

## **JAMES (Jim) SEVEL**

San Diego Computer Forensics, L.L.C.  
3235 Hancock St. #6,  
San Diego, CA 92110  
Office Phone (619) 291-SDCF (7323)  
Cell Phone (619) 384-6633  
Email Jim@SD-CF.com

---

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Approximately twenty-nine (29) years of federal law enforcement experience. Retired in 2006 as the Supervisor of the Computer Forensics and Cyber Investigations Group for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), San Diego Office of Investigations (previously the U.S. Customs Service). Functions included the supervision and training of seven Computer Forensic Agents (CFA) and five Cyber Investigators. The CFAs provided computer forensic support to approximately 300 agents in four separate offices in Southern California. They supported investigations involving commercial fraud, narcotics smuggling, money laundering, child pornography, covert and overt cyber investigations and the illegal trading of weapons and munitions. Currently, owner/examiner at San Diego Computer Forensics LLC and re-hired CFA for DHS/ICE.

### **SECURITY CLEARANCE**

Top Secret

### **COMPUTER FORENSIC TRAINING**

- Basic Computer Forensics, San Diego Police Department; San Diego, CA; December 1997
- MS DOS/Norton Utilities Training; Computer Horizons Corp; Plano, TX; January 1998
- BSCERS (Basic Seized Computer Evidence Recovery Specialist) Training and Certification; Department of the Treasury; Federal Law Enforcement Training Center; March 1998
- ASCERS (Advanced Seized Computer Evidence Recovery Specialist) Training and Certification; Department of the Treasury; Federal Law Enforcement Training Center; July 1998
- Encase Computer Forensics Training; US Customs Cyber Crimes Center (C3); Fairfax, VA; May 1999
- Computer Investigative Specialist (CIS-2000) Continuing Professional Education, Naval Criminal Investigative Service; San Diego, CA; September 1999
- Computer Analysis Response Team (CART) A+ PC Hardware-Software Training, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Quantico, VA; April 2000

- International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS), Certified Electronic Evidence Collection Specialist Training; Orlando, FL; May 2000
- Computer Analysis Response Team (CART) Field Examiner Basic Training, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Quantico, VA; July 2000
- Computer Analysis Response Team (CART) Macintosh Forensics, Federal Bureau of Investigation; San Diego, CA; March 2001
- International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS), Advanced Network Training; Orlando, FL; May 2001
- Access Data Computer Forensic Software Training (Boot Camp); San Francisco, CA; August 2001
- I-Look Computer Forensic Software Training; San Diego, CA; April 2002
- Encase Advanced Computer Forensics Training, Encase; Pasadena, CA; October 2002
- Encase ENCE Examination Training, Encase; Pasadena, CA; December 2002
- Regional Computer Forensic Symposium, George Mason University; Fairfax, VA; August 2003
- Encase Advanced Computer Forensics, Encase, Nutrino; Pasadena, CA; February 2004
- Advanced Computer Evidence Recovery Training (ACERT), Department of the Treasury; Fairfax, VA; June 2004
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Computer Forensics Training Workshop; Scottsdale, AZ; September 2004
- International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS), Certified Electronic Evidence Collection Specialist Training, Orlando, FL, May 2005
- Encase Version 5.0 Update, Encase; San Diego, CA; June 2005
- National White Collar Crime Center (NWC3) Advanced Data Recovery Analysis (ADRA) Email Forensics; Colorado Springs; September 2005
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Computer Forensics Training Workshop; Scottsdale, AZ; May 2006
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Computer Forensics Training Workshop; San Diego, CA; August 2007
- CD and DVD Forensics Training, InfinaDyne Software; Cerritos, CA; October 2007
- Access Data Certified Examiner (A.C.E.) and Advance Forensic Training; Sterling, VA; July 2008
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Computer Forensics Training Workshop; Scottsdale, AZ; August 2009
- Forensic Toolkit (FTK 2) Conversion Training, Access Data; Sterling, VA; August 2009
- Macintosh Forensics; BlackBag Software; Sterling, VA; August 2009
- Encase V-6 Intermediate Training, Encase; San Diego, CA; September 2009

