



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

November 1 to November 15, 2004

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

Week of 11/1: The Miami-Dade Police Department Crime Laboratory used the NIBIN system to confirm the match of a test fire from a .45-caliber pistol recovered from a bank robbery to casings found at the scenes of two armed robberies. Miami-Dade Police responded to a call for an armed robbery at a convenience store where three suspects entered the store and demanded money at gunpoint. After taking money from the cash register, one of the suspects fired in the direction of one of the three employees. Police recovered a .45-caliber casing and projectile and entered them into NIBIN. Approximately a month later Miami-Dade Police responded to an armed robbery of another convenience store where three suspects entered that store and demanded money at gunpoint. Once again one of the suspects fired one shot at one of the employees and took money from the register. Eight months later, Hialeah Police responded to a robbery in progress at a bank. Bank employees told police one suspect attempted to rob the bank while another approached an armed security guard and produced a firearm. The guard struggled with the suspect and managed to grab the gun. He fired the seized gun at the suspects and then proceeded to fire at them with his own weapon. The suspects fled, but were later arrested. Two of the suspects were shot by the guard. Several firearms were recovered. A number of casings and projectiles were recovered at the scene and imaged into NIBIN. The .45-caliber evidence was matched to the pistol taken from the suspect by the security guard and the ballistic evidence recovered at the two previous armed robberies.

Week of 11/8: The St. Louis (MO) Metropolitan Police Department Laboratory used the NIBIN system to link a firearm recovered from a suspect in a stolen vehicle to ballistic evidence found at the scene of a shooting on an interstate highway four days earlier. St. Louis Police responded to a vehicle accident where the victim told police the passenger of another vehicle shot him as he began to exit the highway. The victim was shot in the leg and lost control of his car. Police recovered several 9mm shell casings at the scene and submitted them for NIBIN entry. Four days later police arrested several individuals during a traffic stop after discovering the vehicle was stolen. During the stop the officers saw one of the suspects throw a weapon out of the window of the car. The 9mm pistol was recovered, test fired and entered into NIBIN resulting in the link to the shooting on the highway. Police also discovered that the firearm had been reported stolen six days earlier.

Week of 11/15: The Philadelphia (PA) Police Department used ballistic imaging through NIBIN to link a pistol recovered from a suspect in an armed robbery to another armed robbery that occurred three days prior. Police responded to a call where the victim was robbed at gunpoint. During the robbery the pistol discharged and struck a door. Police recovered a shell casing that was imaged into NIBIN. Three days later police in the same district in Philadelphia received a report of a robbery where the victim was robbed at gunpoint and shot by the suspect. The victim later identified a suspect in a lineup. A search warrant was executed on the suspect's residence where a pistol, ammunition and narcotics were found. The pistol was test fired and imaged into NIBIN resulting in the link to the armed robbery three days before.