



# ATF NIBIN Program

# Hits of the Week

August 19—September 9, 2002



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

**Week of 9/9:** IBIS has provided a valuable lead for solving crimes in Durham, North Carolina. Two people were mortally wounded in a shooting at an apartment building; when Durham Police Department officers investigated, they collected cartridge casings as evidence and submitted them for IBIS entry at the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation. Three months later, two subjects were arrested for violations involving controlled substances. Numerous items were seized in the course of the arrest, including four handguns. The firearms were sent to the SBI Laboratory, where they were testfired and the resulting evidence entered into IBIS. Correlation highlighted the possibility of a link between the two crimes; this was later confirmed by firearms examiners. Investigations are continuing.

**Week of 9/2:** The Cleveland, Ohio, Police Department has obtained useful leads through NIBIN. In a robbery at a gas station, a man pumping gas was approached by an unknown man who followed him into the gas station. The suspect then returned to the victim's car, and shots were heard. Investigation revealed gunshot damage to the vehicle, and one cartridge casing was recovered at the scene. No specific description of the suspect was available. Three months later, a passenger was robbed and shot on a city bus. One shell casing was recovered at the scene and submitted for NIBIN entry. No specific description of the shooter was available. After the crime appeared on the local "Crime Stoppers" program, a suspect was identified. NIBIN then indicated the possibility, confirmed by firearms examiners, of a link from this suspect to the automobile shooting three months earlier. The suspect has been arrested in the crimes.

**Week of 8/26:** As NIBIN partner agencies enter old evidence into NIBIN, additional information becomes available to investigators, possibly helping resolve cold cases as well as current ones. An example comes from Indiana, where the Indiana State Police laboratory at Fort Wayne enters evidence from the Elkhart Police Department. The NIBIN system recently helped investigators discover links among three murders, believed to be drug-related, that occurred over a four-year period. Firearms examiners have confirmed that the same gun was used to commit all three murders. Before NIBIN alerted investigators to the possible connection, the crimes were not known to be linked. It is hoped that this connection will provide further information to help solve the cases.

**Week of 8/19:** A series of shootings in Newark, New Jersey, have been solved through the use of IBIS at the Essex County Sheriff's Office. In Newark, a motor vehicle was stolen. When the car was recovered with bullet holes five days later, a cartridge casing was found in the passenger area, and submitted to the Essex County Sheriff's Office for imaging into NIBIN. The day after the theft of the car, one victim was injured in a shooting. Newark Police recovered seven casings at the scene of the shooting. Three days later, Newark Police investigated a call of shots fired. Though no victims or suspects were found at the scene, police recovered two casings and submitted them for IBIS entry. Ten days later, three victims were injured in a shooting in Newark, two of them fatally. The three casings recovered at the scene were entered into Essex County's IBIS unit. A week later, two people were arrested by the New York Police Department for possession of weapons. The firearm recovered during the arrest was testfired, and correlation results highlighted a potential link to the earlier crimes. This link was confirmed by firearms examiners. The two suspects are currently incarcerated, and the case awaits adjudication.