



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

January 3 to January 17, 2005

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

Week of 1/3: The Charlotte-Mecklenburg (NC) Police Department used the NIBIN system to confirm the ballistic match of a test fire from a .40-caliber pistol recovered during a routine traffic stop to shell casings found at the scene of an armed robbery less than a month earlier. Officers from Charlotte-Mecklenburg responded to a shooting outside a club where an armed suspect in the parking lot approached the victim. The victim attempted to run and the suspect shot at him to make him stop. The suspect then robbed and pistol-whipped the victim. The suspect left in a vehicle with two other males. Police recovered a shell casing and had it entered into NIBIN. Less than a month later, officers from Charlotte-Mecklenburg recovered a .40-caliber pistol while conducting a traffic stop. The driver had no identification and told police he had the pistol in the car console. Officers obtained consent to search the vehicle and found crack cocaine inside the vehicle and a shotgun in the trunk. The pistol was test fired and imaged into NIBIN resulting in the link to the armed robbery a month earlier.

Week of 1/10: The Syracuse (NY) Police Department used the NIBIN system to confirm the match of a 9mm pistol recovered from a suspect during an arrest to ballistic evidence recovered in three shooting incidents over a three-month period. Syracuse Police responded to a shooting scene where the victim told the officers three armed suspects approached him and his girlfriend and demanded entry into the victim's house. The victim refused, ran to the street and was shot in the leg by one of the suspects as they fled. A witness identified two of the suspects. Several 9mm shell casings were found and entered into NIBIN. Three weeks later officers responded to another scene and found a victim who had been shot in both legs by the passenger of a vehicle driving by. One of the victim's friends identified the shooter and stated it was to prevent revenge for a robbery of him and the victim that had been unreported. Police recovered several 9mm casings at the scene and imaged them into NIBIN. Three weeks later police responded to a scene where a vehicle had been hit by gunfire. The driver was a witness in the second shooting. Police recovered several 9mm shell casings and projectiles, which were imaged into NIBIN. More than two months later two subjects wanted on several active felony warrants were spotted in a vehicle. Police pursued and stopped them. During the arrest, police found a 9mm pistol on one of the suspects. The weapon was test fired and imaged into NIBIN resulting in a link to the three shootings. It was also found that the gun had been reported stolen out of New York City.

Week of 1/17: The Detroit (MI) Police Department Crime Laboratory used the NIBIN system to confirm the ballistic match of a 9mm pistol recovered as a result of an investigation into a homicide to shell casings recovered at the scene of a shooting eight months earlier. In the first incident Detroit Police responded to a call of shots fired at a residence. When they arrived, they spoke with two utility workers who went to the residence to shut off the electricity. When they knocked on the door, someone began yelling at them and then they heard several gunshots from the rear of the location. They saw an individual exit the rear of the residence and flee in a vehicle. Police recovered several 9mm cartridge casings and had them imaged into NIBIN. Eight months later, police responded to a report of a shooting at a residence where they found a seven year-old child who had died as a result of a gunshot wound to the chest. Police learned that the suspect shot up the residence in retaliation for an incident at another house where his son was hit in the head with a brick thrown through the window. The suspect told his family he had just shot up the house, wrapped up the gun and hid it. Police received a tip indicating the location of the weapon, a 9mm pistol, which was found, test fired and imaged into NIBIN. The ballistic evidence from the test-fired pistol matched the casings found at the shooting scene eight months earlier. The suspect was arrested at the location of the first shooting and charged with homicide.