

The Property Times

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TAPEIT Board Meeting - June 22nd and 23rd in Waco

Sheri Morrison, Editor

We recently held our second of two board meetings before our next conference in Waco, Texas on June 22 - 23, 2014. We picked Waco since it was a little more central for all of the board members. This time we stayed at the Hotel Indigo which was very nice and accomodating.

Everyone attending arrived at the hotel on Sunday and we called the first part of the meeting to order at 1939 hours. The members present were John Stevens, Gayla Robison, Vincent Hunter, Lynn Sinclair, Linda Roberts, Tommy Hastings, Shawn Henderson, Bob Killingsworth, Diane Stubbs, Wayne Seiple, Sheri Morrison, Paul Szendrey, and Jamie Murphy.

Although all of the board meeting notes are available, I am only going to hit the high points here so as not to completely bore all of you with the details. The first thing that we talked about was all of the old business details. The newsletter content is something that we always struggle with and we could really use the assistance of all of our memberes to provide content. Even if you think something is an every day routine for you, it might be helpful information for another member for use in their property room. Please send us anything that you have and include pictures whenever possible. We will have another newsletter coming out in August and we will be looking for content for that one starting the moment you finish reading this one!

We are still working on some of the aspects of our tax situation and we discussed using the same CPA on a regular basis since we have already been working with him and he is familiar with us and our organization. Gayla updated the board that the hotel and everything is in place for our next conference. We hope to see all of you there in San Antonio!

We discussed having a centralized phone number and address for the association. Although we did not come to a consenses on the address, we are in the process of setting up a centralized phone number that will be answered by one of the board members. We always want to be able to be available for your questions.

This conference will see the materials presented in a little bit different manner than the previous conferences. We have purchased thumb drives that are going to be given to all of the attendees instead of a printed notebook. This means that it would be a good idea for you to bring a laptop with you if you want to view them at the conference. We discussed making them available to conference attendees a week before the conference as well for those that want to download them and print them.

Our new business discussion began with talk of the Silent Auction for the upcoming conference. We already have a number of pretty cool items that are goig to be auctioned but we are still looking for more items to be donated. Remember that the money made from this auction goes back to help the members so we want to try to get as many great items as we can.

We have received eight scholarship applications, three grant applications and no known applications for Technician of the Year. We really need those submissions

for this award so if you think you have the best technician out there, please get the application in to us so it can be reviewed before the conference.

Although we haven't decided what kind of food we are having for our social night, we have recommended booking the previous DJ for that night and the hotel will again provide buses to and from the Riverwalk.

Our Education Committee met after our regular board meeting and it has been decided that we will be offering Basic I and Basic II for this conference. We did come up with the schedule for the conference and determined that there will be a couple of really nice prizes that will be given away on Friday morning so if you're attending, you'll definitely want to stick around!



Remember our members are encouraged to be active in all parts of the organization. If you have an idea or a problem, please bring it to our attention so that it can be discussed at our next board meeting.

Linda Roberts Chosen as Civilian of the Year for the Longview Police Department



Linda Roberts has been with the department since 2006 and is assigned as the Senior Property and Evidence Specialist. She constantly works to keep all of the property and evidence in order and looks for new ways to improve. Linda is the Treasurer with the Texas Association of Property and Evidence Inventory Technicians (TAPEIT) and also acts as an instructor at their annual conference. Linda represents the positive and professional image of the Longview Police Department to other agencies in Texas.

Silent Auction Offerings for the Upcoming Conference

These are just a few of the really neat items that we are going to be offering for our Silent Auction this year. Included here is a Para Spa, police grill tools, Dallas Cowboys fleece jacket, barbeque set, and a frog and moose hooded bath towel. If you think you have something else that would make a good addition and might even draw a good price, please contact Linda Roberts and let her know that you will be bringing it with you to our conference in San Antonio. Thanks!!



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Prosecutors

With ever increasing caseloads, prosecutors need time-saving tools to help them manage their cases. Technology today enables them to access evidence information from a Web connection; they can print the chain of custody, view photos, play audio and video recordings, read lab reports, and submit requests and authorizations. This eliminates phone calls and requests for information and time-consuming trips to the property room to view evidence.

Courts

It is imperative that evidence brought to court have an inherent integrity, professionalism, and security. It must have a solid, unalterable chain of custody with multiple levels of security. Once admitted as a court exhibit, the chain of custody should continue on while in the custody of the courts and throughout the appellate process.

