

## FIREARMS EXAMINER

### NATURE AND VARIETY OF WORK

This is professional and technical work in the forensic examination areas of firearms, toolmark and fracture identification. Work assignments involve the development of physical evidence using innovative techniques to verify theory of firearms, toolmark and fracture cases and includes the following tests or examinations: Microscopic comparison of evidence and known specimen for the purpose of affecting positive identification; microscopic and chemical processing of evidence for the presence of gunpowder and lead residue; short pattern testing of shotguns; testing of firearms for proper function and safety; and restoration of obliterated serial numbers. Work is performed under the general supervision of a higher level law enforcement official and work performance is reviewed in terms of completed projects and conferences.

### EXAMPLES OF WORK (ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY)

Records and measures general firing characteristics to bullets and bullet fragments.

Evaluates fired cartridge cases, and other pertinent forensic evidence which may require later testimony during trial phase.

Conducts forensic examination to identify and classify varied toolmark type evidentiary value.

Test firearms for functional capacity by discharging weapon into the Unit's ballistic recovery tank and/or trap.

Maintains all physical evidence submitted to the Unit for examination.

Assists other departmental sections/units with varied requests and other questions as to capability of assigned Unit's expertise; may be required to assist law enforcement officials from other jurisdictions with their examination.

Evaluates the effectiveness of the operation of the Firearms, Toolmark and Fracture Identification functions.

Attends court, both Circuit and District, on and off duty, to testify in examination cases which he or she has participated as directed.

Develops and maintains working relationships with department/units.

Writes/reviews reports of findings and attends court, both Circuit and District, on and off duty, to testify in examination cases.

Produces clear and accurate photographic record of the condition of the evidence both prior to and following laboratory analysis.

Performs such tests as Sodium Rhodizonate Test and the Diphenylamine Test.

Willingly and cooperatively performs tasks and duties which may not be specifically listed in the class specification or position description, but which are within the general occupational category and responsibility level typically associated with the employee's class of work.

#### REQUIRED KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

A considerable knowledge of departmental rules, regulations, general orders and other guidelines.

A considerable knowledge of rules governing the admissibility of firearms evidence in courts.

A considerable knowledge of different firearms and ammunition.

A considerable knowledge of Unit logistical and/or operational problems or situations.

A considerable knowledge of proper format for departmental correspondence.

A good knowledge and understanding of photographic techniques applicable to firearms, toolmark and fracture identification.

Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

Ability to testify in court.

Ability to operate laboratory equipment, especially microscopes.

Ability to follow detailed instructions.

Ability to conduct forensic examination of firearms.

Ability to deal effectively with people of varied backgrounds.

Ability to establish and maintain effective work relationships with co-workers, law enforcement officials, County citizens and other individuals relating to the performance of work assignments.

#### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from high school or GED, plus certification as a qualified firearms and toolmark examiner as stipulated by the association of firearms and toolmark examiner (AFTE).

#### CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Must meet departmental physical requirements.

Must be able to meet requirements by the Maryland State Police for issuance of handgun permit (Article 27, Section 36E).

Must be able to work indoors and outdoors.

Must be able to stand for long periods of time.

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