



ATF

APRIL 2010

NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK

◆ IBIS BrassTRAX from a Firearms Examiners View ◆

The South Florida FAS Examiner's Meeting was held the week of February 8, 2010 .

During this meeting, Julie Knapp from the Miami-Dade PD presented information on BrassTRAX. Below is a summary of her presentation.

BrassTRAX vs Heritage

Advantages:

- Better Resolution
- Excellent search tools
- Automated
- More images to compare
- Better scoring system
- User friendly
- More report options.

Disadvantages:

- It takes longer to acquire cases
- Loss of a viewing station
- Cannot Export
- Old data is in "read-only" format
- The "hybrid" situation
- The BrassTRAX CBT training was inadequate

Summary:

Overall, although the transition was rough, the Miami –Dade PD is pleased with their new equipment.

Both the Broward County Sheriff's Office and Palm Beach County Sheriff's were at the meeting and also indicated they are pleased with their BrassTRAX systems as well.

Note: Export of images can still be done by calling the Help Desk. FTI is working on a software fix for the export of images.

NIBIN Notes

Thank you:

In January 2010, the NIBIN Branch presented Caryn Tucker, firearms examiner, Illinois State Police, Forensic Science Center at Chicago with a plaque to thank her for her excellent service on the NIBIN Users Congress.

She was with the NIBIN Users Congress from 2004 to 2009. We wish her luck with the new addition to your family.

Reminder of due date:

Annual Direct Byrne/JAG Grant Application due date July 2010. Contact information: 1-888-549-9901, option 3

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 Updates

NIBIN Milestone Hit Plaque Presentations



**Santa Ana Police Department
(1000 Hits- November 2009)**



**San Diego Police Department
(300 hits—July 2009)**

Hardware and Software Updates:

- Acceptance testing of the NIBIN servers is being performed during April in Montreal. The new servers are scheduled to be installed starting in May 2010 through August 2010.
- IBIS Software Upgrade: ATF has been working with the vendor to ensure the "data sanitization" feature for the ICS meets ATF requirements. Software testing is scheduled for June 2010.
- IBIS International correlation Server (ICS): This testing is scheduled for October 2010. Tentative completion date is February 2010.

****LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE/FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY****

NIBIN Updates

IBIS Training: ATF has expanded the class options for IBIS training. ATF will have the option of choosing in advance one of the four classes that are available for instruction. The four options available to ATF are;

Option 1 - One 5-day data acquisition course (both cartridge cases and bullets);

Option 2 - One 5-day data acquisition course (consisting of two, 2 1/2 day sessions cartridge cases only);

Option 3 - One 5-day data acquisition including correlation training (2 1/2 days of cartridge cases acquisition and 2 1/2 days correlation);

Option 4 - One 5-day correlation review training (consisting of two 2 1/2 day sessions).

The Course selection will be dependent on the current need .

If you want to schedule people for training, please e-mail Martin.Ols@atf.gov and Timothy.Curtis@atf.gov

U.S. Mexico-IBIS Exchange:

A draft U.S. Mexico IBIS Sharing Agreement is under review by Mexico Officials.

NIBIN NEWS

ATF NIBIN BRANCH AGENTS MET WITH ATF SPECIAL AGENTS IN CHARGE

From January to April 2010, ATF NIBIN Branch Agents delivered briefings to the following Field Division Management Teams:

Denver	New Orleans
Tampa	Nashville
Atlanta	Louisville
Baltimore	Newark
Miami	

NIBIN Personnel attended the following Conferences:

California Homicide Investigators Association Conference- (Las Vegas-March 2010)

American Academy of Forensic Science National Conference- (Seattle- February 2010)

NIBIN Branch Reorganization:

As of March 28, the NIBIN Branch has been divided into two different offices, the Office of Science and Technology and the Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information.

The new Technology and Operational points of contact will be Tim Curtis, Chief of Laboratory Operations and Martin Ols, Firearms Program Manager. Their email addresses are:

Timothy.Curtis@atf.gov and Martin.Ols@atf.gov

The current NIBIN staff of Richard Chuchman, Karen Molina, Karen Nason and Paul O'Brien moved to Laboratory Services on April 11, 2010.

The New NIBIN Branch Contact information is:

(240) 264-1431 (Main #)

(240) 264-1491 (Fax #)

◆ Welcome to the New NIBIN Investigators Congress ◆

ATF would like to thank NIBIN Investigators Congress representatives for attending the meeting in St. Louis.

