



The Property Times Texas Association of Property And Evidence Inventory Technicians (T.A.P.E.I.T.) Newsletter

February 2015

Conference 2014 was the largest by far!

The TAPEIT 2014 Conference held at the Omni at the Colonnade in San Antonio this past October was our largest by far with over 300 attendees. The conference agenda was full but there was still time for socializing and getting to know other members—a great way to network and get ideas from agencies like yours.

If you didn't get to make it to San Antonio this past October—or even if you did—we hope to see you in San Marcos this coming October for the TAPEIT 2015 Conference.

In between time—make sure to visit the website at www.tapeit.net and visit the message board. There are questions posted by members and you may just have the answer they are looking for or... you may want to post a question that another member can help with.

Once you post a message or answer an existing post you will be asked if you want to be updated to other posts on that topic. That way you will know if / when your question is addressed and will get notification when others make comments on the same post / question.

If you are prompted for a password to enter the message board or any page on the site contact Melinda Strange at csi275@yahoo.com or any officer / board member for assistance.



San Antonio PD
Chief William McManus
Welcomes TAPEIT
Members
To the 2014 Conference

A Welcome message from our T.A.P.E.I.T. President, Gayla Robison

Wow what a week it was! I must say that all the hard work that was done putting the weeklong conference together was well worth it, the week went by so fast. It seems like with a blink of an eye it was over. I would like to thank all those who worked so hard last year behind the scenes to make the conference such a great success that it was. We had once again over 300 in attendance. That goes to show the need is there for training and the eagerness to learn the job, and to do the job with great confidence.

I was humbled by the "Lifetime Award" that was given to me last year, thank you Paul.

I am truly honored to join the elite club with Kolene Dean. My heart has ALWAYS been and will ALWAYS be for our association and its members. I look forward to this year's conference as your President and will do the job to the best of my ability.

Now time to start thinking about next year in San Marcos, we hope to see each of you there again for another great week of training. If you are like me it is almost like a family reunion, time to see old friends as well as time to make new friends. I feel the networking that is done at these conferences is just as valuable as the actual training that is going on.

You learn how other agencies are doing things that you might be struggling with and get great ideas as to how to solve your problem, "Don't reinvent the wheel, just adapt, and learn how someone else maybe doing it".

Myself along with your board and officers will be meeting in March to start planning for yet another great conference. If you have any suggestions that you would like to have at the conference this year please email me or any of the board with your idea or suggestion so it can be put on the agenda for the meeting.

Our conference this year will be held October 20th through the 23rd at the Embassy Suites in San Marcos, make your plans to attend.

Also I would like to welcome our newest Board Members; Connie Jordan with Jasper County Sheriff's office and Fonda Rhoades with Bee Cave Police, we are very excited to have you on our board and look forward to working with you.

Embassy Suites, San Marcos
1001 E. McCarty Lane, San Marcos, Texas, 78666





The Presidential Gavel passes from Paul Szendrey to Gayla Robison

At the 2014 Conference President Paul Szendrey passed the gavel on to Gayla Robison. Please welcome Gayla as our new T.A.P.E.I.T. President!



The Folks Behind The Scenes - your officers and board members—all working for T.A.P.E.I.T. members because.... They're members too!

Officers:

President: Gayla Robison - Burses PD
 1st VP: Danny Barfield, Killeen PD
 2nd VP: Vincent Hunter - Mansfield PD
 Sgt. At Arms: Tommie Hastings - Humble PD
 Secy: Jamie Murphy - TX A&M PD
 Treasurer: Linda Roberts - Longview PD

Past Presidents:

Kolene Dean
 John Stevens
 Paul Szendrey

Board:

Bob Killingsworth - Nacogdoches PD
 Wayne Seiple - Ulvade PD
 Shawn Henderson - Carrollton PD
 Connie Jordan - Jasper PD
 Sendy Reynolds - Wise County S.O.
 Fonda Rhoades - Bee Cave PD
 Melinda Strange - Webmaster / Editor
 Huntsville PD, retired



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Linda Roberts with the Longview PD was nominated as the 2014 Property Tech of the Year award recipient. Linda is pictured above with her Supervisor, Heidi Nance and Sgt.



Our then President, Paul Szendrey awards the TAPEIT Life Member Award to Gayla Robison (Burlison PD).



Our new President, Gayla Robison, awards the President's Choice award to Danny Barfield (Killeen PD).

