

**DAVE YOST** OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

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FORENSIC

Ultra

Why all law enforcement agencies should use it

#### WHAT IS NIBIN?

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- The National Integrated Ballistic Information Network • (NIBIN) is an automated ballistic-imaging tool that allows for the comparison of fired cartridge cases in order to link crimes involving the same firearm.
- NIBIN is administered by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

#### WHAT DOES IT DO?

NIBIN compares digital images of submitted fired • cartridge cases against the ATF's database of existing images of fired cartridge cases. If an association is made between cartridge cases, law enforcement is notified and provided an investigative lead.

## **HOW DO YOU USE NIBIN?**

- The NIBIN process begins with the submission of a fired cartridge case to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), where a digital image of the cartridge case is entered into the database.
  - » Prior to submitting physical evidence to a BCI laboratory, you should complete a pre-log application in OHLEG.
  - » Submit to the closest BCI evidence receiving location (Athens, Richfield, Boardman, Bowling Green and London).
- If a lead is obtained, information surrounding the previous incident(s) is forwarded to the submitting agency.

**BCI** locations that

accept NIBIN evidence

#### WHY SHOULD YOU ROUTINELY USE NIBIN?

- The richer the database, the more effective NIBIN becomes. NIBIN is built on previous submissions, so it's usefulness as a crime-fighting tool increases as more and more agencies populate the database with evidence in real time.
- **Speed matters.** Timely submissions are crucial to connecting otherwise-unlinked crimes, giving investigators the best chance to identify and arrest shooters before they re-offend.
- Crime-fighting is collaborative. Sharing information among agencies on the local, state and federal levels can solve more cases. When a NIBIN lead is returned, the weapon may be in another jurisdiction.

## **HOW CAN BCI HELP?**

- Submission policies are available on the Attorney General's Office website. (Navigate to BCI/Laboratory Division/Firearms & Toolmarks.)
- BCI is developing training videos on collecting and submitting evidence, swabbing NIBIN evidence for DNA and following up on a correlation.
- Trained/authorized law enforcement personnel can enter their own NIBIN evidence at any of BCI's three laboratories — in London, Bowling Green and Richfield.



Scan this code to watch how NIBIN helped solve an Ohio homicide.

# QUESTIONS ABOUT NIBIN?

Reach out to BCI Comparative Sciences Manager Jennifer Duvall: Jennifer.Duvall@OhioAGO.gov

Athens

### **BCI-affiliated NIBIN sites**

**Bowling Green** 

London

BCI labs where trained

LE personnel can enter their own NIBIN evidence

Richfield

Boardman





