



Monica P. Ada Salas

began her career in 1992 with the Guam Police Department's Crime Lab Section. Over the years, she witnessed and contributed to its growth into the Forensic Science Division, and in 2014, was promoted to Chief Criminalist.

In this role, she oversees the laboratory's operations in biology (DNA analysis), drug analysis, firearms, and latent fingerprint examination, and provides expert witness testimony when required.

She led a strong and committed team of forensic professionals in preparing the laboratory for accreditation, and together they successfully achieved formal accreditation through ANAB in December 2022. She continues to direct the laboratory's accreditation and quality assurance programs.

In addition, Ms. Salas manages grant funding, supervises and develops forensic staff, and ensures the integrity and efficiency of services provided to the community. Beyond the laboratory, she coordinates outreach efforts such as internships, career fairs, and laboratory tours to promote awareness of forensic science and inspire the next generation of forensic practitioners.

A member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers (provisional), and the International Association for Bloodstain Pattern Analysts, Ms. Salas remains committed to advancing her knowledge in forensics. Through these professional memberships and ongoing learning, she ensures the laboratory stays current with emerging technologies and best practices. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and is pursuing a Master of Science in Biology, both from the University of Guam.