



ATF

July 2009

## NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK

### ◆ NIBIN Users Congress (NUC) IBIS Training Recommendations ◆

◆ The NIBIN User's Congress noted that currently, training for the entry of cartridge case and bullet evidence is restricted to the IBIS Data Acquisition course provided by Forensic Technology at their facility in Largo, Florida.

The "one size fits all" format of the current training has become increasingly impractical for many agencies. Trainees from sites entering cartridge cases are still required to learn how to enter bullets. The NIBIN User's Congress (NUC) recognizes that current financial and staffing situations may no longer allow the current method of training to continue, and at the January 2009 meeting asked the NUC Training Committee to provide potential recommendations for training alternatives. General Observations/Points to consider: The "hands-on" nature and the standardization of the current training are often touted as important points for maintaining training at the Largo facility. The immediate availability of an instructor is key to this model of training. However, many sites already have on-staff and available, trained and highly experienced users. The IBIS Data Acquisition Training Guide is very

Comprehensive and can serve to maintain a level of standardization or consistency. Correlation review/data analysis training has yet to be standardized and is currently left up to the individual agencies to provide to their own personnel. The current training requires bullet entry training on the Heritage system. The October 2008 *ATF NIBIN Program Fact Sheet* reports that the **bullet hit ratio is 0.09%** for the past year (1 hit for every 1065 acquisitions). The number of bullet acquisitions has decreased approximately 28% compared to the previous year. Conversely, there has been an approximate 5% increase in cartridge case acquisitions. Roughly 75% of sites are currently entering **cartridge** cases only.

There is currently a six month backlog for IBIS Heritage data entry training at Largo.

There is potential for high turnover of IBIS Technicians. The nature of the job, including promotion opportunities, salary considerations and grant funding may lead to rapid turnover of Technician positions.

BrassTrax3D/Matchpoint+2.2 training currently rely on a Computer Based Training (CBT) supplement provided on CD to previously trained personnel. New "refresh" equipment does not include a bullet component.

◆ **Recommendation #1:** Allow bullet training to be optional.

◆ **ATF Position:** ATF will research the possibility of changing the current data acquisition training syllabus to reflect the needs of NIBIN Users. The syllabus change would eliminate bullet acquisition and be replaced with two days of cartridge case review. Bullet Acquisition classes at Largo will be scheduled on an as needed basis, which will be designed with two days of bullet acquisition and two days of correlation review.

◆ **Recommendation #2:** Make training requirements fit the type of user (bullet or cartridge cases).

◆ **ATF Position:** See response to number one.

◆ **Recommendation #3:** Consider using existing IBIS trained users as instructors where available

◆ **ATF Position:** ATF will not sanction on site training unless training is performed by FT or ATF Personnel. Data acquisition training syllabus and exemplars have been standardized, ensuring all students receive equivalent training.

◆ **Recommendation #4:** Modify training to fit the proficiency of the user.

◆ **ATF Position:** See response to number two.

◆ **Recommendation #5:** Allow regional training.

◆ **ATF Position:** See response

to number two. Significant cost to ATF program. Due to budget constraints, this is not possible.

◆ **Recommendation #6:** Consider using available technology such as a DVD.

◆ **ATF Position:** There is a need for an instructor to be present to address questions.

## NIBIN NEWS

### Workshops

#### ◆ Best Practices

(Washington, DC, March 2009)

A workshop was held to develop recommendations for Partner/Participant

- evidence collection,
- submission,
- acquisition,
- correlation,
- confirmation,
- notification, and
- investigation.

#### ◆ Hit Reporting

(Washington DC, April 2009)

A workshop was held to prepare a "How-To" guide for NIBIN FCAs to report hit incidents in N-Force.

#### ◆ FCA Conference

(Bowling Green, KY July 2009)

A meeting was held to prepare a conference agenda to train FCAs to use N-Force, identify investigative/judicial hit results, and prepare success stories.

