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DIGINEG® launches Forensic Archive Service:
*Secure, dependable image preservation for North American
law enforcement*

CALGARY, JUNE 19 - Of all the functions photographers perform, none is more important than law enforcement - capturing images of crime scenes and traffic accidents that can be used to prosecute criminal cases in court.

A new image preservation service is helping to ensure that these images are safe for decades to come. The service is DIGINEG® Forensic Archive Service (FAS), developed by Calgary, Alberta-based **acmeworks digital film**. According to **acmeworks** President Steve Hagel, DIGINEG® FAS is urgently needed by law enforcement agencies across North America.

"Over the last decade, law enforcement photographers have embraced digital media for the capture and management of their images," says Hagel. "Law enforcement demands permanence. Unfortunately, digital media are unsuitable for true, long-term archiving. They start to break down chemically, mechanically and magnetically within a few years, and they're expensive to migrate to new technologies over time."

Hagel's view is shared by the Scientific Working Group on Imaging Technology (SWGIT), the body that establishes standards for the management of digital evidence. In its most recent set of guidelines, SWGIT states *"while optical media has been shown through common experience to be sufficient for short to moderate-term storage, it is inadequate for archiving."*

DIGINEG® FAS preserves evidential images by copying them from digital media to 35-mm film, which has been proven by science and a century of film industry experience to be truly archival. Once archived on film by DIGINEG® FAS, the film is then securely stored in climate- and humidity-controlled vaults.

The service was developed by **acmeworks**, working closely with law enforcement digital imaging pioneer David Knoerlein, who today is DIGINEG®'s ambassador to North American law enforcement agencies. From 2003 to 2007, Knoerlein was Forensic Imaging Systems Manager for the Regime Crimes Liaisons Office in Baghdad, Iraq. Previously, he worked for the Broward County Sheriff's Office in South Florida and the Baltimore County Police Department as a forensic analyst, performing digital image capture and enhancement of visual evidence.

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Hagel and Knoerlein will be in Louisville, Kentucky from August 17 to 23, 2008, as exhibitors and expert speakers at the International Association for Identification (IAI) International Educational Conference.

Says Knoerlein: "In meeting with law enforcement agencies and my fellow photographers, we'll be making the case that long-term digital storage is highly problematic, and that film-based archiving through DIGINEG® FAS is a secure and effective alternative."

*Founded in 1998 and based in Calgary, Alberta, **acmeworks digital film** is a specialized post-production service company dedicated to digital film recording. From video-to-film or digital data-to-film, **acmeworks** combines industry-standard hardware and software solutions to flawlessly transfer imagery to archival-quality 35-mm film.*

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