



ATF NIBIN Program

Hits of the Week

January 6 to January 20, 2003



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

Week of 1/20: Buffalo, New York, Police Department has experienced success in linking crimes through the use of NIBIN. Officers investigated an assault in which an unknown suspect fired several shots from a handgun, injuring two people and damaging a residence. Two casings were recovered at the scene and submitted for NIBIN entry. Four months later, Buffalo police responded to an incident in which shots were fired at a residence, and recovered two cartridge casings. A month later, during a routine traffic stop, the car's driver fled from police, then was apprehended. Search of the driver revealed that he was in possession of a loaded handgun and three bags of marijuana. Multiple charges were issued against the suspect; his weapon was seized and testfired and the evidence entered into NIBIN. Correlation revealed a potential link to the two previous incidents, and firearms examiners confirmed this link. Multiple charges have been issued against the suspect in the third incident, and the first two cases are being reinvestigated in light of this new information.

Week of 1/13: The Miami Valley, Ohio, Regional Crime Laboratory's use of the NIBIN system helped investigators link a violent criminal to two shooting incidents occurring a few hours apart in different jurisdictions. In the first incident, a 65-year-old woman was injured when fourteen shots were fired through the bedroom window. When Dayton Police Department officers investigated, extensive ballistic evidence was recovered, including seven cartridge casings and seven bullets. A few hours later in Riverside, another shooting took place, involving shots fired at four individuals. Riverside police recovered cartridge casings and a bullet at this scene. Investigative leads helped police identify a suspect in the first incident. After evidence from both incidents was processed at the Miami Valley laboratory, NIBIN correlation revealed the link between the two cases. Firearms examiners compared original evidence to confirm that the same weapon had been used in both crimes. Investigators were then able to connect the suspect in the first shooting to the second shooting as well; he has now been charged in both crimes.

Week of 1/6: In a recent case in Miami, Florida, NIBIN helped ATF and the Miami-Dade Police Department share information effectively, giving investigators a valuable new lead in a murder case. In a shooting in Miami, a dancer was murdered and another person injured. More than thirty casings of different calibers were recovered from the scene; they were submitted to the lab and entered into NIBIN. Detectives attempted to interview the victim's former boyfriend, but he could not be located. As there were no further leads in the investigation, the case was to be placed in the cold case section. A week later, ATF Task Force members arrested a career criminal for felon in possession of a firearm. The seized firearm was entered into NIBIN, where a potential link was found from this weapon to the earlier shooting. Firearms examiners confirmed that the homicide had been committed with this weapon, and that ammunition found inside the firearm was the same type as that found at the scene of the homicide. Further investigation confirmed that the suspect in custody was the former boyfriend of the murder victim.