



ATF NIBIN Program

Hits of the Week

November 14 to November 28, 2005

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

Week of 11/14:

The NIBIN system was used by the Houston (TX) Police Department to link one of nine firearms seized during a drug investigation to ballistic evidence recovered in a gang shooting almost three years earlier. In the first incident, members of a street gang were standing on the sidewalk in front of a residence when members of another gang drove up in a vehicle. A bottle was thrown at the vehicle as it passed. The vehicle turned around and its occupants began firing a shotgun at the gang members standing in front of the residence. Several minutes later, the vehicle returned and the two gangs engaged in a confrontation during which one of the gang members was shot in the chest. Police arrived at the scene, collected shell casings and submitted them to the Houston Police Department Firearms Lab for entry into NIBIN. Nearly three years later, local and federal law enforcement searched at a residence and found a large sum of cash, some drugs and nine firearms. The weapons were submitted to the Houston Police Department's lab for test firing and entry into NIBIN, which resulted in one of the pistols linking to the ballistic evidence collected at the scene of the gang shooting three years earlier.

Week of 11/21:

The Henrico County (VA) Police Department linked one of three weapons seized during a traffic stop to an aggravated assault that occurred seven months earlier by using the NIBIN system at the Virginia Division of Forensic Science in Richmond. Henrico County Police were called to a report of a shooting where the victim said he was driving his vehicle with two passengers inside and noticed a vehicle following him. The victim said one of the occupants of the suspect vehicle began shooting at his car and he sustained a gunshot wound to his back. Police collected spent shell casings at the location of the shooting and submitted them for entry into NIBIN. Seven months later, a Henrico County Police officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. Before the vehicle stopped, the officer noticed the two passengers bending over in their seats. He removed the three occupants of the vehicle and found a pistol, two revolvers and some controlled substances in the vehicle. Both passengers were juveniles. All three weapons were test fired and submitted for entry into NIBIN. The test fire from the recovered pistol matched the ballistic evidence submitted from the aggravated assault seven months earlier.

Week of 11/28:

The Battle Creek (MI) Police Department linked a gun found in the vehicle of a suspect to two previous shooting incidents, including a homicide, by using the NIBIN system. Battle Creek Police responded to a report of shots fired, and upon arrival could not locate any victims, suspects or witnesses. The officers did recover spent shell casings at the scene and submitted them for entry into NIBIN. Two days later Battle Creek Police responded to a report of a murder at a residence and found a male victim on the floor of a bedroom. The victim's brother told police two suspects came to the house and he hid in one of the bedrooms. The witness said he heard gunshots and then found his brother lying on the floor. The officers located several spent shell casings and fired bullets in the floor. The casings and bullets were submitted for entry into NIBIN. Approximately two weeks later Battle Creek Police arrested a suspect for traffic and drug violations. While searching the suspect's vehicle, they found a pistol inside the car. The gun was submitted for test firing and entry into NIBIN, which resulted in a match to the two previous shootings.