



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

March 22 to April 5, 2004

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

Week of 3/22: The New Orleans, Louisiana, Police Department used ballistic imaging through NIBIN to link evidence collected in two armed robberies that occurred one day apart. Both incidents involved robberies at small convenience stores with a .45-caliber weapon. In the first robbery, the storeowner saw the suspect enter with a gun and got his own firearm. They exchanged gunfire in the store, wounding a customer. Shell casings from the suspect's gun were collected and imaged into IBIS. A suspect was identified and warrants issued for his arrest. The next day, police responded to a report of an armed robbery at another small store and found the owner dead from a gunshot wound. During the investigation, shell casings from three different caliber firearms were located and imaged into IBIS. Casings from the .45-caliber weapon were matched to those found at the scene of the armed robbery the day before. One suspect was identified, arrested and charged with attempted armed robbery and murder in the second incident. Two additional suspects are being sought.

Week of 3/29: Using IBIS technology, Fort Myers, Florida, Police Department linked a pistol recovered from a suspect in a homicide to another homicide that occurred ten months earlier. Officers from the Lee County, Florida, Sheriff's Office responded to the scene of a shooting outside a small grocery store in Fort Myers. Officers found the homicide victim in front of the store and recovered a .45-caliber shell casing and projectile, which were imaged into NIBIN. Ten months later, Fort Myers Police responded to the scene of a shooting and found a female homicide victim in an alley behind a residence. A witness stated she heard multiple gunshots while in her residence and called police. A suspect identified as the shooter was located and police seized two weapons during his arrest. Both pistols, a .40-caliber and a .45-caliber, were test fired and imaged into NIBIN, which resulted in a confirmed link of the .45-caliber pistol to the homicide investigated by the Lee County Sheriff's Office ten months earlier.

Week of 4/5: Utilizing NIBIN, Police and ATF agents in Miami, Florida, linked a pistol seized from suspects in an attempted robbery of an armored car to an unsolved homicide that occurred seven months prior. Miami-Dade Police responded to the scene of a shooting at a residence and discovered that a man and his son were murdered in their sleep during the course of a robbery. Shell casings from a .22-caliber weapon were recovered at the scene and imaged into the NIBIN system at the Miami-Dade Police Crime Laboratory. Approximately six months later, a law enforcement task force that included ATF agents received information about a planned robbery of an armored car. Agents working the case were able to obtain knowledge about the details of the robbery, including the date, time, location and suspects involved. It was discovered that one of the suspects had inside information about the delivery procedures of the armored car. On the date of the planned robbery, an ATF task force member drove the targeted armored car along its route. When the armored car arrived at the location of the planned robbery, one of the suspects was arrested as he approached the vehicle and a short time later a second suspect was arrested. The first suspect was carrying several weapons, including a Ruger .22-caliber pistol. The weapons were test fired and imaged into the NIBIN system, resulting in the link of the Ruger pistol to the unsolved homicide of the father and son. During interviews with the suspects, they admitted their roles in the planned armed robbery of the armored car and in the robbery and homicides at the residence.