



# ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

July 26 to August 9, 2004

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

**Week of 7/26:** The Albany, New York, Police Department used the NIBIN system to link a handgun recovered while investigating a shooting at an apartment complex to three other shootings over a four-month period. In the first incident witnesses told police that an unknown suspect fired multiple shots at the victim. The victim was unharmed, but several cars sustained bullet damage. Police recovered cartridge casings and projectiles at the scene and had them imaged into NIBIN. Ten days later Albany Police responded to a call for shots fired in front of a residence. No one was harmed, but two vehicles sustained bullet damage. Cartridge casings and a projectile were recovered at the scene and imaged into NIBIN. A week later Police responded to another call for shots fired. Witnesses told police that a vehicle with three suspects fired several shots at three victims. The victims were not injured. One cartridge casing was recovered and imaged into NIBIN. Two months later officers responded to a call for shots fired in an apartment building. The unharmed victim told police a bullet passed through the wall of his apartment and showed them where the bullet entered. During the investigation officers stopped an occupant of the building and her companion. A loaded handgun was found in their possession along with crack cocaine. A test fire from the weapon was imaged into NIBIN and linked to the previous three shootings. Both suspects have prior felony convictions and charges are pending.

**Week of 8/2:** The Buffalo, New York, Police Department utilized NIBIN to link a bullet recovered from a victim wounded in a drive-by shooting to a revolver recovered from the occupant of a vehicle almost three months later. Victims in the drive-by shooting were driving when another vehicle pulled alongside and an unknown suspect fired a shot into their car hitting one of the victims. The victims told police the weapon looked like a revolver and they saw two suspects in the car. Police recovered a .357-caliber bullet from the victim, and it was imaged into NIBIN for comparison. Approximately three months later police were called to an intersection where shots had been fired. Responding officers located the vehicle with four occupants and arrested the suspects. During the arrest police recovered a .357-caliber revolver loaded with five live rounds and one spent casing. The weapon was test fired and imaged into NIBIN resulting in the link to the bullet recovered in the drive-by shooting.

**Week of 8/9:** The Marion, Indiana, Police Department linked a firearm seized during the execution of a search warrant to cartridge casings recovered at the scene of a drive-by shooting four days earlier. The victim of the shooting was driving his vehicle when another car pulled along side and one of the occupants began firing at him. The victim was unharmed and was able to provide police with the names of three of the four occupants of the suspect vehicle. Police recovered several 9mm shell casings for imaging into NIBIN. Four days later Marion Police executed search and arrest warrants and seized two firearms during the operation. Both firearms were test fired and imaged into NIBIN resulting in one of the pistols being linked to the earlier shooting.