

Regional Information Sharing Systems® (RISS) Officer Safety Website



RISS is a nationwide program consisting of six regional centers that provide information sharing and investigative support services to thousands of local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance's VALOR Program, the RISS Officer Safety Website is dedicated to providing law enforcement and criminal justice users with timely officer safety information and a secure means to exchange and share officer safety-related information among agencies. The RISS Officer Safety Website augments the capabilities available through the RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System, known as RISSafe™.



Bulletin

JULY 2013

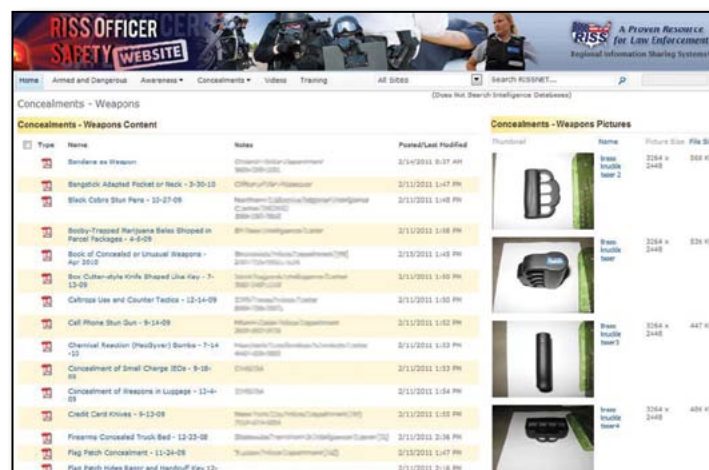
Rocky Mountain Information Network



Other Features

The RISS Officer Safety Website provides a training calendar that lists training event information and a video library of officer safety-related videos from a variety of sources.

RISS encourages officers to contribute information to the website and to provide feedback with comments and suggestions on how RISS can continue to enhance the website. Officers should visit the website frequently because the information changes constantly.



Available at the Website

- Officer safety awareness
- Officer safety-related videos
- Officer safety training information
- Armed and dangerous subjects
- Concealment methods
- Narcotics awareness information
- Gang awareness information
- Domestic terrorism information
- Border security information
- Officer Down Memorial
- Today's Roll Call



The RISS Officer Safety Website has been designed to serve as a secure "one-stop shop" for law enforcement to access all types of officer safety-related information.



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Take Your Best Shot in the Fight Against Violent Felony Cases Involving Firearms:

Add NIBIN and eTrace to Your Firearm Arsenal

The evidence you need to further your investigation—of a cold case, a drive-by shooting, a murder—could be sitting on a shelf in the property room of the police department or sheriff's office a jurisdiction away. Or worse, stored in your department's property room.

When your agency participates in NIBIN, you'll be helping minimize the chances that will happen and helping to maximize the resources that can lead to a successful investigation, including identifying firearm users, and giving prosecutors the ammunition to successfully prosecute them.

NIBIN is an automated ballistic information sharing network that reviews and compares fired bullets and cartridge cases. Examiners and technicians review the unique marks and identifiers found on casings and bullets, enter this evidence into IBIS which then searches through existing evidence in its system to determine if there's a hit to previously filed evidence.

Terms and acronyms used throughout this article

ATF: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the federal agency authorized by Congress to stem firearms-related violent crime and to regulate the firearms industry in America. ATF is the sole federal agency authorized to conduct firearms tracing.

eTrace: Paperless firearms tracing request submission system and interactive trace analysis module.

Hit: A linkage of two different crime scene investigations by NIBIN participants where previously there had been no known connection between the investigations. A hit is a linkage between cases, not individual pieces of evidence. Multiple casings/bullets may be entered as part of the same case record. In this event, each discovered linkage to an additional case constitutes a hit. The NIBIN partner that confirms the hit in NIBIN is credited with the hit.

IBIS: Integrated Ballistics Identification System

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

NCIC: National Crime Information Center

NIBIN: National Integrated Ballistic Information Network

NTC: National Tracing Center, a unit within ATF that traces the origin of firearms that have been recovered in criminal investigations.

