On Feb. 23, the Attorney General announced that forensic scientists with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) had finished analyzing the thousands of rape kits submitted by local law enforcement for DNA testing as part of Attorney General DeWine’s Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative.

A total of 8,648 DNA profiles have been uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) as a result of the testing, and 5,024 matches have been made to offender DNA and/or DNA collected from the scenes of other crimes. Charges have been filed against hundreds of suspects.

“While DNA testing is a very important piece of evidence for identifying and convicting offenders — it is only one piece of the puzzle,” DeWine said at one of the two news conferences held to announce the milestone.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine’s initiative to test rape kits that had been lingering in police evidence lockers for decades has wrapped up, with 13,931 tested for DNA in a little more than five years.

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Annual conference to focus on protecting Ohio’s families

Symposium on sexual assault investigations to coincide with event

On the heels of the completion of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine’s Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative, a related symposium will take place on the second day of the Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance, set for May 14-15 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Attorney General DeWine and Richard A. Bell of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office will also provide an overview of the SAK testing initiative and its results for all Two Days in May attendees during the lunch hour on May 14.

A milestone was reached on Jan. 31, when the SAK testing initiative concluded. Forensic scientists with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) completed DNA testing on almost 14,000 rape kits that had been lingering in police evidence lockers for decades.

To continue the momentum started by the initiative and share lessons learned, law enforce...
When I first took office as Attorney General in 2011, I was shocked to learn that thousands of sexual assault kits were sitting — untested — in police evidence rooms across the state. The situation came as a surprise because when I was in the U.S. Senate, I sponsored the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act, which provided millions of dollars to pay for DNA testing.

I formed an advisory group to study the issue and offer remedies. It recommended that evidence from any rape kit associated with a crime must be tested. Since Ohio law at the time did not require the submission of rape kits for testing, I made a request to agencies asking them to voluntarily bring their untested kits to my office’s Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), where forensic scientists would analyze them at no charge.

I added four new forensic scientist positions at BCI to focus exclusively on the Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative. In 2011, 163 kits were delivered; in 2012, 1,900 more showed up. We received so many kits that I added six more scientists to the project. The number of kits submitted to BCI as part of this initiative hit 13,931 in 2016. Sadly, each kit represents a person who suffered an unimaginable trauma.

The initiative wrapped up on Jan. 31. The cover of this edition of Criminal Justice Update offers a story on the details of the announcement about the completion of the initiative and a preview of a related Two Days in May conference symposium.

Because of the spotlight on the initiative, and the results that have followed, the value of testing these kits has been accepted, and our laws have changed. The statute of limitations for prosecuting rape has been extended to 25 years, and rape kits associated with crimes must be submitted for testing within 30 days.

When agencies turn in kits for testing without delay, suspects can be identified faster, taken off the streets sooner, and future attacks can be prevented. I knew that testing these kits would take time — but it was the right thing to do. Thanks to the hard work of our BCI scientists, we accomplished something that makes a difference in the lives of sexual assault survivors.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Cocaine Amounts Determination

House Bill 4
Sponsors: Reps. Robert Cupp, John Rogers
Status: Passed by House; pending in Senate committee

While a recent Ohio Supreme Court decision determined that only the weight of pure cocaine in a substance could be used to set sentences, House Bill 4 clarifies the law to include the total weight of the compound, mixture, preparation, or substance containing the cocaine in assessing penalties.

Safe Harbor — Cybersecurity Programs

Senate Bill 220
Sponsors: Sens. Bob Hackett, Kevin Bacon
Status: Pending in Senate committee

Senate Bill 220 provides a legal safe harbor to covered entities that implement a specified cybersecurity program.

Violent Offender Registry

Senate Bill 231
Sponsor: Sen. Randy Gardner
Status: Passed by Senate

Senate Bill 231 requires the Attorney General to establish a violent offender registry, compel violent offenders to enroll in the database, and to name this act “Sierah’s Law.”

