

## **Ten Points about the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN)**

1. NIBIN is the only nationwide automated ballistic imaging network in the United States, that images crime scene casings and test fires of firearms illegally possessed, used in a crime, or suspected by law enforcement officials of having been used in a crime.
2. NIBIN is prohibited from being used to capture, share, or store ballistic images acquired at the point of manufacture, importation, or sale of a firearm, or images of law enforcement issued firearms not associated with crimes.
3. Since 1997, law enforcement agencies have been submitting recovered ballistic evidence to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) for entry into the NIBIN system, building a national and robust network of more than 25 years of crime gun data.
4. As of December 2021, approximately 5.2 million pieces of ballistic evidence have been entered into the system and approximately 630,000 leads to shooting investigations nationwide, have been generated from 259 NIBIN sites.
5. NIBIN is evidence-led and helps law enforcement determine with impartiality that a series of firearm related crimes are connected.
6. NIBIN technicians rely on their training and technology founded in forensic science to provide non-biased leads to assist law enforcement in identifying, investigating, and arresting shooters before they have an opportunity to re-offend and do more harm.
7. Between 2017 and 2021, ATF and its partner law enforcement agencies used NIBIN to generate over 480,000 investigative leads in cases involving the criminal discharge of a firearm, 44% of which involved serious physical injury or death, such as aggravated assault and homicide.
8. NIBIN leads indicate the recovered casings were likely fired from the same firearm. Through comparison of a test-fired casing from a recovered firearm, NIBIN also allows the matching of an image from a recovered casing, linking the recovered firearm to the shooting.
9. NIBIN leads provide law enforcement with essential investigative information about recovered ballistic evidence for cross-referencing with other evidence. This allows investigators to develop a more complete picture of what happened and who was involved.
10. As of September 2022, seven states did not have permanent NIBIN sites: Hawaii, Maine, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming. While not having local access to permanent stations, law enforcement agencies from these states can utilize acquisition and correlation reviews services provided by ATF or may request mobile or transportable machines, described in a subsequent section.

(Source DOJ/ATF National Firearms Commerce and Trafficking Assessment, Crime Gun Intelligence and Analysis Vol. 2, <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/national-firearms-commerce-and-trafficking-assessment-nfcta-crime-guns-volume-two>)