



ATF NIBIN Program

Hits of the Week

September 19 to October 3, 2005

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

Week of 9/19:

A routine traffic stop by the St. Paul (MN) Police Department turned up a firearm linked by NIBIN to a shooting twelve days earlier involving two victims. St. Paul officers responded to a call to interview a gunshot victim at a local hospital. The victim told police he was walking to his car with friends after leaving a restaurant when he saw a vehicle drive by with the back window rolled down. He then heard gunshots and was struck in the head by a bullet. The victim's wound was non-life threatening. He was able to describe the vehicle to police and provide a possible suspect name. A short time later, police were sent to another hospital to interview a second victim who had been shot in the same location near the restaurant. The second victim told police he saw the same vehicle drive through the parking lot as he was exiting his car and walking toward the restaurant. He then heard someone yell from the vehicle, heard gunfire and realized he had been shot. The victim told police several people were shooting from the vehicle. Investigators at the crime scene found shell casings from four different caliber firearms in the parking lot and submitted them for entry into NIBIN. Twelve days later St. Paul Police stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. During the stop the driver was searched for weapons and the officers recovered a bag of marijuana and a loaded gun magazine from his pocket. The suspect was asked the whereabouts of the firearm for the magazine and was told the gun was at his cousin's house. He then told police the gun was under the driver's seat in the car. A female passenger in the vehicle told police she saw the suspect take the gun out of his pocket and put it under the driver's seat as he was being pulled over for the traffic violation. Officers located a pistol under the driver's seat, arrested the suspect and submitted the firearm for test firing and entry into NIBIN. A firearms examiner at the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Crime Lab in St. Paul confirmed the match of the test fire from the recovered pistol to one of the pieces of evidence located at the scene of the shooting twelve days earlier.

Week of 10/3:

The Baltimore (MD) Police Department linked a handgun found on a burglary suspect to evidence collected at the scene of a homicide four months earlier. Baltimore Police responded to the scene of a shooting in a residential area and located a male victim dead as a result of multiple gunshot wounds. Investigators recovered several shell casings and a projectile at the scene and submitted them for entry into NIBIN at the laboratory. Four months later Baltimore Police arrested a suspect for the burglary of a residence and found a handgun and ammunition on his person. The gun was test fired and imaged into NIBIN for comparison, which resulted in matching the ballistic evidence collected in the homicide case to the handgun.