



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

July 22 to August 12, 2002



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

Week of 8/12: The Technical Services Bureau of the Palm Beach County, Florida, Sheriff's Office has used NIBIN to solve drug-related murders. In one incident, a victim was shot and killed during a sale of crack cocaine; cartridge casings were recovered at the scene and imaged into NIBIN. Two days later, another shooting took place. At the second shooting, police recovered cartridge casings from the area, as well as a pistol tucked into the waistband of the second victim. The recovered firearm was testfired and all evidence entered into NIBIN. The NIBIN system revealed a potential link between the two crimes; further comparison of original evidence revealed that the weapon used to commit the first homicide was the pistol found on the body of the second victim, age 20, who had 22 previous arrests. It is believed that the second killing was retribution for the first. A suspect has been identified in the second shooting, and police inquiries continue.

Week of 8/5: Law enforcement agencies in California have worked together to solve violent crimes taking place in their jurisdictions. Two suspects wearing ski masks robbed a restaurant in Pasadena; one of the suspects fired his weapon in the restaurant, and the suspects escaped with about \$4000. Officers recovered a cartridge casing at the scene, and the casing was entered into NIBIN. Six weeks later, officers of the Azusa Police Department investigated an armed robbery in progress. The suspect was arrested with a weapon. When the seized firearm was testfired and entered into NIBIN, a potential link to the first armed robbery was discovered. Based on firearms examiners' confirmation of the link uncovered by NIBIN, the suspect in the second armed robbery was charged in the first armed robbery as well. The suspect was sentenced to 18 years in State Prison for the two robberies.

Week of 7/29: The Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina, Police Department investigated an armed robbery in which two unknown subjects robbed a victim at gunpoint, stealing money and identification and firing a weapon. Cartridge casings recovered at the scene were submitted for NIBIN entry. Six weeks later, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police investigated an incident in which three subjects had attempted to pay for rooms with an invalid credit card. During the investigation, officers located a handgun in possession of one of the subjects. After the subject was charged with carrying a concealed weapon, the firearm was seized and testfired. NIBIN entry of this evidence revealed a potential link between this firearm and the armed robbery committed weeks earlier; this link was confirmed by firearms examiners.

Week of 7/22: The Indianapolis-Marion County Crime Laboratory has used NIBIN to link three shooting incidents. The three incidents, occurring over about two weeks, involved a shots fired incident, and two shootings in which a total of three people were shot. Twenty-four hours after the third shooting, Indianapolis police arrested a subject for public intoxication, possession of marijuana, and carrying a handgun without a license. After the firearm was testfired, the evidence entered into NIBIN led to prospective links to the three shootings, and these links were confirmed by firearms examiners. Further investigation led Indianapolis police to identify and arrest a suspect in the shootings.