Law enforcement conference planning underway

Registration will open in August for the Ohio Attorney General’s 2018 Law Enforcement Conference set for Oct. 25-26 at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. The fee for two days of training and luncheons is $225. This year’s conference theme is “Protecting Ohio Together.” For more information, visit the conference website at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/LEConference.
How did you get interested in drones?

In 2015, I was working at OPOTA as a law enforcement instructor and an traffic crash investigations instructor told me that he had staged a crash on the track and that a drone pilot was coming to take photos. So, I went out to watch the pilot work. He had a DJI Phantom with a GoPro. I looked over his shoulder at the tablet, and a lightbulb went off in my head. I started thinking of all of the ways that we could make drones an effective tool for law enforcement.

What small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) courses are being offered now at OPOTA?

Implementing a Public Safety Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS)/Drone Program, Investigating sUAS/Drone Complaints, sUAS/Drone Basic Operator, and sUAS/Drones As a Training Tool for Instructors. To sign up, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OPOTACourses.

Can you give us some details?

Implementing a Public Safety sUAS/Drone Program is an eight-hour class on what an agency needs to do if it wants to start a program. Investigating sUAS/Drone Complaints is a legal class. If an agency gets complaints about someone flying a drone, officers need to know what steps to take. Laws already on the books can often be applied to drone complaints.

The sUAS/Drone Basic Operator focuses on learning how to safely fly a drone.

The sUAS/Drones As a Training Tool for Instructors will teach instructors how a drone can be used to enhance training.

Where will these courses be offered?

All of the courses, including those that involve flight, will be offered in London. At this time, only lecture classes will be offered in Richfield because of logistics and airspace issues.

What was your experience serving on the Attorney General’s advisory group?

The advisory group brought together a unique group of people. We had representatives from law enforcement, education, the FAA, aviation, the public, and, of course, UAS programs. Our meetings were well-attended. We had outside organizations and members of the general public come sit in. As it turns out, one member, Lt. Steve Schueler of the Blue Ash Police Department, and I were among the 3,300 people in the nation who took the first FAA Part 107 remote pilot test when it was offered on Aug. 29, 2016.

The J. Doug Daniels File

Previous Jobs: Sergeant, Greenfield Police Department (23 years); Daniels Photography; Daniels Bros. Farms


Hobbies: Performing as a seasonal street actor at the Ohio Renaissance Festival; flying unmanned aircraft systems

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Advisory group on ‘drones’ makes 14 recommendations

The Ohio Attorney General’s Advisory Group on Unmanned Aircraft Systems has released its report, which includes 14 recommendations and a model policy for use by law enforcement.

“With advancements in technology and a decrease in cost, unmanned aircraft systems have become more common in communities and as tools of law enforcement,” said Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine. “The recommendations in this report are a guide to help law enforcement develop best practices and protocols that will ensure appropriate privacy, accountability, and oversight when unmanned aircraft are used.”

Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly referred to as “drones,” can be used by law enforcement for investigative purposes, such as crime scene and traffic accident investigations, missing persons cases, SWAT operations, and active shooter incidents.

Among the recommendations, the group says each agency with a UAS program should develop a written policy using the report’s model as a guide, staff members operating a UAS should have a remote pilot certificate from the FAA, and agencies should obtain a search warrant before using UAS where people have an expectation of privacy.

The report includes a detailed outline of recommended UAS pilot training and descriptions of technology and equipment.

As a result of the recommendations, DeWine announced that the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) will offer advanced UAS courses.

The advisory group, created in October 2016, was made up of subject-matter experts and led by Cuyahoga Community College Police Chief Clayton Harris.

A copy of the report is available on the Ohio Attorney General’s website under “publications,” and “law enforcement.”
The BCI Missing Persons Unit analyzes records that are part of the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse, which serves as a central repository of information about the state’s missing children.

The analysts look for children who have run away multiple times in a short period or those who have been reported missing from several communities. BCI also searches other law enforcement databases and public sources for indications that the children could be vulnerable to traffickers.

