



ATF NIBIN Program

Hit of the Week

January 22, 2007

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

Week of January 22, 2007

The Kent County (MI) Sheriff Department using NIBIN linked ballistic evidence that was recovered during a damaged property incident to an arson related incident that occurred two months later. The Kent County Sheriff Department responded to a report of malicious destruction of property. When the officers arrived, they learned from the homeowners that a few days earlier, they were awakened by the sound of multiple gunshots. When they investigated, they did not observe anyone or see anything, until a few days later when they discovered bullet-hole damage to their vehicle. Four shell casings were recovered and submitted for entry into NIBIN. Two months later, Ottawa County (MI) Sheriff Department Deputies were called on the report of arson. When they arrived they observed several unsuccessful attempts had been made to set fire to the house. In addition, the house had bullet hole damage to the front door. The house had been empty and for sale for six months. Investigations revealed that a known suspect had a dispute over a girlfriend with one of the former residents of the house. The suspect confessed to the arson and the shooting and eventually turned over a pistol. The pistol was submitted for test firing and imaged into the IBIS system at the Michigan State Police Department Crime Laboratory. This weapon was a match to the ballistic evidence recovered at the shooting that occurred two months earlier.