



ATF

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NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK

NIBIN Helps North Carolina Police Link Gun to Crime

Greensboro, NC -- A new twist in a three-year-old murder case sounds like a crime show on television.

In 2008, just ten days before Christmas, someone shot and killed an armored truck driver as he picked up money at the Old Navy in the Friendly Shopping Center in Greensboro, NC.

Police got several tips from Crimestoppers that identified a particular person as the shooter and matched his palm prints to prints found at the scene. If found guilty, the person faces the death penalty at trial. Jury selection had started, but everything came to a halt after the discovery of a new piece of evidence. The district attorney believes they've found the gun used in the murder.

While Greensboro Police could not comment on the case, they did show a "News 2" reporter, how they link guns to a crime inside the department's crime lab. Inside the forensics room, the CSI division of the Greensboro Police Department uses a system called IBIS or Integrated Ballistic Identification System. When investigators recover a bullet at a crime scene, they take a digital

picture and enter it into the IBIS database.

When a gun is fired it leaves a unique mark on each bullet, similar to a fingerprint. So when investigators find a gun, they can test fire it to see if it those bullets match bullets in the database.

"So, if you have multiple projectiles that were fired from the same weapon, even if you don't have the weapon, you would be able to determine that they were all fired from the same weapon," stated someone who works in the CSI division.

Police and sheriff departments across the country use IBIS. In the past, the crime lab at the Greensboro Police Department has actually been able to link bullets used during a crime to two shootings in Maryland and a murder in Washington, DC

In the case of the Old Navy Murder, with new evidence, the case has been re-opened. However, Major Tom Sheppard with the Guilford County Sheriff's department said a case is never really closed.

According to Sheppard, It's not unheard of for evidence to turn up after investigators have a suspect or even after someone has been convicted. In fact, the term "closed case" or "inactive" is really just what police use internally to say they're not working on any new leads. However, in a serious crime like a murder, any clue can be a big one.

"When new evidence comes in like this, I think it's prudent for the prosecution and the judge to delay the case because after all, it's called justice. And we want justice for the community and the person being tried," said Sheppard.

Sheppard said some cases can take weeks, months and even years to solve.

Greensboro police tested the new evidence, the gun, in the Old Navy murder case. Officials said the hit was recently confirmed; the weapon that was test fired in 2009 and entered into NIBIN was the weapon used in the murder of the armored truck guard in 2008.

Lauren Melvin
WFMY News2
Greensboro, NC

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

Note: We reserve the right to edit submissions for the Newsletter. We cannot guarantee the use of all submissions.

Due to Operational Security regulations, we can not publish any photos that have a photo ID in the picture.

NIBIN Password Reminder

This is a reminder, that no one should be sharing their logins and passwords with anyone. Never give your password to anyone or log onto the system and allow another person to use your login ID who is not authorized access. You are accountable for all activities that occur using your login ID. The only exception to this provision is to log onto the system so that authorized computer maintenance personnel can fix a problem on your workstation or, if someone in your lab is scheduled for upcoming training and would like to be introduced

to the system before coming to training; then, a certified user may logon to their IBIS System and demonstrate how to acquire a cartridge case or bullet. Only certified users with an existing login and password should be operating the system. If you have any questions, please refer to the **ATF Publication 7500.1 "Rules of Behavior and Customer Agreement for ATF Workstation Users" Section 6.A.1.** This document had to be acknowledged and signed by every IBIS user before receiving a login and password. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Niki M. McCall
IBIS Specialist
ATF-Atlanta

NIBIN Updates

Retirement:

On November 30, 2011 Richard Chuchman, a Program Analyst for the NIBIN Branch retired after 31 years of government service. Best wishes to him in his future endeavors.

If you are requesting hit information or submitting 7200s please contact Walter Dandridge, on 202-648-6310 or email him, at Walter.Dandridge@atf.gov

NIBIN Milestones

<u>Site name</u>	<u>Hits achieved</u>	<u>Month/yr achieved</u>
Newark NJ PD	1,400	Aug-11
ISP - Chicago	2,300	Sep-11
Allegheny County PA Medical Examiner's Office	2,200	Sep-11
Houston PD	1,100	Sep-11
NYPD	2,800	Oct-11
VA Dept. of Forensic Sciences - Norfolk Lab	1,300	Oct-11

New Contract Personnel

Alicia Lynch-IBIS Specialist for the Forensic Science Laboratory-Washington. Her contact information is 202-648-6315, Alicia.Lynch@atf.gov

IBIS Version 2.3 and 3.8

In late November, Forensic Technology installed the version 2.3 on the new Trax equipment and version 3.8 on the Heritage system on the Region 6 server and ATF equipment. To date a limited review of the Match Point Plus system has been conducted and the following features have been noted;

There is a new sharpness button that has been added. When conducting reviews to an image, this button allows the reviewer to adjust the level of sharpness that is either too dark or light, or out of focus. For Region 6 users this will prove to be a great addition due to the number of older images this database contains. Also, when printing a correlation page you now have the option of having your name on the printout or leaving it off.

In addition, you have the option to have the page number listed (Page 1 of 1) or have the page numbering stay blank (Page of). This feature was added to make it easier for the Technicians to integrate IBIS printout sheets with their own laboratory worksheets.

Issues with the new DART have been noted and additional testing is currently underway.

Additional testing of both the Trax 2.3 and the Heritage 3.8 versions are ongoing and will be reported at a later time. However, it is suggested that as your system is upgraded, you review the upgrades and make sure you report any issues to FTI at the Largo office.

Martin Ols
Firearms Examiner
ATF-Washington