Curricula Vitae

Benjamin A. Wells
Lieutenant
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843-283-2267
1601 11th Avenue, Conway, U.S.A.

Lieutenant Benjamin A. Wells is a sworn deputy, employed with the Horry County Sheriff's Office in Conway, South Carolina and serves as Commander of the Horry County Sheriff's Office E.C.T.F. (Electronic Crimes Task Force) and a Computer and Mobile Forensic Analyst. Lieutenant Wells is currently assigned to the C.F.T.F. (Cyber Fraud Task Force) with the United States Secret Service and is also currently assigned to the South Carolina Attorney General's I.C.A.C. (Internet Crimes Against Children) Task Force. Lieutenant Wells has worked in law enforcement for twenty - two years and has been employed with Horry County Sheriff's Office since November 2001. Lieutenant Wells has been appointed as a Special Deputy U.S. Marshal to perform the duties to seek and execute federal arrest and search warrants supporting the United States Secret Service Cyber Fraud Task Force under title 18 authority. Lieutenant Wells has performed extractions and/or analysis in cases for the South Carolina Attorney General's Office ICAC Taskforce, United States Secret Service (USSS), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), The Drug Enforcement Agency (D.E.A.), South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), Myrtle Beach Police Department, North Myrtle Beach Public Safety, Conway City Police Department, Coastal Carolina University Police Department, 15th Circuit Drug Enforcement Unit, Surfside Beach Police Department, Horry County Police Department, Georgetown Sheriff's Office, Georgetown Police Department, and Horry County Sheriff's Office. Lieutenant Wells is also a contract Cellebrite instructor and teaches and certifies law enforcement and private company personnel in Cellebrite Certified Operator (CCO), Cellebrite Certified Physical Analysts (CCPA), and Cellebrite Certified Premium Operator (CCPO).

EDUCATION

Allen County – Scottsville High School *Scottsville, KY*
08/1993 – 06/1997
High School Graduate

University of Louisville *Louisville, KY*
01/2018 – 08/2018
Certificate of Achievement - National Security Agency Cybersecurity Workforce Education Program

Eastern Gateway Community College *Steubenville, OH*
06/2019-06/2022
Associates in Technical Studies - Information Technology - Summa Cum Laude
Presidents List Fall 2020 *Presidents List Spring 2021* *Presidents List Fall 2021*
Presidents List Spring 2022 *Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society*

Champlain College *Burlington, VT*
06/2022- Currently Enrolled
Bachelor of Science – Computer Forensics & Digital Investigations
Presidents List Fall 2022 *Presidents List Spring 2023* *Board of Trustees List Spring 2023*

CERTIFICATIONS

Cellebrite Mobile Forensics Fundamentals (CMFF) (06/2018)

Cellebrite Certified Operator (CCO) (03/2018)

Cellebrite Certified Physical Analyst (CCPA) (06/2018)

Cellebrite Advanced Smartphone Analysis (CASA) (06/2020)

Cellebrite Certified Mobile Examiner (CCME) (08/2020)

Cellebrite Certified BlackLight Examiner (CBE) (09/2021)

Cellebrite Certified Instructor (CCI) (07/2020)

Cellebrite Certified Premium Operator (CCPO) (05/2023)

Magnet Certified Forensic Examiner (MCFE-AXIOM) (07/2020)

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Graykey Operator Certification (05/2023)

Digital Evidence Acquisition Specialist (DEASTP)

Seized Computer Evidence Recovery Specialist (SCERS)

AccessData Certified Examiner (ACE) (12/2017)

TRAINING

South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy – South Carolina Department of Public Safety *Columbia, SC*

01/2002 – 01/2002

Basic Detention

The mission of the Basic Detention training program (BD) as mandated by South Carolina Law is to provide the officer candidate with the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the duties of a certified detention officer in the state of South Carolina. The Basic Detention training program was three weeks in duration. Upon completion of the training, the candidate will be a certified Class 2 Law Enforcement Officer.

Federal Law Enforcement Training Center – Department of Homeland Security *Glynco, Ga*

10/2010 – 10/2010

Digital Evidence Acquisition Specialist Training Program (DEASTP)

The Digital Evidence Acquisition Specialist Training (DEASTP) is designed to equip criminal Investigators with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to properly identify, seize, and acquire digital evidence. Through a combination of lecture, demonstration, hands-on exercises, labs and a practical exercise the investigator learns how to seize digital evidence from a personal computer (PC) and notebook computer hard drives, floppy diskettes, compact disks (CDs), DVDs, thumb drives, and various flash media by acquiring forensically valid images of the digital media. Investigators also learn how to preview digital media prior to acquisition to determine if the media contains key text strings, unlawful graphics, etc.

