

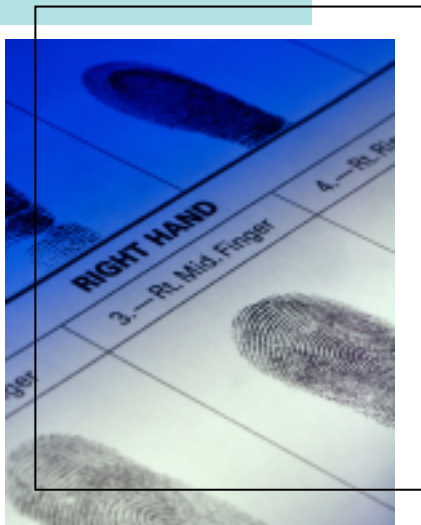
Case Study

OMNITRAK™ PALMPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

LIVESCAN STATION
BACKEND AFIS PRINTRAK 2000
AND 2 REMOTE WORKSTATIONS
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA



Even after 15 year of success in closing cases, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office believes it has just scratched the surface on the payback that AFIS fingerprint technology delivers.



Sheriff Edward W. Bieluch's approach to the role of the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office (PBSO) can be summed up in three words: "Putting Citizens First."

It's a big job. Palm Beach County is the largest in Florida: 2,386 square miles inhabited by 1.2 million people, most of whom know what they want from the PBSO: safe roads, safe schools, safe neighborhoods.

To make this happen, the PBSO fields a staff of 3,053 – including 1,146 sworn officers, 666 sworn corrections officers and 1,241 non-sworn support staff of whom 255 are part-time. Each one of these people has a specific job to do – and Mark McDonald's is fingerprints. He is manager of the PBSO's ID/Latent Section.

McDonald has been with the PBSO for 17 years. He was trained in fingerprints by the FBI. After 19 months in Washington, an opening with the PBSO came up. He was hired initially as a fingerprint examiner and then spent five years as a latent examiner. Meanwhile, the county's AFIS operation was growing to the point where it needed a separate manager. McDonald assumed this position until his boss retired in 2001. That's when McDonald became head of PBSO's entire fingerprint operation.

Today he has a staff of 15 that runs the fingerprint operation 24/7. The Latent area processes fingerprints and palm prints obtained from crime scenes. The ID function relies upon four LiveScan Stations at the three jail sites and the juvenile assessment center to provide positive identifications of those going in – and coming out. And the AFIS area provides the backend database and processing power to make it all happen.


"Our tenprint operation has 270,000 files. We're constantly adding to this database. In 2002, we completed 4,577 cases and processed 44,521 AFIS searches. Our tenprint files continue to grow with 150 to 170 bookings a day. And crime scene latent fingerprints and palmprints add another 20 to 30 files a day."

"Why Motorola? Because Motorola truly understands the needs of those of us in public safety. In 1989 we obtained our first Printrak system from the FDLE – that's the Florida Department of Law Enforcement – and we've been happy with it over the years. I believe that Motorola offers the best fingerprint technology and we continue to go with it."

**Mark McDonald, ID/Latent Manager
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office**

"When you consider that approximately one third of all crime scenes in the U.S. involve latent palmprints, we see an immediate return on our investment. That's why more and more law enforcement agencies throughout the country are implementing palmprint systems for their jurisdictions."

**Mark McDonald, ID/Latent Manager
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office**



"We've generated over 2,200 AFIS hits since 1989. Cases that never would have been solved without them. Our AFIS has been particularly effective in combating burglaries. Usually if a burglar makes a clean escape, there's slim hope of catching him. Not any more. Not with AFIS."

Mark McDonald, ID/Latent Manager
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

The police departments of West Palm Beach and Boca Raton have remote AFIS stations that connect to the PBSO system. The PBSO ID/Latent Section also has a direct connection to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) in Tallahassee. When anyone is booked, all arrest information – including fingerprints and palmprints - is electronically transmitted to the FDLE and added to the state's database.

Palm Beach County was one of the first police forces in North America to implement palmprint technology from Motorola. To McDonald it just makes sense:

"AFIS proved its worth early on. We had a homicide in 1993. Some kids killed a guy and ran to Chicago. The PBSO kept working on it but it looked like we were out of luck. Then some AFIS hits led us to two guys and two girls. Arrests were made and all four ended up getting life in prison."

McDonald believes that Palm Beach County's payback on AFIS and Omnitrak fingerprint technology will continue to grow exponentially.

"With palmprints we've had 36 hits in the one year since we implemented the Omnitrak system. And that was with a palmprint database that then contained next to nothing. Cases in which the AFIS is a useful investigative tool increase in number as the AFIS database grows. Today that database has close to 40,000 palmprints and is growing rapidly. So we expect the number of hits to grow."

McDonald also believes that Motorola functions more as a partner than a vendor: "All the Motorola people I deal with – the customer rep and the service engineers who provide maintenance and customer support – have all been uniformly great to work with. I'm quite pleased with our Motorola system. I'm looking forward to getting the full Omnitrak system and one day the Mobile AFIS system we have in the planning stages."

"The deployment of this system increases the number of people that we are able to identify and the number of cases that we are able to solve. This technology streamlines our operations and allows us to be more productive. Being more productive means that we are able to protect the public more effectively, which is one of the most important things we do."

Edward W. Bieluch
Sheriff, Palm Beach County



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