

THOMAS JAMES POTTER JR, ACTAR

EXPERIENCE:

Knott Laboratory, LLC

Accident Reconstructionist, April 2026 - Current

Collision Forensics and Engineering

Forensic Collision Reconstructionist / Expert Witness, July 2017 – March 2026

Salt Lake City Police Department

SL County CAR Team Sergeant / Supervisor, November 2011 – August 2021

Emergency Vehicle Operations Lead Instructor, September 2007 – August 2021

Community Intelligence Unit Detective, June 2009 – November 2011

Field Training Officer, October 2001 – June 2009

Lead Traffic Accident Reconstructionist, January 2006 – June 2009

Motor Officer, November 2004 – January 2006

Lead Traffic Accident Investigator, January 2003 – November 2004

Hit & Run Detective, May 2001 – January 2003

Traffic Accident Investigator, January 2001 – May 2001

Patrol Officer, July 1998 – January 2001



REGISTRATION:

Accredited Traffic Accident Reconstruction (ACTAR), Registration No. 2015

ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION:

Mr. Potter is an accredited traffic accident reconstructionist with extensive training and experience. He holds and maintains his reconstruction accreditation through the Accreditation Commission for Traffic Accident Reconstruction. His specific areas of expertise include vehicle collision reconstruction, auto-pedestrian and bicycle reconstruction, motorcycle reconstruction, commercial vehicle crash investigation and analysis, human factors in traffic collisions, vehicle safety systems, vehicle crash data, video analysis and forensic post collision vehicle examination.

Mr. Potter continues to conduct ongoing research with other nationally recognized experts in field and has been published in peer-reviewed literature with focus on vehicle crash data, identifying, quantifying and developing solutions for complex vehicle crash data retrieval and analysis issues. He has served as adjunct faculty for the Weber State University Police Academy, Tooele Technical College, and the Salt Lake City Police Academy teaching basic, intermediate and advanced accident investigation as well as accident reconstruction, emergency vehicle operations, special problems for collision investigations, and vehicle crash data retrieval.

Prior to his expert work in the private sector, he served as a Police Sergeant and Officer with the Salt Lake City Police Department for over 23 years and was the founding member of the county-wide crash investigation team (CAR ~ Collision Analysis Team) which received congressional recognition. During his tenure with the Salt Lake City Police Department, his primary focus was on collision investigation/reconstruction, DUI enforcement/interdiction, Police emergency vehicle operations and commercial motor vehicle safety and enforcement.

Mr. Potter has been utilized as an Accident Reconstruction Consultant / Expert for various Law Enforcement agencies including the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the United States Attorney's Office. Thomas has extensive experience testifying in criminal and civil cases, including providing expert testimony at trial.

TRAINING ENGAGEMENTS:

Mr. Potter has provided training to a broad range of law enforcement agencies at the municipal, county, state, and federal levels within the United States, as well as to international partners. These engagements span numerous jurisdictions - including police departments, sheriff's offices, and state patrol organizations - demonstrating both the scope of his professional reach and sustained demand for his training in collision investigation and related disciplines.

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PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION:

Accredited Accident Reconstructionist
Accreditation Commission for Traffic Accident Reconstruction (ACTAR #2015) 2008 - Current

Active Commercial Driver's License with Doubles, Triples and Motorcycle Endorsements
Utah Department of Motor Vehicles

Motorcycle Driver's License Endorsement
Utah Department of Motor Vehicles

Licensed Master Boat Captain
United States Coast Guard

Transportation Workers Identification Credential
United States Department of Homeland Security

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), Member
International Network of Collision Reconstructionists (INCR), Member
National Association Professional Accident Reconstruction Specialists (NAPARS), Member

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Northwestern University

Traffic Accident Reconstruction I	November 2003
Traffic Accident Reconstruction II	December 2003
Heavy Vehicle Traffic Accident Reconstruction	September 2004
Auto-Pedestrian Collision Reconstruction	March 2006
Accident Reconstruction Refresher	March 2008
Motorcycle Collision Reconstruction	October 2010
Traffic Collision Reconstruction III	November 2011
Human Factors in Traffic Crashes	December 2012
Crash Data Retrieval and Analyst	May 2017

Accident Analysis and Reconstruction, Inc.

