



ATF NIBIN Program

Hits of the Week

July 11 to July 18, 2005

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

Week of 7/11:

The Detroit (MI) Police Department used the NIBIN system to link a pistol recovered during a traffic stop to ballistic evidence recovered approximately three months earlier. In the first incident, Detroit Police responded to a report of a robbery in progress. The four victims told police that they were awakened by knocking at the door. One of the victims recognized the two males at the door and allowed them to enter. The two suspects produced guns and announced a robbery. One of the victims was pistol whipped and three shots were fired into the walls of the house. When the suspects became nervous, they fled. Police recovered three spent shell casings at the scene and submitted them for entry into NIBIN. Over three months later, Detroit Police arrested a male suspect during a traffic stop. During the arrest police recovered a handgun, which was submitted for entry into NIBIN. A firearms examiner at the Detroit Police Department Crime Laboratory confirmed that the pistol recovered during the traffic stop matched ballistic evidence recovered at the scene of the attempted robbery more than three months earlier.

Week of 7/18:

The Houston Police Department Firearms Laboratory matched a test fire from a pistol seized during the course of a traffic stop to ballistic evidence recovered in a homicide case a month earlier by using the NIBIN system. The victim of a homicide was discovered floating in a bayou by neighborhood children playing in a park. Investigators found that the victim had been shot several times and the medical examiner was able to recover a bullet from the body and a spent shell casing from inside the blanket in which the body was wrapped. Both pieces of ballistic evidence were imaged into NIBIN. The investigation revealed some unusual circumstances. The victim was last seen five days before the discovery of her body when she dropped off friends after spending the day at the beach. Two days later the victim's vehicle was used by suspects in the attempted robbery of a pawn shop in Houston. An off duty police officer and the pawn shop owner exchanged gunfire with the suspects during the robbery. The suspects attempted to flee in the stolen vehicle, but one of the robbers was killed and the others left the vehicle behind. Approximately four weeks later, a police officer on patrol saw a suspect driving without a seat belt. He stopped the vehicle and noticed a strong odor of marijuana coming from inside. The officer found that the driver had no operator's license and he and his two passengers were all displaying gang signs. After securing all three occupants in the patrol car, a search of the suspect vehicle was conducted. Officers found a loaded pistol under the driver's seat and some marijuana in the back of the car. The pistol was submitted to the Houston Police Department Firearms Lab for test firing and entry into NIBIN, which resulted in a match to the ballistic evidence recovered in the homicide case.