



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

June 20 to July 4, 2005

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

Week of 6/20:

The Illinois State Police Laboratory in Chicago linked a firearm found by a resident of Berwyn (IL) to ballistic evidence found at the scene of an assault in Berwyn eleven days earlier and an aggravated assault five years earlier in Chicago. Chicago Police officers were on routine patrol when they heard several gunshots. Witnesses told the officers that two vehicles were driving by and occupants of the vehicles began to fire at two individuals on the street. Both victims were hit by gunfire. Several cartridge casings and a fired bullet were recovered at the scene and submitted to the Illinois State Police Laboratory for entry into NIBIN. Almost five years later, Berwyn Police were on routine patrol when they were flagged down by a man stating his sister had just called him and said her boyfriend kidnapped her and fired a gun at her. Police went to the location relayed by the victim and told police her boyfriend called and told her to meet him at a fast food restaurant. He accused her of stealing money from him and drove her to another location where he shot at her windshield and threatened to shoot her if she didn't tell him where the money was located. A police car drove by and the suspect got into another vehicle with an associate and left the scene. Police recovered a shell casing at the scene and imaged it into NIBIN. The suspect and his associate were identified and charges filed for kidnapping and attempted murder. No firearm was found. Eleven days later a resident on the same street where the second assault occurred called the Berwyn Police to report a found gun. He was cutting his grass and found the pistol in a plastic bag in the shrubs at his house. The pistol was taken to the Illinois State Police Laboratory in Chicago for test firing and entry into NIBIN, which resulted in links to the assault in Berwyn and the aggravated assault in Chicago.

Week of 6/27:

The Connecticut State Police Laboratory in Meriden used the NIBIN system to link a pistol submitted by the West Haven Police Department for test firing to ballistic evidence collected at the scene of a homicide in New Haven (CT) that occurred five months earlier. New Haven Police were called to the scene of a shooting and found one victim dead and another injured from gunshot wounds. Police recovered spent cartridge casings at the scene and imaged them into NIBIN. Five months later West Haven (CT) Police arrested a suspect on weapons violations. The pistol recovered by police was test fired and imaged into NIBIN, which resulted in a link to the ballistic evidence collected at the scene of the homicide in New Haven.

Week of 7/4:

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg (NC) Police Department's use of the NIBIN system enabled them to link a firearm found at a residence to an aggravated assault and a homicide that occurred a week apart. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police were called to the scene of a shooting at a residence. The victim told officers several suspects shot into her house as a result of an ongoing dispute. Several cartridge casings were located and submitted for entry into NIBIN. A week later, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police responded to a call of a shooting at the same location as the week before. The officers found two victims wounded by gunfire in a drive-by shooting. One victim died later at the hospital. Residents told police that the four suspects in the vehicle were the same ones that shot at the house a week before. Investigators found several cartridge casings and a pistol near the victims and several cartridge casings in the roadway where the vehicle drove by. The ballistic evidence was submitted for entry into NIBIN. A firearms examiner at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Crime Laboratory determined that shell casings fired by occupants of the vehicle matched those found at the shooting the week before. Investigators were able to ascertain the identities of the four suspects who were arrested and charged with murder. Five months later, a resident of Charlotte found a semi-automatic pistol in a home and turned it into police. The pistol was test fired and imaged into NIBIN, resulting in a match to the evidence found at both shootings and attributed to the suspects' firearm.