

NIBIN NEWSLETTER

Editor: Karen Molina

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

NIBIN Connects Multiple Shooting Cases in Connecticut

It is not unusual in large cities to have multiple shootings over a period of time linked to the same firearm or groups of firearms. Prior to NIBIN, the examiner would place the fired ammunition components in an open case file or use a photographic "line up" to help them associate cases. Now the linking of these open cases has been made easier with the use of the NIBIN database.

A perfect example of this powerful tool is the multiple shooting incidents, which took place in Hartford, Connecticut from November 2005 through July 2006. A total of seventeen shootings, including several drive-bys, shooting into occupied dwellings and two homicides resulted in the examination of over 140, 9mm

Luger, 380 Auto, 45 Auto and 22 Long Rifle caliber cartridge cases.

I am the Lead Criminalist at the Connecticut Forensic Science Laboratory. I was able to provide the Hartford Police Department (HPD) with the investigative leads that were instrumental in solving these cases.

Through the use of the NIBIN system I verified the connections between the cases and with that information the agency was able to obtain search warrants to the suspects' homes to look for the firearms. The HPD recovered a total of six firearms which were test fired and entered into the NIBIN system.

In July 2006, a 380 Auto caliber FEG was identified as firing the 380 Auto caliber cartridge cases in eight of the shootings and a 9mm Luger

caliber Taurus was identified as firing the 9mm Luger caliber cartridge cases in at least twelve of the incidents, including two homicide cases. Another 9mm Luger caliber pistol, a Glock obtained in a separate search warrant was identified with several of the cases including one in which a 15 year old was shot and killed. In addition, two of the cases also contained 45 Auto caliber cartridge cases which were linked; however, no firearm has been recovered.

Two juveniles have been arrested in connection with these cases.

Ed Jachimowicz
Firearms & Toolmark
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Entering Bullets: Time Well Spent

The Indian River Crime Laboratory is nestled on Florida's east coast between Cocoa Beach to the north and West Palm Beach to the south. It serves the four surrounding counties which make up the 19th Judicial Circuit. The Laboratory provides analysis of DNA, Drugs/Blood Alcohol and Firearm/Tool Mark evidence.

I work as a full time examiner in the Firearm/Tool Mark Section along with a part time technical reviewer. One of my duties as an examiner is to enter items into IBIS. Our policy at the Laboratory has always been to enter both cartridge cases and

bullets into IBIS, with the exception of .22 caliber bullets and certain rifles. So, from the onset of my employment at the Indian River Crime Laboratory in early 2005, I did just that.

A little over a year later, my extra time spent entering bullets paid off. An RG Industries 38 Special revolver with eight lands and grooves and a right twist was recovered from a rental car and submitted to the laboratory for IBIS entry. A day after entering a test fired cartridge case and bullet from the revolver; I pulled the correlation results up on the screen. I noticed a significant gap

between the number one and the number two ranked scores. The side-by-side screen images looked great, so I contacted the agency and had them resubmit the bullet.

A bullet recovered from an unoccupied vehicle in early 2005 was submitted for comparison to the test fired bullet from the RG Industries revolver. The bullet was one of the first unknowns I had entered since starting at the laboratory. There was no cartridge case recovered from the scene, as is typical with revolver shootings, and both cases were submitted by the

same agency. After a spin under the Comparison scope I confirmed the hit and contacted the agency with the news.

Entering bullets does take a little more time than just entering cartridge cases, but this is a perfect example of why everyone should take the time to enter both. IBIS was designed to image and correlate both cartridge cases and bullets.

Mark Chapman
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