Justice Clearing House Webinar

Solving Gun Crimes

Breaking it Down from the Inside-Out
Breaking it Down

- **Information** fuels investigations - **evidence** powers prosecutions
- Breaking it down in thirds
  - *Respond & Collect Info & Evidence*
  - *Extract & Analyze info & evidence – with tools*
  - *Pursue Info/Evidence & Apprehend suspects*

Bridge the gaps to handle traffic flow
Why investigate murders & shootings?

• To bring justice to victims & perpetrators
• Resolution & some closure to loved ones
• Restore peace to their neighborhoods
What does it take to investigate crimes involving firearms?

• A well-coordinated team to manage the many handoffs and exchanges of data and information required.

• A collaboration of investigators, forensics and prosecutors thinking and acting together.

• The successful of the collaborative efforts depends on the team’s balance of people, processes and technology.
Some Terms

• **“IBIS”** - Integrated Ballistics Identification System - IBIS is technology - the standard in over 70 countries

• **NIBIN** - National Integrated Ballistics Information Network – NIBIN is a program
  - Administered by ATF - Operated by 1,000 certified State and local partner/operators in the U.S

• **“NIBIN LEAD”** = IBIS output results (e.g. high confidence candidate, potential hit, exhibit of interest) **Not Evidence**

• A “Hit” – Expert confirmation of a **Potential Candidate** linking at least two criminal cases/shooting events **Evidence**
Some More Terms . . .

• “Crime Gun Tracing” – A review of firearms transaction records to learn the transfer history associated with a particular firearm from manufacture to first retail sale

• eTrace – Electronic Trace system for U.S. sourced guns provided by ATF.
Part One of Three

Respond & Collect
RESOLUTION

Adopted at the 119th Annual Conference
San Diego, CA
October 3, 2012

Regional Crime Gun Processing Protocols
Submitted by the Firearms Committee
FC.028.a12

RESOLVED, that the IACP views regionally applied crime gun and evidence processing protocols as a best practice for the investigation of firearm related crimes and encourages law enforcement officials, prosecuting attorneys and forensic experts to collaborate on the design of mutually agreeable protocols best suited for their region.
RESOLVED, that the IACP views regionally applied crime gun and evidence processing protocols as a best practice for the investigation of firearm related crimes and encourages law enforcement officials, prosecuting attorneys and forensic experts to collaborate on the design of mutually agreeable protocols best suited for their region.

The protocols should address each of the following critical areas:

- The thorough investigation of each gun related crime including the safe and proper collection of all crime guns & related evidence.
- The performance of appropriate NCIC transactions (e.g. stolen, recovered).
- The timely and comprehensive tracing of all crime guns through ATF & eTrace.
- The timely processing of crime gun test fires and ballistics evidence through NIBIN.
- The timely lab submission and analysis of other forensic data from crime guns and related evidence (e.g. DNA, latent fingerprints, trace evidence).
- The generation, dissemination and investigative follow-up of the intelligence derived from the application of the regional protocols.

TIMELINESS is KEY
Criminals Move – Evidence Scatters

How many more?

Boston

SHOTS

SHOTS

SHOTS

VICTIM

VICTIM x 4

VICTIM

VICTIM

Brockton

Providence

Randolph

Is the Gun in YOUR Murder Case Hiding in your (or someone else’s) Evidence Vault?

- Hazel Love (68) - innocent - 68 yrs -murdered - during a drug related home invasion in **McCalla**, Alabama

- 4 years a cold case – while drug feuds fueled more murders & arsons

- 2 felons arrested in **Adamsville** - illegal gun possession – gun stored

- 2 more years - **Birmingham** PD gets info about invasions & gun in Adamsville
A Regional Approach is Needed Today

• A Regional Crime Gun Processing Protocol can be defined as:
  
  – A set of pre-defined and consistent actions taken by police and forensic personnel
  
  – In geographical areas where armed criminals are most likely to crossing multiple police jurisdictions (e.g. along major highway routes used in drug trafficking)
  
  – Designed to generate maximum actionable intelligence from firearms and ballistics evidence

Extend the “Inside-out Approach” Across the Region
Implementation Considerations

- Assemble A Leadership Team: Form a strategic/policy maker working group made of senior management level personnel from the relevant police units, forensic units and federal and state prosecutor offices with ATF as a Federal partner.
**Implementation Considerations**

**Make gun crime a priority:** The stakeholders - law enforcers, forensic experts and prosecutors, should share a common vision on gun crime (e.g. identify, apprehend and convict armed criminals & reduce gun related violence).

