



# ATF NIBIN Program

# Hits of the Week

## December 2 to December 16, 2002



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

**Week of 12/16:** By submitting ballistic evidence to the NIBIN site at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Orange County sheriffs have gained valuable links between multiple armed robberies. A convenience store in Orange County, Florida, was robbed by two individuals; one fired a shot into the ceiling of the store during the course of the robbery. Investigators recovered several items of evidence at the scene, including one cartridge casing and the videotape from the store's security camera. Two days later, four subjects robbed an Orlando food store; two of them discharged their weapons in the store and demanded money. Three cartridge casings and one projectile were recovered at the scene. This evidence was also submitted to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement laboratory. NIBIN correlation revealed a potential link between the incidents; later, a firearms examiner confirmed that the same gun had been used in both crimes. This ballistic link, along with additional evidence such as fingerprints and videotape, has resulted in the arrest of four suspects.e.

**Week of 12/9:** By using NIBIN, Durham, North Carolina, police have discovered ties from a violent criminal and multiple shooting incidents. Durham police responded to the scene of a shooting and found that a man had been shot six times as he stood beside his car. Information from witnesses placed a certain suspect at the scene. Cartridge casings and a bullet were recovered and were imaged into IBIS. Three months later in Durham, an unknown suspect shot two victims as they answered the door of their residence. Officers located a spent 9mm shell casing outside the residence, along with bullet evidence. When the evidence was correlated, IBIS highlighted a link between the two incidents. A firearms examiner later confirmed that the two shootings were committed with the same weapon. Investigators are exploring the first suspect's role in the second incident. .

**Week of 12/2:** Through its use of NIBIN, the Durham, North Carolina, Police Department has linked four shootings that took place within a month. In the first incident, Durham police investigated a call of shots fired, and found a damaged automobile. Fifteen shell casings were recovered and sent to the laboratory for imaging and comparison. Nine days later, a victim was shot at an intersection in Durham. Fourteen cartridge casings were recovered and submitted for IBIS entry. Ten days later, Durham police responded to a shooting in front of a residence. Officers learned that two suspects had come to the house; after the victim also arrived at the house, an argument ensued, during which the victim was shot in the abdomen and the leg. The casings collected at this crime scene were also entered into IBIS. During a traffic stop and vehicle search two days later, Durham police officers conducted a patdown of the car's occupants for officer safety. One of the occupants was found to be in possession of a .32 caliber pistol. This suspect was arrested, and the pistol was seized as evidence for testfiring and IBIS entry. Correlation highlighted potential links among these four incidents, links that were later confirmed by firearms examiners. In addition to the State charges, Federal charges for felon in possession are also being pursued against the suspect by an ATF Violent Crime Task Force.