



ATF

September 2011

NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK

NIBIN Success Story for Kern County District Attorney Crime Laboratory

In January, 2010, at 10:09 pm, Bakersfield, California, Police Officers were dispatched to a home invasion robbery by three suspects. During the robbery one of the three victims chased the three suspects and one of the suspects fired multiple times at the victim. The police officers recovered expended 9 mm casings and expended .22 caliber casings where this shooting occurred. One of the three suspects was arrested and charged with this robbery.

In February 2010, at 9:04 pm, Bakersfield Police Officers attempted to stop a dark blue Honda Civic with paper plates for a traffic violation. The vehicle refused to stop which led to a pursuit and during the pursuit at least one of the occupants inside the vehicle fired multiple rounds at the police officers. The vehicle eventually stopped and the three suspects inside the vehicle fled on foot and evaded arrest.

During the foot chase, the suspects discarded a satchel and inside the satchel the police officers recovered a 9 mm pistol. The 9 mm pistol was submitted to the Kern County District Attorney Crime laboratory for test firing and imaging of the test fired casings into their regional IBIS database.

Using NIBIN, the Kern County District Attorney's Crime laboratory matched the 9 mm casings recovered during the home invasion robbery investigation to the 9 mm pistol recovered during the attempted homicide of the Bakersfield Police Officers. Investigation identified three suspects as being involved in the shooting with the police officers. Victims of the home invasion robbery were able to identify in a photo spread two of the three suspects as being involved in the home invasion robbery.

In 2011, the three suspects in the shooting with the police officers were all convicted

in separate trials of attempted murder of a police officer with use of a firearm enhancement and a gang enhancement.

A victim of the home invasion robbery was called as a witness at the trial to connect the suspects with the involved firearm and this was made possible because of the NIBIN hit. The three suspects received sentences of 70 years to life, 77 years to life, and 115 years to life. The suspects are members of the Varrio Bakers street gang which is a subset of the Sureno street gang. The district attorney said NIBIN is utilized on a regular basis in Bakersfield, California, to further investigations involving firearms violations.

NIBIN Update: In August 2011, ATF held a NIBIN Users Congress meeting in Chicago, IL. Presenters included Greg Czarnopys, DAD of Forensic Services, Tim Curtis, Chief of the NIBIN Branch, Forensic Technology and NIST. The meeting was well attended and very informational.

Justice Assistance Grant Addresses Violent Crime County - Wide– In Stockton, California

The City of Stockton and San Joaquin County will be working together to combat gun violence in their community. The City and County have entered into an Interlocal Memorandum of Understanding agreement that will provide for a combined \$467,765 in the form of a 2011 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

The grant funds will be used to establish a county-wide Firearms Reduction Consortium (FRC). The City of Stockton will hire a full-time Firearms Examiner who is a ballistics expert. In addition, the Stockton Police Department will purchase upgrades to the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS), a system used to evaluate, identify and track bullets from crime scenes. Funds will also be used by San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department, Probation Department, District Attorney's Office and City of Stockton Police Department to conduct

at least 4 firearms sweeps, per year, throughout the County.

"A primary contributing factor to our recent increase in violent crime is illegal firearms," said Stockton Police Chief Blair Urling. "This grant will help provide resources essential to conducting county-wide collaborative investigations, making a difference in Stockton and throughout the County."

The grant does not require a monetary contribution from the City and County.

On August 26th the Stockton Police Department was notified that they will actually be receiving the total of \$467,795 in grant funds, between the City of Stockton and San Joaquin County.

Chief Blair Urling has since retired and is now serving as Interim Chief, to facilitate transition to the next Chief.

New Contact Information for the NIBIN Branch

NIBIN Main number:
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NIBIN Fax number:
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Tim Curtis, Chief of the NIBIN Branch:
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Ben Wilson:
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Karen Molina:
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Karen Nason:
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New Contract Personnel

John "Jack" O'Mara–
IBIS specialist for the
Forensic Science
Laboratory-
Washington

Call for Articles

We would like to have our users provide an article for the next Newsletter. This is a good way for you to bring attention to your lab or department and highlight your successes or a topic that might be of interest to others. Please contact Karen Molina at the NIBIN Branch or Nanette Rudolph at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement if you would like to provide an article. Email your suggestions or articles to:
Karen.Molina@atf.gov or nanetteru-dolph@fdle.state.fl.us

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