



# CRYPTANALYSIS & RACKETEERING RECORDS UNIT

## What is the Cryptanalysis & Racketeering Records Unit?

We are a specialized unit of the FBI Laboratory that offers three unique capabilities:

### Codebreaking

Breaking coded messages commonly used by prison inmates, street gangs, spies, terrorists, and other criminals to protect communications and/or conceal information. Results have revealed murder hits, weapons stashes, admissions of guilt, and planned criminal activity.

### Records/Ledgers Analysis

Examining ledgers and other records related to criminal activities, such as drug distribution, illegal gambling, loan sharking, commercial sex, and human smuggling. Results have revealed weights of drugs bought/sold, total amounts wagered, interest rates for loans, prices of goods/services, and roles of participants.

### Tattoo/Symbol Analysis

Analyzing tattoos, graffiti, hand-signs, drawings, logos, and symbols have helped establish group and gang affiliations, extremist ideologies, and have assisted in the identification of unknown deceased individuals and victims of human trafficking and child pornography.

## How do I submit items to you?

### Codebreaking

Submit items to [codebreakers@fbi.gov](mailto:codebreakers@fbi.gov). Your email should include contact information and relevant background material, including subject information and when/where each item was recovered.

### Records/Ledgers Analysis

Requires an official request. Please contact us for instructions on how to prepare your request and submit items.

### Tattoo/Symbol Analysis

Submit items to [TAG@fbi.gov](mailto:TAG@fbi.gov). Your email should include contact information and basic facts concerning the image, including when/where each image originated.

## What if my items are in a foreign language?

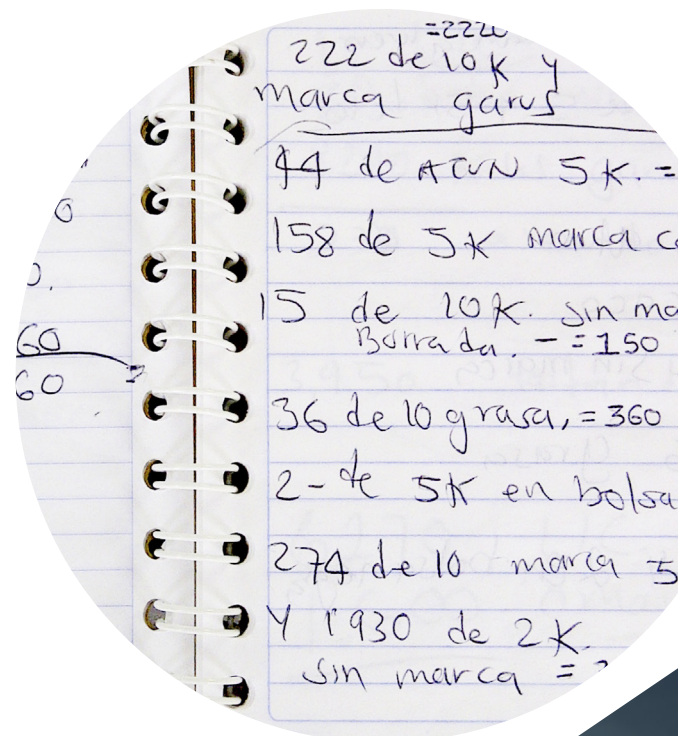
We can work with items in most languages. Some languages may require translation support, which often requires additional time.

## Do you provide expert testimony?

Yes, we will provide expert testimony for a forensic examination where an official FBI Laboratory Report of Examination is issued, and we pay all travel expenses associated with our testimony.

## What can I submit?

- Physical documents such as notes, letters, prison kites, photographs, and email messages, as well as notebooks, ledgers, journals, and calendars
- Digital images of these documents (e.g., JPEG or PDF)
- Audio recordings, video recordings
- Data forensically recovered from computers, tablets, and mobile telephones



Cryptanalysis and Racketeering  
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