



**DAVE YOST**

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

**High-tech resources and collaborative problem-solving provided free by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and other sections of the Ohio Attorney General's Office can greatly augment the crime-fighting abilities of local law enforcement agencies statewide. Simply put, the AGO is ...**

# A FORCE MULTIPLIER



**How does the AGO help local law enforcement agencies do their vital work? The resources fall into four broad categories:**

## **1 SPECIALIZED TEAMS AND TECHNICAL TOOLS (BCI, unless noted otherwise)**

Highly specific expertise and cutting-edge tools are frequently too expensive for an agency to acquire on its own. That's where BCI and other sections of the AGO can help.

**Crime Scene Unit:** Agents use high-tech tools, including advanced photography, 3D laser scanning, computer-based diagramming and drones in felony cases requiring specialized evidence recovery. Additionally, the Forensic Dive Team is available to help recover evidence underwater.

**Criminal Intelligence Unit:** Analysts collect data to provide actionable intelligence in major crimes, including cold cases. The unit can help agencies follow up with NIBIN leads.

**Cyber Crimes Unit:** Digital forensics is one of the most technologically advanced fields of criminal investigation, and today almost every case has a digital component. The unit's involvement at the outset of a case can help ensure efficient seizure and analysis of information that can easily be lost.

**Forensic Accounting Unit:** The unit's credentialed accounting experts have helped Ohio law enforcement agencies with major murder, narcotics, public corruption, and investment fraud cases.

**Forensic audio and video services and other technical support:** The Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission lends forensic audio and video services to agencies. And BCI's Technical Operations Unit helps agencies install and use body wire, GPS tracking devices and other technology.

## 2 CRIME LAB SERVICES (BCI)

BCI labs in London, Bowling Green and Richfield provide timely analysis of evidence.

**Firearms and Toolmarks Unit**, in linking bullet casings to specific guns, helps to connect gun crimes that weren't known to be related. BCI, part of the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network, just added NIBIN units at its three labs, making it far more convenient for agencies to enter evidence into the database.

**DNA and CODIS units:** Forensic scientists compare DNA from body fluids and cellular material left at crime scenes to DNA obtained from known individuals, such as potential suspects, or to DNA cataloged in the FBI's Combined DNA Index System. BCI maintains Ohio's CODIS unit.

Additionally, BCI's crime lab has units dedicated to analyzing drugs; identifying latent finger, palm and foot prints; and examining documents for authenticity.

## 3 SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

BCI's Investigative Services Division assists in cases involving highly specific subject matter or special victims. BCI investigators frequently collaborate with other AGO units.

**Cold-case homicides and sexual assaults:** BCI's Cold Case Unit teams with law enforcement agencies to revisit unsolved homicides and sexual assaults, using forensic technology and criminal intelligence that weren't available at the time of the crime.

**Officer-involved critical incidents:** Upon request, BCI can send a response team to ensure an impartial investigation of officer-involved shootings or other critical incidents. Likewise, jurisdictions can ask the AGO's Special Prosecutions Section to prosecute these cases to avoid conflict-of-interest claims.

**Special victims:** BCI's Special Victims Unit works with other AGO sections to investigate crimes requiring special handling, including those against children, the elderly and human trafficking victims. The crimes can include abduction, sexual assault, financial abuse and/or physical abuse.

**Narcotics:** BCI's Narcotics Unit works with local, state and federal partners using the latest technological tools, including video equipment, pen registers to track phone and internet activity, thermal imagery, body wires, vehicle tracking devices and ground sensors.

**Organized crime:** The Organized Crime Investigations Commission authorizes joint task forces to investigate drug operations, human trafficking and other organized criminal activity that crosses city, township and county borders. The OOCIC offers advanced technical tools and provides funding to pay informants; it also works with the AGO's Special Prosecutions Section.

BCI investigators also work with other units of the AGO to investigate, public corruption, environmental crimes, and patient abuse and neglect of patients in long-term-care facilities.

## 4 TRAINING, EQUIPMENT AND GRANTS

The AGO's law enforcement training arm, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA), provides instruction for the Ohio law enforcement community, including Continuing Professional Training (CPT). The AGO provides training in other areas, too, including school safety.

The AGO also provides equipment for law enforcement, including a rapid-drug-testing device (MX908), body armor, and updated technology for county sheriffs responsible for maintaining the state's sex offender registry and notifications (SORN).



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