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

- Basic Customs Inspector Course; Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC); Glynco, GA; October 1979
- Basic Criminal Investigator Course; Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC); Glynco, GA; July 1986
- Airborne Sensor Operator Training; Singer-Allen Corporation; Corpus Christi, TX; March 1988
- Basic Intelligence Analyst Course; Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC); Glynco, GA; September 1989
- Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS) Train the Trainer; Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC); Glynco, GA; April 1990
- Internet Investigations, U.S. Treasury Dept. Computer Investigative Specialist (CIS2000) Program, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC); Glynco, GA; September 1998
- High Technology Crime Investigation Association (HTCIA), Professional Development Training; San Diego, CA; February 1998
- A+ Certification Training, National University; San Diego, CA; April 2000
- Undercover Managers School, U.S. Customs Service Academy; Glynco, GA; November 2001
- Supervisor Training Seminar; US Customs Service Academy; Glynco, GA; December 2001
- National Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Training Conference, ICAC; New Orleans, LA; December 2001
- Computer Security Officer (CSO) Training and Certification; Washington D.C.; February 2002
- Asset Forfeiture Training; Department of the Treasury; Denver, CO; July 2002
- Microsoft Counterfeiting and Internet Investigations; Microsoft Corporation; San Diego, CA; December 2002
- Computer Analysis Response Team (CART), System Security and Exploitation Course; Sytex Corporation; San Diego, CA; September 2003
- National Center For Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), Unit Commander Training; Arlington VA; May 2004
- High Technology Crime Investigators Association (HTCIA), Wireless Network Fraud; San Diego, CA; June 2004
- National Incident Management System (NIMS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); San Diego; January 2006

## **COLLEGE CURRICULUM**

University of California at San Diego (UCSD):

- Introduction to Programming Languages, March 2001
- Computer Networks; March 2002
- Introduction to Unix/Linux; August 2002
- Windows 2000 Professional, March 2003
- Windows 2000 Server, August 2003

- Windows 2000 Networking, November 2003  
San Diego State University (SDSU):
- Bachelor of Arts, Tri-major: Psychology, Criminal Justice, Social Welfare, 1978
- Starting a Small Business, October 2005

## **CONFERENCES**

- High Technology Crime Investigators Association (HTCIA); International Training Conference; San Diego, CA; September 1999
- High Technology Crime Investigators Association (HTCIA), E-Crime Workshop; Brea, CA, June 2000
- Internet Crimes Against Children Training Conference; Dallas, TX; December 2001
- High Technology Crime Investigators Association (HTCIA); George Mason University (GMU) 2003 Training Conference; Fairfax, VA; August 2003
- Technologies for Critical Incident Preparedness Conference and Exposition 2005; San Diego, CA; November 2005
- High Technology Crime Investigators Association (HTCIA); International Training Conference; San Diego, CA; August 2007

## **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

- Computer Forensic Agent (CFA) as designated by the Department of the Treasury and Department of Homeland Security; 1998
- Comptia A+ Certification; April 2000
- Computer Forensic Examiner (CFE) as designated by the San Diego Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory; 2000
- Comptia Net+ Certification; May 2002
- Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator (MCSA); University of California San Diego (UCSD); February 2005
- Certified Forensic Computer Examiner (CFCE) as designated by the International Assoc. of Computer Investigative Specialist (IACIS); August 2007; Recertification 2010
- Certified Computer Forensics Agent (CFA) as designated by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Cyber Crimes Center (DHS/ICE/C3)
- Access Data Certified Examiner (ACE) as designated by Access Data Inc.; July 2008
- Digital Forensics Certified Practitioner (DFCB) Founder; Digital Forensics Certification Board; University of Florida; February 2010

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- HTCIA-High Technology Crime Investigators Association, Since 1999
- IACIS-International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists, Since 2000
- CFID-Computer Forensic Investigators Digest, Since 2001
- IEEE Computer Society, Since 2007
- ALSP-Association of Litigation Support Professionals, 2008

- ASIA- American Society for Industrial Security, 2010

### **SIGNIFICANT AWARDS**

- San Diego Crime Commission; Blue Knight Award, October 2000
- HTCIA (High Tech Crime Investigators Assn.); Investigator of the Year, 2000