Public

The public has never been more critical of the criminal justice system and evidence management. DNA is solving decades-old cases that provide long-awaited justice, and convicted people are being proven innocent as well. Law enforcement agencies have been successfully sued because the evidence was mismanaged, which stalled their exoneration for many years. It is imperative that agencies understand the importance of managing not just incoming evidence, but evidence they have had for decades.



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Questions From the Forum:

Amanda wrote:

What are agencies doing with “crack pipes?” Are you destroying with drugs or does someone do something different (smash and trash?) once the case is disposed of and court order received?

TAPEIT says:

(Melinda Strange) At Huntsville PD, when we destroyed drugs, I would usually include them along but then again, some places didn't want glass and all of them charged by weight so it depends upon whether they will take it and does it make a big difference in the total cost. I kept a big box in my vault and when I got a destruction order signed, I used a sledge hammer and took out my stress on crack pipes! Basically if it could burn without costing a lot - I did that. If not, then I made it “un-usable” and tossed it.

(Gayla Robison) Here at Burlison, my officers enter the pipes for “Destruction” only to me. I will then smash them and trash them out.

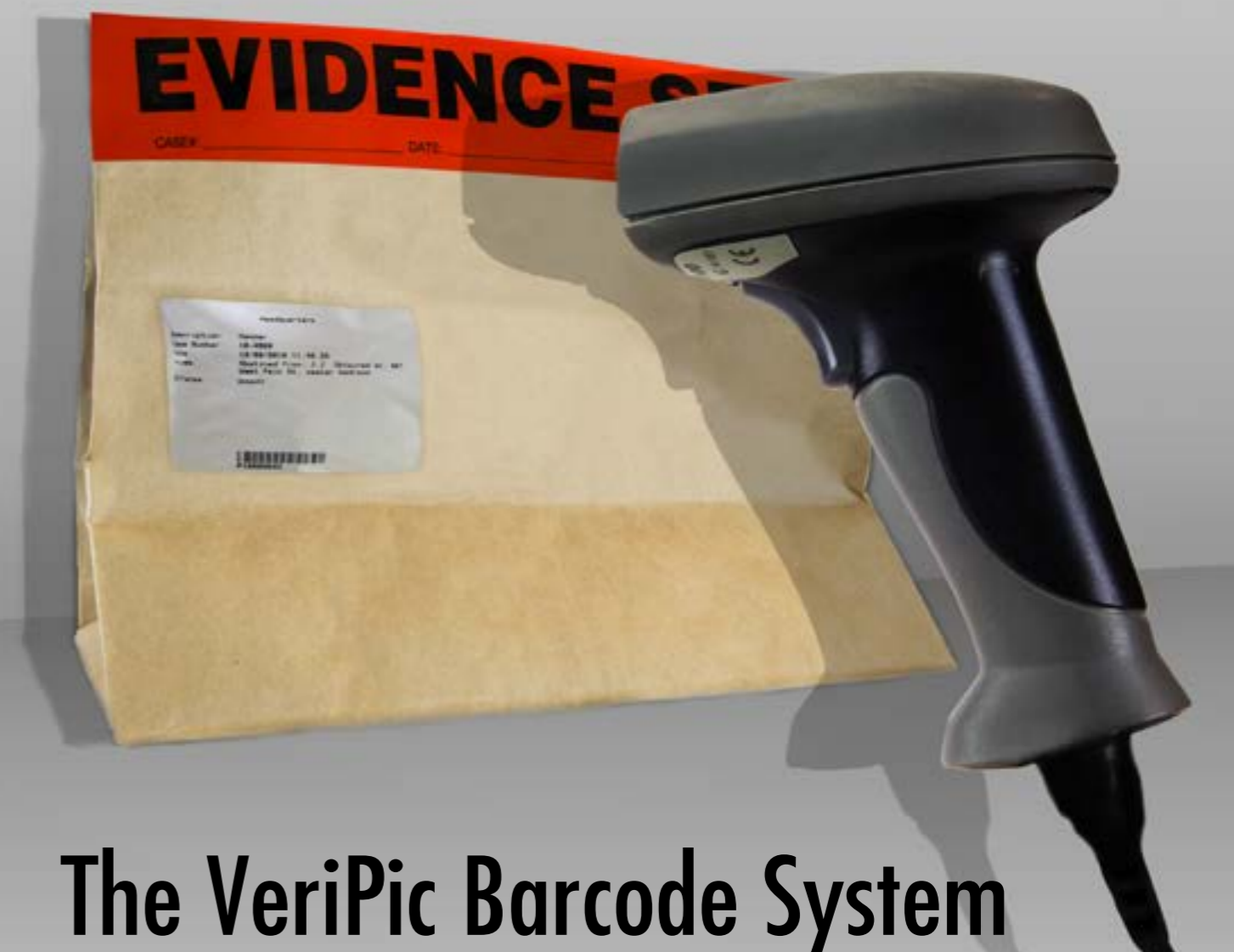
Martha wrote:

