



ATF NIBIN Program

Hits of the Week

April 29 to May 20, 2002



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

Week of 5/20: One victim was injured in a shooting in New Orleans, Louisiana; the victim stated that he did not know and could not identify his attacker. A total of twenty casings were collected at the scene; the casings were determined to have come from two different .40 caliber pistols. Two weeks later, members of the ATF Safe Home Task Force observed the victim of the earlier shooting in possession of a firearm. When they attempted to stop and apprehend him, the suspect pulled his weapon and attempted to shoot at the agents, but his weapon malfunctioned. He was arrested, and the firearm recovered. Using IBIS, a match was discovered between one of the guns used in the earlier shooting and the gun recovered from the shooting victim.

Week of 5/13: By imaging its bullets and casings into NIBIN, the Sheriff's Office in Broward County, Florida, was able to discover that the same gun had been used in a series of five armed robberies. These crimes, which took place in three cities over seven months and resulted in four injuries, were linked through ballistic imaging; also, suspects were linked to the crimes through NIBIN. In addition to four arrests on State charges, the cases are also being pursued on the Federal level, as ATF prepares charges of Hobbs Act violations.

Week of 5/6: Officers of the Los Angeles Police Department responded to a shooting involving two vehicles. After some verbal interaction, occupants of one vehicle fired at least 22 shots at the occupants of another; two victims were shot, resulting in a fatality and a severe spinal injury. Cartridge casings and projectiles were recovered from the scene. Three weeks later, a parole violator was arrested at his residence in Los Angeles. A firearm recovered at the residence, which the parole violator admitted was his, was testfired and imaged into NIBIN. This image correlated favorably with those entered in the drive-by shooting, and was confirmed as a match by firearms examiners. Two months later, a suspect was arrested in connection with a string of armed robberies. The suspect admitted to the robberies, and stated that he had witnessed his cousin, the parole violator from the second crime, commit the shooting. Detectives stated that this case would not have been made without the vital lead provided by NIBIN.

Week of 4/29: IBIS entry of cartridge casings by the Pennsylvania State Police has given Harrisburg Police Department valuable information to use in solving three crimes taking place over the course of a year. In the first, two victims were shot; four cartridge casings were recovered at the scene. Eleven months later, Harrisburg police responded to a report of a man being beaten and shot; no victim was found, but eight casings were recovered and entered into IBIS. A few weeks after the second crime, police responded to a shots fired call, locating two victims. A suspect has been identified in the first crime, and links from it to the other two crimes (discovered through NIBIN) are providing additional leads in the cases.