### **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

- 1979-1986 Customs Inspector (CI), U.S. Customs Service, Office of Inspection and Control, San Diego, CA
  - 1979-1983 CI at the San Ysidro Port of Entry (POE); involved in the interdiction of narcotics and illegal merchandise; enacted arrests of violators and fugitives.
  - 1983-1986 CI on the San Diego Contraband Enforcement Team (CET); co-authored the first San Diego District Narcotics Threat Assessment; planned, organized, and conducted enforcement operations in the marine environment; created and maintained enforcement data bases. Received numerous Letters of Commendation and cash awards for outstanding performance.
- 1986-1995 Criminal Investigator, Aviation Interdiction Officer (AIO), U.S. Customs Service, Office of Investigations, San Diego, CA
  - Performed criminal investigations of individuals and organizations involved in smuggling via aircraft. Operated radar and infra-red detection and surveillance devices on government aircraft. Performed investigative duties in the United States and in Central and South America. Performed collateral duties as the office Intelligence Officer and Firearms Instructor. Also, performed the collateral duty of Systems Control Officer (SCO) of the Treasury Enforcement Computer System (TECS-2). Provided POST certified training to federal, state and local law enforcement officers on the topic of Aviation Smuggling Investigations at numerous locations in the western United States. Served as board member and eventually president (1992) of the Aviation Smuggling Investigators Association (ASIA). ASIA was a professional organization comprised of international, federal, state and local investigators. Received numerous Letters of Commendation and cash awards for outstanding performance.
- 1995-1998 Criminal Investigator, Special Agent (SA), U.S. Customs Service, Office of Investigations, San Diego, CA
  - 1995-1997 Conducted investigations of individuals and organizations involved in smuggling narcotics into the United States from Mexico
  - 1997-1998 Conducted investigations of individuals and organizations involved in major international fraud cases. Member of the San Diego Fraud Task Force, hosted by the U.S. Secret Service.
  - 1998-1999 Conducted computer forensic examinations in

support of cases involving child pornography, fraud, and strategic investigations.

- 1999-2001 Criminal Investigator, Senior Special Agent (SA), Assigned to the San Diego Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory (RCFL)  
Assigned on a full-time basis to the San Diego RCFL. Trained and certified by the RCFL and F.B.I. CART. Conducted forensic imaging, examination, and analysis of individual and networked computers for evidence in criminal and civil investigations. Examinations were performed for various local, state and federal investigative agencies. Testified in federal, state and military court concerning the forensic examinations performed.
- 2001-2006 Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) U.S. Customs Service (until the agency conversion in 2003), then the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

Maintained Computer Forensic Agent (CFA) status by performing approximately fifteen forensic examinations per year.

Supervised a multi-faceted investigative group focused in the following areas:

-Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). This included all local U.S. Customs JTTF activities, immediately before and after 9/11, in coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. JTTF activities were eventually combined into a single function group after the advent of the Department of Homeland Security.

-Strategic Investigations. These investigations involved the illegal international trading of weapons and munitions. Cases included the operation and usage of an agency certified undercover operation. In 2003, the strategic group separated into two groups, one specifically for strategic investigations the other for Operation Shield America (a national program).

-Asset Forfeiture. This aspect of the group involved the seizure of real property and financial assets as the result of criminal and civil investigations. The seizures were in support of four local investigative offices. Due to high productivity and workload a separate group was formed in 2004.

-Cyber Investigations. Members of the group were designated to conduct Internet investigations. Cases were generally international in scope and targeted individuals and groups who abused children or were involved in child pornography violations (manufacturing, distribution, possession, and conspiracy). Cases also dealt with fraud violations (i.e. Intellectual Property Rights, illegal distribution of data, audio and video files), financial investigations (i.e. money laundering), Immigration violations (i.e. marriage fraud and counterfeit documents), and health and safety violations (i.e.

pharmaceutical cases). Members participated in two local task forces; the San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force and the San Diego Computer and Technology Crime High Tech Response Team (CATCH).

-Computer Forensics. Duties involved training and mentoring seven agents trained and designated as Computer Forensic Agents (CFAs) by the U.S. Treasury Department. Cases included the forensic imaging, examination and analysis of large networks (i.e. involving 40+ workstations and multiple servers) to cases involving only several personal computers. The group supported investigations from four offices in the San Diego and Imperial counties. Approximately 250 examinations were performed in FY-2005. Functions also included reviewing case reports, enacting policies and procedures, acquiring equipment and training, and selecting candidates for vacancies.

- 2007-present, President/owner/examiner San Diego Computer Forensics LLC, a computer forensics business servicing the civil litigation field.
- 2008-present, Special Agent (SA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Special Agent in Charge San Diego (SAC/SD), certified as a Computer Forensic Agent (CFA), employed full-time as a re-hired annuitant performing computer forensic examinations. Outside employment for civil cases is authorized.

## REFERENCES

Available upon request.