



# ATF NIBIN Program Hit of the Week

April 28 – May 5, 2008

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

## **Week of April 28, 2008**

The Delaware State Police used the ATF NIBIN ballistic imaging system to link a homicide shooting, “cold case”, to the firearm and suspect in a shooting in Chester, Pennsylvania. The Delaware State Police investigated the homicide shooting death of a male found in a hotel room in Wilmington, DE. Shell casings were collected at the crime scene and entered into the NIBIN database as evidence. The evidence casings were linked by NIBIN to evidence casings entered into the NIBIN database three months later, by the Pennsylvania State Police from a Chester PA. shooting. The Delaware State Firearms Examiner traveled to Pennsylvania where he compared the ballistic evidence from both crime scenes and confirmed the positive match between the two cases. The known suspect in the Chester shooting was then linked by DNA evidence and witnesses to the deceased homicide victim in Wilmington. The suspect is currently being held on charges of murder and firearm violations in the Delaware case and is pending criminal trial on those charges. Until the two shooting cases were linked by the NIBIN database, the Delaware murder case was an open investigation with no investigative leads.

## **Week of May 5, 2008**

The Detroit Police Department using NIBIN linked evidence recovered during two car jackings to an arrest of a person in a home invasion. Officers from the Detroit Police Department were dispatched to an apartment complex regarding a car jacking. The officers learned from the victims that a vehicle pulled up with two male suspects with a handgun and ordered the victims out of their vehicle. While taking the victim’s vehicle, the suspect fired a few rounds at them. Two shell casings were recovered at the scene and submitted for entry into NIBIN. One day later, Detroit Police Department reported another car jacking. Two victims stated that while one was parking the car, he was approached by a suspect who was armed with a gun. The suspect ordered the victim to flee and leave the vehicle. The victim complied and the suspect drove away with his vehicle. One shell casing was recovered from the scene and submitted for entry into NIBIN. Seven days later, Detroit Police Department was responding to another car jacking offense, when they observed a suspect in the victim’s vehicle. The suspect crashed the vehicle and attempted to flee on foot. Officers gave chase and eventually arrested one suspect who had taken a homeowner hostage and was hiding in the homeowner’s basement. During the arrest they disarmed the suspect of a semi-automatic pistol. The recovered weapon was submitted for entry into the IBIS system at the Detroit Police Department. This weapon was a match to the ballistic evidence that was recovered at the two car jackings that occurred several days earlier.