At the conclusion of the training program, the participants are able to successfully seize and acquire digital evidence. These skills will be demonstrated through the completion of an eight-hour practical exercise. The practical exercise requires each student to work independently to acquire various types of digital evidence in a forensically sound manner. Successful completion of a graded practical exercise is required for graduation.

National Computer Forensics Institute – United States Secret Service *Hoover, Al*

11/2016 – 12/2016

Online Social Networking Investigations (OSN)

Designed to give hands-on experience with online social media investigations, email investigations, basic networking, legal issues, and search and seizure. The course combined instructor-led discussions and practical exercises to teach methodologies and techniques used during investigations involving digital evidence of social media with traditional investigative techniques.

South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy – South Carolina Department of Public Safety *Columbia, SC*

01/2017 – 03/2017

Basic Law

The mission of the Basic Law Enforcement program (BLE) as mandated by South Carolina Law is to provide the officer candidate with the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the duties of a certified law enforcement officer in the state of South Carolina. The Basic Law Enforcement training

program is currently twelve weeks in duration. Upon completion of the training, the candidate will be a certified Class 1 Law Enforcement Officer.

Federal Law Enforcement Training Center – Department of Homeland Security *Glynco, Ga*

11/2017 – 12/2017

Seized Computer Evidence Recovery Specialist (SCERS)

The Seized Computer Evidence Recovery Specialist (SCERS) training program teaches fundamental forensic techniques for the analysis of electronic data from Windows desktop computer systems and selected peripherals. This program is an advanced training for FLETC. It is designed as a comprehensive digital forensics program of instruction for examiners

The SCERS training program is an intense program that requires substantial computer aptitude and prior computer training. Successful completion of a graded practical exercise is required for graduation. Classroom work is intensive with substantial after-hours work required for most students.

The goal of the program is to provide the hardware, software, and training to enable the graduate to examine Microsoft Windows-based digital evidence immediately upon return to their office. Topics addressed in SCERS include examinations of data from desktop and notebook computers running commonly used operating systems, including but not limited to Windows 9X, NT, 2000, XP, Vista, 7, 8 and 10; hands-on use of specialized software to enhance investigative analysis; court testimony; and digital forensic report writing.

National Computer Forensics Institute – United States Secret Service *Hoover, Al*

02/2018 – 03/2018

Mobile Device Examiner (MDE)

This is a four week course to give experience with a wide array of mobile devices such as cell phones, GPS units, and tablets, forensics analysis tools, legal issues, and report generation for law enforcement. The course combines instructor-led discussions and practical exercises to teach methodologies and techniques used during investigations involving digital evidence of mobile devices with traditional investigative techniques. Techniques taught are, Mobile Data Acquisitions, JTAG Extractions, ISP Extractions, and Device Analysis

University of Louisville - National Security Agency (NSA) *Louisville, Ky*

01/2018 – 08-2018

NSA Cyber Workforce Education,

Cyber Security and Law Enforcement Legal, Policy and Operational/Administrative Aspects, Infrastructure Technology and Law Enforcement, Introduction to Information Security for Law Enforcement, Introduction to Network Security for Law Enforcement, Computer Forensics for Law Enforcement.

National Computer Forensics Institute – United States Secret Service *Hoover, Al*

03/2019 – 04/2019

Basic Computer Evidence Recovery Training (BCERT)

BCERT is a course designed to train first responders to successfully respond to and process a computer crime scene in a home or business environment involving either a Windows or Unix operating system. Instruction is dynamic, flexible, and focuses on hands-on training.

BCERT is a five-week course designed to provide hands-on experience with computer hardware, device imaging solutions, forensic analysis tools, legal issues, and report generation for law enforcement officers performing as cyber incident responders and digital evidence examiners. The course combines instructor-

led discussions and practical exercises to teach methodologies and techniques used during investigations involving digital evidence.

BCERT training familiarizes students with Legal aspects of incident response procedures, Techniques for search and seizures, Methods and tools necessary to successfully gather volatile information, evidence processing, and handling and Media imaging.

Cellebrite – Cellebrite Inc. *Hoover, Al*

07/2019 – 07/2019

Cellebrite Instructor Development Course

Received training for instructing Cellebrite Courses.

