



ATF NIBIN Program

Hits of the Week

August 8 to August 15, 2005

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

Week of 8/8:

The Albuquerque (NM) Police Department's use of the NIBIN system enabled them to link a recovered firearm to five violent shooting incidents that occurred over the course of less than a month in the Albuquerque area. The linked incidents began at the scene of a call of shots fired where police found two victims suffering from several gunshot wounds. One of the victims told police that a dark colored SUV with four occupants pulled up and one of the passengers got out and asked him where he was from. The victim identified himself with a gang affiliation and then one of the other passengers got out of the vehicle and opened fired on both victims. Officers recovered several cartridge casings at the scene and submitted them for entry into NIBIN. Six days later Albuquerque Police responded to a call for a drive-by shooting and found a victim who had been shot in the head. A witness told police he saw a dark colored SUV following the victim and then heard shots fired. Investigators recovered cartridge casings at the scene and submitted them for entry into NIBIN. An hour later police responded to another drive-by shooting scene at the parking lot of an apartment complex. No victims were located, but numerous cartridge casings were found at the scene and submitted for NIBIN entry. Approximately five hours later Albuquerque Police responded to another call of a drive-by shooting near the scene of the first incident. A victim told police she heard gunshots earlier in the morning and then found a bullet hole in her vehicle when she came out. Police found cartridge casings at the scene and submitted them for NIBIN entry. Later that evening police responded to a shots fired call at a convenience store. A victim told police he was driving in front of the store when a dark SUV and another vehicle engaged in a gun battle. The victim's tire was hit by gunfire and the two vehicles sped away. Police found numerous shell casings and then were called to the scene of a vehicle accident nearby where one of the cars matched a description of the dark SUV. The officers found a dark SUV on the sidewalk with two tires flat. Nearby residents said they heard the accident and saw four individuals get out of the vehicle and flee the scene. A cartridge casing was found near the vehicle and submitted for NIBIN entry. Sixteen days later another shooting from a vehicle was reported and police recovered several cartridge casings for entry into NIBIN. Entry of ballistic evidence from all five shootings was linked by NIBIN. Three months later a task force comprised of Federal and local law enforcement executed a search warrant at a residence and found a pistol. The firearm was test fired and entered into NIBIN, resulting in a link of the pistol to the evidence collected at the five shooting scenes in Albuquerque. Two suspects, both convicted felons, were arrested and charged with firearms violations.

Week of 8/15:

The St. Louis (MO) Police Department linked a firearm recovered from a suspect during a narcotics arrest to ballistic evidence collected at the scene of an aggravated assault a month earlier. Officers were dispatched to the scene of a shooting where the victim was assaulted and shot by an unknown suspect. The victim suffered several gunshot wounds. Police found several shell casings at the scene and submitted them for entry into NIBIN. A month later members of an anti-crime task force attempted to arrest a suspect who was dealing drugs. The suspect tried to escape police and was seen throwing a firearm to the ground as the officers chased him. The suspect was caught and arrested, and the firearm was recovered, test fired and imaged into NIBIN for comparison. A firearms examiner at the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department laboratory confirmed the match of the test fired pistol to the evidence found at the scene of the assault a month earlier.