Can someone please help with the law about no gun release to a person committed to a mental health facility. In January we received a gun from a suicidal person for “safe keeping” but never came to pick up the gun. Apparently she admitted herself into a mental health facility. We only found this out because the City Marshalls were looking for her (she had warrants). If I hadn't heard from the City Marshalls about the mental health I would not have known. My question is how would I know if she had been in a mental health facility to know not to give her back the gun? Can the gun still be given back to her at this point? What does your agency do in this situation? How are other agencies handling the returns in the sense of does P&E make the decision after reading the CCH? From what we can tell nothing is stated on the CCH.

TAPEIT says:

(Melinda Strange) Hi Martha - that is one that isn't easily interpreted and not often interpreted the same. Art. 18.191. DISPOSITION OF FIREARM SEIZED FROM CERTAIN PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS... tells agencies what to do when those “certain persons with mental illness” are arrested and are in possession of a firearm at the time of arrest but it doesn't tell you how you know if a person has a mental illness. I would follow the procedures in 18.19 and, if no charges are being filed regarding the firearm your supervisor / legal advisor is probably going to have to make the call. Is there a possibility, in your case, that the owner would designate a family member to take possession of the firearm for her? If so you would still need to check their CCH to make sure they don't have a history that would preclude them from being in possession of a firearm. Let us know how you end up handling it. It's a learning curve for all of us...

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Former Jennings Police Chief Gets 5-Year Sentence

by Doris Maricle / American Press

JENNINGS — A former Jennings police chief has been sentenced to five years at hard labor with credit for time served after taking drugs and money from the police department’s evidence room.

Johnny Lassiter, 53, was sentenced Monday in the 31st Judicial District Court by court-appointed Judge Ronald Cox. Cox was appointed to the case after District Judge Steve Gunnell rescued himself.

Lassiter pleaded guilty last November to two counts of malfeasance.

Charges of theft over \$1,500, obstruction of justice and injuring public records were dismissed as part of an earlier plea agreement.

Cox sentenced Lassiter to five years at hard labor with credit for time served, but delayed the sentencing while he continues to undergo treatment in a federal program for veterans dealing with physical, mental and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Lassiter has already served about 18 months, including 30 days in a Calcasieu Parish jail, and continues to undergo treatment at a veterans facility in Pineville where he is also employed and undergoes regular drug screenings, Cox said.

He was also ordered to make \$4,500 in restitution to the city and pay other court costs.

Lassiter was arrested in January 2013 after a State Police audit found \$4,500 in cash, 1,800 pills, more than 380 grams of cocaine, several pounds of marijuana and codeine missing from the evidence room.

His actions damaged 80-90 pending drug-related cases, according to Cox.

Lassiter, who resigned from the department prior to his arrest, has admitted to taking the pills and tampering with evidence. He told investigators he took the money and pills for himself, but destroyed the cocaine so he would not be tempted.



“If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals.”
 ~J.K. Rowling~

Texas Officials Plan to Store Guns of 'Abusers' at Private Gun Range

by Foxnews.com

A Texas county could become the first jurisdiction in the nation to use a private gun range to store weapons confiscated from accused domestic abusers who are under protective orders barring possession of firearms.

Dallas County officials have been seeking such a storage facility since announcing plans earlier this month to step up enforcement of gun confiscation laws in domestic abuse cases.

Those laws allow judges who have issued a protective order in domestic abuse cases to confiscate the guns of the accused while the order is pending, but the Dallas Morning News reports that those laws are being ignored. Federal law also prohibits convicted domestic abusers from possessing guns.

The Dallas paper reported Thursday that as part of the effort to implement the gun confiscation program in Dallas County, a private gun range near Love Field in Dallas has agreed to participate. Normally the guns would be stored in a police property room, but Dallas police had concerns about lack of space and whether they had the authority to confiscate the weapons, the newspaper said.

