



# ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

March 1 to March 15, 2004

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

**Week of 3/1:** Redwood Falls, Minnesota, Police linked two firearms recovered from suspects in a homicide to a shooting three months prior in Minneapolis. Police in Minneapolis responded to a shooting scene where a victim was injured. Casings from two different caliber handguns were recovered and imaged into IBIS. Three months later, police in Redwood Falls responded to the scene of a homicide where suspects were identified. The suspects fled, but were stopped by the Lower Sioux Reservation Tribal Police and the firearms recovered. Test firing of the guns resulted in the hits to both shootings.

**Week of 3/8:** The Henry County, Virginia, Sheriff's Office utilized ballistic imaging through NIBIN to match a firearm recovered during the investigation of a homicide to casings recovered and imaged in a case a month earlier. A female victim called police to report that someone fired a gun several times at her apartment from a vehicle on the street. The casings were imaged into IBIS. A month later police responded to a shooting where the victim was shot in the face and later died. A firearm recovered during the investigation was test-fired and imaged into IBIS, which resulted in the hit to first shooting at the apartment. Four suspects were arrested and charged with the homicide.

**Week of 3/15:** The League City, Texas, Police Department recovered a gun left by a suspect at the scene of a robbery and through NIBIN linked it to eight violent crimes in Houston, Texas. The crime spree began when an armed suspect attempted to rob a couple in a parking lot. The male victim grabbed the suspect's gun and attempted to fire it at the suspect. The gun failed to shoot, so the victim reached for his own firearm in his waistband. A second suspect hit the victim over the head, he dropped his gun and one of the suspects picked it up. The suspects left with the victim's wallet and gun. Two months later, four armed men approached several victims in a parking lot as they were leaving work. The suspects attempted to take the victims' car, but the victims were able to drive away. The suspects fired several shots at the car. Shell casings were recovered and entered into NIBIN. A week later, a victim was exiting his car in an apartment parking lot when two armed suspects approached and robbed him of money and jewelry. As the suspects ran, they shot a second victim in the foot, shot and wounded a third victim who was looking out an apartment window, and wounded a fourth victim as they ran. Two additional suspects were seen in the car as they escaped. Shell casings were recovered and imaged into NIBIN. A week later, two armed suspects demanded money from a victim who was helping family members load furnishings into a moving truck. The victim tried to fight the suspects off and was shot. Police recovered a shell casing and imaged it into NIBIN. A week later, unknown suspects shot at several victims as they were driving in a car. Shell casings, a spent bullet and bullet fragment were recovered and imaged into NIBIN. Another week later, one of two victims was shot during a carjacking, robbery and kidnapping. A female victim was kidnapped and released a short time later when the suspects determined she had no money. A shell casing was recovered and imaged into NIBIN. A week later, a victim was shot in a parking lot during an attempted robbery. The victim got into his vehicle and was shot at several times as he tried to speed away. The victim was found dead in his truck a short distance from the scene of the shooting. Shell casings were found in the parking lot and a spent bullet recovered from the victim's vehicle. Eight months later, a victim was walking in his apartment building stairs when two suspects began to shoot at him. He was injured during the gunfire and the cartridge casing recovered and imaged into NIBIN. Ten months later, a suspect entered a credit union and held victims at gunpoint until he began to unload the safe. As someone entered the credit union, the suspect panicked and ran out with the money, but left the gun behind. Police responding to the call took the gun, had it test-fired and entered into NIBIN. Entry of the test-fired cartridge resulted in matches to evidence collected in the eight crimes previously mentioned. The firearm used in all of these crimes was the gun taken from the victim in the first incident less than two years earlier.