National Computer Forensics Institute – United States Secret Service *Hoover, Al*

11/2019 – 11/2019

Advanced Mobile Device Examiner (AMDE)

AMDE is a 5-day course designed to provide hands-on experience with mobile devices. Investigators gain experience with a wide array of mobile devices such as cell phones, GPS units, and tablets, forensics analysis tools, legal issues, and report generation for law enforcement. The course combines instructor-led discussions and practical exercises to teach methodologies and techniques used during investigations

involving digital evidence of advanced mobile devices with traditional investigative techniques. This course teaches advanced mobile device file systems, advanced mobile device seizure and evidence recovery, advanced tracking histories of mobile devices, advanced tools necessary to analyze and document mobile device investigations. advanced basic drafting of court orders and search warrants and legal issues applicable to digital evidence for mobile devices.

Carolina Command College – Federal Bureau of Investigation *Myrtle Beach, SC*

03/2020 – 03/2020

The Carolina Command College has been established to provide law enforcement executives and management personnel with information pertaining to recent developments and emerging issues that influence law enforcement policies and practices. The goal of the Command College is to assist executives and top management personnel to prepare for the growing demands and challenges that confront law enforcement. The faculty of the Carolina Command College consists of a wide range of experts including instructors from the FBI Academy.

National Computer Forensics Institute – United States Secret Service *Hoover, Al*

08/2020 – 09/2020

Network Intrusion Response Program (NITRO)

NITRO is a 15-day course designed to provide training on how to effectively respond to a network incident including mitigation of the problem, collection of volatile data, and intrusion investigation of a network-based crime. The course combines instructor-led discussions and practical exercises to teach methodologies and techniques used during investigations involving networks.

National Computer Forensics Institute – United States Secret Service *Hoover, Al*

03/2021 – 04/2021

Advanced Forensics Training

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AFT is a 10 day course designed to focus on advanced digital forensic data recovery topics, tools, and practices through a combination of lecture, instructor-led demonstrations, and practical exercises.

AFT familiarizes students with:

Advanced data recovery situations and solutions that may occur in a digital forensic environment

Using various data recovery tools and techniques to identify and recover information of investigative relevance from digital media

Understanding the ramifications of techniques such as steganography and encryption in a forensic environment

International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists IACIS *Orlando, Fl*

04/2021 – 05/2021

Mobile Device Forensics (MDF)

IACIS Mobile Device Forensics Training Program is a 36-hour course of instruction, offered over five (5) consecutive days. The program is designed to provide students with intermediate to advanced skills to analyze and interpret data during cell phone investigations. This course goes behind the popular tools currently in use to reveal the sources of cell phone data used to store evidence. At the completion of the course students will be confident in knowing they can gather and explain all data they have located during their examinations

National Computer Forensics Institute – United States Secret Service *Hoover, Al*

09/2021 – 09/2021

Mac Forensic Training (MFT)

MFT is a 10 day course designed to focus on Mac forensic data recovery topics, tools, and practices through a combination of lecture, instructor-led demonstrations, and practical exercises.
MFT familiarizes students with:

Data recovery situations and solutions that may occur in a Mac forensic environment

Using various data recovery tools and techniques to identify and recover information of investigative relevance from Mac digital media

Reporting and presenting evidence found during a Mac forensics investigation.

SANS Institute – GIAC *North Bethesda, MD*

03/2023 – Currently Enrolled

FOR308: Digital Forensics Essentials Course

- Effectively use digital forensics methodologies
- Ask the right questions in relation to digital evidence
- Understand how to conduct digital forensics engagements compliant with acceptable practice standards
- Develop and maintain a digital forensics capacity
- Understand incident response processes and procedures and when to call on the team
- Describe potential data recovery options in relation to deleted data
- Identify when digital forensics may be useful and understand how to escalate to an investigator
- If required, use the results of your digital forensics in court

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SKILLS

Computer Data Acquisition	Magnet Axiom	ISP Extractions
Computer Data Analysis	Forensic Tool Kit (FTK)	JTAG Extractions
Mobile Data Acquisition	Cellebrite Physical Analyzer	Forensic Explorer
Mobile Data Analyst	UFED 4 PC	Magnet Atlas
Database Queries	Cyber Triage	Network Intrusion

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Career and Technology Education Advisory Board with Horry County Schools

Honorary Kentucky Colonel

Employee of the Month June 2001 Horry County Sheriff's Office

Employee of the Quarter Second Quarter 2011 Horry County Sheriff's Office

Employee of the Quarter Third Quarter 2011 Horry County Sheriff's Office

Horry County Employee of the Year Runner Up 2011

Employee of the Quarter Fourth Quarter 2021 Horry County Sheriff's Office

2022 South Carolina Cyber Fraud Task Force Top 10 Examiners (#2)

2022 National Computer Forensics Institute, United States Secret Service Significant Case award.