PROCESS MAPPING AND FORENSIC DNA INVESTIGATIONS

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Whether it be Disaster Victim Identification projects, human rights cases, or routine criminalistics, forensic DNA investigations require the coordinated efforts of multiple agencies engaged in the process of collecting and testing evidence. Maintaining the integrity of material and data as it moves through the investigative process is a critical management challenge and process maps are powerful visualization tools tool that can be used to manage the flow of information and physical evidence.

Specifically, a process map allows managers to identify key decision points, diagnose bottlenecks, estimate capacity and throughput, anticipate the areas most vulnerable to failure, and prioritize resources. In addition, process maps can clarify the responsibilities of each agency (or each department within an agency). Finally, process maps are an excellent tool for communicating with the media, outside agencies, and other stakeholders.

This talk will illustrate the application of process map in forensic DNA settings using the author's personal experience in a variety of projects, including:

- The World Trade Center attack on 9/11
- American Airlines flite 587
- The 2004 Tsunami Victim Identification Project, Thailand.
- Human rights investigations in Guatemala (FAFG) and Peru (epaf)
- The Sinai Pipeline tragedy in Nairobi, Kenya
- Hurricane Katrina