



Opportunities for Future Development

Though much progress in the creation of NIBIN has been made, much more must yet be done to complete the creation of a carefully considered and thoroughly supported network. As the technology used by NIBIN becomes the norm nationwide, many more opportunities for innovative use of the data generated and for linkage to other technologies will present themselves. The following are the goals for the expansion and strengthening of the NIBIN Program:

- Create an internal Working Group to determine methods for increasing NIBIN intelligence information capabilities over the short and long term. This group will include ATF program office staff, ATF field operations personnel, and State and local law enforcement personnel. The group will study IBIS usage and hit statistics to determine how best to encourage use of IBIS equipment, and will assist the ATF NIBIN Program office in determining performance measurements for the NIBIN Program.
- In accordance with mandates of the Department of the Treasury and Department of Justice, ensure that all firearms taken into custody by ATF are entered into the NIBIN crime gun database. While each Federal agency is responsible for ensuring that its own firearms are imaged, ATF is coordinating efforts to assist the other agencies in fulfilling the mandate. A pilot program has been implemented in ATF's Charlotte Field Division to enter all seized firearms into IBIS.
- Continue to sponsor the National Firearms Examiner Academy, expanding the Academy and developing additional training programs as circumstances require.
- Expand the number of NIBIN partners that participate in the program, according to the planned rollout.
- As the rollout progresses, conduct evaluations of FTI's installation of and training on the IBIS machines, and request changes as necessary.
- Continue to provide a sound support mechanism to ensure the effective administration of the program.
- Increase staffing in the field to maximize usefulness of the expanded opportunities that NIBIN affords, achieving increases in two particular areas:
 - The user liaison function is vital to the success of the NIBIN Program and will become more so as the machines are networked and the intelligence information that is available crosses jurisdictional lines. Each field division currently has one NIBIN Coordinator; this position will be augmented with a retired ATF agent or law enforcement official working on contract. The two will work as a team to coordinate intelligence information, share evidence, and ensure that firearms seized from ATF are test-fired and entered into IBIS. Pilot programs are being conducted to clarify administrative details and exact work responsibilities; these pilot programs will be used as models for employing contractors elsewhere in the field.
 - It will also be necessary to hire an additional firearms examiner at each of our laboratories dedicated solely to support the NIBIN Program. Presently our examiners must also do casework in addition to reviewing IBIS evaluations.
- Work with State and local NIBIN partners to develop a national recruiting plan for IBIS technicians and firearms examiners.