



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

July 6 to July 19, 2004

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

Week of 7/6: The Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Police Department linked a firearm recovered in a traffic stop to a shooting nine months earlier by using ballistic imaging through NIBIN. The victim in the first incident was shot in the street outside a local bar after getting into a fight with the suspect. Responding officers recovered cartridge casings at the scene and imaged them into NIBIN. Approximately nine months later, the Police recovered a stolen pistol during a traffic stop. The pistol was test fired and imaged into NIBIN resulting in the link to the shooting outside the bar. The suspect was arrested and charged with firearms violations.

Week of 7/12: Use of ballistic imaging through NIBIN and the vigilance of an off-duty police officer helped the Detroit, Michigan, Police Department link a .40-caliber pistol taken from a fugitive to a murder that occurred less than a month before. The murder victim was sitting in a vehicle outside a liquor store when two men approached and began firing handguns at him. Police recovered cartridge casings from the two weapons and had them imaged into NIBIN. Twenty-two days later an off-duty Detroit police officer was at a nightclub and recognized a fugitive wanted on three counts of Assault with Intent to Commit Murder. He knew the suspect was known to carry concealed weapons and contacted the Detroit Police for assistance in making the arrest. Officers arrived and approached the suspect and another man at a table in the club. While placing the suspect under arrest a .40-caliber handgun fell out of his waistband. The pistol was test fired and imaged into NIBIN resulting in the link to the murder near the liquor store. The suspect was arrested based on two outstanding warrants for 1st Degree Murder and three counts of Assault with Intent to Commit Murder. He was also charged with carrying a Concealed Weapon.

Week of 7/19: The New Orleans, Louisiana, Police Department linked a handgun recovered from a suspect in an area known for high crime and drug activity to a homicide 43 days earlier. Police responded to the scene of a shooting where they found a victim suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Responding officers recovered spent cartridge casings and bullets and had them imaged into NIBIN. Forty-three days later officers observed a suspicious individual while patrolling a high crime area. The suspect began to flee and the officers pursued him. The suspect aimed a handgun at one of the officers who fired in his direction. The suspect was arrested, the firearm recovered and test fired and matched to the evidence recovered in the homicide.