



Julie Rose Borja Paulino

serves as the Latent Fingerprint Examiner Supervisor at the Forensic Science Bureau, Guam Police Department, where she leads a team of forensic specialists in the examination, comparison, and verification of latent fingerprint evidence. With over twenty-seven (27) years of experience in friction ridge analysis, Julie has developed specialized expertise in latent print processing, evidence evaluation, and quality assurance protocols.

She began her forensic career as a Latent Print Examiner in 1998, later progressing to a supervisory role due to her technical proficiency and leadership skills. She has completed specialized training in latent print examination, latent print processing, and quality assurance standards, and continues to expand her knowledge through professional development and certification opportunities. She remains committed to advancing forensic practices through continuing education, mentorship, and interagency collaboration.

Her current responsibilities include overseeing complex casework, providing technical review, coordinating examiner training, and ensuring compliance with accreditation standards such as ISO/IEC 17025. She also serves as a liaison between law enforcement agencies and the forensic laboratory, ensuring timely and accurate dissemination of fingerprint evidence in support of criminal investigations.

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Abstract

This presentation provides an overview of the **Latent Fingerprint** Unit's operations, with a focus on the use of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and the core duties and responsibilities of Latent Print Examiners. Designed to offer both technical insight and general guidance, the session highlights the integral role that latent print examination plays in the identification process and overall criminal investigations.

Topics covered include the workflow from evidence intake to AFIS entry and candidate evaluation, documentation of comparison results, and the verification process. The presentation also outlines the examiner's responsibilities in maintaining case integrity, ensuring quality assurance, and preparing reports suitable for courtroom presentation.

As part of this session, a breakout segment will be offered on general latent print processing techniques, including methods such as cyanoacrylate fuming, powder development, and chemical processing on porous and non-porous surfaces. The goal is to provide participants—whether new to the field or seeking a refresher—with a practical understanding of friction ridge development and its value in forensic casework.

This abstract supports greater awareness of the workflows, tools, and standards that guide latent print identification and emphasizes the importance of examiner judgment, proper documentation, and system-supported analysis in producing reliable forensic conclusions.