With a shared vision in place, current processes should be mapped, choke points and delays identified and then measured against what is needed to realize the vision.
Respond & Collect Data

Implementation Considerations

• **Review IACP Resolution #FC.028.a12**: Consider ways in which to collect all the data outlined in IACP Resolution #FC.028.a12 (entitled Regional Crime Gun Processing Protocols in a timely & sustainable manner – realize that trade-offs weaken investigative capacity.
Implementation Considerations

• **Aim at Comprehensive Data Collection**: Determine what data can/should/will be collected for processing (e.g. NCIC, ATF eTrace, trace evidence, latent prints, DNA, ATF NIBIN, Shotspotter, etc.)
**Implementation Considerations**

- **Identify “Must Have” Regional Partners:** Determine if cross-jurisdictional crime patterns will require inter-agency adherence to new protocols. For example, how likely is it that the gun in your murder case hiding in the evidence vault of a neighboring PD?
**Implementation Considerations**

- **Build for Timeliness And Sustainability**: Ensure a balance of people, processes, & technology for timeliness & sustainability

- For example, Acoustic Detection Technology (e.g. Shotspotter) to “call the cops” about gun fire and ATF K-9’s to find evidence.

- Even the seemingly insignificant - “Stop sign shootings”
Implementation Considerations

• Learn What’s Working Elsewhere & Adjust as Needed: Best practices and guidance exist for most obstacles you will encounter (e.g. 13 Critical Tasks, ATF & NIBIN collateral, IACP Publications)
Key Takeaways

- **Make gun crime a clear priority**
- **Public first - policy leads the way**
- **Take a regional approach - with key stakeholders from the region (police, forensic, prosecutors) affected by the same criminal element.**
- **Timely and sustainable comprehensive data collection and management.**
JEFF’S SERIES OF SLIDES FOR RESPOND & COLLECT

The Denver Approach
ATF’s Firearm Specific Resources

• A finely honed investigative expertise
  – Special Agents & Industry Operations Investigators

• National Resource Centers
  – National Tracing Center (Out of Business Dealer Records, eTrace)
  – National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN), New National Correlation Center
  – Firearms Technology Branch, Firearms Licensing Center, National Registration and Transfer Records
  – 3 Forensic Laboratories
  – Gun & ammo detecting K9s
  – Regional Crime Gun Intelligence Centers
Thank you for your time and attention!

Thank you for the work that you do!

Jeffrey.C.Russell@usdoj.gov

pete@triplebarrelstrategies.com
Part Two of Three

Extract & Analyze
Some Terms

• “IBIS” - Integrated Ballistics Identification System - IBIS is technology - the standard in over 70 countries

• NIBIN - National Integrated Ballistics Information Network – NIBIN is a program
  - Administered by ATF - Operated by 1,000 certified State and local partner/operators in the U.S

• “NIBIN LEAD = IBIS output results (e.g. high confidence candidate, potential hit, exhibit of interest) Not Evidence

• A “Hit” – Expert confirmation of a Potential Candidate linking at least two criminal cases/shooting events Evidence
Some More Terms . . .

• “Crime Gun Tracing” – A review of firearms transaction records to learn the transfer history associated with a particular firearm from manufacture to first retail sale

• **eTrace** – Electronic Trace system for U.S. sourced guns provided by ATF.
So We Are All on The Same Page ...
The *Inside-out Approach to Solving Gun Crimes*

*Presumes that:*

That there is an abundance of data **inside and outside** every crime gun and ...  

... when fully exploited, this data can be used to generate actionable information of **tactical** and **strategic** crime solving value.
Crime Guns Hold a Wealth of Information

INSIDE

OUTSIDE

THE WHOLE STORY

Teamwork, Tactics & Technology

WWW.TRIPLEBARRELSTRATEGIES.COM
Timeliness & Sustainability Requires Balance
Tactical & Strategic Value

- **Tactical Value** – short term data
  - Connect a gun with a crime (IBIS)
  - Connect a person with a gun (etrace)

- **Strategic Value** – long term data patterns
  - Quantify the data (e.g. gun type, possessors, sources, location, etc.)
  - Understand the **true** nature of the problem
  - ID patterns & trends / formulate policy - direct response
Technology Linking Crimes, Guns & Suspects

Answers the Question: “What crimes has gun has been used in?”
Technology Linking Crimes, Guns & Suspects

Answers the Question: “Who has been associated with this gun?”
Ins & Outs – Who's & What's

Inside
(Ballistics)

Outside
(Make, Mod. SN#)

• The “What”

• The “Who”
The What – *Inside the Gun Ballistics Data*

- A woman was driving in **Lake Elmo, Minnesota**.
- At a stop sign a man appeared & tried to carjack her.
- She tried to flee but he shot her four times.
- A 2nd driver stopped to help – the man took her Van.
- The Van was used in an armored car robbery in **Hudson, Wisconsin** and later torched there.
The What – *Inside the Gun Ballistics Data*

- Five years later, police in **Minnesota** arrested a felon for unlawful possession of a firearm with an **obliterated serial number**.

