

# NamUs Fingerprint Services



# The NamUs Fingerprint Unit

With over 50 years of combined law enforcement and forensic crime laboratory experience, NamUs fingerprint examiners:

- Ensure the quality, completeness, and accuracy of all missing and unidentified person fingerprint information entered into NamUs.
- Assist with the acquisition of fingerprint records, including fingerprint cards for past and present military personnel.
- Perform fingerprint comparisons using state-of-the-art technology.
- Facilitate proactive searching of fingerprints through local and federal databases.

When fingerprints are submitted to NamUs, they are readily available for immediate comparison that can result in a positive identification or exclusion.

NamUs works with the **National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)** to obtain fingerprint cards for past and present military personnel. Fingerprint information obtained from the NPRC is uploaded to the NamUs 2.0 and CAFIS databases for searching against unidentified decedent cases.



# 1,300+

Missing and unidentified person cases reported to NamUs have been resolved using fingerprints





## The NamUs CAFIS Database

The NamUs Cogent Automated Fingerprint Identification System **(CAFIS)** is one of the few systems that serves as a permanent repository of nationwide missing and unidentified person fingerprint records that are proactively searched.

# **NGI and IDENT**

Through a collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), all unidentified decedent fingerprints are securely transmitted to the FBI's Latent Print Support Unit for searching through the national Next Generation Identification **(NGI)** system. If NGI searching does not result in an association, the fingerprint information is then submitted to the Department of Homeland Security for searching through the Automated Biometric Identification System **(IDENT)**.

#### WHAT IS NGI?

The FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) system harnesses new technologies to compare fingerprints and palm prints, in addition to other biometrics that include iris and facial recognition. This system replaced the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) and provides the world's largest and most efficient electronic repository of biometric information to criminal justice agencies.

#### WHAT IS IDENT?

The Department of Homeland Security's Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT) stores, shares, and matches biometric data in a system containing more than 200 million unique identities.

### **Submitting Fingerprints to NamUs**

For the most accurate and complete searching, original fingerprint cards should be submitted to NamUs. A pre-paid shipping label for fingerprint card submissions will be provided upon request, and original fingerprint cards will be returned to the submitting agency once processing is complete.

#### ORIGINAL FINGERPRINT CARDS SHOULD BE SHIPPED TO:

R. THUNKE

THUMB

NamUs Fingerprint Unit UNT Center for Human Identification 3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard Fort Worth, TX 76107

In lieu of original records, scans or photographs of fingerprint cards can be securely transmitted to NamUs.

#### For best results, original fingerprint cards should be:

- Scanned at a minimum of 500 dots per inch (DPI); or
- Photographed at a 1:1 ratio with a scale included in the image

For a link to securely transmit fingerprint image(s) to NamUs, please send a request to **NamUsFingerprintUnit@unthsc.edu**.

# **Questions?**

Contact the NamUs Fingerprint Unit toll-free at **1-855-626-7600** or by email at **NamUsFingerprintUnit@unthsc.edu.** 

# About NamUs

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) is a program of the National Institute of Justice, managed through a cooperative agreement with the UNT Health Science Center (UNTHSC). Operated within the UNT Center for Human Identification at UNTHSC, NamUs brings people, information, forensic science and technology together to resolve missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases throughout the United States. For more information, visit **www.NamUs.gov.** 









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