



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

May 3 to May 17, 2004

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

Week of 5/3: The Buffalo, New York, Police Department was able to link an unsolved homicide to a firearm recovered from a suspect three weeks later by using NIBIN. Officers responded to a call of a reported shooting and found the victim in a hallway of a building. The victim died of his gunshot wounds later at the hospital. Shell casings were recovered at the scene and imaged into NIBIN. Three weeks later police responded to a call that a man was carrying a gun. Police arrested the suspect after discovering he was carrying a pistol with a partially obliterated serial number in his waistband. The firearm was test fired and entered into NIBIN, which resulted in a hit and significant lead to the unsolved homicide.

Week of 5/10: Imaging ballistic evidence into NIBIN enabled the Birmingham, Alabama, Police Department to link evidence found at the scene of a homicide to a weapon recovered eight days later from a suspect in an armed robbery. The homicide victim was found outside a store and died from a gunshot wound to the back later at the hospital. A projectile was recovered and imaged into NIBIN. Eight days later police responded to the scene of an armed robbery where two suspects, one armed with a handgun, approached the victim demanding the victim's wallet. Officers responding at the scene spoke with the victim and obtained information about the suspects. Two men fitting the descriptions given by the victim were seen at an intersection. When police approached, the suspects fled on foot. One suspect dropped a handgun in an alley as he attempted to escape. Both suspects were arrested. The handgun was test fired and entered into NIBIN, which resulted in the link to the evidence recovered in the open homicide case.

Week of 5/17: The Durham, North Carolina, Police Department used NIBIN to link a firearm recovered from a suspect believed to be a gang member to evidence collected at the scene of a robbery nearly a year before. Durham Police responded to an armed robbery call where they located one of the victims. The victim told police he was walking two females from a business to their car when several males with firearms came from the woods nearby. The suspects demanded money and the male victim gave them his wallet and cash. One of the suspects hit the male victim in the head with the gun while another was beating one of the female victims. The male victim told them he had no more money, but there were other valuables inside the business. Three of the suspects walked the victim to the business where he began beating on the door. The suspects thought he was warning someone inside and fled on foot. The victim heard a gunshot while they were running. A cartridge casing was located and imaged into NIBIN. Eleven months later Durham Police were patrolling an area when they located several individuals wearing gang attire. One of the suspects was wearing a heavy winter coat, which was out of place due to the warm weather. The suspect went to the porch of the nearby home, took off the coat and sat down when the police approached. When the officer began questioning him, the suspect fled leaving the coat behind. Police found a loaded pistol inside the coat. The gun was test fired and entered into NIBIN, where it was linked to the armed robbery nearly one year before. Arrest warrants were issued for the suspect.