



**ATF**

**February 2011**

## **NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK**

### **The Success of the Phoenix Police Department**

The Phoenix Police Department joined the NIBIN program in 2002, since then it has become one of the more productive sites in the United States with more than 300 "hits", or case linkages, confirmed by Crime Lab personnel since its inception; many of these cases involve serious felony crimes including aggravated assault, drive-by shootings and homicides. Through a coordinated effort between the Drug Enforcement Bureau's Gun Enforcement & NIBIN squad, comprised of both civilian and sworn personnel, and the Firearms Section of the Crime Lab, more than 1,000 firearms were being test-fired and over 4,000 ballistic images were being entered into NIBIN annually.

In 2010, an innovative plan was developed to increase participation in this valuable program among other local law enforcement agencies, which would not only maximize the investment of the Phoenix Police Department's dedication of more than \$500,000 in grant and other funding for equipment and annual warranty costs, but would also increase the sharing of information among agencies throughout the valley. The "Phoenix Metro NIBIN

Program", with the support of ATF, involved the training of personnel from 11 local law enforcement agencies that would enable these employees to enter ballistic evidence from their respective departments into the NIBIN database utilizing one of the three NIBIN entry stations at the Phoenix Police Department. To make this program a reality, however, members of the Gun Enforcement & NIBIN squad spent countless hours providing the leadership, training, guidance and mentoring to the members of the law enforcement agencies who joined this program, which was officially launched on July 1, 2010.

As a result of the increased participation through this program, by the end of 2010 more than 4,000 guns were test-fired from 12 different law enforcement agencies, including more than 2,900 guns seized by the Phoenix Police Department; this total of 4,000 guns is a 124% increase over the approximately 1,780 guns that were test-fired by the Gun Enforcement & NIBIN squad in 2009. In just the first 6 months of the Phoenix Metro NIBIN Program, personnel from

the participating agencies completed more than 550 entries into the NIBIN database; to date, 15 possible hits have been identified and 13 hits have been confirmed involving 8 different law enforcement agencies across the valley (including cases connected to Phoenix).

Perhaps the most impressive statistic, however, is that the Phoenix Police Department's NIBIN Program finished as the highest volume NIBIN site in the United States with more than 6,400 entries during 2010. This incredible feat, combined with more than 130 new possible hits and 74 confirmed hits (reaching the 400 hit milestone in the process) involving cases from the Phoenix PD, is a testament to the creativity

and dedication of the personnel from the Gun Enforcement and NIBIN squad, in partnership with the Firearms Section of the Crime Lab, ATF and the participating Phoenix Metro NIBIN Agencies. As 2011 begins, the goal for the Phoenix PD will be to continue to increase participation among other law enforcement agencies throughout the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

As this program continues to expand, it is hoped that it will be viewed by other communities throughout the US as a model in cooperative law enforcement practices that can be utilized to help connect and solve violent crimes involving the use of firearms.

### **NIBIN Users Congress Meeting**

On July 27-28, 2010, the Office of Science and Technology's NIBIN Branch held their first NIBIN Users Congress Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. During the meeting we had elections of Committee Positions:

Nanette Rudolph—Chair of Executive Committee (2nd 2 year term)

Darrell Stein— Vice Chair of Executive Committee (1st 2 year term)

Ashleigh Vogel— Secretary of Executive Committee (2nd 2 year term)

Mardy Beggs-Cassin, Stockton PD was nominated to the Standards Committee

## WeWIN Program at the FDLE Orlando Laboratory

## NIBIN NOTES

In 2009, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Laboratory in Orlando, Florida was experiencing an increase in submissions of firearms related cases adding to their 1000 case backlog. Even though the Firearms Section made every effort to work cases in order, the number of new RUSH cases limited the number of old cases they could process and once these old cases were worked, the examiners were finding that any NIBIN hits made, were 10-14 months later. By that time the investigative lead was moot. So in an effort to provide more timely information on cartridge case evidence, the Orlando Laboratory developed the Weekly Walk-In NIBIN (WeWIN) program. The WeWin Program was modeled after the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Walk-in Wednesday Program.

The WeWIN program began January 15, 2009 with Orlando PD and few months later the Orange County Sheriff's Office was invited to participate.

The primary goal of the program is to provide more timely leads to investigators on cartridge case evidence recovered at the crime scene. These leads are usually relayed to the agency within 24 – 48 hours as opposed to months later.

The agencies are very pleased with the program so far, and have dedicated personnel to follow up on the leads that are provided to them. The first 2 years of the program resulted in an additional 126 NIBIN hits and 1516 cartridge case entries for the Orlando Laboratory. The laboratory hopes to add more agencies to the program in 2011.

### THE NIBIN USERS CONGRESS MEETING IS ON HOLD DUE TO THE FEDERAL BUDGET CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Monthly NIBIN Hits are to be reported by the 5th of each month. The number of confirmed hits can be emailed to the ATF NIBIN Branch at:  
[www.NIBINMonthlyStats@atf.gov](mailto:www.NIBINMonthlyStats@atf.gov).

We have updated the NIBIN website, please visit [www.NIBIN.gov](http://www.NIBIN.gov) and see the changes. The 2010 NIBIN Users Directory has been updated. Please take a look at your respective laboratory and if you need to make any updates, email Richard Chuchman at [Richard.Chuchman@atf.gov](mailto:Richard.Chuchman@atf.gov).

**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 Branch Contact Information

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**New to the NIBIN Branch:**

Erin Hine– IBIS Technician,  
Ammendale Laboratory

Walter Dandridge-Section Chief,  
Ammendale Laboratory.

Ron Nichols- Section Chief, Walnut  
Creek Laboratory.

**From the Atlanta Laboratory:**  
Shontel Williams– IBIS Specialist

Isaac Chapman– IBIS Technician

Matthew Pearce– IBIS Technician

Jennifer Bieth– IBIS Technician

## IACP - October

AD OST Rick Holgate, DAD OST Greg Czarnopys, NIBIN Branch Chief Tim Curtis, NIBIN Contractor Ben Wilson, and FSL-A Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) Specialist Stephen Garten attended the 117<sup>th</sup> IACP Annual Conference meeting in Orlando, Florida during the week of October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Mr. Garten served as the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) Program's representative from the Atlanta Laboratory during the conference and was stationed at a booth sponsored by the NIBIN Program.

The IACP is the worlds oldest and largest nonprofit membership organization of police executives, with over 20,000 members in over 89 different countries.

### NIBIN Milestone Hit Plaque Presentation



**San Diego Sheriff's Department  
Regional Crime Laboratory  
(100 hits– May 2010)**