



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

August 11 to August 25, 2003



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

Week of 8/25: Imaging through NIBIN assisted the Chicago Police Department in linking two previous armed robberies to a suspect arrested at the scene of a third robbery. In the first incident, two suspects entered a liquor store wearing ski masks and demanded that the clerk open the register. The clerk gave the suspects the money from the register. As the suspects fled one fired a shot by the front door of the store leaving a 9mm casing behind. The casing was entered into NIBIN. Eleven days later a suspect entered a cleaners, announced that the store was being robbed, and fired a shot toward the back of the shop. The suspect could not open the cash register and fled. A 9mm casing was found and entered into NIBIN. Five hours later three suspects entered a barbershop, robbed the patrons, and ordered everyone into the rear of the store. One of the victims was an off-duty police officer. The off-duty officer drew his weapon and grabbed one of the suspects. Another suspect aimed his gun at the officer. Fearing for his life, the officer fired his weapon at the armed suspect. The remaining two suspects attempted to leave the store, but the front door was locked. The suspects laid down on the floor and the armed suspect dropped his weapon. The recovered 9mm weapon was test fired and imaged into NIBIN linking the two previous armed robberies to the suspect in the attempted robbery at the barbershop.

Week of 8/18: The use of NIBIN helped the Boston Police Department link a stolen firearm recovered during a search warrant to the shooting of a passenger in a vehicle ten days earlier. Police responded to a call for a shooting at a car where a passenger was shot in the face. The driver heard gunshots and saw that one of his passengers had been injured. The driver told police that he saw a white car come up behind him and then turn onto another street. Several hours later police received a report from a woman who found a bullet hole and a spent bullet in her living room. The woman's residence is located near the shooting of the vehicle. Ballistic evidence was recovered from the vehicle and the home and imaged into NIBIN. Ten days later, police executed a State search warrant on a residence and recovered two stolen firearms and drugs. Test firing of the firearms produced the link to the shooting of the passenger in the vehicle. The suspect was arrested and charged with State firearms and drug violations.

Week of 8/11: Ballistic evidence entered into NIBIN assisted the Denver Police Department in linking a .40 S&W caliber pistol taken from a suspect in a carjacking to five previous shooting incidents. All six crimes occurred within a 40-day period. The shooting spree began when officers responded to a call for shots fired and found that two suspects had shot at each other across a street. Both suspects fled the area. Police recovered several .40 S&W caliber casings. Ten days later Denver Police responded to a drive by shooting into a residence and recovered several .40 S&W caliber casings. Four days later officers responded to a shooting at a residence where the victim had been in an altercation with an unknown subject. Minutes later a vehicle stopped in front of the house and the subject shot at the victim. The shooter fled the scene before police arrived, and more .40 S&W caliber casings were recovered and imaged into NIBIN. Eleven days later police responded to two shootings into occupied dwellings that occurred just minutes apart, and recovered more .40 S&W caliber casings. The final incident involved a carjacking at gunpoint. As officers pursued the vehicle, the two suspects were involved in three accidents. When the suspects abandoned the vehicle, the Denver Police arrested them. A .40 S&W caliber pistol was found in the possession of one of the suspects. Test firing of the pistol and entry of the ballistic evidence into NIBIN resulted in the links being made to the five previous shootings. Numerous State firearms charges have been filed against the suspects, and Federal prosecution is also being considered.