



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

May 24 to June 7, 2004

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

Week of 5/24: By using NIBIN, the Tulsa, Oklahoma, Police Department was able to link two shootings that occurred a day apart to a suspect wanted on a murder warrant. Police responded to a call where a victim had come out of his apartment and found that his car had been moved in the parking lot. As he approached the vehicle, someone got out, pointed a gun at him and began firing. The victim ran back into the apartment and was not injured. Police recovered spent shell casings and live rounds and imaged them into NIBIN. The following day police were called to the scene of a shooting where a victim had been shot in the leg. Witnesses told police there were a group of individuals drinking on the grounds of the apartment complex that got into an argument with the victim. One of the individuals pulled out a gun and started shooting at the victim. Police found spent shell casings and a live round at the scene. The casings were imaged into NIBIN and matched the casings imaged in the previous shooting. Six weeks later police were trying to locate a suspect wanted on a murder warrant where the victim had been killed execution style. When the police located the suspect, he began to run. As the officers were chasing the suspect, they noticed him attempting to rack the slide of a handgun as he ran. The suspect ran into an open field, turned and pointed the gun at the officers. Police shot the suspect. The suspect's gun was test fired, imaged into NIBIN and linked to the two shootings six weeks earlier.

Week of 6/1: The Long Beach, California, Police Department used ballistic imaging through NIBIN to link a stolen handgun to a homicide six weeks earlier. When responding to a call of shots fired, Long Branch Police found three victims on the ground outside a building. Each victim had multiple gunshot wounds and one of the victims later died. Witnesses told police the three victims got into a verbal altercation with three suspects when one of the suspects began firing a handgun at the victims. The witnesses and the two surviving victims claimed they could not identify the suspects. Cartridge casings were recovered and imaged into NIBIN. Six weeks later a woman called the Long Beach Police to report that her boyfriend left a handgun in her house and she feared it was stolen. Officers responding to the call found a handgun in a closet. A check on the gun revealed it had been stolen during a burglary. The boyfriend returned to the residence, admitted the gun was his and that he had borrowed it from an acquaintance. The suspect was arrested and the firearm test fired and entered into NIBIN. The test cartridge casing from the handgun was linked to the casings found in the shooting and homicide six weeks earlier.

Week of 6/7: The Rochester, New York, Police Department linked a pistol recovered from a suspect in the shooting of an alleged drug dealer to a shooting six months earlier by utilizing NIBIN through the Monroe County, New York, Public Safety Laboratory. In the first incident, a victim told police that suspects driving in a vehicle began firing shots at him. They parked the vehicle and started shooting again at the victim and other bystanders. No one was injured, but the victim's car window was shattered from gunfire. Police found the suspects' vehicle parked in the alley and recovered several shell casings at the scene. The casings were imaged into NIBIN. Six months later officers were patrolling a neighborhood when they heard shots being fired. They found a gunshot victim, who is allegedly a drug dealer. A witness at the scene directed police to a vehicle and indicated the suspects were inside. Police pursued the vehicle and detained the occupants. One of the passengers attempted to exit the vehicle and dropped a shell casing on the ground. A handgun was found on the floor of the vehicle. During the search, it was found that one of the occupants was wearing body armor. The pistol was test fired and imaged into NIBIN resulting in a link to the shooting six months earlier.

