

Jimmy Palma

Technical Leader - Senior Forensic Scientist

CONTACT

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Disciplines

Firearm
Examination /
Identification

Serial Number
Restoration

QUALIFICATIONS

**Bachelor of
Science in
Chemistry**

St. Thomas University
Miami Gardens, Florida
2010

EXPERIENCE

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office | Technical Leader *2023 – Current*

Responsible for overseeing the technical operations of the Firearms Unit. Evaluate and document approval of all methods used and propose new or modified analytical procedures to be used by analysts. The Technical Leader is responsible for technical problem solving of methods and for the oversight of training, quality assurance and proficiency testing in the Firearms Unit. Maintain the Firearms Unit Methods Manual and compliance with the current ISO/IEC 17025 standards and the ANAB Forensic Accreditation Requirements. Review and approve the training records for newly qualified analysts, technicians, and technical reviewers prior to independent casework analysis. Responsible for an annual review of the technical procedures of the laboratory. Review and document the review of internal and external audit documents and, where appropriate, approve corrective actions. The Technical Leader performs Senior Forensic Scientist duties and responsibilities

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office | Senior Forensic Scientist *2015 – 2023*

Examine and classify firearms, ammunition, fired ammunition components, and tool mark related evidence submitted by PBSO and local law enforcement officers. Determine the make, model and serial number of firearms. Perform a serial number restoration process for obliterated serial numbers of firearms. Conduct NIBIN / Brass Trax database entries and view correlations with regards to cartridge cases. Compare and potentially identify bullets, cartridge cases and other ammunition components to submitted firearms. Testify in federal and state courts as an expert witness. Conduct experimental research into specialized areas of firearm identification. Train NIBIN Technicians and Forensic Scientist in accordance with their respective training program. Maintain the Firearm Unit's equipment maintenance schedules up to date. Assist the Unit Manager in writing and/or editing Standard Operating Procedures. Performs all related duties as assigned.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office | Forensic Scientist *2011 – 2015*

Examine and classify firearms, ammunition, fired ammunition components, and tool mark related evidence submitted by PBSO and local law enforcement officers. Determine the make, model and serial number of firearms. Perform a serial number restoration process for obliterated serial numbers of firearms. Conduct NIBIN / Brass Trax database entries and view correlations with regards to cartridge cases. Compare and potentially identify bullets, cartridge cases and other ammunition components to submitted firearms. Testify in federal and state courts as an expert witness. Conduct experimental research into specialized areas of firearm identification. Performs all related duties as assigned.

Broward County Sheriff's Office | Forensic Science Intern *2010 - 2011*

Assisted Forensic Scientists from various sections of the Crime Laboratory with their daily duties.

Specialty Training

- South Florida Firearm & Toolmark Discipline Meeting
- Integrated Ballistics Identification System Training (IBIS)
- Springfield Armory XD Armorers Course
- Glock Armorers Course
- 31st Annual I.A.L.E.F.I. Conference
- To Hell and Back: The Ethics of Stewardship and the Stewardship of Ethics
- Answering the NAS: The Ethics of Leadership and the Leadership of Ethics
- Serial Number Restoration Training (ATF)
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement Evidence Admissibility Workshop (SWGGUN)
- 43rd Annual Association of Firearm & Toolmark Examiners Conference
- Contemporary Issues in Firearms Identification
- Hi-Point Firearms Armorers Course
- How to Be a Good Expert Witness (NIJ / RTI International)
- Ruger Firearms Manufacturer Tour (SWAFS)
- Dillon Precision Tour (SWAFS)
- Nammo Tactical Ammunition Tour (SWAFS)
- Automatic Firearms : AK, HK, FAL (SWAFS)
- Ethics and the Profession of Forensic Science (SWAFS)

Specialty Training (cont.)

- Is it a Bullet Hole or a Bullet Impact Site? (SWAFS)
- 4th Annual South Florida Firearm & Toolmark Discipline Meeting
- Understanding Ethics and Actions
- Knights Armament Manufacturing Tour
- Firearm Manufacturer Tour (Taurus)
- 44rd Annual Association of Firearm & Toolmark Examiners Conference
- 5th Annual South Florida Firearm & Toolmark Discipline Meeting
- Subclass Characteristics Workshop
- Ethics in the Workplace
- Firearm Manufacturer Tour (Kel-Tec)
- 6th Annual South Florida Firearm & Toolmark Discipline Meeting
- Cognitive Bias and Human Factors in Forensic Science
- 46th Annual Association of Firearm & Toolmark Examiners Conference
- Firearm Manufacturer Tour (Glock)
- Subclass Characteristics Workshop
- Ethical Practice of Forensics: From Crime Scene to Courtroom
- Uncertainty of Measure
- 47th Annual Association of Firearm & Toolmark Examiners Conference
- Forensics: Lost in Translation – Court Reporter Translator Training
- Moving From Frye to Daubert / Deposition Rules
- 49rd Annual Association of Firearm & Toolmark Examiners Conference
- AFTE – How to Identify Other Firearms
- Testimony Related Issues – Preparation for Daubert and Evidentiary Hearings in Firearm and Toolmark Identification
- Scientifically Defensible Criteria for Toolmark Identification Workshop
- Human Factors in Forensic Science: Stress & Resilience
- Machining for the Firearm / Toolmark Examiner
- Why Ethics Matters to Forensic Experts
- Differentiating Toolmarks Made by Different Tools I
- Additive Manufacturing Workshop: Overview & Current Trends
- 52nd Annual Association of Firearm & Toolmark Examiners Conference
- CSAFE: Judging Firearms Evidence (webinar)
- Tool Manufacture and Subclass Characteristics
- Differentiating Toolmarks Made by Different Tools II
- 53rd Annual Association of Firearm & Toolmark Examiners (AFTE) Conference
- AFTE - 3D Virtual Comparison Microscopy and Correlation Algorithm

Specialty Training (cont.)

- AFTE – An Introduction to the Automated and Objective Firearm Evidence Identification and Report of Error Rate
- Smith & Wesson M&P / M2.0 Armorers Course
- Effective Preparation for Evidentiary Hearings
- Internal Auditor Training – (Seaglass Training)
- FA/TM Examination Courtroom Admissibility, Error Rates, Critics, and other Contemporaneous Issues.
- SHOT Show - Las Vegas, Nevada
- Firearm Manufacturer Tour - Kel-Tec

Professional Affiliations

- Association of Firearm & Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE):
8/2011 to 4/2015 – Provisional Member
4/2015 to present – Regular Member

Certifications

**Certified in Firearms Examination and Identification -
Association of Firearm & Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE)**