During the past year, the BCI unit shared the information about the 146 children with the 13 agencies involved so that steps could be taken to intervene and prevent the youths from falling victim to traffickers.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced the initiative’s progress at the Jan. 29 meeting of the Ohio Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Commission.

“Our plan is to continue this initiative and prevent high-risk youths from being ensnared in trafficking and abuse,” he said.

Special agents from the unit are available to assist local law enforcement, human trafficking coalitions, and service agencies in developing plans to help at-risk children. Agents can also be called upon to help in human trafficking investigations.

During the meeting, Attorney General DeWine also shared information from the commission’s annual report.


The Ohio Supreme Court has issued a bench card on human trafficking for common pleas and municipal courts, said Diana Ramos-Reardon, the court’s domestic violence program manager.

“Bench cards are quick reference guides for courts. The cards are not intended to be a summary of the law, they are just intended to offer quick highlights about where to go for information,” she said.

The “Human Trafficking Bench Card,” which has practice tips for courts, red flags, and highlights of Ohio law, is available online. Visit www.SupremeCourt.Ohio.gov/JCS/DomesticViolence and click on “Domestic Violence Program Publications.”
Advocates share ways to make a difference in opioid crisis

In the fourth installment of the Ohio Attorney General’s “Ideas” series addressing the state’s opioid crisis, guest speakers and panelists focused on the collaboration necessary to bring about addiction recovery and the latest research about the disease.

Hundreds of professionals who work with victims and survivors of opioid addiction gathered on Jan. 16 to participate in the Ohio Attorney General’s “Ideas for Advocacy” event at the 4-H Center at The Ohio State University.

Despite the continued crisis, DeWine said there is reason to be hopeful. “We have people out there who are working every single day to make a difference in their communities.”

In a panel discussion, advocates talked about their efforts.

- Jodi Salvo, coordinator for the Tuscarawas County Anti-Drug Coalition, said her group started by establishing permanent prescription drop boxes. Today, the coalition promotes education and works to build parents’ communication skills so they can effectively convey anti-drug messages.

- Pastor Greg Delaney, faith partner for Ohio Attorney General’s Statewide Outreach on Substance Use, said he and others reach out to church leaders to see what can be done in faith communities. “I tell them, ‘Maybe you’re not ready to open a sober house, but you may be able to put on a pot of coffee, open your doors, and make something available.’”

- Kathy Ezawa, director of the Domestic Violence Shelter Inc. in Mansfield, said the drug crisis has changed the way her shelter operates. The shelter has changed its case management procedures and increased staff training. It recently added a full-time mental health counselor with experience in drugs and alcohol.

- Stephen Massey, director of Journey to Freedom, a domestic violence-prevention program in Springfield, and director of the Trauma Recovery Center’s Crime Victims Advocacy Program through CitiLookout Counseling Center, said he and his wife work together to challenge negative thought processes that permit violence toward intimate partners. “We do our best to model a healthy relationship to a lot of men who have never seen one,” he said.

At CitiLookout, a center funded by a grant from the Attorney General’s Office, trauma-informed clinicians provide counseling.

To view the materials and videos presented at the meeting, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov, look for “Training & Education” and click on “Drug Abuse.”

Work-related trauma takes toll on health

Trauma, either witnessed or experienced second-hand by first responders, health care professionals, and victim advocates, can have a lasting negative effect, but there are ways to protect oneself and become more resilient, according to Kenneth R. Yeager, director of the STAR (Stress, Trauma and Resilience) Program at The Ohio State University.

The program helps adult survivors of trauma, violence, and loss through trauma-informed care, advocacy, and outreach. The STAR clinic also provides support services for health care professionals and first responders suffering from vicarious, or second-hand, trauma and burnout.

“The effects are real, they are potentially permanent, and they are cumulative,” he said. “They can emerge at any time in your career. You can be going along and suddenly a single interaction, thought, a moment will push you a little over the edge.”

During a speech at the Ohio Attorney General’s “Ideas for Advocacy” event, Yeager said, trauma can lead to depression, anxiety, somatization, substance abuse, and domestic conflict, but there are ways to protect yourself from the fallout.