Captain Paul J. Zinkann III
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

Detective Michael Gifford
City of Wilmington Police Department

Laurie J. Van Deusen
Special Projects Coordinator
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

Special Agent James Ferguson
ATF Chicago

Sgt. Chris Postma, Grand Rapids
Police Department

Roy Ferreira
California Highway Patrol

Detective II Greg Stearns
Los Angeles Police Department

Detective Brian Vold
Tacoma Police Department

Detective Mark Crider
Denver Police Department

Special Agent Joseph Frank
ATF- St. Louis

Special Agent David Lomax
ATF-St. Louis

Eric Larson
St. Louis Police Department

Katherine Castillo
St. Louis Police Department

Matt Hanewinkel
St. Louis Police Department

David Menendez
St. Louis Police Department

During the week of March 22, 2010, ATF and the NIBIN Investigators had a meeting in St. Louis. During this meeting attendees discussed roles of the NIBIN Investigators Congress, NIBIN Hit Investigator to NIBIN Hit Investigator Communication, Investigating NIBIN Hit Leads and other topics related to NIBIN Intelligence. NIBIN Investigators Congress will make recommendations for ATF on NIBIN Intelligence Management.

IACP August Vollmer Award:

Winners for: Innovation in Forensic Technology: Detective Louie Martinez, Detective Ferrell Buckels, and Mr. Rocky Edwards, Santa Ana Police Department:

Detective Martinez, Detective Buckels, and Mr. Edwards of the Santa Ana Police Department (SAPD) were able to solve a cold homicide case and obtain a conviction by calling upon experience and utilizing cutting-edge 3D imaging not available a few years ago.

◆ The Paul Coverdell Forensic Improvement Grants Program ◆

Description and purpose:

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program (the Coverdell program) awards grants to states and units of local government to help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services. Among other things, funds may be used to eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic evidence and to train and employ forensic laboratory personnel, as needed, to eliminate such a backlog. States may apply for both “base” (formula) and competitive funds. Units of local government may apply for competitive funds.

A state or unit of local government that receives a Coverdell grant must use the grant for one or more of these three purposes:

- 1) To carry out all or a substantial part of a program intended to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science or medical examiner services in the state, including those services provided by laboratories operated by the state and those operated by units of local government within the state.
- 2) To eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic science evidence, including, among other things, a backlog with respect to firearms examination, latent prints, toxicology, controlled substances, forensic pathology, questioned documents and trace evidence.
- 3) To train, assist and employ forensic laboratory personnel as needed to eliminate such a backlog

Eligibility

States [\[1\]](#) and units of local government may apply for FY2009 Coverdell funds. States may be eligible for both “base” (formula) and competitive funds. Units of local government within States may be eligible for competitive funds and may apply directly to NIJ. State applications for funding MUST be submitted by the [Coverdell State Administering Agency \(SAA\)](#). (Other interested state agencies or departments must coordinate with their respective SAA.) Each applicant must satisfy the specific application requirements outlined in this announcement, the general requirements for NIJ and OJP grants and all other applicable legal requirements.

The Coverdell law (at 42 U.S.C. § 3797k(4)) requires that, to request a grant, an applicant for Coverdell funds must submit:

- A certification and description regarding a plan for forensic science laboratories.
- A certification regarding use of generally accepted laboratory practices.
- A certification and description regarding costs of new facilities.
- A certification regarding external investigations into allegations of serious negligence or misconduct. [See below for important notes and guidance regarding this certification.](#)

Applicants are expected to review the requirements of each certification carefully before determining whether the certification may be properly made. Any certification that is submitted must be executed by an official who is both familiar with the requirements of the certification and authorized to make the certification on behalf of the applicant agency (that is, the agency applying directly to NIJ). **Certifications must be made by using the templates that appear in Appendix 2.**

Certifications made on behalf of sub-recipients of award funds — rather than certifications made on behalf of the agency applying directly to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) — are **not** acceptable to satisfy the certification requirements.

In connection with the certification regarding external investigations described above, applicants **must** provide, prior to receiving award funds, the name(s) of the existing “government entity” (or government entities).

This information is to be provided as an attachment to the program narrative section of the application. See “What An Application Must Include,” below, and Appendix 3, which includes a template for the attachment. Please note that funds will not be made available to applicant agencies that fail to provide the necessary information.

More Information:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/topics/forensics/nfsia/>