**Firearms & Tool Marks Key Terms**

**Abrasion Mark** –A mark produced when one surface slides across another surface **Ballistics** –The study of bullets and firearms

**Barrel** –The long, metal tube that guides a projectile out of a firearm

**Bore** –The interior of a barrel

**Breechblock** –The rear part of a barrel

**Bullet** –The projectile that is released when a firearm is discharged

**Caliber** – **T**he bore diameter of a rifled firearm, usually expressed in hundredths of an inch ormillimeters – for example, .22 caliber or 9 millimeter

**Cutting Mark** –A mark produced along the edge as a surface is cut

**Distance Determination** –The process of determining the distance between the firearm andthe target, usually based on the distribution of powder patterns or the spread of a shot pattern

**Ejector** –The mechanism in a firearm that throws the cartridge or fired case from a firearm

**Extractor** –The mechanism in a firearm that withdraws a cartridge or fired case from thechamber

**Firearm** –A weapon capable of firing a projectile using a confined explosive as a propellant

**Firearms Identification** –A discipline primarily concerned with determining whether aparticular bullet or cartridge was fired by a particular weapon

**Gauge** –The size designation of a shotgun; originally the number of lead balls with the samediameter as the barrel that would make a pound. The only exception is the .410 shotgun, in which bore size is 0.41 inches

**Greiss Test** –A chemical test used to examine patterns of gunpowder residue around bulletholes

**Grooves** –The cut or low-lying portions between the lands in a rifled bore (see Lands andRifling)

**Gunshot Residue (GSR)** –The tiny particles expelled from a firearm when it is fired **Indentation Mark** –A mark or impression made by a tool on a softer surface

**Lands** –The raised portions between the grooves in a rifled bore (see Rifling)

**Muzzle** – **T**he end of the barrel from which the projectile exits

**Pistol** –A handheld firearm

**Revolver** –A pistol with a revolving cylinder

**Rifle** –A firearm that has a long barrel; a long gun

**Rifling** –The spiral grooves etched into the bore of a firearm barrel that spin the projectilewhen it is fired

**Semiautomatic** –A pistol with a clip-fed mechanism that fires one shot per pull of the trigger;the empty cartridge ejects, and the next cartridge advances automatically

**Tool marks** –Impressions, scratches, or abrasions made when contact occurs between atool and another object

**Trajectory** – **A** projectile’spath of flight