

2006 Goddard Award Winner

Dr. James (Jim) Edward Hamby

Director, International Forensic Science Laboratory and Training Centre (IFSLTC)



Dr. Hamby's formal education, training and experience and his contributions to the field of firearm and toolmark identification are inspirational and have had an impact across the globe. Aside from his impressive credentials and rewarding career, Jim continues to train scientists in such far-reaching places from Abu Dhabi to Uganda. His contributions to the forensic sciences span over thirty-six years and include numerous publications, presentations and the mentoring of other scientists, all of which are an affirmation of his "love" of firearms identification.

Dr. Hamby's training began in 1970 with the United States Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory (USACIL) then in Fort Gordon, Georgia. In 1972, Jim assumed duties as Editor of the AFTE Newsletter which he renamed the AFTE Journal prior to reassigning his duties later that year when he was deployed to USACIL-Pacific at Camp Zama, Japan. Five years later, Jim returned to Fort Gordon and worked as the Chief, Firearms Division for USACIL for one year. In late 1977, Jim resumed his role as Editor of the AFTE Journal, a position he held until 1989. In 1978, Jim and his new bride Patricia moved to Virginia where Jim became the first Firearm and Toolmark Examiner for the Western Regional Laboratory in Roanoke. In 1980, the Hambys relocated to Illinois where Jim became the Firearm and Toolmark Coordinator in the Training and Applications Lab at the Illinois State Police. In 1982, Jim was promoted to Director of the ISP's Maywood Laboratory where he remained until 1985. In late 1985, Jim moved over to the Indianapolis-

Marion County Forensic Services Agency (IMCFSA) where he became Director responsible for merging the IPD Crime Lab (and elements of other agencies) into a county-wide forensic laboratory. Jim was the director of the IMCFSA from late 1985 through his retirement in the spring of 2004. During his tenure at the laboratory, he continued working firearms and toolmark cases.

Jim and Patricia started the IFSLTC in mid-2004 where they offer forensic consulting, training and analysis to law enforcement agencies as well as the defense bar. He continues to provide firearm and toolmark identification services in that laboratory.

Jim has been published extensively throughout his career on a number of different forensic science topics. His published accomplishments specific to the discipline of firearm and toolmark examination include over 30 papers in professional journals in the United States, Japan, Dubai, and the United Kingdom.

Jim Hamby was selected as this year's recipient of the Calvin H. Goddard Award for his exceptional and sustained activities within the Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners (AFTE) during his 36 year career. His overall dedication to the field, the various activities that he has been involved with as an Examiner, and the number of individuals that he has trained continue to reflect his dedication to the science of firearms identification. In addition to the several articles and presentations that Jim has contributed to AFTE, his article on "The History of Firearms Identification" has been well received in the firearms community.

Jim, in addition to serving as Editor of the AFTE Journal for 12 years, has also served the Association as 2nd and 1st Vice President, President, Immediate Past President, and he hosted the 1994 and 2005 annual training seminars. He has been recognized by his peers in AFTE with two major awards as well as a special award given in 1989. Jim has attended every AFTE Annual

Training Seminar since 1972 and continues to be an excellent ambassador for the Association. He has trained numerous individuals in firearms and toolmark identification, several of whom went on to become Presidents of the Association (Bob Poole, Pete Striupaitis, and Bob Shem).

Jim was also one of the author's of the initial AFTE Training Manual (1982) and during all of this activity in his career, he completed his Ph.D. in 2001 at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. The title of his thesis was 'Forensic Firearms Examination'.

Forensic Technology President, Robert Walsh, presents Dr. James Hamby with the 2006 Goddard Award for Excellence at this year's AFTE conference in Springfield, MA.

