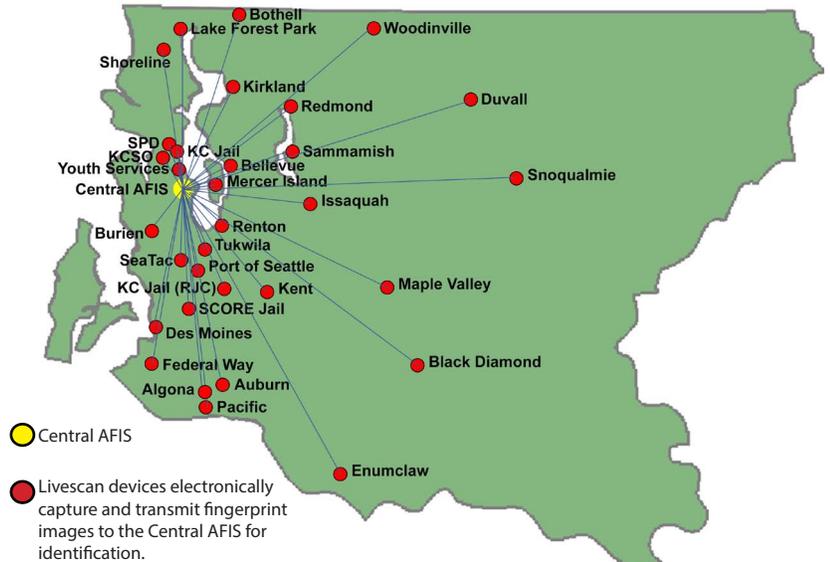
"AFIS staff have worked with the Federal Way Police Department to get our new Livescan machines up and running. The trainer graciously came out multiple times to train our officers and has been a wealth of knowledge and assistance. The 24/7 on-call staff kindly assist our officers with questions. Their patience and professionalism sets them apart and showcases the excellent service they provide.

AFIS staff do a wonderful job each day with the Livescans, training, service and especially with the assistance on crime scenes. They're the best!"

*Tami Parker - Records Supervisor
Federal Way Police Department*

King County Processing Lab

The current levy includes replacing the processing lab to improve safety and efficiency, ensuring effective and timely service to customers.

In 2016, a site for the new lab was selected. The site is a county-owned property located in Renton. Buffalo Design was chosen as the consultant for the building design. The lab replacement team worked with the consultant on the design. Construction will begin in 2017, with a goal of completion by the end of 2018.

Processing Unit Pilot

In the past, staff response to scenes was generally limited to complicated scenes, crimes with high dollar loss, or vehicles that could be impounded and scheduled for processing at a later time. In March 2015, the AFIS Program established a processing unit to test the feasibility of a dedicated field processing group. The focus of the group was to quickly respond and process property crimes in south King County. Over an 18-month period, the unit proved to be a success by significantly increasing the quality and quantity of prints collected for identification. It responded to over 1,800 crime scenes. The unit also saw an increase in demands and requests to expand to north and east areas of the county.

In July 2016, the AFIS Advisory Committee voted to continue funding the group as a standard service. A supervisor was hired and additional staff will be added in 2017. By pursuing efficiencies in operations, AFIS is able to staff this unit with existing resources.

Average number of callouts per day

5.85

"At a Top Offender meeting, attendees noted how helpful the Processing Unit is in responding to callouts. Technicians are responsive and arrive quickly to scenes. The speed of the response and the success of the unit with processing fingerprint evidence has made it a valuable resource for patrol sergeants and deputies."

Theresa May - Crime Analyst
King County Sheriff's Office

Mobile Identification

Mobile ID consists of handheld fingerprint capture devices paired with software allowing officers in the field to search two fingerprints against the AFIS database and receive results within minutes. Identity can be quickly confirmed, enabling officers to make critical decisions such as whether to detain or release a subject. The prints are searched through King County's AFIS and in both the state database through the Western Identification Network (WIN) and the FBI's Repository for Individuals of Special Concern (RISC). Fingerprints are not saved on the device or stored in the AFIS database. This handheld device is helping law enforcement personnel get identification results quickly in the field, improving the safety of communities.

Mobile ID devices continue to be deployed throughout the county as additional agencies sign their Interlocal Agreements, which outline the use of the devices and actions required by both parties. Nearly 250 of the 260 devices purchased have been issued with over 1,100 officers/deputies in King County trained to use them.

Mobile ID records searched through AFIS

5,008

In 2016, a Department of Corrections Most Wanted Serious Violent Offender was captured by a deputy after being identified with Mobile ID.

