



ATF NIBIN Program

Hits of the Week

June 24-July 15, 2002



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

Week of 7/15: The Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, Sheriff's Office's use of the NIBIN system has assisted in the solving of additional crimes. A .40 caliber pistol was stolen from a pawnshop in Marrero, Louisiana; through investigation, a potential suspect was identified. Five days later, a suspect fired his weapon during the course of an armed robbery at a convenience store; Kenner Police Department investigators recovered the cartridge casing at the scene and submitted it for NIBIN entry. Two days later in Terrebonne Parish, a victim was murdered during a carjacking; the casings recovered at the scene were also submitted for NIBIN entry. When the suspect in the theft of the pistol was arrested a week after the murder, he was found to have the stolen pistol in his possession. The pistol was testfired and the evidence entered into NIBIN; correlation highlighted potential links from the stolen pistol to the armed robbery and the murder, links that were later confirmed by firearms examiners.

Week of 7/8: The Indianapolis, Indiana, Police Department has used NIBIN for the last three years. In a shooting in Indianapolis, a suspect fired several shots at a complaining witness. Police recovered expended cartridge casings at the scene, and submitted them for entry into NIBIN. The intended victim first identified the suspect to reporting officers, then later declined to cooperate and denied knowing the suspect. A few days later, multiple shots were fired into a home in Indianapolis. Casings were recovered and submitted for NIBIN entry, and a witness to this crime identified the suspect by name to police. NIBIN correlation of the evidence entered in the two shootings highlighted the possibility that the same gun was used in each; later, firearms examiners compared original evidence to confirm this conclusion. The defendant entered a guilty plea to his involvement in the offenses, and has been sentenced to eight years in prison.

Week of 7/1: A Smith and Wesson .45 caliber semiautomatic pistol was stolen from a residence in Miami, Florida; no suspects were identified at the time. Four months later, after a shooting in an unoccupied dwelling, Miami-Dade police recovered several .45 caliber cartridge casings and submitted them for IBIS entry. Three weeks later an unknown suspect walked up to the porch of a residence, antagonized and then shot a pit bull for no apparent reason, and pointed the gun at the dog's owner. The bullet exited the dog and bounced off a chain link fence, almost hitting a juvenile walking to a nearby school. A .45 caliber casing was recovered at the scene and submitted for IBIS entry, and witnesses were able to identify a suspect in a photo line-up. Four months later, Miami-Dade police arrested the individual involved in the shooting of the dog. During the arrest, a Smith and Wesson .45 caliber firearm was seized. IBIS entry of test-fires from the firearm alerted police that that the same weapon was used to commit these four incidents; this link was confirmed by firearms examiners. The defendant faces multiple charges, including aggravated assault with a weapon, grand larceny of a firearm, cruelty to animals, and others.

Week of 6/24: The Sheriff's Office in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, has closed many cases by routinely entering its crime scene evidence into NIBIN. Deputies investigated an armed robbery in which one person was shot; the casing recovered was entered into NIBIN. Two weeks later, deputies arrested a wanted felon who brandished a .45 caliber pistol. His weapon was seized, testfired, and entered into NIBIN. Correlation revealed a potential link, confirmed by firearms examiners, from the armed robbery to the arrested felon. The suspect is currently serving ten years imprisonment.