USE NIBIN TO LINK & SOLVE GUN CRIME

How do you stop gun violence when it has reached the point that an innocent 13-year-old is gunned down... on Christmas? You do everything in your power...

Acting Attorney General Hoffman
New Jersey

Criminals today are highly mobile and evidence of their crimes becomes scattered across city, state and even national borders. Seemingly insignificant gun-related incidents can provide the missing link to solving more serious crimes. A successful murder investigation in a metropolitan area could very well hinge upon the actions of a police officer in a rural town twenty miles away taking a firearm into custody during a routine motor vehicle stop.

The **National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN)** is a national program administered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) that allows for the capture and comparison of ballistic evidence to provide actionable investigative leads in a timely manner. The backbone of NIBIN is the **Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS®)** which enables the sharing and comparison of millions of firearm exhibit images across the United States. NIBIN is vital to any firearm violence prevention strategy. It provides investigators the ability to compare their ballistics evidence against evidence from other firearm related crimes on a national, regional and local level.

Link crimes more quickly

Generate investigative leads by linking crimes that may have otherwise gone unconnected

Share intelligence across jurisdictional boundaries

Give prosecutors admissible evidence to corroborate witness testimony

IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL APPROACH

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has adopted a resolution that outlines how regionally applied crime gun and evidence processing protocols are a best practice for the investigation of firearm related crimes. It encourages law enforcement officials, prosecuting attorneys and forensic experts to collaborate on the design of protocols best suited for their region.

The following steps let investigators derive maximum benefit from crime gun evidence especially when applied promptly and consistently whenever guns are involved in crimes, no matter the severity.

> Thorough investigation of any gun related crime, with collection of all cartridge casings

> Appropriate National Crime Information Center (NCIC) inquiries and transactions

> Comprehensive tracing of all crime guns

> Timely processing of crime gun test fires and ballistics evidence through NIBIN

> Timely lab submission and analysis of other forensic evidence from crime guns

> Investigative follow-up of resulting crime gun intelligence

IN 2015, THE NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE EXPERIENCED A 78% INCREASE IN NIBIN LEADS. LEADS THAT WERE GENERATED 300% FASTER.

BEST PRACTICE

In September 2013, the New Jersey State Legislature made the determination to respond to the growing dangers and threats of gun violence to the citizens of New Jersey and passed Public Law 2013, Chapter 162. This legislation codifies some of the above mentioned IACP crime gun processing protocols and determines that the best policy for the state's various law enforcement agencies is to utilize the NIBIN system. The State of Delaware has passed similar legislation.

In an effort to strike a balance between quickly generating investigative leads for active shooting investigations, and the necessity to conduct thorough forensic examinations, the **New Jersey State Police (NJSP) Ballistics Unit** implemented the "**Rapid Assessment in NIBIN**" (RAIN) protocol. RAIN is aimed at ensuring that the firearms taken into custody, along with cartridge casings recovered from crime scenes – including simple unlawful possession and unlawful discharge incidents – are processed and entered into NIBIN in a timely fashion in order to generate investigative leads of value immediately or in the future.
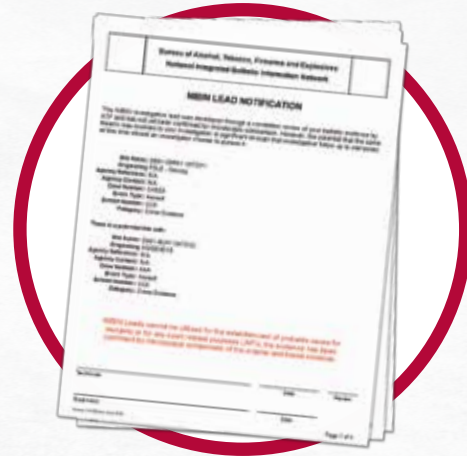
To use NIBIN, cartridge case evidence – including spent casings recovered at crime scenes, as well as those that are test-fired from seized firearms – is entered into IBIS, the world's most advanced ballistic identification solution. When a law enforcement agency has an IBIS BRASSTRAX acquisition station on site, they can process collected cartridge cases immediately and receive potential matches and investigative leads often within hours, through correlation against the NIBIN database.

EVIDENCE ACQUISITION

A simple to use and highly automated acquisition station is installed directly in your facility. Any agency personnel can be trained to perform acquisitions.