"Every police officer in America should have one!"

Deputy/MPO Viktor White
King County Sheriff's Office

Success Stories

Fingerprints Help Solve Kidnapping

Two men kidnapped a woman, held her captive, stripped, and repeatedly beat her. She was left with two black eyes and a fractured cheek bone. The victim's mother reported the incident.

Latent Print Examiners were called by Des Moines PD to process a vehicle for prints. The police department also processed another location where the suspects had reportedly held the woman against her will. An examiner conducted comparisons between the crime scene prints and two suspects. Both suspects were identified as being at the two locations. The examiner also testified to his findings in court. Both men were found guilty - one faces life in prison and the other was sentenced to 75 months in prison.

Scale-model Boat Links Cases

As examiners were processing a home, the homeowner mentioned it was strange that burglars stole her scale-model boat from inside the house. The examiners remembered seeing one in the back seat of a stolen vehicle in Renton a couple days before. They described other items in the car that also matched items stolen from the home. The information provided by the examiners was vital to the investigation.

Semi-Truck Thief Identified

A brand new semi was stolen. It was traced by GPS to a home in South King County. A detective was watching the property to gather information when the suspect drove off in the stolen truck. A chase ensued and the suspect rammed two deputies' vehicles. He ditched the truck and ran on foot. An examiner processed the semi on the side of the road where it had been crashed. The examiner identified the suspect's prints to the steering wheel, gear shift, a cigarette pack and a Mt. Dew bottle. Based on the fingerprint identifications, the suspect was arrested and confessed to all the charges - including Vehicular Assault on two deputies.

Handprint Matched to Suspect

Law enforcement responded to a theft at a Rite Aid in Kenmore. A man jumped over the pharmacy counter and stole prescription cough syrup. The next day, officers responded to another theft from a pharmacy in Shoreline where a similar event occurred. A handprint left by the suspect at the second scene was collected and submitted to AFIS for possible suspects. Examiners determined that the handprint had a match in the system. Video surveillance linked the suspect to both crimes, as well as a third. Witnesses also identified the suspect. A search warrant was served on the suspect's home, where clothing was found that matched the clothing worn by the suspect in all the cases. The suspect was arrested and booked into jail on one count of Robbery Second Degree and two counts of Burglary Second Degree.

Mobile ID at Work

After a feature on Washington's Most Wanted regarding a person failing to register as a sex offender, a viewer tip led officers to a downtown Seattle store. Officers found the man, but after multiple requests the man refused to give his name. Officers used Mobile ID to search his fingerprints, which provided an identification. Officers also confirmed he had warrants for escape from Community Custody, a DV Violation Order for $10,000, and a Notice of Trespass for the downtown store. He was arrested and booked into jail.

Body Recovered from River Identified

A deceased man was found in the Duwamish river with his hands bound. The body was taken to the Medical Examiner's Office where AFIS staff verified the victim's identity through fingerprints. The name was provided to the detective investigating the homicide case and was instrumental in guiding the investigation.

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Nothing matters but the facts. Without them, the science of criminal investigation is nothing more than a guessing game. -Blake Edwards, Film Director

Attempted Rape Case Solved

After an attempted rape of an elderly woman in a Seattle apartment building, Latent Print Examiners responded to the scene and processed multiple areas. Several latent prints were lifted and photographed by the Photo Lab. The prints were searched through the AFIS database and a print from the exterior of the apartment's front door was identified to a suspect. The case detective located the suspect, who confessed to the crime. DNA collected at the scene was later identified to the same suspect.

Mobile ID Reveals True Identity

Deputies investigated a robbery and subsequently stopped a suspect blocks from the incident. They had reason to believe the man was lying about his name so Mobile ID was used, revealing two outstanding warrants. The suspect was arrested and searched and all of the victim's property was found in his backpack.

Mangled Vehicle Provides Print Evidence

In front of his Seattle home, a victim was robbed at gunpoint of his wallet and vehicle. A patrol officer located the vehicle several hours later. The vehicle's occupant refused to yield when the officer tried to initiate a traffic stop. He eluded officers for several blocks, then accelerated out of sight and eventually crashed into another vehicle, killing himself and the other driver. A case detective asked the Latent Print Unit to search the vehicle for prints. The vehicle was a mangled mess and in several pieces, littered with dirt, mud, vehicle fluids, and bio matter. An examiner found prints that were determined to be of another suspect in addition to the driver of the car. One of the prints was located on a discarded plastic cigar wrapper and the other on the underside of an interior door handle. The detectives were amazed that the examiner was able to locate quality fingerprints. The processing of the prints resulted in identification of two individuals.

