



ATF NIBIN Program

Hits of the Week

January 28-February 19, 2002



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

Week of 2/19: The Broward County, Florida, Sheriff's Office received equipment as part of the NIBIN network's expansion, and has already experienced success as a result. After a series of armed robberies in which suspects fired shots to demonstrate their violent intent, the Sheriff's office entered the resulting expended shell casings from the crime scenes into NIBIN. Through NIBIN correlation, four of the armed robberies were linked to the same .40 caliber Glock semi-automatic handgun. A short time later, Sheriff's deputies noticed suspicious activity around a local business. When they attempted to interview the suspects, the suspects fled in a vehicle. During the chase, the suspects attempted to dispose of a handgun; the gun was recovered following the arrests of the suspects. The recovered firearm was testfired and the resulting evidence entered into NIBIN; correlation highlighted a possible link between this handgun and the four previous armed robberies. The link was confirmed by firearms examiners through examination of the original evidence. The arrested suspects have been charged with four prior armed robbery offenses.

Week of 2/11: The Sheriff's Office of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana images all incoming firearms evidence. In October 2000, cartridge casings were recovered after a shooting incident at a motel. Later that month, three witnesses reported that a subject had fired shots at them, and cartridge casings were recovered at the scene. In December 2000, a victim of domestic violence surrendered to Sheriff's deputies a firearm owned by her attacker. From the cartridge casings recovered at the shootings and the testfire of the recovered firearm, IBIS correlation established that the gun recovered at the scene of the domestic violence incident had also been used in the two previous shooting incidents. An arrest has been made; the suspect is charged with aggravated assault and illegal discharge of a firearm.

Week of 2/4: The Wilmington, Delaware Police Department has been part of the NIBIN program since October 1996, and has met with success in using NIBIN to solve crimes. Police responded to the scene of an armed robbery involving home invasion and found two victims of gunshot wounds. Firearms evidence collected at the site was submitted for imaging. A week later, a homicide victim was found in the hallway of a building in Wilmington. IBIS highlighted a potential link between the two crimes, and firearms examiners later confirmed that they two offenses were committed with the same firearm. As investigators made additional inquiries, they discovered that the same gang was involved in both; further investigation precisely identified two suspects. One defendant has pled guilty to murder in the first degree; the other has been arrested and awaits court action.

Week of 1/28: In Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the doorman at an after hours club was murdered. The following month, Oklahoma City police responded to the scene of a shooting in which the subject said that he had been shot with his own firearm after a struggle with robbers. Correlation of the evidence recovered at the two scenes revealed a link between the two incidents, and firearms examiners confirmed that the firearm owned by the subject of the second shooting was used in the earlier homicide. This link resulted in multiple charges, including murder in the first degree and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.