



GOLDSBORO, N. C. POLICE DEPARTMENT: SAME GUN, DIFFERENT SUSPECTS

MAY 2001



The Goldsboro Police Department in Goldsboro, North Carolina is comprised of about ninety sworn law enforcement officers, serving a city with a population of about 48,000. While the department does not have its own equipment, it has access to NIBIN technology through other local police departments, such as the Greenville, North Carolina Police Department. The Goldsboro Police Department's proactive use of the NIBIN system resulted in investigative leads that stopped a crime spree and removed three violent criminals from the streets of their city.

On January 3, 2001, a subject entered a food store, displayed a firearm and demanded all the money in the store's cash register. After receiving the money, he discharged the weapon to intimidate the victims, though no injuries resulted. A description of the suspect was provided to the police, and a cartridge casing was recovered from the scene and entered into NIBIN.

On January 4, 2001, a subject entered a deli, discharged a weapon into the ceiling and demanded all the money from the cash register. He obtained the cash from the store and fled the scene in a waiting automobile; there were no injuries during the armed robbery. His physical description did not match the description of the perpetrator in the food store robbery. A fired cartridge casing was recovered from the scene and entered into NIBIN.

On January 7, 2001, a subject entered a video store, displayed a firearm and demanded the cash from the register. After receiving the money, he discharged the weapon as he left the store. His physical description did not match either description provided in the prior two armed robberies. A cartridge casing was recovered from the scene and entered into NIBIN.

On January 11, 2001, a Goldsboro police officer on patrol noticed suspicious activity in a car parked at a gas station. The officer observed

the car's occupants attempting to hide items under the seat. When the suspects noticed the officer, they fled in the car. The officer pursued them and, upon stopping their car, observed a magazine for a semiautomatic firearm under the leg of one of the passengers. In the subsequent search of the vehicle, a .25 caliber semi-automatic Beretta handgun was recovered and seized and the driver was charged with carrying a concealed weapon. No other charges were filed at the time of the firearm arrest. The weapon was testfired, and the casing entered into the NIBIN system at Greenville Police Department.

The cartridge casing from the testfire of the confiscated Beretta resulted in a high probability correlation against all three of the casings from the previous three armed robberies. The comparison of the three evidence casings and the testfire casing determined that all were fired from the same weapon: the recovered Beretta firearm.

Following the laboratory confirmation of the firearms match, the Goldsboro Police Department continued their investigation of the armed robbery offenses, but now with suspects linked to the gun used in the offenses. This investigation resulted in the arrest of three subjects; all three were charged in the local court system with multiple offenses, all three were charged in the local court system with multiple offenses, including the armed robbery charges.

The successful closure of the violent armed robbery offenses was provided by the NIBIN system. The NIBIN hit gave investigators a lead that would not have been available in any other way, and followup investigation corroborated the involvement of the three suspects through confessions and witness identifications. The combination of advanced technology and effective police work resulted in the removal from society of three armed and dangerous robbery suspects.