



# ATF NIBIN Program

# Hits of the Week

## February 25 to March 18, 2002



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

**Week of 3/18:** The Prince George's County, Maryland, Police Department uses NIBIN to process evidence from violent crimes involving firearms. The NIBIN system highlighted potential links between a total of seven violent crimes occurring over a two-month period; firearms examiners confirmed these matches. Laboratory personnel informed detectives of the connection between the crimes, and gave the detectives descriptions of the two guns used in the crimes. Ten days later, a Metropolitan Police narcotics squad in the District of Columbia pursued a suspect said to be carrying narcotics. After a car chase ending in Prince George's County, the car stopped and two of the three occupants of the car surrendered peacefully. The third pointed his gun at officers, and died of the gunshot wounds he received. This suspect's firearm was testfired and the resulting evidence entered into NIBIN. The firearm proved to be one of the two guns sought in the seven violent crimes, matching 5 of the 7 shootings.

**Week of 3/11:** A homicide occurred in Opa-Locka, a municipality near Miami, Florida. While witnesses gave police the name of the shooter, no other evidence was available to link him with the crime. Two months later, when the alleged shooter was arrested by a Miami-Dade narcotics unit, he was found to be in possession of a stolen .40 caliber pistol. NIBIN correlation of testfire evidence from this pistol revealed a link from the pistol to the Opa-Locka murder. The suspect later confessed to having committed the murder, and awaits court action.

**Week of 3/4:** Ballistic comparison has provided investigative leads to solve multiple carjackings in the city of New Orleans. The victim of the first carjacking had parked her vehicle in front of her residence when she heard a gunshot. An armed subject then took her car keys and left the area in her vehicle. The cartridge casing from the shot was recovered at the scene and imaged into NIBIN. Four days later, a New Orleans resident was washing his truck in front of his residence when a subject approached him, produced a semi-automatic pistol, and robbed him of money and the truck. Later that day, the subject stole a go-cart from two juveniles, then attempted to flee in the truck stolen previously. After the father of the juveniles pursued the subject in his car, the subject was apprehended. The weapon found in the vehicle was identified as having been used in the first carjacking.

**Week of 2/25:** In Marion County, Indiana, police responded to a drug-related shooting in which one person was wounded. The cartridge case recovered at the scene was entered into IBIS. Later the same day, police recovered another casing at the scene of a second shooting. The IBIS match that linked the two cases helped police to convict the shooter of both of these shootings, and assisted in his conviction for a third crime, a homicide. The shooter received a sentence of eight years in prison.