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Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Program

NIBIN NEWSLETTER

Editor: Karen Molina

NIBIN Hits Take Cases One Step Further

The Orange County (FL) Sheriff's Office responded to a home invasion in March 2005. When the officers arrived, they found eight people victimized by four men with two shotguns and two handguns. Based on some information from the witnesses, the police began looking for a car and the suspects.

Hours later, the Orlando Police Department was called to a homicide that took place in the stairwell of an apartment complex. While the Orlando police were picking up shot shells fired at that scene, the Orange County Sheriff's Office found two of the suspects from the home invasion and pulled them over. They arrested the suspects and found two shotguns and a pistol in the car. A warrant later revealed another firearm, a pistol found at the suspect's home. Through their investigation, the detectives linked the two cases and sent the evidence into the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Orlando Regional Crime Laboratory for analysis.

The detectives also wanted to know if a robbery was connected to the home invasion and the homicide. The robbery took place a few months before and shared the same modus operandi of the apartment complex homicide. The cartridge case from the robbery scene was eliminated from the pistol and confiscated from the suspects.

As the Laboratory was wrapping up the three cases, tests from the shotguns and pistols were submitted for entry into the NIBIN. The shotgun from the home invasion, connected to the homicide, was then linked to another home invasion through NIBIN. This fourth case took place in February, and confirmed the involvement of the shotgun as well as the pistol confiscated from the suspect's house. The cartridge case found at the robbery, was linked, to a firearm taken from a convicted felon nine months after the crime.

Amanda Johnson,
Florida Department of Law Enforcement

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 nanetterudolph@fdle.state.fl.us.

NIBIN Network Database Configuration

During the Spring of 2000, the NIBIN program began the systematic deployment of IBIS systems to forensic laboratories throughout the United States.

Prior to system installation, representatives of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives met with firearms examiners, Laboratory Directors and law enforcement agency heads to gather firearm crime information, such as crime and trafficking patterns, and known links of the unlawful use of firearms within their geographical jurisdictions. Those recommendations were used by the NIBIN program to task Forensic Technology with configuring IBIS systems to automatically search against server databases offering the highest probability of an association.

With the Remote Data Acquisition Station (RDAS) software a site can acquire and analyze images on one system. The RDAS has its own local database, but does not have its own server. Each RDAS laboratory in the NIBIN network is configured to communicate with a regional correlation server at one of the three following NIBIN server sites:

- Ammendale, MD
- Atlanta, GA
- Walnut Creek, CA

Each NIBIN server site is made up of several servers that are partitioned into regions. All automatic correlations are carried out at a default region. A correlation outside the default region can be carried out by performing a manual correlation.

Ben Wilson,
ATF

** If your firearm evidence correlation requirement has changed within your default region, please call the NIBIN Branch on 202-927-5660 for assistance in this matter.