"Imagine how much better victims would sleep at night knowing all the guns had been removed," Jan Langbein, CEO of Genesis Women's Shelter, told the Dallas Morning News. "I think it will save lives. I really do."

Other jurisdictions with gun confiscation efforts similar to what Dallas is implementing include Danvers, a tiny town in Massachusetts that sends guns confiscated in domestic violence cases to a private facility but only if the police property office has run out of room. Law enforcement agencies in Austin and San Antonio have their own storage for guns removed in domestic abuse cases.

"I couldn't find another jurisdiction across the country that said, 'We looked at the issue and we thought it was better not to go with the private entity,' or 'We felt as a safety issue you couldn't go with a private entity,'" Dallas County criminal court Judge Roberto Cañas told the Dallas Morning News.

The owner of the Love Field gun range would charge owners a one-time fee -- probably no more than \$50 -- to get their guns back after a protective order expires. The owner would also be allowed to resell the guns or sell them for scrap, if the owner never returns for them.

Officer Accused of Stealing Drugs from Evidence Locker

by WCVB.com

LUDLOW, Mass. —A high-ranking Ludlow police officer charged with stealing drugs from the department's evidence locker has been suspended without pay.

Lt. Thomas Foye had been suspended with pay since his arrest in August, but because he was indicted by a grand jury last week, the town's Select Board voted unanimously Tuesday to suspend him without pay.

According to court documents, video surveillance captured the 49-year-old Foye entering the locked narcotics locker at the police station, where he appears to handle and open evidence bags. He is charged with tampering with evidence, theft of drugs from a dispensary and cocaine possession.

In a brief statement at Tuesday's board meeting, the 25-year veteran thanked the board and said he "went into surgery a hero and came out a drug addict."

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Officer Arrested for Stealing Drug Evidence

by Paul Smith
Fox 43

A Reading cop is under arrest for allegedly stealing money from the Reading Police Department's evidence room. Investigators say Jodi Royer, 47, of Sinking Springs, took over thousands of dollars of cash evidence from criminal investigations for his own personal use.

Reading Police Chief William Heim reported the suspected theft to the Berks County District Attorney's Office on March 18th. Berks County Detectives started an investigation that led to Royer's arrest. On March 14th, Royer was caught by his supervisor trying to replace over \$2,000 of U.S. currency from a criminal case with his own money. Police knew it was not the evidence cash because the denominations of the bills were different.

Detectives conducted an audit and discovered six additional criminal cases were tampered with. In four of those cases, the money was stolen and not recovered. The total loss in those cases is \$14,484. In the other cases, the stolen money was replaced by Royer.

Royer surrendered this morning and taken to the Berks County Sheriff Department's Central Processing Center for processing and arraignment.

Royer joined the Reading Police Department in the fall of 1990 and has worked in the Evidence/Property Unit since April of 2011.



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1. Work on things that are important. This may sound obvious, but many of us are tempted to work on easy tasks first so we can have a sense of accomplishment. Time spent on those “easy” tasks can quickly add up, creating even more stress when there does not appear to be enough time left for the important work.

2. Keep an “activity log.” This will help you figure out what your time is being spent on. Every time you start and end a new activity, including taking a break, make note of the time. Most workers who charge by the hour have learned to do this automatically. If you are not used to tracking your time, it may be a bit of an adjustment but within a few days you should be able to notice any time-wasters you might not have been aware of.

3. Set daily goals. When scheduling your time, assume that something unexpected will come up and build in a cushion of time to deal with it. To minimize the stress of meeting self-imposed deadlines, avoid making promises about when tasks will be completed. If you must commit to a date, be conservative. If you consistently under-promise and over-deliver, you could earn a great reputation while reducing your stress.

4. Be gentle with yourself. Aim to meet or exceed expectations, try to achieve wherever possible, delegate routine tasks if you think you can do them better than someone else.

How to reduce WORK STRESS

with yourself. even exceed but don't perfection. possible, delegate tasks, even can do them someone

5. Avoid interruptions. Unless you are expected to be on call, select a time of day when you will return phone calls and emails. During other times, let your voice mail take messages for you. You can also create an auto reply for your email to let people know their message has been received. If your email says you will respond within 24 hours if a reply is required, it may deter someone from repeatedly trying to contact you in the meantime.

6. Don't let other people's problems become yours. As Richard Carlson, author of Don't Sweat the Small Stuff at Work says, “If someone throws you the ball, you don't have to catch it.” When someone comes to you with a problem that isn't yours, try limiting your contribution to advice instead of taking on the task yourself.

