



# ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

September 6 to September 20, 2004

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

**Week of 9/6:** The Columbus, Ohio, Police Department Crime Laboratory used the NIBIN system to confirm the ballistic match of a 9mm pistol recovered from the passenger of a vehicle identified in a drive-by shooting to 9mm cartridge casings recovered at the scene of another drive-by shooting 17 days earlier. A Columbus Police Officer witnessed a drive-by shooting where a suspect in a vehicle was shooting at a residence. Several occupants of the residence came out and began returning fire. The suspect in the vehicle was chased and apprehended a short distance from the shooting. Two firearms, including a .30-caliber machinegun, were recovered. Cartridge casings from three separate firearms were recovered at the residence, including a 9mm casing, and imaged into NIBIN. No suspects were arrested at the residence. Police responding to the second drive-by shooting stopped a vehicle matching the description given by witnesses. The officers saw the backseat passenger bend down out of their sight. After securing the occupants outside the vehicle, they located a 9mm pistol under the front passenger seat. Cartridge casings were recovered at the scene of the shooting and the 9mm pistol was test fired and entered into NIBIN. The casings and test fire were linked to evidence recovered at the previous drive-by shooting. Charges are pending.

**Week of 9/13:** The Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Police Department used NIBIN to link a 9mm pistol recovered from suspects in a narcotics case to ballistic evidence found at a shooting scene two days earlier. Police responded to a call and found an unoccupied car in the street with the driver's door open. Officers found 9mm shell casings on the street and several baggies of marijuana in the car. No victims or witnesses could be located and police later determined the car was rented in Michigan. Two days later police made an undercover purchase of drugs from a suspect. The suspect fled to a residence when officers tried to arrest him. The officers went to the residence and during the search recovered a 9mm pistol, large pieces of crack cocaine, and a bulletproof vest. The pistol was test fired and entered into NIBIN, resulting in the match to the shooting scene two days earlier.

**Week of 9/20:** The Michigan State Police at Bridgeport used NIBIN to link a pistol recovered during a traffic stop to a shooting incident ten months earlier involving alleged gang members. Saginaw (MI) Police responded to a report of gunfire outside a Firefighters Hall where nearby residents showed police damage to their homes from stray shots. Police located an unoccupied vehicle that struck a telephone pole and recovered several spent shell casings from inside the vehicle. Police also recovered numerous shell casings outside the Hall and residences. The evidence was imaged into NIBIN. Ten months later, Michigan State Troopers were on patrol when they saw a vehicle disregard several traffic signs. After stopping the vehicle, the Troopers observed the occupant of the rear passenger seat reach down near the floor and then begin to slide from the passenger side to the driver's side of the vehicle. The Troopers saw a pistol just under the front passenger seat. The passenger was arrested and charged with several firearm violations including felon in possession of a firearm. The pistol was test fired and imaged into NIBIN resulting in the link to the evidence collected at the shooting scene outside the Firefighters Hall.