Here's how it works:

- Firearms examiners and NIBIN technicians enter cartridge case evidence into IBIS
- Irregularities found on the surfaces of the firing pin, ejector, breech and barrel impart marks onto the casings and bullets
- Digital images of the markings made on spent cartridge cases recovered from a crime scene or a crime gun test fire are compared electronically with earlier entries and if an initial "hit" emerges, the evidence is analyzed further for confirmation by a firearms examiner.

Searches can be multijurisdictional and links between crimes can be identified more quickly, including links that would not have been identified without NIBIN.

NIBIN can benefit your agency and investigations by

- Collecting and sharing forensic firearms data and imagery
- Searching local and regional firearms evidence files
- Overcoming jurisdictional and logistical constraints
- Linking unsolved shootings to other shootings or to confiscated firearms
- Using firearms evidence to link repeat offenders to crimes that can expedite identification and apprehension

eTrace

Firearms tracing through eTrace is the systematic tracking of a recovered firearm from its manufacturer or importer and subsequent introduction into the distribution chain (wholesaler/retailer) to the first retail purchase. It's a paperless trace request submission system offering interactive trace analysis and offers a portal to the Firearms Tracing System database.

A firearms trace is conducted when a law enforcement agency recovers a firearm at a crime scene and requests information regarding its origin to develop investigative leads. That information is used to link a suspect to a firearm in a criminal investigation, to identify potential traffickers, and when sufficient comprehensive tracing is undertaken in a given community, to detect interstate, intrastate, and international patterns regarding the sources and types of crime guns.

The system provides real time capabilities that allow law enforcement agencies to submit electronic firearms trace requests, monitor the progress of traces, retrieve completed trace results and query firearms trace-related data.

In addition, registered users are able to initiate a search on virtually any data field or combination of data elements such as firearms serial numbers, an individual's name, type of crime, date of recovery, or other identifiers. Registered users also can generate statistical reports on the number of traces submitted, the top firearms traced, the average time-to-crime rates, and other variables.

The benefits of eTrace include the ability to:

- develop investigative leads
- significantly reduce the turnaround time required to process a trace request
- improve the quality of trace related information
- monitor the status of traces
- view, print, and download completed trace results
- generate statistical reports and perform online analytical research.

eTrace is available 24/7 and is provided free of charge to authorized law enforcement agencies. Each participating law enforcement agency must sign a MOU with ATF.

eTrace provides

- the original purchaser's name, address and identification the purchaser used at the place of purchase
- original firearm retailer, city and state
- time period between original purchase and recovery by law enforcement
- patterns in purchase locations, purchasers, recovery locations and other information that may be vital to an investigation or prosecution
- other law enforcement agencies that have purchasers, possessors, firearms retailers and/or firearm recovery locations in common with yours



At one point during the murder investigation, one co-conspirator tried to reassure the other they would not be caught. As he tried to make the point that the police had nothing to go on, the suspect said to his co-conspirator during a conversation which was electronically recorded: "They got nothing – all they got is some brass on the floor."

That would prove to be a huge miscalculation.

~Peter Gagliardi, *The 13 Critical Tasks*

Partnering with NIBIN: Collect, Compare, Connect

ATF has certified more than 1,000 NIBIN users to use the network and NIBIN partners have confirmed more than 50,000 NIBIN hits. Here's how you can help in the fight against violent crimes involving firearms:

- Pick up all projectiles and cartridge casings at ALL crime scenes and submit them for imaging
- Ensure that all weapons recovered in your case are test fired and imaged into NIBIN
- Follow up on the investigative leads that NIBIN discovers

Enter into an agreement (MOU) with ATF to use NIBIN equipment, share information, enter as much ballistic information as possible, provide adequate staffing to operate the equipment and have access to a certified firearm examiner to confirm hits.

NIBIN is deployed nationwide. Most state bureaus of investigation or equivalent are connected to NIBIN as are many county and city laboratories.

