



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

March 21 to March 28, 2005

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

Week of 3/21: The Minnesota Bureau of Apprehension Laboratory linked a pistol recovered from a suspect who shot a police officer to a drive by shooting incident a month earlier. The St. Paul (MN) Police responded to a call about a shooting at an intersection and spoke with the three victims who said they were driving home and about to make a turn at the intersection when they heard several gunshots. Two of the rounds went through the windshield of their vehicle. The victims were unable to provide a description of the suspects. Officers recovered numerous shell casings in 9mm, .380-caliber and .25-caliber at the intersection where the shooting occurred and submitted them for NIBIN entry. Nearly a month later, two county deputies assigned to a gang task force were on surveillance looking for a gang member who had escaped from a California prison. He was also being sought for questioning in a multiple shooting incident in Minnesota and for an outstanding warrant in Wisconsin for an armed robbery. The deputies spotted a suspect matching his description along with two other individuals. The deputies identified themselves and ordered the men to stop. They refused and began to run in different directions. One of the men pulled out a handgun and began to fire at the deputies, wounding one of them. Several law enforcement agencies were called to assist in locating the three suspects and spotted one running behind some residences. They observed him throw a handgun onto a balcony as he fled. He was caught, arrested and the handgun was recovered. The two other suspects were caught and arrested after several hours. Police recovered a .380-caliber handgun, several .380-caliber shell casings and two bullets near the scene of the shooting. The handgun and ballistic evidence were submitted for NIBIN entry, resulting in a link to the drive by shooting a month earlier. It was also determined that the handgun was the same gun used to shoot the deputy.

Week of 3/28: The Dallas (TX) Police Department used the NIBIN system to link a firearm recovered during a traffic stop to ballistic evidence collected at the scene of a homicide fourteen months earlier. Dallas Police officers responded to the scene of a shooting at a gas station where they learned the victim had pulled in after being involved in an altercation with several individuals at a nightclub. The suspects followed the victim to the gas station and began shooting at him in his vehicle. Police found numerous spent cartridge casings at the scene in four different calibers, which they submitted for entry into the NIBIN site at the Plano (TX) Police Department. The victim died at a nearby hospital. Fourteen months later Dallas Police stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation and found the driver had an outstanding arrest warrant. During a search and inventory of the vehicle, officers found a pistol in a compartment accessible by the backseat passenger. The passenger said the gun belonged to him. The driver and passenger were placed under arrest. Police submitted the pistol for test firing and entry into NIBIN, which resulted in the link to some of the cartridge casings found at the scene of the homicide fourteen months earlier. One suspect has been arrested and sentenced in the homicide case. The investigation continues to locate other suspects involved in the homicide.