INVESTIGATIVE LEADS

An investigative lead report is then sent back to the investigator in a timely fashion, often within hours, advising the investigating officer of any potential leads that the NIBIN search may have revealed.
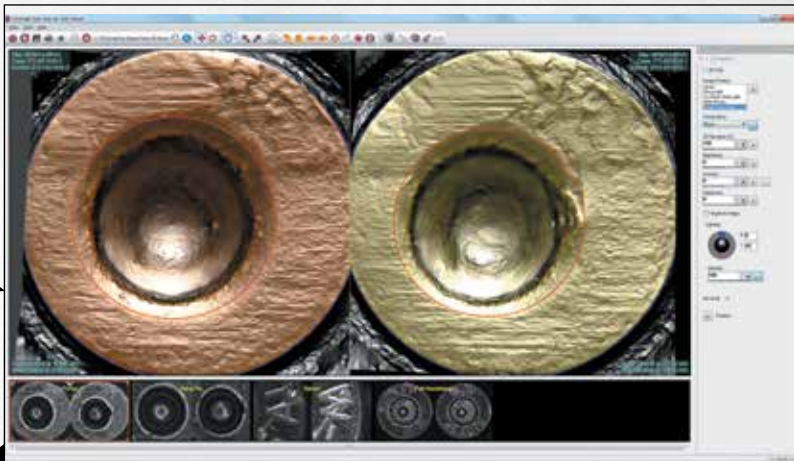
Just like fingerprints, every firearm has unique characteristics. The barrel of a weapon leaves distinct markings on a fired bullet. The breech mechanism also leaves distinct markings on the cartridge case. These markings are produced by the breech face itself, the firing pin, the extractor, and the ejector. Examination of these markings can lead a firearm examiner to determine if cartridge casings or bullets were fired from the same firearm.

IBIS TRAX-HD3D provides innovative, automated crime-fighting technology that allows users to digitize cartridge cases and bullet signatures to provide matches and link crimes at a greatly accelerated rate.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

TESTIMONIALS

CORRELATION & ANALYSIS

IBIS MATCHPOINT allows users to view and compare two-and-three dimensional images of the regions of interest, including the firing pin impression, breech face impression and ejector marks in the case of semi or automatic weapons.

ATF has identified **four critical** steps to ensure success with NIBIN:

1 **COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION AND ENTRY:** Collect and submit all gun crime evidence, regardless of crime. Evidence includes both cartridge cases recovered from crime scenes and test fires from recovered crime guns.

2 **TIMELY TURNAROUND:** Violent crime investigations can go cold very quickly. ATF recommends that NIBIN partners enter the evidence within 48 hours. Any NIBIN leads then provide relevant and actionable intelligence to the investigators.

3 **INVESTIGATIVE FOLLOW-UP:** Linking otherwise unassociated crimes gives investigators a better chance to identify and arrest shooters before they reoffend.

4 **FEEDBACK LOOP:** Without feedback, NIBIN partners cannot know how their efforts are making the community safer, which is necessary for sustained success.

" Prior to our agency having access to NIBIN, our success for linking cases was very limited; 3-4 leads per month. Now, thanks to the IBIS BRASSTRAX system, the Crime Lab provides investigators anywhere from 25 up to 75 leads per month. The success in linking cases within and outside of Contra Costa County (from a simple prom shooting to homicide cases) has created a domino effect. More agencies are submitting more evidence, including suspected crime guns, and the leads continue to roll in. "

From 3-4 leads per month [...] up to 75 leads per month

Pamela Hofsass, Chief of FSD
Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff
Crime Lab, Martinez, CA

" Since becoming part of NIBIN in 2015, we've been one of the few Midwestern major cities to show a decrease (11%) in non-fatal shootings and a reduction (12.7%) in homicides. IBIS is an integral, incredible technology that, together with NIBIN, will help any agency to reduce gun violence. "

[...] show a decrease in non-fatal shootings and a reduction in homicides.

Assistant Chief Paul Neudigate
City of Cincinnati Police, OH

NIBIN LINKS SUSPECT TO HOMICIDE
A GLENDALE, ARIZONA STORY

On June 24th, 2014, a 72 year-old church custodian was found shot and killed in his vehicle in the driveway of his residence in the 4400 block of W. Maryland Avenue. Crime scene investigation led to the collection of one shell casing. Investigators knew that a second casing was missing from the scene after determining that at least two shots were fired by the suspect.

Two days later, Gustin Woodman was detained during a traffic stop by a Glendale Police Sergeant and Motor Officer for racing another vehicle. Woodman was found to be in possession of a handgun with a shell casing inside. Both the handgun and shell casing were placed into evidence.

Approximately one month after the homicide, both casings were entered into NIBIN at the Phoenix Police Department as part of the Phoenix Metro NIBIN Program. The casings were run through the NIBIN database. At this point, investigators had no suspects, no witnesses and very little information to help solve this case.

NIBIN matched the casing from Woodman's handgun to the casing left at the homicide scene

NIBIN alerted members of the Glendale Police Department Forensic Unit to the link, and they were able to forensically match the casing obtained from inside Woodman's handgun to the casing left at the homicide scene.

