

Johnny Graves, ACTAR

Accident Reconstructionist

Vantage Forensics — starting 2026

Valrico, Florida · (813) 361-3430 · johnny@vantage-forensics.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Retired Detective Sergeant (Traffic Homicide) with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and ACTAR-accredited traffic accident reconstructionist (Registration No. 1832). Experienced in fatal and serious-injury crash investigation, evidence preservation, detective supervision, and courtroom testimony. Affiliated with Vantage Forensics (starting 2026) as an Accident Reconstructionist.

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Traffic crash / collision reconstruction
- Traffic homicide and fatal crash investigation
- Evidence collection and preservation for court
- Courtroom testimony and depositions
- Detective supervision and case-file quality review
- Traffic enforcement and crash-related criminal investigation

CURRENT AFFILIATION

Accident Reconstructionist

Vantage Forensics

Starting 2026

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Detective Sergeant, Traffic Homicide Investigation (THI)

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office — Tampa, Florida

September 2021 – October 2023

- Guided, mentored, and supervised detectives to improve performance and case-clearing rates.
- Oversaw criminal cases tied to traffic fatalities and agency-involved crashes; coordinated investigations and prepared evidence and investigators for court.
- Reviewed detective case reports for accuracy, integrity, and completeness.
- Preserved evidence for court and verified integrity of individual items.
- Testified under oath in criminal and traffic cases.
- Trained team members on agency processes, court procedures, and investigation strategies.
- Identified witnesses and collected statements.

Law Enforcement Corporal — Investigations

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office — Tampa, Florida

January 2016 – September 2021

- Oversaw criminal cases, coordinated investigations, and prepared evidence and investigators for court.
- Guided and supervised subordinates; conducted appraisals of seven unit detectives.
- Reviewed detective case reports for accuracy, integrity, and completeness.
- Trained team members on processes, court procedures, and investigation strategies.
- Testified under oath in criminal and civil cases.
- Assigned schedules and leave to maintain coverage.
- Investigated community complaints through interviews and evidence compilation.

Law Enforcement Corporal — Patrol

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office — Tampa, Florida

September 2015 – January 2016

- Investigated and reported crimes, accidents, offenses, and property damage.
- Secured scenes, gathered evidence, and interviewed witnesses.
- Enforced traffic laws (visual observation and radar).
- Supervised a squad of 22 patrol deputies (report review, arrest-affidavit approval, vehicle and uniform inspections).
- Community engagement and collaboration with residents.

Law Enforcement Detective

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office — Tampa, Florida

September 2005 – September 2015

- Crash and crime scene investigation, including traffic-fatal investigations and major-crime assist work.
- Witness interviews, suspect apprehension and interrogation, searches, and report writing.
- Court preparation and sworn testimony.
- Continuous firearms, defensive driving, and arrest-technique training.

Law Enforcement Deputy

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office — Tampa, Florida

February 1996 – September 2005

- Patrol, traffic enforcement, crash and crime response, arrests, and court testimony.
- School Resource Deputy — Rogers Middle School and Newsome High School.
- First aid to accident victims as required.

Reserve Deputy

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office — Tampa, Florida

September 1992 – February 1996

- Assisted full-time deputies; patrol and court testimony.
- Regularly volunteered 60–80 hours monthly (24 required).

EDUCATION

B.A., Criminal Justice — Saint Leo University, Tampa, Florida (2013)

A.A.S., Business Administration — Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, Florida (1988)

Basic Law Enforcement Academy — Hillsborough Community College (1995)

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

ACTAR (Accreditation Commission for Traffic Accident Reconstruction) — Registration No. 1832 (2007–present)

SELECTED HONORS

- Medal of Distinguished Service — 2010
- Outstanding Squad — 2013

SPECIALIZED TRAINING (SELECTED)

Institute of Police Technology and Management (IPTM) / University of North Florida

Traffic Crash Investigation and DUI-related courses (528 hours) — 1998–2022

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service

Advanced Scene Investigation Using Forensic Mapping and CAD (40 hours) — 2000

Florida Public Safety Institute / Tallahassee Community College

Photographic Techniques for Crash Investigation (24); Interviewing Techniques for Crash Investigation (24) — 2011

St. Petersburg College — Southeastern Public Safety Institute

Radar Operator and Laser Transition (52 hours) — 2001

Office of the Attorney General (Florida)

School Resource Basic Training (40); G.A.T.E. Gang Awareness Instructor Course (32); related SRO conference training — 2004–2005

Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association

Advanced DUI and Vehicular Manslaughter seminars (Ocala, Key Largo, Tampa) — 2000–2011

Public Agency Training Council

Kinesic Interview & Interrogation Phase I & II (40 hours) — 2006

Vericom Computers, Inc.

Acceleration and Vericom Familiarization (13 hours) — 2006

CSX Transportation / Operation Lifesaver

Grade Crossing Collision Investigation (8 hours) — 2003

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (internal)

Traffic Homicide and crash investigation updates — 1999–2000

COURTROOM EXPERIENCE

Experienced appearing in court and testifying under oath in criminal, traffic, and civil matters, including deposition-related work in connection with crash and traffic-homicide investigations.