WASHINGTON – Deputy Attorney General Sally Quillian Yates announced today that the Justice Department will, within the next five years, require department-run forensic labs to obtain and maintain accreditation and require all department prosecutors to use accredited labs to process forensic evidence when practicable. Additionally, the department has decided to use its grant funding mechanisms to encourage other labs around the country to pursue accreditation.

The new policies arose out of recommendations made by the National Commission of Forensic Science (NCFS), which was established to advance the field of forensic science and make suggestions to the Attorney General on how to ensure that reliable and scientifically valid evidence is used when solving crimes. The Attorney General made the decision to implement several of the commission’s recommendations last week and the Deputy Attorney General, who serves as co-chair of the NCFS, announced their adoption at a meeting of the commission today.

“The department believes that accreditation is one of the most important tools for ensuring that forensic science is practiced in a reliable, scientifically rigorous way,” said Deputy Attorney General Yates. “Accreditation provides valuable oversight by ensuring that someone outside the participating laboratory has confirmed that the lab is following their required procedures. We support accreditation and we want to expand accreditation as widely as possible.”

Though department forensic labs at ATF, DEA and FBI are already accredited, the new policy will ensure that, by 2020, those labs will have to maintain that accreditation. Also by 2020, department prosecutors will be required to use accredited forensic labs when it is practicable. The Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys (EOUSA) has been directed to develop guidance that will ensure the successful implementation of this new policy in the field.
The new policy does not apply to digital forensic labs. Instead, the Deputy Attorney General has asked the NCFS to develop separate recommendations on accrediting of labs that conduct digital forensic work, given the difference in the practices of forensic analysis of digital evidence.

As a result of the commission’s recommendations, the Attorney General also has directed two changes to the department’s grant funding in an effort to encourage and support state and local forensic labs in the process of becoming accredited. First, solicitations for both Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant funding and Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant funding will be re-drafted to make clear that applicants can use this money to seek accreditation, because labs have not always used these funds to seek accreditation. Second, relevant discretionary grant programs at the Office of Justice Programs will be modified to give preferences to labs that will use the money to obtain accreditation. These applicants will get a “plus factor,” increasing their likelihood of getting the money they need.

Accreditation assesses a forensic lab’s capacity to generate and interpret results in a particular forensic discipline and helps to ensure an ongoing compliance to industry and applicable international standards. An independent accrediting body assesses and monitors the quality of the lab’s management system by examining factors that include staff competence; method validation; appropriateness of test methods; calibration and maintenance of test equipment; testing environment and quality assurance data. Accreditation is one way to increase the quality of work and reducing the likelihood of errors.

Based on further recommendations by the NCFS, the Deputy Attorney General also announced that the department will help to establish an interagency working group aimed at bringing higher levels of scientific rigor and reliability to the field of medico-legal death investigation (MDI). The department has asked the White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy to help convene the working group, which would focus on a broad range of MDI issues. Though the department does not conduct its own MDI— which is typically handled by state and local agencies – it believes an interagency group will help accomplish the goals of the NCFS in strengthening the MDI field.

###

15-1495

WREX 2016
World Reconstruction Exposition
May 2-6, 2016
Orlando, Florida
www.wrex2016.com

Done !!!
What an experience !!!!
See President Shuter’s Review
Photos courtesy of Donnie Barker, IPTM; Arnold Wheat, SOAR; and David McElhaney, IAACI.
President’s Review

World Reconstruction Exposition (WREX) 2016 just concluded and all I can say is “WOW”!

May 2-6, 2016 boasted the largest, and by far the best, international crash reconstruction ever held!

The venue, the four-star Rosen Shingle Creek, in Orlando, Florida, just blows you away as soon as you arrive. Its conference center is just astounding, as it hosted WREX 2016 for over 860 attendees, from almost every U.S. state, and 22 foreign countries.

Monday’s conference opening and outstanding key note presenters set the stage for an awesome week of training, live crash tests, and interactive field testing.

But, it was the first of fifteen live crash tests on Tuesday that “wowed” the crowd and set the amazing mood for the entire week. This test was set up as a real world type crash involving a stopped tractor semi-trailer, with a new Lincoln MKZ slowing behind the stopped truck, followed by a truck tractor closing behind the Lincoln at highway speeds. Needless to say, this staged crash was spectacular! Please see our Facebook page to see a short video collage of a few of the live crash tests.

WREX 2016 also touted some different approaches to your normal conference. Thursday hosted an interactive field testing day, where conference attendees could get hands on experience in many various crash reconstruction topics. Participants could even participate in actual testing in relevant topics for those tests to be published. Many demonstrations and stations peeked interest from everyone. Then, over twenty poster presentations brought new, innovative, and upcoming research to light.