Now a suspect, Gustin Woodman was located in Pennsylvania in the Berks County Prison on separate charges. The case agent flew to Pennsylvania and interviewed Gustin Woodman who confessed to his involvement in the murder.

NIBIN LEADS TO SOLVING GUN-RELATED CRIMES
A PUEBLO, COLORADO STORY

On a night in October 2015, Pueblo, Colorado Police collected cartridge casings after multiple shots had been fired, apparently into the air.

The next month, a home invasion occurred in which a masked man pistol-whipped a male victim and fired a gun to threaten him and a woman. Police collected a shell casing. One victim knew the masked man and identified him as Daniel Anthony Garcia, 28.

A few weeks later, a felony menacing incident occurred, which police linked to Garcia. They took him into custody in January 2016 on a warrant for a robbery, and found the pistol.

The cartridge casings were entered into NIBIN, which linked them to Garcia's weapon. That investigation led to charges against him in U.S. District Court in Denver and in Pueblo District Court, and January 2017, Garcia was sentenced to 37 months in federal prison for having a gun after being convicted of a felony. He pleaded guilty.

Garcia would not have been under federal investigation if not for NIBIN

"Garcia would not have been under federal investigation if not for NIBIN," said Ron Humphries, acting special agent in charge of ATF in Colorado. "Thanks to the ballistics information from NIBIN and the stellar detective work by Pueblo PD and ATF, Garcia will not be able to terrorize the community for many years to come."
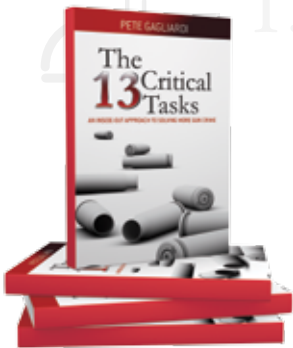
A CROSS-COUNTRY NIBIN HIT

In June of 2014, a 19-year-old college student stopped for a traffic light late one night in West Orange, New Jersey. A man approached and shot the student multiple times killing him. Fired cartridge cases were collected from the scene, and entered into NIBIN. The NIBIN check pointed police to a connection between the murder in West Orange and three others in Seattle, Washington several weeks earlier. Seattle Police had identified a suspect and were trying to locate him. Police in New Jersey picked up the suspect's trail from additional violent crimes which were occurring in the area and found the suspect living in a wooded area not far from where the student was murdered. The suspect told police that he killed to express his anger towards U.S. Government actions in the Middle East.

13 CRITICAL TASKS

An inside-out approach to solving more gun crime

The 13 Critical Tasks is more than a workshop or book. It is a fundamental approach to the way in which firearm crime is investigated.

Leveraging his over 45 years of experience in law enforcement, and investigating successful forensic lab practices, **Pete Gagliardi** has assembled a formidable collection of critical tasks that every agency should know about.

Tackling more than simple procedures or programs, The 13 Critical Tasks approaches the topic of solving firearm crime by using the inside-out approach that spans all facets of the system from policy and prosecutorial to investigative and inventory.

The inside-out approach to the investigation of firearm crime presumes that there is an abundance of data inside – which is transferred to fired bullets and cartridge cases – and outside every crime gun. When fully exploited, this data can be used to generate actionable information of tactical and strategic crime solving value.

This PRO-BONO workshop assists with identifying best practices and perhaps most importantly, results in the formulation of strategies and tactics that foster collaboration between all the various stakeholders.

The 13 Critical Tasks cover the steps from start to finish; before the crime, after the crime, from the crime scene, through the ensuing investigative and forensic processes, to the management of key information and ultimately to the arrest and the adjudication in court.

" Any agency that does not take advantage of this free training workshop is doing themselves a disservice. The 13 Critical Tasks addressed our overall violence reduction strategies and showed where NIBIN could enhance them. This workshop helped us to see where we were deficient, where we were solid and what we needed to improve on. It showed us that when done properly and when made a priority for the entire department, it will help to reap great benefits. "

[...] addressed our overall violence reduction strategies and showed where NIBIN could enhance them.

Assistant Chief Paul Neudigate
City of Cincinnati Police, OH

" Thousands are killed by gunfire each year and hundreds of thousands more are threatened or injured in robberies and assaults.

In The 13 Critical Tasks, Pete Gagliardi lays out a practical set of ideas, supported by real world examples, which can help cities address their gun crime problems now. He clearly shows that the harm done by armed criminals can be mitigated through the comprehensive collection and analysis of crime gun information and by achieving balance in the people, processes, and technologies mobilized to apprehend repeat gun offenders. This book is a must-have for law enforcement executives everywhere. "

Pete Gagliardi lays out a practical set of ideas, supported by real world examples.

Dr. Anthony A. Braga
Harvard University

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