PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF OPERATING AN ARRESTEE DNA DATABASE

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In January 2003, legislation became effective allowing the Commonwealth of Virginia to establish an Arrestee DNA database. This law requires that every person arrested for specific violent felonies and also burglaries submit a sample to the Virginia Division of Forensic Science for DNA analysis. The laboratory will then maintain these DNA profiles in a new Arrestee Index in CODIS. This index will serve as an additional pool of candidates for non-subject forensic case profile searches, in addition to the pool of Convicted Offender profiles currently in CODIS.

 As a result of the implementation of the Arrestee Index, the laboratory modified some of its DNA data bank and CODIS operating policies and procedures. The changes were necessary due to some unique aspects of Arrestee samples and maintaining an Arrestee Index.

This presentation will focus on several aspects of Virginia's DNA Data Bank Arrestee operation, such as the processing and handling of Arrestee samples, and prioritizing the analysis of Arrestee samples. Additionally, CODIS data maintenance issues such as the volume of Arrestee sample re-categorization to Convicted Offender upon conviction, the frequency and volume of Arrestee sample deletions due to an automatic expungment requirement in the legislation, and the need to distinguish Arrestee from Convicted Offender profiles for NDIS upload purposes will be discussed.

As of May 2003, the Division's Arrestee Index in CODIS consisted of approximately 2000 STR profiles, with 9 hits of non-subject forensic case profiles to Arrestee profiles to date.