



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

February 9 to February 23, 2004

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

Week of 2/9: The Los Angeles, California, Police Department used NIBIN to link a firearm recovered from a suspect in an armed robbery to a shooting less than two weeks before. In the first incident two victims were sitting in a vehicle parked in a driveway when two armed suspects opened fire on them. One victim sustained multiple gunshot wounds to his legs. Cartridge casings from two different caliber guns were recovered at the scene and imaged into NIBIN. Nine days later a victim was robbed and assaulted by three suspects; one was armed with a handgun. The victim declined to make a police report. He called police two weeks later to report he saw the suspect. The suspect recognized him, retrieved a handgun from his front porch and aimed at the victim. Police apprehended the suspect and recovered a handgun, which was test fired and linked to the previous shooting.

Week of 2/17: Marion, Indiana, Police charged a suspect with homicide after linking cartridge casings recovered at the scene to a shooting six weeks prior. When police responded to a residence where shots had been fired, an individual at the scene stated that an unknown subject shot at him and he returned fire. Police recovered five 9mm casings determined to have been fired from the individual's handgun. The casings were imaged into the NIBIN system. Six weeks later, Marion Police arrived at the scene of a homicide where the victim was found in the driver's seat of a vehicle involved in an auto accident. Eleven 9mm casings were recovered and imaged into IBIS, which linked those casings to the five recovered in the previous incident. The individual from the first incident was arrested with the firearm in his possession and charged with murder.

Week of 2/23: With the assistance of ballistic imaging through NIBIN, the Cincinnati, Ohio, Police Department linked a firearm recovered from a suspect to an open homicide and aggravated assault case that occurred in Lincoln Heights, Ohio, four months earlier. Lincoln Heights Police were called to the scene of a shooting and located two victims. One victim was injured and the other had sustained a gunshot to the chest and was unresponsive and later pronounced dead. The first victim told police someone ran up and shot them; however, no suspect was identified. One shell casing was found at the scene and imaged into IBIS. Four months later, Cincinnati Police responded to a call for shots fired. Police were given a description of the suspect and his vehicle. The vehicle was located and the suspect unexpectedly got out with a firearm in his hand. As an officer approached, the suspect tossed the gun into the vehicle and ran. Officers chased and caught the suspect. A handgun was recovered from the vehicle, test fired and the shell casing was imaged into IBIS. The NIBIN system linked the test-fired casing to the one recovered in the Lincoln Heights homicide and aggravated assault case. Numerous charges were filed against the suspect, including a Federal criminal charge of illegal possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.