## An Open Case File… And Much More

In order to discover links between crimes not known to be connected, firearms examiners have long maintained "open case files" of physical evidence. Now, advanced technology creates the possibility of an open-case file with many thousands of exhibits, searchable in minutes instead of the lifetimes that would be required for an entirely manual search.

To use NIBIN, examiners or technicians enter bullet and casing evidence into the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) unit. Then the new images are correlated against earlier entries. It is possible to search against evidence from the same jurisdictions, neighboring jurisdictions, or eventually other jurisdictions across the country. Search results alert firearms examiners to possible matches.
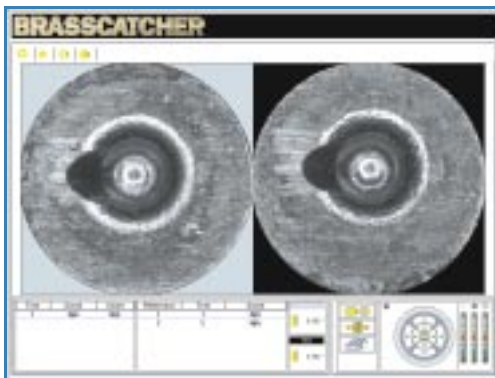
Side-by-side images allow initial comparison onscreen

Firearms examiners then compare the original evidence to confirm a "hit." This investigative lead helps investigators connect two crimes or connect a crime to a recovered firearm. Investigators can take this lead and use it with other case information to help solve the crime.

How You Can Help

If your agency has its own NIBIN equipment, you can contribute to its success by:

☛ Picking up projectiles and cartridge casings at ALL crime scenes and submitting them for imaging. Consistent evidence entry helps your agency get hits by giving you the maximum crime gun evidence for comparison.
☛ Ensuring that ALL weapons recovered in your cases are testfired and imaged into NIBIN.
☛ Following up on the investigative leads that NIBIN discovers.

But if your agency doesn't have its own NIBIN equipment, you can still benefit!

NIBIN is deployed nationwide; most State Bureaus of Investigation (or equivalent) are connected to NIBIN, as are many other county and city laboratories. If you need assistance in finding a NIBIN site in your area, you may contact the NIBIN Coordinator in your ATF field division, or call the ATF NIBIN Branch at 202-927-5660.


Even damaged bullets can be entered into IBIS successfully

ATF's Partnership with State and Local Law Enforcement

Through ATF's NIBIN Program, State and local agencies receive technology that they could likely not afford on their own, as well as the capability to exchange investigative information with other jurisdictions.

The NIBIN program is currently in the final stages of deployment nationwide. When this deployment is complete in late 2002, there will be 233 sites nationwide. NIBIN will be available in every State and in most major metropolitan areas.
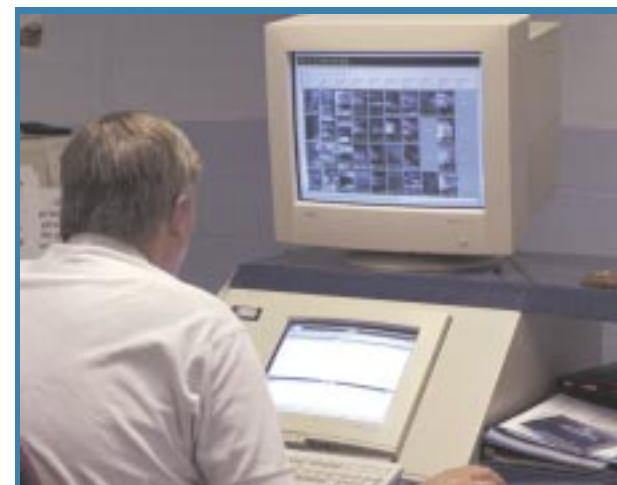
Firearms examiners confirm "hits" by comparing original evidence

In addition to its support of the NIBIN program, ATF provides comprehensive support to State and local NIBIN partners. They have access to a variety of resources such as the expertise in ATF Laboratory Services, assistance with firearms tracing and crime gun analysis, and industry resources.

Some Samples of Our Success…

Boston (MA) Police Department

- Boston PD enters all evidence and all recovered firearms into NIBIN.
- The recovery of one handgun and its imaging into IBIS revealed links:
  - among 15 shooting incidents
  - in which 10 people had been injured
  - that took place in 4 jurisdictions
  - across 2 states.

Indiana Law Enforcement

- Lake County Sheriff's deputies responded to a drive-by shooting, recovered cartridge casings, and submitted them for NIBIN entry.
- Two weeks later, a child was killed in a drive-by shooting. Gary PD recovered the bullets and casings, and entered them into NIBIN.
- NIBIN revealed a link between the incidents; an investigation was opened into gang activity.
- Several high-ranking members of the Latin Kings gang were found guilty of various Federal offenses.

Jefferson Parish (LA) Sheriff's Office

- Deputies investigated an armed robbery in which one person was shot; the casing recovered was entered into NIBIN.
- Later, deputies arrested a wanted felon who brandished a .45 caliber pistol. His weapon was seized and testfired.
- When the testfire casing was entered into NIBIN, the armed robbery was linked to the armed felon.
- The suspect is currently serving ten years imprisonment.

For more information about the NIBIN Program, contact your agency's forensic laboratory.

Bullets, Casings, and You

HOW ATF'S NIBIN PROGRAM CAN HELP YOUR AGENCY SOLVE VIOLENT FIREARMS CRIMES

You may also:

Contact the NIBIN Coordinator in your ATF Field Division,

call 202-927-5560,

or visit *www.nibin.gov*

N I B I N

National Integrated Ballistic Information Network

Department of the Treasury
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms