



# ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

November 4 to November 25, 2002



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

**Week of 11/25:** In a recent case in North Carolina, two armed robberies have been linked by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's participation in NIBIN. Two suspects, one armed with a handgun, robbed a convenience store. When officers responded to the scene, they recovered a spent casing and some bullet fragments, and sent them to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Crime Laboratory for IBIS entry. Five weeks later, three suspects robbed a drugstore, shooting and wounding one of the employees. Ballistic evidence including bullet fragments and two spent cartridge casings was recovered at the scene, and this too was entered into IBIS. Correlation suggested a potential link between the two cases, which was later confirmed by firearms examiners. In part because of the ballistic link between the two crimes, the suspects identified in the first armed robbery have been linked to the second; investigations are continuing.

**Week of 11/18:** NIBIN has assisted the Virginia Division of Forensic Services in identifying suspects in a homicide. After a homicide in Richmond, police recovered bullets and cartridge casings from the scene and the victim, and submitted them for NIBIN entry. Two months later in Richmond, a traffic stop was conducted on two individuals, and some drugs and a firearm were seized from them. The seized firearm was testfired and the resulting evidence entered into NIBIN. Correlation revealed a potential link to the homicide two months earlier. After examining the original evidence in the cases, firearms examiners confirmed the link. The car's two passengers are now potential suspects in the homicide.

**Week of 11/11:** The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI) has discovered a potential link from a violent offender to an armed robbery and shooting. Raleigh Police Department officers investigated an incident in which a victim was robbed and shot outside his apartment. Investigators recovered a .25 caliber cartridge casing at the scene and submitted it to the NCSBI for imaging. Four months later, an armed robbery took place at a gas station in Raleigh. Officers set up a perimeter around the scene, and stopped a subject fitting the description of the robber. Before interviewing the suspect, police conducted a patdown search for their safety, and discovered a .25 caliber pistol with an altered serial number. The suspect was arrested and charged with carrying a concealed weapon; the firearm was seized and sent to NCSBI for testfiring and IBIS entry. Correlation highlighted the possibility of a link between the recovered weapon and the shooting incident; this link was confirmed by firearms examiners. After the NIBIN link was made, investigators were able to discover an additional potential connection between the crimes: the suspect in the second incident matched the description of the suspect in the first. The suspect has been charged in the shooting, and is being investigated in five additional robberies.

**Week of 11/4:** Officers from the Stockton, California Police Department investigated a shooting; a fifteen-year-old had been shot and killed while sitting in a vehicle. Investigating officers collected cartridge casings from the scene, and submitted them for IBIS entry. Six weeks later, Stockton police executed a search warrant at a residence, arresting the occupant for narcotics and firearms violations and seizing four firearms. The seized weapons were submitted for testfiring and IBIS entry. Correlation revealed the potential link between the weapon seized at the residence and the shooting; firearms examiners compared the original evidence to confirm the hit. Later, the person arrested at the residence gave police the name of a fellow gang member who had told him that he committed the homicide, and given him the gun for safekeeping. Murder charges are now pending against the shooter.