



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

January 5 to February 2, 2004

NIBIN Branch, Firearms Programs Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

Week of 1/5: The Dayton, Ohio, Police Department linked three unsolved armed robberies that occurred over a two-month period to a firearm recovered from a suspect's vehicle when they responded to a domestic violence incident. In the first incident, police responded to a report of a residential burglary and found out from one of the victims that he, his brother and a friend arrived at the home and were approached by two males at the rear of the house who demanded money. The victims ran, but the suspects fired several shots at them. At the scene police found that the telephone lines had been cut and outside light fixtures removed, but no entry had been made into the home. A .40-caliber shell casing was found and imaged into IBIS. Several weeks later police responded to another report of a residential burglary where a female victim had returned home from shopping and saw three males run from the corner of the house. She yelled at them, and two of the suspects turned and fired several shots in her direction. Police found that the telephone lines had been cut and the rear door kicked in. The house had been ransacked and property was stacked near the front door. Shell casings from a .40-caliber and a 9mm handgun were located at the scene and imaged into IBIS. The next day police responded to another report of a residential burglary where the resident returned home and found that the rear door of the house had been forcibly entered. The victim drove to the front of the property to call police and saw his housemate's car being driven through his back yard. The victim tried to block the other car with his and one of the suspects leaned out of the window of the stolen car and fired at the victim as they fled. Police found that the telephone lines had been cut and the house had been ransacked and vandalized. A .40-caliber cartridge casing was recovered and imaged into IBIS.

Week of 1/19: The Columbus, Ohio, Police Department utilized ballistic imaging through NIBIN to link five shooting incidents over a six-week period to a single firearm recovered from a suspect. Police arrived at the first shooting scene in response to a call for shots fired. Cartridge casings were found and imaged into NIBIN. Three days later police responded to a shooting scene where a victim reported that two men got out of a vehicle with pistols and started firing at him. Witnesses corroborated the story. Casings and projectiles were recovered and imaged into NIBIN. Two days later police responded to a call of shots fired and located a juvenile victim. The mother of the victim stated her son was in the hallway of the apartment building when someone began shooting into the building. Witnesses at the scene described the suspect. Shell casings were recovered and entered into NIBIN. A month later, officers responded to shooting incident where the victim said he was standing on the sidewalk when an unknown suspect shot him in the leg. Shell casings were recovered and imaged into NIBIN. On the same day, police responded to another shooting incident and encountered a suspect who had a handgun in his pocket. When the firearm was test fired, it was linked to the four previous shootings.

Week of 2/2: The Columbus, Ohio, Police Department used ballistic imaging through NIBIN to link a firearm found in the possession of a suspect at a shooting scene to four previous shootings over the course of six weeks. Police responded to a call for shots fired in the first incident and recovered a casing and projectile. Three days later police responded to a shooting where two unknown assailants injured a victim. Ballistic evidence was recovered and imaged into IBIS. Two days later police responded to another shooting where a juvenile victim was injured by gunfire. The victim was standing in the hallway of an apartment building when someone began shooting into the building. Ballistic evidence was recovered at the scene and imaged into IBIS. A month later police responded to a shooting scene where the victim said he was standing on the sidewalk when an unknown suspect approached and shot him in the leg. Shell casings were recovered and imaged into IBIS. Later that day police were called to the scene of a shooting and encountered a suspect who was involved in the incident. Police located a handgun in the suspect's pocket. The weapon was test fired and a link to the four previous shooting incidents was made.