



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

September 27 to October 11, 2004

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

Week of 9/27: The Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory used the NIBIN system to confirm the ballistic match of a firearm recovered from a suspect in a parking lot shooting to casings recovered in an incident less than two months earlier. Officers from the Grand Island, Nebraska Police Department responded to a call for shots fired where witnesses saw two suspects driving down a street with one of them firing a pistol out the window. Shell casings were recovered and imaged into NIBIN. Less than two months later Grand Island Police responded to a call concerning a disturbance in a parking lot where shots were fired. A witness told police he saw a male suspect beating up a female and then grab a gun from a vehicle and begin to shoot at her. The male and female got into separate cars and left the scene. A witness provided a description of the suspect's vehicle. The suspect and vehicle were located in the parking lot and a .40-caliber pistol was recovered, test fired and imaged into NIBIN resulting in the link to the previous shooting incident. The suspect was arrested and charged.

Week of 10/4: The Florida Department of Law Enforcement Laboratory in Orlando used the NIBIN system to confirm the ballistic match of a pistol taken from a suspect in a narcotics investigation to cartridge casings recovered at the scene of a shooting incident fifteen months earlier. Officers from the Orange County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of an incident where a resident returned home to find bullet holes in her door and that someone had forced entry into the residence. Police recovered several casings and had them imaged into NIBIN. Fifteen months later officers from the Orlando Police Department were conducting a narcotics investigation. One of the suspects was lost during a foot pursuit, but was spotted a short time later riding in the back of a taxi. Police stopped the taxi and arrested the suspect in possession of cocaine and a pistol. The pistol was test fired and matched the previous shooting incident at the residence. The suspect was charged with narcotics and firearms violations, including felon in possession of a weapon.

Week of 10/11: The Westchester County, New York, Department of Public Safety used their NIBIN system to confirm the ballistic match of a pistol recovered during a traffic stop to shell casings found at a homicide that occurred eight months earlier. In the first incident Mount Vernon (NY) Police responded to a shooting scene and learned the victim had been transported to the hospital. Officers recovered numerous shell casings and marijuana at the scene. The casings were imaged into NIBIN. Eight months later Mount Vernon Police stopped a vehicle they observed being driven erratically. The two occupants of the car were arrested after admitting to having marijuana in the vehicle. The officers also found a 9mm pistol during a search of the vehicle. The pistol was test fired and imaged into NIBIN, resulting in the match to the evidence in the homicide case.