World class breakout sessions and actual human factors testing filled the week, while vendors from all over the world displayed their product in the conference pre-function area.

If you went to WREX 2016 to get your fill of anything related to crash reconstruction, you certainly had the opportunity!

Not since the year 2000, has a conference of this magnitude been attempted. So, after three years in the planning stages, 21 crash associations from around the globe made WREX 2016 a reality. And IACAI is so very proud to have been a sponsor.

Indiana was represented well with about a dozen Hoosiers attending. Several IACAI members, including board members, played important roles in making WREX 2016 a tremendous success. From crash team members, to planning committee members, to vendor committee members, your dedication and devotion to WREX 2016 was noted and is greatly appreciated. IACAI should be so very proud and thankful to have been such an integral part of WREX 2016. I know I am!

Kip Shuter
President
Above: **IACAI** President Kip Shuter speaking with Orlando news station...Kip was also **WREX** Public Information officer
Greetings from your new IACAI secretary. My name is Gary Metroka and I have been a member of IACAI since 1999. I started my career in 1979 as a trooper with the Indiana State Police and was assigned to the Connersville Post. I attended the Northwestern University Traffic Institute in 1988 for accident reconstruction and then Arkansas State University in 1992 targeting Commercial Motor Vehicle Accident reconstruction. I was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1993, and after 23 years of meritorious service, I retired in 2002.

After retiring, I worked for a personal injury law-firm in the Indianapolis area as their in-house investigator/reconstructionist for nine years. For the last five years, I have been out on my own conducting some independent investigations and reconstructions. Also, while enjoying retirement and chasing grand-kids, I have been trying to check off those honey-do list items that I have put off for some thirty years.

Throughout the years, I have learned that taking part in training opportunities and staying current in this field is essential. I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve as secretary of this organization and I will do my best to maintain the integrity and professionalism that IACAI enjoys.

I want to wish Mike Cox and all who have retired before him, the best, and I look forward to working with the IACAI and its membership. If I can be of any assistance to you regarding an accident investigation issue, please feel free to contact me.

Stay safe and hey...let’s be careful out there.

Gary
I am very honored to have been nominated to a position within the Indiana Association of Certified Accident Investigators. I am looking forward to the challenge of the position as well as associating with the individuals who have made this organization what it is today.

At the risk of appearing to be self-promoting, I have attached my biography on record with the department.

I joined the South Bend Police Department in June of 1972 as a cadet. After receiving a degree from Indiana University in Criminal Justice I was sworn in as an Officer in November of 1974. I have served the South Bend Police Department as a Uniformed Patrol Officer, Accident/Fatal Investigator, Undercover Narcotics Officer and Investigator with the Homicide/Major Crimes Units. I have also performed in the capacity as a member of the SWAT and Scuba Teams, EMT-A Instructor, DEA Task Force Agent, Field Training Instructor and Certified Crash Reconstructionist. I am also a member of the Indiana Critical Incident/Memorial Team and Northwest Liaison to Concerns of Police Survivors as well as the Coordinator of the South Bend Police Department Honor Guard.

I currently hold the position of Supervisor of Crash Investigations and Special Events for the South Bend Police Department.

Again, I look forward to this challenge and association with the IACAI and its members.

Sincerely,
Gene Eyster
Please Post!

Training Seminar Notice:

Pedestrian/Bicycle Crash Investigation

Instructor: Capt Tim Spencer

Classroom work & prep in AM

Practical exercises in PM

June 22, 2016

0900-1500 hrs

Where: Mishawaka Police Department
200 North Church Street
Mishawaka, IN 46544

Cost: $50 for members /$75 for non-members

Sign-in begins at 0830 hrs

There is no pre-registration. Attendees will be invoiced at the end of the training, unless you bring payment that day. Sorry, but I.A.C.A.I. cannot accept online or credit/debit payments at this time.

For further information

contact IACAI President Kip Shuter at

IndianaIACAI@gmail.com
### I.P.T.M.
#### UP COMING TRAINING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Photography for Crash Investigators</td>
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*T.C.R. = Traffic Crash Reconstruction

### NORTHWESTERN University
#### Center for Public SAFETY
#### UP COMING TRAINING

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All courses except as noted are at Northwestern Center for Public Safety

*Your association works for you!*

The IACAI is a non-profit organization dedicated to the professional education and training of crash investigators and reconstructionists throughout the State of Indiana. Training is open to all crash investigators, employed by or retired from a public safety agency.