



## **Jim Cole**

Jim Cole retired as a Supervisory Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) after serving almost 35 years in government/law enforcement. Jim was elected as the Chair of the INTERPOL Specialists Group on Crimes Against Children (IPSGCAC) in 2019 having previously served as the Chair of the Victim Identification experts sub-group from 2016 - 2019.

Jim currently serves as the Chief of Law Enforcement Enterprise & Technology at Operation Light Shine where he liaises with law enforcement agencies, non-profit organizations and technology providers. Jim also serves as a Founding Partner in Onemi-Global Solutions, a consultancy focused on serving the child exploitation community.

Jim started his law enforcement career in the United States Army, investigating national security related crimes and then served as a patrol officer, general detective, narcotics detective, violent crime detective and chief of detectives for a municipal police department in Oregon before becoming a special agent with HSI. Jim investigated child sexual exploitation crimes and conducted digital forensics in the HSI Portland, Oregon office where he pioneered a victim-centric forensic and investigative workflow and methodology focused on identifying and rescuing child victims versus just arresting offenders.

In 2010, Jim was recruited to start HSI's Victim Identification Program at the HSI Cyber Crimes Center in Fairfax, Virginia. Jim founded the HSI Victim Identification Laboratory and Program. By setting up, staffing and equipping a state-of-the-art full featured Victim Identification Laboratory, the program would go on to identify and rescue thousands of children around the globe and continues to do so today. Serving as the Section Chief for Victim Identification, Jim pioneered a variety of innovative approaches to Victim Identification working with a variety of tech providers and global law enforcement agencies.

In 2011, Jim co-founded Project VIC, a victim-centric collaborative effort between law enforcement, industry partners and a variety of NGO's with the mission to provide technology, methodologies and workflows to increase efficiencies for law enforcement who seize massive amounts of visual media related to child sexual exploitation investigations. The realized efficiencies allow law enforcement to identify and rescue victims while reducing work stress providing significant mental health benefits.

Jim is considered a subject matter expert on child exploitation, victim identification, digital forensics technology and artificial intelligence. Jim has traveled around the globe to provide training and his expertise to numerous law enforcement agencies, NGO's, INTERPOL, EUROPOL and CPOL. Jim helped develop the first global Victim Identification training program and numerous other courses in the area

of child sexual exploitation. Jim has provided expert testimony in numerous courts around the United States and testified in Kenya for a significant first of its kind criminal case.

While at the HSI Cyber Crimes Center, Jim managed several Research & Development Projects focusing on artificial intelligence aimed at digital image/video processing, natural language processing and biometrics related to digital image/video for child exploitation working with numerous organizations including the Intelligence Advanced Research Project Activity, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Activity, the Federal Bureau of Investigation Operational Technology Division, the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, The National Security Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Geo-spatial Intelligence Agency, the Army Advanced Research Laboratory, the Naval Research Laboratory and many others resulting in numerous advances in the area of media forensics.

In 2018, Jim was selected to serve as a Deputy Chief of Staff for the Executive Assistant Director of Homeland Security Investigations. Jim served as a Cyber and Child Exploitation advisor to the Director and Assistant Directors of Investigative Programs and Domestic Operations. Jim helped steer agency policy and positions on such matters where he was lauded for his work and counsel.

In 2019, Jim was promoted to serve as a Supervisory Special Agent in Nashville, Tennessee where he supervised and coordinated investigations related to Cyber, Child Sexual Exploitation and Global Trade as well as Digital Forensics and Victims Services for HSI in Tennessee and Kentucky.

Jim works closely with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) on victim advocacy and survivor support assisting with the development of best practices for law enforcement encounters with victims of child sexual abuse material. Jim is passionate about educating law enforcement on practicing trauma informed methodologies from operational planning through case outcome.

Jim and his work have been featured in numerous articles, news stories, podcasts and documentaries to include The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, People, CNN, BBC, CBC, USA Today, Government Computer News, SIGNAL Magazine, Police Chief Magazine and various other local market media stories.

In 2021, Jim was a driving force in founding the Inter-agency Child Exploitation and Persons Trafficking (INTERCEPT) Task Force, a multi-agency, multidisciplinary task force utilizing the power of public/private partnerships to enable law enforcement, NGO's and other child protective entities to efficiently fight the battle of child sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Jim has received numerous awards and accolades for his work in the area of victim identification to include Homeland Security Investigations Directors Award for Law Enforcement Excellence, The HSI Executive Associate Directors Award for Innovation in Law Enforcement, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Award, the Government Computer News Agency Award and a Special Commendation from INTERPOL.