



ATF NIBIN Program

Hits of the Week

September 16 to October 7, 2002



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

Week of 10/7: Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina, Police Department officers responded to the scene of a double murder, finding two victims in a house. The two women in the house claimed that they were asleep during the murders; cartridge casings from firearms of multiple calibers were recovered at the scene, as well as one bullet. This ballistic evidence was imaged into NIBIN. Four days after the murders, a vehicle previously reported stolen was recovered, and a .38 special handgun discovered in the vehicle. When the weapon was testfired and the bullets and cartridge casings entered into NIBIN, correlation revealed the link from the recovered weapon to the bullet recovered at the scene of the murders. Investigators have since used the link to develop additional leads in the case, and four arrest warrants have been issued in the murders.

Week of 9/30: Through use of NIBIN at its Meriden laboratory, the Connecticut State Police have received valuable intelligence to assist in solving drug-related crimes. NIBIN helped investigators discover that four shootings in the city of Hartford over forty-two days had been committed with the same firearm. This link, along with witness testimony, has enabled investigators to link specific automobiles to the shooting, and is providing further leads toward identifying the shooters. Though witnesses in some of the cases are uncooperative, investigators have solid information, thanks to the ballistic information. Investigations continue in the cases.

Week of 9/23: Linking multiple crimes together can provide valuable intelligence, as multiple NIBIN hits recently experienced by the Los Angeles Police Department illustrate. In the first incident, a group of assailants fired into a crowd, killing one person and injuring four more. The victims and witnesses from the neighborhood were frightened and did not cooperate with police. Officers recovered bullet and cartridge casing evidence, and representative samples of the evidence were entered into the department's NIBIN system. A week later, a man was shot and killed in front of an apartment complex. Officers responding to the scene collected cartridge casings for IBIS entry. Correlation revealed a potential link to the shooting a week earlier, a link that was confirmed by firearms examiners. Though these crimes were linked to the same firearm, a lack of witness testimony or identified suspects meant that additional information would be necessary. Two weeks later, the second hit on the case gave police more information. A patron in a sports store attempted to pay for merchandise with a counterfeit \$100 bill. When Los Angeles police responded, they arrested the suspects, and seized multiple firearms. These weapons were testfired and the evidence entered into IBIS; the correlation results indicated a link from this recovered weapon to the earlier "hit" between the two shootings. Firearms examiners confirmed that all three crimes were committed with the same firearm. Investigations continue in the cases.

Week of 9/16: The Indiana State Police lab at Ft. Wayne has found connections among a string of violent incidents using the NIBIN program. In the first incident, Marion Police Department officers responded to a call of shots fired. No suspects were identified, but cartridge casings were recovered from the area in front of a residence. A week later, officers from the Marion Police Department responded to the scene of a fight in a parking lot, where an attempted murder had taken place. A suspect had fired numerous shots from a car at two intended victims. The suspect's brother was driving the car. Less than an hour after the attempted murder, Marion PD officers responded to a shots fired call at a residence. Upon arriving, they learned that four people had entered the residence and demanded money, believed to be payment for a drug debt. The suspects fired their weapons numerous times while in the residence, and four cartridge casings were recovered at the scene. Evidence from all three cases was entered into NIBIN; the resulting correlation highlighted possible links among them, later confirmed by firearms examiners. Two suspects have been arrested in the second incident, and investigations continue in the other incidents.