#### ◆ 13 Critical Tasks by FTI

(Cleveland March 2009)

## MORE NIBIN NEWS

### ATF NIBIN Conference Representation

Association of Firearms & Toolmark Examiners (AFTE) National Seminar (Miami June 2009)

2009 International Forensic Technology Symposium (IFTS) (Cancun April 2009)

2009 Montana Narcotics Officers Association (Billings April 2009)

### Special Agent Details

Effective July 5, 2009, ASAC Carl Vasilko, Louisville Field Division began a six-month detail to ATF NIBIN Branch

Effective immediately, SSA James Allison, Chicago Field Division, will extend his NIBIN Regional Coordinator (N. Central Region) detail through September 26, 2009.

### Milestone Hit Plaque Presentations:

Newark PD: 1000  
Metropolitan (DC) PD: 700  
Minneapolis PD: 300  
Marion County (IN) Forensic Services: 200  
Somerset County (NJ) Prosecutor's Office: 100

### IBIS Data Correlation Server Refresh:

ATF is exploring options for refreshing/upgrading NIBIN's 13 IBIS Data Correlation Servers

### IBIS BulletTRAX – 3D

Acceptance plans and protocols are being reviewed right now and negotiation activities with FTI are being performed.

## Revised NIBIN IBIS Training Policy

ATF funds a weeklong training class for new NIBIN Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) users. The training classes are taught by the IBIS manufacturer, Forensic Technology, Inc. (FTI). The class is held at FTI's training facility in Largo, FL, and runs Monday - Friday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. One ATF NIBIN user is assigned to each class as a Class Coordinator.

Any cancellation by a student must be made to ATF 15 days prior to the scheduled training date. Less than 15 days advance notice will result in your agency paying for any further training.

All trainees attending the ATF/FTI class are expected to be present for the class at the times indicated.

In order for a student to successfully complete this course and obtain a certificate, he/she must pass the ATF Competency Tests as well as participate and complete all FTI and ATF exercises. Completion of the training is a NIBIN Program requirement in order to gain access to the NIBIN Network.

### There are no exceptions.

Any trainee who does not comply with this policy and leaves before the designated time or training completion will not receive a certificate from ATF. No access to the NIBIN Network will be given to the trainee. The Federal Government will not incur the costs for repeat training of this initial class.

## US-Mexico Sharing of Automated Ballistic Imaging Technology

On April 16, 2009, President Obama made his first trip to Mexico and his first to Latin America to highlight and reinforce the United States' commitment to work with Mexico on a broad range of issues, in particular on meeting our shared security challenges. The United States and Mexico are committed to a new approach in our bilateral relationship based on comprehensive engagement and shared responsibility. The President discussed with President Calderon a number of important steps the United States intends to take to deepen the cooperation we have with Mexico as our neighbor and partner. **Below is one of the steps**

Arms Trafficking: The United States and Mexico each have Integrated Ballistic Identification Systems (IBIS) that store digital photos and arms-related information related to criminal investigations. The United States and Mexico will bridge their IBIS systems in order to share digital images, ballistic markings, other arms-related information to help identify leads in violent crimes both in Mexico and in the United States. The President will also urge the United

Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials.

**ATF's Position:** In terms of releasing network information, this will be a long project and is in the preliminary stages. If it progresses to the point where the sharing will occur, ATF's plan will be to replicate NIBIN data to a separate international server AFTER it had been scrubbed of all sensitive law information. The only information that should be shared is the image and a means for ATF to identify the image. When the protocol for this sharing is developed, ATF will provide it to the NIBIN Executive Board for their review and recommendations.



2009 AFTE National Seminar—Miami Beach. Jim Yurgealitis, Ben Wilson, and Karen Nason.

## NEW NIBIN EXECUTIVE BOARD CHARTER

On June 17, 2009, ATF notified FBI of its termination of the 1999 ATF/FBI NIBIN Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU established a NIBIN Executive Board; with representation from ATF, FBI, and one State/local law enforcement representative; and assigned NIBIN administration responsibility to both ATF and FBI. In its place, effective June 24, 2009, ATF adopted a NIBIN Executive Board "Charter", signed by the Director of ATF, that assigns NIBIN administration responsibility solely to ATF. In addition, the Charter assigns the Director of ATF responsibility for appointing NIBIN Executive Board members. The members may be appointed from Federal, State or local law enforcement organizations. Members will serve a one-year term and may be eligible for reappointment. Importantly, the NIBIN Users Congress will continue to serve as the technical working group under the NIBIN Executive Board.