If you need assistance finding a NIBIN site in your area, contact the NIBIN coordinator in your ATF field division or call the ATF NIBIN Branch at 202.648.7140.

ATF Contact Information

Arizona ATF

Phoenix Field Division
PhoenixDiv@atf.gov
602.776.5400

Colorado ATF

Denver Field Division
DenverDiv@atf.gov
303.575.7600

Idaho ATF

Seattle Field Division
SeattleDiv@atf.gov
206.204.3205

Montana ATF

Denver Field Division
DenverDiv@atf.gov
303.575.7600

Nevada ATF

San Francisco Field Division
SanFranciscoDiv@atf.gov
925.557.2800

New Mexico ATF

Phoenix Field Division
PhoenixDiv@atf.gov
602.776.5400

Utah ATF

Denver Field Division
DenverDiv@atf.gov
303.575.7600

Wyoming ATF

Denver Field Division
DenverDiv@atf.gov
303.575.7600

Approach every crime committed with a gun with the presumption that every crime gun and piece of ballistic evidence can provide actionable crime-solving information of tactical and strategic value.

~ *The 13 Critical Tasks*

[Re]Sources

Brandon Huntley, Sgt., Phoenix (Arizona) Police Department, Home Invasion & Kidnapping Enforcement Unit, Gun Enforcement & NIBIN Squad, brandon.huntley@phoenix.gov or 602.262.4829

Darrell Smith, Crime Gun Intelligence Coordinator, Darrell.smith@atf.gov or 602.776.5463

http://www.phoenix.gov/police/gun_enforcement.html for information and to view the Phoenix Police Department's NIBIN video

The 13 Critical Tasks, An Inside-Out Approach to Solving More Gun Crime by Peter Gagliardi, Forensic Technology WAI Inc., ©2010
info@contactft.com

ATF Firearms Identification

www.atf.gov/firearms/guide/identification-of-nfa-firearms.html, download the ATF Police Officer's Guide to Recovered Firearms at www.atf.gov/publications/firearms/index.html or visit ATF's Distribution Center at www.atf.gov/content/distribution-center-order-form to request a hard copy of the guide

Firearms trace request forms

www.ATF.gov

Gun manuals

<http://stevespages.com/page7b.htm>

ATF NIBIN Branch

www.nibin.gov or nibinmail@atf.gov or 202.648.7140

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, Explosives

1.800.ATF.GUNS

Interactive display of information from *Trace The Guns, The Link Between Gun Laws and Interstate Gun Trafficking*, 2010

www.TraceTheGuns.org

Memorandum, "Tracing of Firearms in Connection with Criminal Investigations," The White House, January 16

Ballistics technology

www.ForensicTechnology.com

Understanding How An ATF Crime Gun Trace Works



1. Law Enforcement Recovers Gun

Law enforcement recovers a gun at a crime scene.



2. Law Enforcement Identifies Gun

The recovering law enforcement agency identifies the gun's make, model, and serial number and reports this information to ATF.



3. ATF Determines Initial Dealer

ATF checks the serial number of the recovered gun against its records of multiple handgun sales and the records of out-of-business federally licensed dealers and some records gathered from dealers who are under special scrutiny. If these checks of internal records do not produce results, ATF will contact the gun manufacturer and then the wholesaler to identify where the gun was originally sold. ATF then contacts the retailer who sold the gun to identify the first person who purchased the gun.



4. Dealer Identifies Original Purchaser

In order to identify the first purchaser, the retailer manually checks the federal form 4473, which is the federal background check form that all prospective purchasers must complete in order to buy a gun from a federally licensed dealer (FFL). Gun dealers are required to keep the completed 4473 forms on file for 20 years after each purchase. From these forms, the retailer provides the purchaser's identification information to local law enforcement.



5. ATF Investigates Link to Crime

With the identification of the first purchaser, ATF and local law enforcement can then investigate the relationship of the buyer to the crime, identifying possible links between the source and the crime.