Forensic Science
Get to the Truth

King County Regional AFIS employs skilled people who are committed to providing quality services to criminal justice agencies and residents throughout the county.

" *Try not to become a person of success, but rather try to become a person of value.* -Albert Einstein

Program Services

Arrest Identification

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

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

AFIS staff who work in King County correctional facilities also capture booking photos, collect DNA samples, and create photo montages ("line-ups"), which detectives use to help victims identify suspects. Additional services provided by AFIS staff include working with victims of identity theft, identifying deceased individuals for the Medical Examiner's Office, identifying injured or unconscious hospital patients, and assisting with sex offender registrations.

**Creative
Effective
Innovative
Communicative**

Individuals identified as giving false names upon arrest . . .

430

"A quick identification done by AFIS was instrumental in guiding our homicide investigation since we had nothing more than an unidentified body and a suspicious death. Because of your team's work, we were able to move forward with our investigation in a timely manner. The evidence gathered could have been destroyed or altered if the deceased had not been identified so quickly. Thank you for always providing professional and thorough assistance."

**Detective Ceith Cullens
Tukwila Police Department**

. . .Number of these individuals that had no-bail warrants

31

**Suspect crime scene
palmprints identified***

1,210

**Suspect crime scene
fingerprints identified***

5,616

These statistics include only the suspect prints that were identified and do not include identifications to victims and officers.

Crime Scene Identification

Prints recovered from crime scenes are known as latent prints. Latent Print Examiners use various techniques to reveal prints left on evidence to identify potential suspects. When there are no known suspects, latent prints are searched against millions of prints in the AFIS database. AFIS produces a list of potential matches based on ridge detail within the print. Examiners then compare the latents to prints on file to determine who left the impressions. They also respond to major crime scenes to collect latent prints and they testify in court regarding conclusions. Both the King County and SPD laboratories are accredited through ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board.

**ANAB
ACCREDITED**
ISO/IEC 17020
FORENSIC INSPECTION AGENCY

Related functions include the intake and return of crime scene evidence, case file retention and dissemination, statistical data tracking, and providing reports to criminal justice agencies.

The program not only provides AFIS workstations to King County and SPD, but also to the Bellevue Police Department for use by its examiners.

"2016 has been a particularly challenging year with an unusual number of violent crimes occurring in Federal Way. King County AFIS was a true partner to our agency throughout the year, helping us clear numerous cases. These successes would not have been possible without the cooperation and professionalism of AFIS staff, as well as their team-oriented approach to our highly demanding caseload."

*Detective Jeff VanderVeer CCSA
Federal Way Police Department*

**Items of evidence
processed**

13,948

**Requests for crime
scene assistance**

1,663

Program & Project Management

AFIS program management oversees daily operations, acquisitions, budget, and the use and maintenance of fingerprint technology throughout the county. The project team ensures compliance with state and national industry standards, administers the completion of program initiatives, and responds to issues in the ever-changing biometric and forensic disciplines.

Customer Support & Training

The AFIS Program provides technical instruction and helpdesk support for all of its users in King County. Staff organize fingerprint related training for officers and examiners, facilitate communication among stakeholders throughout the county, and coordinate AFIS staff participation in community events.

Photography

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

"Bellevue Police Department Records Unit received a new Livescan to print civil applicants. King County AFIS provided initial training to our employees and offers ongoing technical support for the new machine, including new techniques and tips for printing applicants. The AFIS trainer's expert advice during hands-on training instruction was valuable and appreciated! AFIS staff have been instrumental in answering questions and facilitating the resolution of technical issues. They provided excellent responsive service!"

*Debbie Brennan - Records Supervisor
Bellevue Police Department*

Community Involvement

An important part of the AFIS Program is sharing information with the public. This is done through school science fairs, festivals, forensic and science classes, and career conferences. At these events, staff share information about their jobs and the work they perform. They also educate audiences about the forensic field.

AFIS is involved in the community through citizens academies, National Night Out Events, neighborhood picnics, and other events throughout the county. Staff enjoy the opportunity to share with the public how AFIS contributes to community safety.
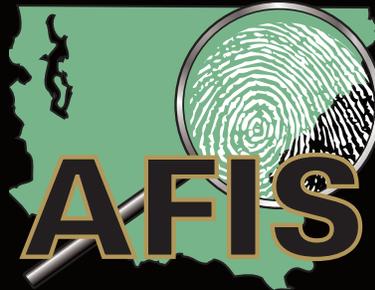
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