7. When you are feeling overwhelmed, say so. Companies want to keep good employees so most bosses will want to know when you are having difficulty. However, instead of saying “I can't do it,” offer some possible solutions. For example, if you won't be able to get a major report completed by a particular deadline, you might tell the boss you can either: (1) complete a condensed version by the deadline, (2) complete the entire report by a later date, or (3) meet the deadline if you get some help from co-workers or temporary staff.



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Apply for Grant Money for Your Department!

Texas Association of Property, Evidence, Technicians has established a Grant Fund to help agencies purchase equipment, supplies, or other products that shall be used within a property room to help the agency. store property or evidence until its final disposition.

The deadline for these applications is August 1st!

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Your association needs your help!

Your TAPEIT Officers / Board are looking for a few good men, or women. Have you ever thought about teaching? TAPEIT needs instructors who are VERY knowledgeable on the laws in regards to the property room and would like to help instruct at our conferences. Think back to when you first started working in the property room and how lost you were - someone helped you so now it is time for you to pay it forward.

If you have a desire (along with your instructors certification or 2 years experience in teaching) and would like to help with the conference, please contact Gayla Robison, grobison@burllesontx.com or call 817-426-9938 for more details.

*Remember we are only as good as you,
our members!*



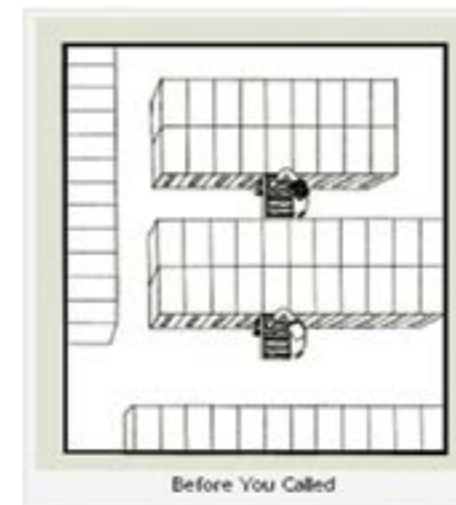
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You order it, we build it, we ship it, and we also professionally install it. From lockers, to rotary filing, to manual and electrical assisted, mobile filing and storage systems, we manufacture and distribute them all. No job is too big or too small.



Our shelving is easily adjustable and saves **60%** more floor space than conventional filing systems. Our mobile storage systems allow double the filing and double the floor space in your current facility. More space allows you to generate profit in places that were once used for storage. DIRECT LINE® products give you the chance to "store more stuff," stay organized, and make more money all at the same time!

Contact us today so we can store your stuff in at least half the space, saving you time, and allowing you more profit-generating space for your business!

Call DIRECT LINE®
1-800-822-4000
Executive & Sales Offices
PO Box 1424
Dickson, TN 37056



Nominate Someone for the Technician of the Year Award!

The Texas Association of Property and Evidence Inventory Technicians will select annually one Property Technician as the Property and Evidence Technician of the year. The individual will be recognized at the annual conference.



FACEBOOK.COM/OFF THE LEASH DAILY DOG CARTOONS

Forensic Science Academy

The Texas Forensic Science Academy has several programs of study that lead to recognized technical certificates including; Forensic Technician, Forensic Investigator (Level I & Level II), Major Crimes Investigator, and Property and Evidence Management. These certificates are designed to give graduates a recognized credential that can translate into greater recognition within the criminal justice community. Texas Forensic Science Academy courses are accredited by the International Association for Identification and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.



T.A.P.E.I.T. is proud to announce our partnership with TEEX. T.A.P.E.I.T. will recognize the TEEX BPT course as fulfilling a portion of the requirements required to obtain Basic Certification from T.A.P.E.I.T.



> SOFTWARE FOR FORENSIC LABS

[JUMP DOWN TO SOFTWARE FOR EVIDENCE CONTROL](#)



JusticeTrax LIMS-plus v5 brings it all together for the Crime Laboratory. Designed by forensic scientists, LIMS-plus® v5 is one of the most comprehensive case management tools ever created.

[Learn more about LIMS-plus v5](#)



The Chemical Inventory Management Module (CIMM) provides forensic laboratories with a tool to manage their stocks of raw chemicals and prepared reagents. While CIMM can act as a stand-alone application, it is also tightly integrated with LIMS-plus and provides the ability to pull information directly from your LIMS-plus database for more automated tracking.

