You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by Cadre Research Labs. **Virtual Comparison Microscopy (VCM)** is the examination of measured 3D surface topographies using computer software and without physical access to the original specimen. **This study is designed to investigate the effect of scan resolution on an examiner's ability to reach identification conclusions using VCM.** VCM provides several advantages over traditional light comparison microscopy:

- VCM tests eliminate sample to sample variance.
- VCM allows examiners the ability to annotate areas of agreement and disagreement. These marks provide insight into how conclusions were reached.
- VCM does not require the shipping of fired ammunition.
- VCM can be performed on any compatible computer
- Once the study is complete, VCM provides participants the option of comparing their basis for conclusions with published summary maps like that shown at right.

The study will take place in the second half of 2019. Participants will be provided a trial version of the comparison software, training manual, and electronic data files (practice and test scans) for the duration of the study. We need as many trained firearms examiners as possible to participate in the study! The test is open to all casework examiners, both within the United States, as well as International.

Sign up at [http://www.cadreforensics.com/vcmtrs](http://www.cadreforensics.com/vcmtrs)

**References**