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Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

NIBIN NEWSLETTER

Editor: Karen Molina

Users Congress Meeting-Opening Comments

At the Users Congress meeting recently held in Orlando, Florida, the members covered a number of important issues for users, as well as being introduced to some of the newest members to the ATF.

ATF's Deputy Director Ronnie Carter provided a brief presentation on his current views and future goals for NIBIN. He assured all members that he and his staff were committed to the NIBIN program and wanted to work with the congress members to make the system work as efficiently and effectively as possible. Mr. Carter addressed a number of the rumors that have been circulating, including the refreshment of the current equipment, the minimum usage issue and the Request for Information (RFI) that was recently sent out.

Mr. Carter stated that the ATF was asking for funding in their 2010 budget to begin an equipment

refresh. As far as the Request for Information (RFI) is concerned this was "window shopping" to see what other products were out there. He emphasized that whatever new system they use for the refresh, will have to be backward compatible with the current system. At this point it is just an exploratory expedition for technology. This discussion ultimately resulted in the creation of a Strategic Planning Committee, which will work with ATF to explore and evaluate new technology and equipment.

Deputy Director Carter introduced Carson Carroll, the new Assistant Director of Enforcement Programs & Services (EPS). While Mr. Carroll has only been in this position for a few weeks, he expressed his desire to open the lines of communication once again between the ATF and all partners.

Nanette Rudolph
Supervisor of Firearms
Florida Department of
Law Enforcement

Minimum Entry Requirement Increase

One of the most debated issues at the last meeting was the "Minimum Entry Requirement increase" letter that was mailed to the SACs a few months ago. Following the unfavorable response to this letter, The Executive Committee developed a survey that was emailed to all users in order to gain a better understanding of the needs of the users. Of the over 200 sites that are currently using the

NIBIN system, approximately 133 sites responded to the survey by the deadline.

Chief Steve Pugmire and Deputy Director Carter made it clear that the increase will not go into effect until the Standards Committee has a chance to look into this issue and make a recommendation. They are to report back to the Congress and ATF with a recommendation within 60 days of the meeting (NLT Aug. 15).

BULLETRAX: The Boston Police Department Trial

At the Users Congress Meeting, Stacy Stern of Forensic Technology provided a presentation on the new acceptance test that is going to begin early this fall. Boston Police Department has agreed to participate in a Users Acceptance Test for BulletTRAX, slated to start this September.

In April of 2008, two representatives from the Boston P.D. went to Montreal to perform a double-blind test (designed by Boston PD, prior to their arrival in Montreal) of the BulletTRAX system. Based on the results of that test, the agency was very pleased and agreed to participate in the pilot program.

The BulletTRAX system that will be put in place will be a stand alone system (it will not be attached to the server) and will be in place for approximately one year. In this year, Boston will continue to enter bullets into BulletPROOF as well as BulletTRAX. Emphasis will be on 38 caliber

homicide bullets. In the past eight years, Boston PD has seen nearly 50 homicides using 38 caliber revolvers.

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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. 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 suggestions to Karen.Molina@atf.gov or nanetterudolph@fdle.state.fl.us

Chief Pugmire explained that due to the cost of the machines and yearly upkeep of the computer lines it makes good business sense to take a closer look at those sites that are not using their machines effectively. He stated that the current minimum entry of 15 acquisitions was not a part of the original MOU, but a letter distributed to the Partners in 2003 advised them of the standard. Chief Pugmire also offered a number of alternative suggestions to sites that feel

40 entries a month would be unattainable. One option ATF is exploring for the Partners is to "outsource" their entries to the ATF Laboratories. Another option is FTI's FastTRAX Services.

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