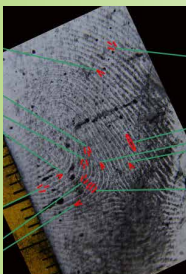


Criminalistics Service of the Guardia Civil (SECRIM)

Forensic science at the service of police and judicial investigation



The Guardia Civil was officially authorised to use dactyloscopy back in 1914. Nowadays, our Criminalistics Service has undergone a great evolution, with almost 600 qualified specialists in different forensic disciplines at a national (SECRIM), regional and provincial level (regional and provincial forensic laboratories).



The new technologies and scientific breakthroughs experienced over the last few years have finally shaped the SECRIM. Its laboratories count on high standing professionals in all areas of knowledge and the most modern equipment and means, from DNA sequencers, electronic microscopes, chromatographs or last generation 3D scanners to a mobile laboratory for field support at the scene of a disaster.

SECRIM capabilities match up to most prestigious forensic institutes

Biology Department

It is in charge of the **genetic analysis** of **human** samples, sent by other Guardia Civil's units or as requested by the competent court. All the analysis are related to crime investigations and to the **(genetic) identification** of corpses and missing persons.

Chemistry Department

The Department performs a large number of **forensic chemistry** tests, including the analysis of **explosives, drugs, fire, gunshot residues, paint, fibres, organic polymers, glass** and a long list of substances that can be found at the crime scene.



Environment Department

It carries out **forensic environmental** tests of different samples: **water, soil, sediments and air**. This Department also conducts **non-human genetic analysis**, including animal species identification and **toxicological analysis** of poisoned baits, contaminated water, illegal discharges, etc. It provides an **essential support** to the investigations of the Nature Protection Service of the Guardia Civil (SEPRONA).

Engineering Department

The **areas of Acoustics, Electronics, IT and Digital Image Forensics** receive and study the **digital evidence** found at the crime scene. **Digital evidence** stored in digital devices such as mobile phones, memory sticks, etc. is **most relevant** for solving criminal offences. Forensic techniques in the fields of **IT, electronics, digital image and voice comparison** are applied.



The qualified specialists of the Criminalistics Service of the Guardia Civil master most fields of **forensic science** and undergo a **continuous process of professional development** by means of their **Annual Training Plan**. Also, they **collaborate with several Spanish leading universities**.



The **SECRIM** is a full member of the **European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI)** since 1997 and shares **expertise, work practices and techniques** with the members of this organization, thereby promoting **police and judicial cooperation and coordination**, which are so vitally important nowadays.



The **Quality Management System** was implemented within the **SECRIM** more than ten years ago (first accreditation: **human DNA, 2003**) and represents a **cornerstone** in order for upholding the **highest professional, qualification and technical standards**. A total of **74 tests** of the **SECRIM** regional and provincial laboratories are certified by the **Spanish National Accreditation Body (ENAC)**.



Crime Scene Department



It consists of the **Crime Scene Inspection Area** and the **Photography and Infography Area**. A **Central Crime Scene Investigation Team (CSIT)** travels to **national or international** crime scenes to provide the support needed on request. The **Forensic Infographic Team**, also with both **national and International** capacity, performs crime reconstruction using **3D computer graphics**.

Identification Department

The members of this Department draft expert reports for the identification of persons, mainly using **fingerprints and anthropological, radiological and other methods**. It includes the **Disaster Identification Team (EIC)**, with experts on the identification of people (fingerprints, facial mapping, dental, anthropology, DNA, etc.) and technical means (X-ray, microscopes, photography-video, dental equipment, mobile laboratory, etc.)



Firearms and Toolmarks Department

It studies **all the weapon and ammunition-related elements**, such as **shooting scene reconstruction**, as well as the crime scene where a firearm was used. They also draft expert reports on comparison studies of **tools and the marks produced**, tyre tracks, shoeprints, vehicles and vehicle spare parts.

Handwriting and document analysis Department



This Department analyzes **handwritten texts, signatures and other type of documents**. Its expertise field also comprises the study of reproduced, printed or manipulated documents. It has full capacity to determine the authorship of Chinese and Arabic manuscripts, and it is one of the few European forensic laboratories able to perform all these analysis.

With an eye on the future: a commitment towards research and innovation



The Guardia Civil was created in 1844. Since then, our Institution has always played a key role in preventing and solving crime throughout our territory. Several significant landmarks in criminal investigation have taken place along the history of the Guardia Civil, such as the creation of the Judicial Identification Service in 1914, the Special Academy of the Guardia Civil in 1953, which included the so-called Police Technique Laboratory, the Investigation and Criminalistics Technical Command in 1982 and, finally, on 23rd May, 2008, the Criminalistics Service as we know it today.



**Guardia Civil Headquarters
Criminal Investigation Command
Criminalistics Service**



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