1. Look for three good things to counter the negative each day.
2. View difficulty as a challenge. See failure as an opportunity to learn.
3. Don’t let setbacks or bad events affect unrelated areas of your life.
4. Remember what brought you into this line of work.
5. Always be planning your next vacation.
6. Have at least one good friend.
7. Keep learning and maintain a healthy curiosity.
8. Figure out where you are spending your energy and don’t overextend.
9. Strive for eight hours of sleep a night. (When you reach the deep sleep phase, neurotoxins leave your brain.)
10. Take care of the people at work. Cultivate those relationships.
Photo technique puts missing mom’s case in spotlight

The technique, performed at no cost by a forensic artist with the BCI Missing Persons Unit, involves updating an original photo of the missing person to take the passage of time into account.

The case of Elaine Johnson of Parma, who has been missing for 27 years, is back in the news after a forensic artist at BCI created a photo showing what the woman might look like today.

Johnson’s daughter, Jodi Malcolm, sought BCI’s help because there have been few leads in the case. She shared photos of her mother and her mother’s brother with BCI Criminal Intelligence/Missing Persons Analyst Samantha Molnar. The brother’s photo provides clues about how Johnson might have aged.

To start, Molnar chose a photo of Johnson in which her whole face is visible. Then, using photos of similar-looking women of the same ethnicity and age of Johnson today, Molnar copied and pasted some of their features to the original photo using photo-editing software.

After finishing the photo, the artist forwarded it to the Parma Police Department, which sent it out to the media. Anyone with information on Johnson’s disappearance or whereabouts are urged to contact the Parma police at 440-885-1234.

Updates made to improve dorms

Officers staying in the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) dorms in London should rest more comfortably now that two new air handlers have been installed and changes have been made to the ventilation system.

To regulate the temperature and circulate air throughout the building, the air handler on the second floor was replaced and another was added in a former linen room on the first floor.

Kem Dicken, building services manager at OPOTA, said high humidity of the past caused the carpet to buckle, so it was removed and replaced in the rooms and common areas. Some of the ceilings have also been repainted.

The old exhaust fans in the dorm bathrooms didn’t vent to the outside, so humidity would build up in the 44 rooms. Today, new fans installed in each of the bathrooms not only vent to the outside but also automatically run when the bathroom lights turn on and for 10 minutes once an hour to promote air circulation.

Rooms are $15 a night, double occupancy, and can be booked during OPOTA course registration. The staff makes an effort to put officers from the same department in a room together. Some rooms have three beds. The dorm can accommodate up to 89 people.

Fresh bed linens, towels, a bath mat, and soap are provided. Each room has complimentary Wi-Fi, cable TV, a telephone, computer ports, and a firearms locker for each officer. The OPOTA cafeteria is open for breakfast and lunch. A boxed meal ordered at lunch can be stored in the refrigerator until dinner.

Rooms are available from 4 p.m. Sundays to 5 p.m. Fridays.

Photo-related services offered at BCI

- **Age-progression photos**: Using software and artistry to show what a person would look like with the passage of time.
- **Age-regression photos**: Using software and artistry to show what a person looked like in the past.
- **Composite images**: Working with a crime victim to create a sketch of a suspect.
- **Photo modifications**: Using digital editing to make changes to a photo.
- **Post-mortem imaging**: Turning cadaver photos into lifelike images that can be released to the public.
**SPRING 2018**

**Cover Story**

Sexual assault kit testing initiative reaches goal

“The follow-up work done by local law enforcement on the CODIS hits has been essential in these cases,” he said. “In many instances, we are able to go back to law enforcement with the name of a potential attacker, but it is up to investigators to gather supporting evidence before making an arrest.”

In Cuyahoga County, for example, where 40 agencies submitted rape kits for the initiative, there have been more than 70 indictments.

A total of 294 law enforcement agencies in 75 counties turned in kits. The Cleveland Division of Police submitted the most kits, 4,418, followed by the Toledo Police Department, 1,602, Akron, 1,432, Columbus, 482, Springfield, 367, and Cincinnati, 338.