"The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office."
Dwight Eisenhower

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T.A.P.E.I.T. 2014 Scholarship Awards San Antonio Conference



**Callie Hoehne TAPEIT
Member Donna
Hoehne**



**Ryan Roberts
TAPEIT Member
Linda Roberts**



**TAPEIT Member Breanna
Whitmer**



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Riley v. California

The Prosecutor, September-October 2014

<http://www.tdcaa.com/node/4196>

In Riley v. California, the United States Supreme Court held quite categorically that the warrantless search of a cell phone was not justified for officer safety or to prevent the destruction of evidence. In a virtually unanimous opinion, the United States Supreme Court answered the collective questions of law enforcement about searches of cell phones with, "Get a warrant." Chief Justice Roberts first set out the rationale behind the search incident to arrest exception to the warrant requirement. A search incident to arrest is justified to protect officer safety and prevent the destruction of evidence. However, Justice Roberts acknowledged that the Court had held in United States v. Robinson that there

was no need for a case-by-case adjudication of whether the officer actually had any basis to be concerned for his safety or that evidence would be destroyed. Chief Justice Roberts explained that digital data stored on a cell phone cannot itself be used as a weapon to harm an arresting officer or to effectuate the arrestee's escape. Additionally, he rejected the argument that it might ensure safety in more indirect ways, such as providing police access to information about the defendant's friends who might be headed to the scene. According to Justice Roberts, as legitimate the interest in officer safety may be, this indirect danger was too speculative to warrant an across-the-board exception.

Second, the possibilities of remote wiping and data encryption also did not justify an across-the-board exception to the warrant requirement. There was little reason to believe that either problem was prevalent as briefing revealed only a couple of anecdotal examples of remote wiping. Moreover, it could be prevented by either turning off the phone and removing the battery or by placing the phone in a sandwich bag made of aluminum foil (a "Faraday bag") to interrupt the signal. And again, if police are truly confronted with a now-or-never situation, they may be able to rely upon the exigent circumstances exception on a case-by-case basis.



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Questions from the Message Board...

I'm looking for feedback on how agencies receive information from their DA's office regarding case dispositions and evidence disposal....

Ok folks....roll call!
Tell me where do you take your narcotics for destruction / incineration?

What are agencies doing with "Crack pipes"?

What programs are agencies using for property room inventory/management?

Can someone please help with the law about no gun release to a person committed to a mental health facility?

Does anyone work for an agency who auctions forfeited firearms? Needing vendor info.

Does anyone have annex offices in their departments that allow CID to use a drop box or temporary storage at those facilities?

I am in search of an SOP for bringing in electronic devices that need to be forensically searched. We have a Cellbrite system to retrieve data from electronic devices.

Murder / Suicide evidence: Once a case has been officially closed as a murder/ suicide (one individual shoots another individual, then commits suicide), can the items taken from the scene as 'evidence' be destroyed/returned to the next of kin?

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Property Room Checklist: How Does Your Department Measure Up?

Policy

Do you have a written policy that covers all aspects of the property function?

Do you designate property room personnel as the only persons allowed to enter the facility?

Do you have a "right of refusal" policy?

Do you train, and have refresher training for all personnel in the policies and procedures for handling property?

Procedure

Do you have written procedures for the intake of property, continuity of the chain of custody and processing and storage?

Do you have specific packaging guidelines officers must follow?

Do you have a procedure that requires a routine review of all property to determine if the property may be disposed?

Inspections

Do you conduct regular inspections of the property room, ensuring adherence to appropriate policies and procedures?

Do you conduct unannounced inspections of the property room?

Do you require special inspections of weapons, drugs, monies and high value property?

Inventory

Do you have appropriate inventory control procedures such as bar-coding?

Do you require an audit by external auditors or command officers not in the chain of command of the property room at least once a year?

Do you require an inventory with personnel changes.

Security

Do you restrict access to property room personnel only?

Do you change locking mechanisms when personnel changes?

Do you have an alarm system that is monitored 24 hours a day?

Storage

Do you have adequate storage space for property?

Do you have the appropriate storage equipment, including refrigerated / climate controlled areas?

Do you have adequate procedures for logging when an item is removed / "checked out" such as lab / court submissions?

DNA - Biohazard Items

Do you have a procedure for storing DNA evidence in a segregated facility in the property room?

Do you store DNA evidence in a climate controlled facility?

Do you train staff on DNA handling procedures?

Do you have procedures for the handling of items contaminated by body fluids / secretions?



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The T.A.P.E.I.T. Officers and Board would like to thank all of the members, vendors and others who support our mission for being a part of T.A.P.E.I.T. - making it the best it can be. See updates and more at www.tapeit.net.



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