



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

August 16 to August 30, 2004

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

Week of 8/16: The Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina, Police Department linked a firearm recovered from a suspect in a narcotics investigation to a shooting nine months earlier. In an unusual twist, the suspect arrested in the narcotics case was one of the victims of the shooting linked to his gun. Police arrived at a residence and located two victims and approximately 75 individuals inside and outside the house. One witness told police a suspect began firing at one of the victims and the victim returned fire. The victim's firearm was not located, but police recovered .40-caliber and 9mm cartridge casings for entry into NIBIN. Nine months later police stopped a suspect in a narcotics investigation and found cocaine and two firearms. The .40-caliber pistol taken from the suspect was test fired and imaged into NIBIN, resulting in a link to the earlier shooting. The suspect was charged with State narcotics violations. Federal narcotics and firearms violations are being pursued.

Week of 8/23: The Chicago Police Department's submission of ballistic evidence to the Illinois State Police Laboratory resulted in linking cartridge casings recovered at the scene of a homicide to those found four months later at the scene of another shooting. Witnesses at the scene of the homicide told police the occupants of a passing vehicle shot the victim. Police recovered 9mm casings and submitted them for imaging into NIBIN. Four months later Chicago Police responded to the scene of a shooting where the victim said he was riding his bicycle when a suspect pulled up in a vehicle and began shooting at him. The victim was able to provide a description of the vehicle to police. The vehicle was stopped a short time later and searched. A spent 9mm cartridge casing was recovered in the vehicle and several at the scene of the shooting for imaging into NIBIN. Police traced the path the vehicle took and recovered a 9mm semi-automatic pistol. The firearm was test fired and imaged into NIBIN. The ballistic evidence submitted from the test fired pistol and the shooting scene were linked to the casings recovered at the homicide four months earlier.

Week of 8/30: The Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Police Department used the NIBIN system to link casings recovered in the shooting of a witness in a drug case to cartridge casings recovered three months earlier at the scene of a residential burglary. Police were called to a residence where unknown suspects had broken into the home, ransacked it and stole money from the victim's purse. During the burglary, the victim's dog was shot. Police found a spent cartridge case and an unexpended round at the scene and imaged them into NIBIN. Three months later a prosecution witness in a drug trafficking case was getting into a car with her children when two suspects walked up and began shooting at her. Witnesses at the scene were able to identify one of the shooters. Cartridge casings were recovered at the scene and imaged into NIBIN resulting in the link to the evidence recovered in the residential burglary. The identified suspect was arrested a month later.