

8) Ballistics and Sciences

Established in 1951, when it also embraced bomb disposal, the Ballistics Office has helped homicide detectives send many killers to jail.

The tiny scratches on a bullet as it was discharged through a barrel bore distinctive marks for every weapon and using a Leitz Comparison Microscope for comparing fired bullets, experts were able to pinpoint which gun fired a shot.

With the advancement in technology, a computer-based Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) is now utilised for automated ballistics comparison and the Leitz Comparison Microscope has been retired as an exhibit for display at the Police Museum.

The Ballistics Office was renamed as the Forensic Firearms Examination Division which was subsumed under Identification Bureau.

Scientific backup to investigators comes from the Forensic Pathology Service, Government Laboratory and Identification Bureau. Their vital but often grisly task provides much needed expert testimony in court for various serious cases such as murder, suspicious deaths, rape and hit-and-run accidents etc.

From examination of tiny objects at the scenes of crimes, these doctors, scientists and experts can often give important clues that to aid detection and convictions. Just as fingerprinting caused a revolution in criminal detection many decades ago, DNA profiles can now positively identify suspects from a drop of blood, saliva, urine or semen.

Fingerprints, due to their inherent uniqueness and permanency, remain one of the most important clues for investigators. The Identification Bureau embraces cutting edge technologies and equipment to detect latent fingerprints from crime scenes and makes use of advanced computer systems to ensure the highest level of accuracy and reliability in fingerprint searches and identification.



Leitz Comparison Microscope for comparing fired bullets, which is now displayed in the Police Museum



Identification Bureau Fingerprint Officer is collecting fingerprint at a crime scene