2. Criminal Identification
A. Crime Scene Identification

The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and every prefectural police are allocated forensic specialists as well as advanced equipment and crime scene vehicles for identification activities. This enables the police to conduct thorough crime scene examinations and to respond immediately to any case or accident.

B. Fingerprint/Palmprint Identification

Each person has his/her own unique pattern of fingerprints and palmprints that remain unchanged throughout life. Fingerprint and palmprint identification play a vital role in criminal investigations.

The NPA introduced the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) in 1982 to improve the productivity of the matching operation of fingerprints. The current AFIS, which also supports palmprint identification, accumulates information on minutiae (ending points and bifurcations) of fingerprint/palmprint ridges. An inquired minutiae data for fingerprint/palmprint is compared automatically to the registered data in order to select similar fingerprints/palmprints.

Also, AFIS connects all police forces within Japan online, allowing real-time processing of fingerprint/palmprint registrations and inquiries. The NPA has been working on the system for its advancements in order for accurate and prompt criminal investigation.
C. Forensic Identification

The National Research Institute of Police Science (NRIPS) and Criminal Investigation Laboratories (CILs) of the MPD and the prefectural police conduct close analyses and examinations on evidence. In order to identify an individual at a high degree of accuracy by examining minute specimen left at the scenes, DNA profiling is conducted by all CILs.

The NRIPS also established the Training Center of Forensic Science to provide training for CIL specialists to improve and standardize the quality of examination techniques.

3. National Research Institute of Police Science

The NRIPS is a comprehensive research institution to promote the development of science in support of police activities.

The institute has three major missions: research and development; examination and analysis; and technical guidance. Many research and development projects in various fields are conducted with needs of the prefectural police in mind.

The following are recent major research projects:

A. Evaluation of Rapid DNA Analysis Systems

Although DNA typing technologies are valid and reliable, it can be labor-intensive and time-consuming. We are evaluating Rapid DNA Analysis systems which perform DNA extraction, PCR amplification, size separation, fragments detection, and data analysis in a single self-contained platform without human intervention within 90 minutes.