



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

April 12 to April 26, 2004

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

Week of 4/12: The Houston, Texas, Police Department linked a pistol recovered from robbery suspects to two robberies that occurred three months prior. Two suspects fired several rounds outside and then broke into an occupied residence looking for an unknown individual. The suspects pistol-whipped one of the victims at the residence before leaving. Shell casings were recovered and entered into the NIBIN system. Six weeks later three suspects entered a chain restaurant and robbed the restaurant and patrons of cash and property. They fired several shots as they fled the scene and also fired several shots at a customer pulling into the parking lot. The casings were recovered and entered into the NIBIN system. Approximately three weeks later several suspects entered a restaurant and robbed the business and patrons at gunpoint. Witnesses were able to provide a description of the vehicle in which the suspects fled. Police located the vehicle and arrested four individuals, recovering a shotgun and pistol during the arrest. The pistol was test fired, entered into NIBIN and linked to the two previous incidents.

Week of 4/19: The Rochester, New York, Police Department's use of the NIBIN system helped provide a significant lead in an open homicide investigation and a quick arrest of the suspect. A victim was found dead in his truck with a bullet wound to his side. Witnesses heard three shots, saw the truck hit a tree at the victim's residence and saw a suspect running away from the scene. Police recovered two 9mm shell casings and had them imaged into the NIBIN system at the Monroe County Public Safety Lab in Rochester, New York. Four days later a Rochester Police Officer attempted to stop a person he believed had outstanding warrants. As he spoke with the suspect, the suspect pulled out a pistol and attempted to shoot at the officer. The gun did not fire and the suspect ran. The officer and other responding units chased the suspect to a nearby apartment complex where he was arrested. The gun was not found on the suspect, and a search of his escape route resulted in the recovery of the pistol from a snow bank. The firearm was test fired and entered into NIBIN, which hit on the evidence entered in the open homicide four days earlier. A firearms examiner at the Monroe County Lab confirmed the hit three days later. Multiple charges have been filed against the suspect.

Week of 4/26: The New Orleans, Louisiana, Police Department utilized ballistic imaging to link a weapon found during a vehicle search to an unsolved homicide that occurred five weeks earlier. The homicide victim was the owner of a lounge that required the bartender to use an electronic device to allow patrons to enter the business. When one of the patrons was leaving the establishment, two unknown suspects entered and proceeded to rob the business and its patrons. The owners was shot and killed during the robbery. Police recovered several 9mm cartridge casings at the scene and entered them into NIBIN. Five weeks later, police officers stopped a vehicle for equipment violations. Officers saw a bag of marijuana on the center console of the vehicle and saw the front seat passenger place something under the front seat. Police arrested the three occupants of the vehicle, and upon conducting a thorough search found several bags of marijuana and a stolen 9mm pistol. Test firing of the pistol and entry into the NIBIN system resulted in the weapon being linked to the unsolved homicide.