Overall, many of the kits tested were decades old, with some dating to the 1970s. The majority of kits, however, were from crimes that occurred between 1993 and 2014.

“Because of the spotlight on these cases and the results that have followed, the value of testing these kits has been accepted,” DeWine said. “When agencies submit kits for testing without delay, suspects can be identified faster, future attacks can be prevented, and other crimes can be solved.”

Becky Perkins, communications director at the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, thanked the Attorney General for taking action against the rape kit backlog.

“Ohio is the leader nationally in the effort to not only address the rape kit backlog, but also to better address and prevent the crime of rape itself,” she said. “But as we celebrate these accomplishments, we must remember that our work doesn’t end here nor does the suffering of survivors who have experienced the traumatic crime of sexual assault.”

After learning about the accumulation of untested rape kits in 2011, DeWine formed a commission to study the problem. The group determined that any kit associated with a crime should be submitted to a crime laboratory for DNA testing. DeWine requested that local law enforcement voluntarily submit any unanalyzed kits to BCI for forensic testing at no cost to them.

In the end, the initiative helped influence several new laws in Ohio.

Law enforcement agencies are now required to submit all rape kits collected in association with a crime for testing within 30 days. The statute of limitations for prosecuting rape was also expanded to 25 years, with five additional years for prosecuting a case where DNA identifies a suspect after 25 years.

“The testing of these nearly 14,000 kits has changed the culture surrounding rape investigations in Ohio.”

“To register for the symposium, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/SAKSymposium.”

**Organized by the Ohio Attorney General’s Crime Victim Services Section, the conference is entering its 27th year by offering 35 workshops on topics such as Marsy’s Law, domestic violence, and substance-use disorder.**

**Social workers, victim advocates, nurses, and attorneys can earn continuing education credits for attending conference workshops.**

**For more information on the initiative, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.**

**Social workers, victim advocates, nurses, and attorneys can earn continuing education credits for attending workshops at the Two Days in May conference.**

**Statewide Results | By the numbers**

100% of kits have been tested

**The number of sexual assault kits submitted by 294 Ohio law enforcement agencies under Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine’s Sexual Assault Kit Testing Initiative**

13,931

The number of DNA profiles uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database

8,648

Total CODIS hits from uploaded DNA profiles

5,024

**Average number of SAK Testing initiative kits tested per year**

2,600

Serial offenders linked by DNA to three or more cases

1,127

Total number of cases involving those 300 serial offenders

**Annual conference to focus on protecting Ohio’s families**

organized from page 1

ment and prosecutors will gather from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Room A123-125 for a symposium about investigating sexual assault cases.

A group of speakers — including a prosecutor, a forensic scientist, an investigator, and a victim advocate — will provide information on topics such as investigating cold-case sexual assaults, working with sexual assault victims, designing a “John Doe” hit in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), continuing with a case when there is no CODIS hit, and understanding DNA laboratory results.

Organized by the Ohio Attorney General’s Crime Victim Services Section, the conference is entering its 27th year by offering 35 workshops on topics such as Marsy’s Law, domestic violence, and substance-use disorder.

The theme is “Protecting Ohio Families.” Social workers, victim advocates, nurses, and attorneys can earn continuing education credits for attending conference workshops.

To register for the symposium, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/SAKSymposium.
Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine is encouraging peace officers to distribute the new “You Have Rights” card to victims of crime.

The 3-by-4-inch tear-offs, created by the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, offer information about crime victims’ rights under the Ohio Crime Victims Bill of Rights, or Marsy’s Law, which was passed by voters on Nov. 7, 2017.

“We believe that crime victims should be empowered with the information that these cards provide,” said Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine. “This card is just one more tool Ohio’s law enforcement agencies can use to help victims.”

Any law enforcement agency in the state can request the free cards by calling the Attorney General’s Crime Victim Services section, 614-466-5610. To learn about other resources available to crime victims, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.