POSITION STATEMENT ON THE ROLE OF AFIS RANKS AND SCORES AND THE ACE-V PROCESS

Standard AFIS ranks and scores cannot currently be considered a mathematical model for assessing the likelihood or probability that a subject deposited a particular friction ridge impression. The purpose of this document is to clarify that AFIS ranks and scores have no role in formulating and stating conclusions based on ACE-V.

Ranks and scores are mechanisms of an AFIS system that provide information about a particular search relative to prospective candidates whose impressions are contained in the AFIS database. They provide possible matching candidates as determined by automated search mechanisms to an examiner.

AFIS does not replace the human expert role in Analysis, Comparison, Evaluation, or Verification (ACE-V). It is inappropriate to use AFIS scores in lieu of Evaluation or Verification decisions. If testifying in court to having followed the ACE-V methodology in response to a "lights-out" AFIS identification, the examiner must have performed a traditional ACE examination separate from the system determination. Additionally a second examiner must have conducted a Verification. This would also apply to searching latent prints in an AFIS database. A latent print examiner cannot use an AFIS system result as the verification step of ACE-V.

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SWGFAST Position Statement
Approved 9/16/11
Posted: 10/23/11

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