Crash Damage Energy Analysis	March 2012
Using Excel in Accident Investigation	October 2012
Auto-Pedestrian Accident Reconstruction	June 2014

Bendix

Comprehensive Air-Braking Systems	March 2021
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Code 4 Public Safety Education Association

Coaching and Counseling	September 2007
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Collision Safety Institute, Crash Data Retrieval

Bosch CDR Technician	September 2007
Bosch CDR Analyst	September 2007
Bosch CDR Technician	December 2008
Bosch CDR Analyst	December 2008
Bosch CDR Technician Trainer	January 2009
Bosch CDR Level I & II Technician Trainer	January 2011
Bosch CDR Analyst	February 2011
Bosch CDR Level I & II Technician Trainer	February 2011
Bosch CDR Level I & II Technician Trainer	January 2014
Bosch CDR Level I & II Technician Trainer	January 2015
Bosch CDR Analyst	November 2015

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Bosch CDR Level I & II Technician Trainer	January 2016
Bosch CDR Analyst	March 2017
Bosch CDR Level I & II Technician Trainer	January 2017
Bosch CDR Level I & II Technician Trainer	January 2018
Bosch CDR Level I & II Technician Trainer	January 2019
Bosch CDR Level I & II Technician Trainer	March 2020
Crash Data Specialists	
Bosch CDR Analyst	June 2014
Get EDR Data.com	
Advanced Troubleshooting & Vehicle Systems	October 2021
Bosch CDR Level I & II Technician Trainer	August 2023
Hyundai Kia – Tesla EDR Operator/Technician	March 2024
The Cadzone, Inc.	
Cadzone/Crimezone Computer Aided Drafting	October 2001
Factual Diagrams.com	
Forensic Mapping	August 2011
Cadzone/Crimezone Computer Aided Drafting	August 2013
Faro Cadzone Computer Aided Drafting	July 2014
Faro Cadzone Recon Calculator & Animation Tools	July 2014
FARO Technologies Inc	
Faro Focus Laser Scanner	June 2014
Faro Focus Laser Scanner	March 2019
Laser Technologies Incorporated	
Laser Operator	January 2001
Laser / Total Station Instructor	September 2001
Mechanical Forensic Engineering Services	
Advanced Motorcycle Accident Crash Analysis	August 2024
National Highway Transportation Administration (NTSB)	
Forensic Vehicle Systems Investigative Mechanic	June 2010
Salt Lake City Police Department	
Basic Police Motorcycle Operations School	June 2004
Samsara	
Vehicle Systems Cameras	June 2024
Transportation Safety, Inc.	
Commercial Vehicle Accident Investigation/ Reconstruction and Tachograph chart analysis.	April 2009

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Union Pacific Police Department

Grade Crossing Collision Investigation

March 2005

University of Utah Mountain West OSHA Education Center

OSHA 511 Occupational Safety and Health
Standards for General Industry

April 2022

Utah Department of Public Safety

Basic Photogrammetry

August 2003

Advanced Accident Investigation

September 2003

Vehicle/Train Investigations

March 2005

Emergency Vehicle Operations Trainer

September 2007

Major Crash Investigations

February 2014

Utah Peace Officer Standards and Training

Certified Police Officer State of Utah

October 1998

Intermediate Accident Investigation

March 2001

Field Training Officer

October 2001

Instructor Development

January 2004

CONFERENCE / SEMINARS:

ARC-CSI Crash Conference

Attendee

June 2007

Attendee / Crash Team Crew Member

June 2014

Attendee / Crash Team Crew Member

June 2015

Attendee / Crash Team Crew Member

June 2016

Attendee / Crash Team Crew Member

June 2017

ARC-CSI Crash Data Retrieval Summit

Attendee / Crash Team Crew Member

January 2014

Attendee / Crash Team Crew Member

January 2015

Attendee / Crash Team Crew Member

January 2016

Attendee / Crash Team Crew Member

January 2017

Attendee / Crash Team Crew Member

January 2018

Attendee / Crash Team Crew Member

January 2019

Attendee / Crash Team Crew Member

January 2020

ARC-CSI CRASH TEAM MEMBER:

Mr. Potter served on the ARC-CSI Cash Team from 2014 – 2020 and has been directly involved in conducting dozens of instrumented crash tests ranging from automobiles, motorcycles, commercial vehicles and pedestrian crash test dummies.

