

Michael R. Anderson - Co-Founder of IACIS

IACIS In The Beginning

I am proud that I was able to help Tom Seipert establish IACIS and to also set up the first training courses and the initial IACIS certification process. IACIS was Tom's vision for the future and through his hard work it became the wonderful organization that it is today. To help Tom in the critical first year I crafted and taught the first IACIS Training Conferences held in Portland, Oregon in 1991 and lined up the key private sector speakers. Following the first training conference, I also crafted the certification program and developed its strict testing protocols. To help Tom realize his vision, I also ran the IACIS Certification Program for the first year. It is interesting that Dean Chatfield became the first IACIS member to be certified and later held the position of IACIS President for several years after Tom's term as IACIS President.

Tom and I worked together very well as a team. I handled the technical side in the creation of IACIS, and Tom handled the organizational and promotional side. In 1988, I distributed copies of my Portland Search Warrant Program to attendees at the annual International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference held in Portland, Oregon. By 1991 that law enforcement software program had been adopted by thousands of law enforcement agencies, and Tom used the list of registered users very effectively in marketing and in promoting the first IACIS Conference. Those leads were crucial in filling the first class and giving IACIS the financial kick start that it needed to grow and prosper.

Professional Background

I served 25 years as a US Treasury Special Agent in federal law enforcement, and in the early 1980's I learned computer programming as a hobby from Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, Oregon where I lived at the time. I later taught computer classes there. While executing a federal search warrant in 1984 in a complex multi-defendant case, we seized a Tandy TRS-80 personal computer. I was very familiar with that computer and was able to decode the encrypted data stored on the computer. Based on the work I did in that case and the criminal evidence that it produced, I was certified in the Oregon US District Court as an expert witness in computer evidence processing. As a result of the evidence in that case, multiple individuals were convicted of finance related federal crimes. I was told at the time that I was the first Special Agent to be certified as an expert in computer evidence related matters.

At the time of that court case, computer use by individuals was in its infancy, and the internet was little more than a theory. Federal law enforcement management realized that

computers were here to stay so they made the decision that they wanted their computer crime experts to be more than just self-educated hobbyists.

As a result, my successes in that case lead to the federal government providing me with graduate level training in computer science at the University of North Texas in 1987. Shortly after completion of that training, I was detailed to Brunswick, Georgia and assigned as a Lead Instructor and Training Course Developer at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC). During that assignment I developed the first federal training courses in Computer Forensics and related presentation as testimony in federal court. That wasn't an easy task, and it took me over a year with the help of several private sector experts, e.g. Peter Norton, Paul Mace, Chuck Guzis, etc. That course development and completion of the beta test classes was completed in 1991,

After my assignment at FLETC, I was assigned to develop AI technology for the automatic identification of criminal financial crimes for the US Treasury Department's Automated Criminal Investigation (ACI) Division based in Covington, Kentucky. That project was very difficult because it hadn't been done before and it took me four years to complete a successful product. That project and its successes were presented to the United States Congress in September of 1995. The technology was also used in the federal Oklahoma bombing investigation and WACO investigation, and I received written thanks and acknowledgment from the United States Undersecretary of the Treasury Department before my retirement from federal service. I retired while being assigned to ACI from February 1991 to April of 1996.

After retirement from federal law enforcement in 1996, I founded a computer forensics-based technology company which I managed from start-up through acquisition by Armor Holdings, a NYSE traded company. I retired for the second time in 2005 after having two wonderful careers.

Life After Retirement From Two Careers

I've loved photography since childhood, and I started my first darkroom at 11 years old. In retirement, I am a fine art photographer, and I like to donate my work to support and fund my favorite charities. My fine art photography has received numerous local, regional, and international awards. Five of those awards relate to my photographs being selected for the prestigious Professional Photographers of America Loan Collection (PPA). In addition to PPA I am also, a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA). I was awarded a Master of Photography Degree from PPA and a Fellow of Photography Degree from the Oregon Professional Photographers Association (OPPA). Currently I manage three Fine Art Study Groups for PSA and I volunteer as a photography judge to support the KATV

Foundation in India, a social welfare organization who helps the needy. I currently use my fine art sales to support Court Appointment Special Advocates (CASA) and their support of abused children and foster children seeking a normal life. Like my efforts in helping Tom Seipert create and manage IACIS in its beginning, I enjoy helping people and charities. It doesn't relate at all to computers so I didn't mention it above, but I was awarded Federal Employee of The Year in 1982 in Oregon for my work in creating and managing a charity that funded hearing related issues for children and adults. Show me a kid or person in need and I will usually step up to help. It was my honor to help Tom Seipert create and successfully launch IACIS which has become a world leader in computer evidence processing and related court testimony certification.