[Learn more about CIMM](#)



Imagine the time your laboratory could save if your analysts didn't have to enter evidence and request for analysis information manually... Now, read on, and learn how iProLog for LIMS-plus can make it possible.

[Learn more about iProLog](#)



How many calls come into the laboratory each day asking for statuses on pending case work? How long does it take for completed analysis reports to get back to your submitting and affiliated agencies? JusticeTrax answers these and many more questions with iResults for LIMS-plus.

[Learn more about iResults](#)

> SOFTWARE FOR EVIDENCE CONTROL

[JUMP UP TO SOFTWARE FOR FORENSIC LABS](#)



ChainLink integrates item barcoding, item tracking, statistical reporting, item management plans, and a dynamic user interface to provide you with a clear view of the items of evidence being collected and stored by your agency.

[Learn more about ChainLink](#)



**Texas Forensic Science Academy
Basic Property Technician**
www.teex.org/forensics



The Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) takes great pride in the training alliance established with T.A.P.E.I.T. In support of this relationship, those members completing the TEEX online *Basic Property Technician* course are recognized by the association as fulfilling a portion of the requirements necessary to obtain the T.A.P.E.I.T. *Basic Property Technician Certification*.

The *Texas Forensic Science Academy* at TEEX provides several courses that lead to recognized technical certificates including; *Forensic Technician, Forensic Investigator I & II, Major Crimes Investigator* and *Property & Evidence Management*. Each certificate program is designed to provide graduates a recognized credential that can translate into greater recognition within the criminal justice community. *Texas Forensic Science Academy* courses are accredited by the International Association for Identification and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.



Main Office

One West Main Street
Mesa, Arizona 85201
www.JusticeTrax.com



**T.A.P.E.I.T.'s 17th
Annual Conference
Oct. 21st–24th, 2014**

Includes the 8 hour
Basic* & Advanced
Evidence Tech Certification
course Tues October 21, 2014

Annual Training Conference
October 21-24th

- Basic Property Tech Certification:
 - Submissions, packaging
 - Transfers: lab analysis, court, etc.
 - Chain-of-custody
 - Storage issues
 - Property Types:
 - Found / Safekeeping
 - Major Crimes / Biological evidence
 - Firearms, Narcotics, Money...
 - Large items / Separate storage facilities
- State Laws
- Emergency Management
- Inventories / Audits
- ATF
- Break-outs, Agency Resources and MORE....

*** If you certified in 2012— you will need to re-certify this Oct.**

Social nights on Tuesday Oct 21st
And Thursday 23rd

Vendor Contact:
Diana Stubbs
dstubbs@co.collin.tx.us

Register online at www.tapeit.net

**Or scan this page then email
or call**

T.A.P.E.I.T.
C/O Gayla Robison
Burleson P.D.
225 W. Renfro
Burleson, TX. 76028
(817) 426-9938 voice
(817) 426-9384 fax

E-mail:
grobison@burlesontx.com



Omni Colonnade

9821 Colonnade Blvd

San Antonio

Reservations: 800-843-6664

TAPEIT room = \$110.00 single,
\$126.00 double if booked by
Oct 1st 2014

T.A.P.E.I.T. 2014 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
San Antonio Texas
Property / Evidence Certification Course Included
BASIC OR ADVANCED
OCTOBER 21–24, 2014

NAME: _____ TAPEIT Member #: _____

AGENCY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Class Attending: **Basic Certification** _____ ***Advanced Certification** _____

**you must have current Basic Certification / attended 3 TAPEIT conferences / 5 years
property room experience to attend the Advanced Class*

****Registration MUST be received by September 01st, 2014 and conference fees MUST be paid no later
than first day of class.***

COMPLETE four day conference: **\$325.00***
(Tuesday Oct. 21— Friday Oct.24, 2014)

***Late Registration after Sept. 15:** \$375.00

Includes: paid 2011 member dues, admission for **one** to our Awards Banquet,
Door prizes and more... Please provide the following additional info:

Will you be attending the Awards Banquet / Dinner? (no charge) _____

Guests are welcome at \$32.00 p/p . Number of guests? _____

(Guest fee must be pre-paid by Oct. 1)

Method of Payment: (Check one)

Check: _____ (payable to T.A.P.E.I.T.) P.O / Invoice.: _____

CC: _____ Email grobison@burlesontx.com for instructions