EXPERT TESTIMONY:

As a result of Mr. Potter's investigations and analysis, he has provided expert witness testimony in multiple courts around the country from municipal to federal.

PRESENTER / SPEAKER:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

March 2009

Crash Data Retrieval / Case Law

Idaho State Safety Summit

March 2009

Speaker Crash Data Retrieval & Accident Reconstruction

Utah Prosecutors Council

March 2010

Presenter Crash Data Retrieval & Accident Reconstruction

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PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:

Collision Magazine – 2016 Volume 11, Issue 2
Collision Magazine – 2020 Volume 14, Issue 2

CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR:

State of Utah

Only Bosch Crash Data Retrieval Technician Trainer (Utah) 2013 - Present
Intermediate Collision Investigation
Advanced Collision Investigation
Accident Reconstruction

Get EDR Data.com

2013 - 2025
Forensic Mapping
Cad-Zone CAD Training
ACTAR prep-course
Bosch Crash Data Retrieval Technician Level I & II
Advanced Vehicle Systems for the Crash Data Technician

Salt Lake City Police Academy

2006 - 2021
Motor Vehicle Collision Investigation / Reconstruction
Vehicle Lamp Examination
Laser Speed Detection
Emergency Vehicle Operations

Laser Technologies Inc.

2001 - 2021
Forensic Mapping
Speed Detection

ONGOING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

- Data recovery from catastrophically damaged airbag control modules / event data recorders
- Vehicle sensor interaction with Even Data Recorder
- Light Rail Vehicle Accident Reconstruction
- Light Rail Vehicle Acceleration and Braking
- Human Factors in traffic collisions and officer deadly force responses

MILITARY SERVICE:

Mr. Potter served in the United States Army as Tank Commander, instructor, observer controller and drill sergeant. During his honorable military service, he received several awards and accolades to include being the youngest Tank Commander to win the prestigious US Army Tank Top Gun 1996.

Mr. Potter was awarded the United States Army's highest peace time award for heroism, the Soldiers Medal. In 1994 he rescued a trapped tank crew after their tank overturned into a rapidly rising river at Fort Hood, Texas during a flash flood.

MILITARY HONORS AND AWARDS:

- 1 - Soldiers Medal
- 1 - Distinguished Service Medal
- 5 - Army Commendation Medals
- 8 - Army Achievement Medals
- 2 - Active-Duty Good Conduct Medals
- 3 - National Defense Service Medals
- 1 - Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with Numeral III
- 2 - Reserve Component Achievement Medals
- 1 - Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device
- 1 - Expert Marksman Qualification Badge, Rifle, Pistol, Tank Weapons, and Grenade.

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Inductee into the US Army 3rd Corps Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. Inducted into the 8th Cavalry Regiment Order of the Spur. Recipient of 41 letters of commendation or recognition during his honorable military service.

Honorable Discharged 2005

POLICE AWARDS & HONORS:

Police Meritorious Unit Citation 2013

Chiefs Unit of the Year 2018

Congressional Recognition by Utah representative Chris Stewart 2018

Police Distinguished Unit Citation 2020

Several letters of commendation or recognition.

Honorably Retired in good standing 2021

VOLUNTEER WORK:

City Academy Charter School – Real world math problems 2012

Kearns High School assistant Girls Tennis Coach 2018 - 2020

Project Healing Waters – Instructing Rod Building to Veterans 2012 - Current

Volunteer Investigator Unified Police CAR Team 2025 - Current