- Using NIBIN, the Minnesota crime lab linked the firearm to the Lake Elmo Shooting/Carjacking.

- The felon / possessor was eliminated as a suspect in the crimes in question here.
The Who – *Outside the Gun Tracing Data*

- The Minnesota Crime Lab restored the obliterated serial number.
- ATF traced the gun to Zachary Wiegand.
- Zachary’s home in **Wisconsin** was searched and more evidence was developed linking him to the priors.
- Zachary confessed
Policy Led the Way in New Jersey

• On September 20, 2013, Governor Christie signed Bill A3797 into law: P.L.2013, CHAPTER 162

• The Attorney General and NJSP Colonel were tagged with implementing the Law

• In the last 18 months the Team:
  – Mapped Processes To Expose “Choke” Points
  – Called for RAIN - Rapid Assessment into NIBIN a process to speed NIBIN processing.
One Year Ago

Just a NIBIN check alone took the NJSP an average of 6 to 10 months to complete!
Today NJ Does all this in 24 hours

**Intake**
- Ballistics
- Safety
- Preserve
- CSI

**CSI**
- Visual Bio & Trace
- Prints
- DNA Swab

**Photos**
- If SN Defaced

**Ballistics**
- NIBIN
- SN Restore if Defaced

**NIBIN Potential Hit**
- Central Dist. List
- RCGIC
- Intel-Software Analysis & Distribution
New Jersey’s Results

The NJSP have seen a 78% increase in NIBIN Leads generated 300% faster!
Implementation Considerations

Map Processes & Identify Choke Points: Form a tactical /operational working group made of operator and first line supervisory level personnel from the relevant police units, forensic units and federal and state prosecutor offices with ATF as a Federal partner.
Implementation Considerations

• **Policy leads – adhered to procedures sustain**: If new policies and procedures are in order then consider adopting a best practice to meet that need.
Implementation Considerations

- Perform NCIC entries/searches on stolen and recovered firearms
- Have policy to trace all "crime guns" through ATF eTrace,
- Conduct visual examinations of confiscated guns for trace and "bio" evidence,
- Create a protocol for processing firearms for” latent prints, DNA, ATF NIBIN
- Integrate data from relevant initiatives like Shotspotter gunfire detection and geo-mapping of gun related incidents, etc.
- Realize that “trade offs” weaken
Implementation Considerations

• **Bridge Gaps:** Consider time & distance obstacles for lab transfer (e.g. from PD to Lab)

• **Report Timely to the Right People:** Develop an efficient & effective method of analysis & results reporting (e.g. Regional Crime Gun Centers, RISS list serve email)
Key Takeaways

• **NIBIN is an Investigative tool** – not just a forensic one it can help provide crucial investigative leads.

• **When used for investigative lead purposes the data must be processed timely.**

• **48 hours to 14 days?**
Key Takeaways

- Forensic processing protocols should be developed in collaboration with the “Team” - law enforcers & prosecutors in order to ensure that they meet the needs of all stakeholders including the public.
Think & Act Together with Key Stakeholders: Consider holding a facilitated workshop (e.g. 13 Critical Tasks) with key stakeholders (e.g. police, forensics, prosecutors) to build the protocol.
Walk the Workshop Bases

Teamwork, Tactics & Technology

WWW.TRIPLEBARRELSOLUTIONS.COM
Get the Book Free While They Last

Go to: www.forensictechnology.com/13

The 13 Critical Tasks

To receive the 13 Critical Tasks Information Package, please fill in the fields below and click 'submit.'

Name *
Email *
Agency *
Phone
Position
Country

© 2010 Forensic Technology Inc.
Key Takeaways

- **Timeliness and sustainability** are key and “trade-offs” (not doing certain things) will impair an agency’s “investigative senses”. Senior administrators and public policy makers should decide if the impact that “trade-offs” have on investigative capacity are acceptable or not.
Key Takeaways

- Regional Crime Gun Intelligence Centers (RCGIC) can overcome many communication and coordination obstacles.
JEFF’S SERIES OF SLIDES FOR EXTRACT & ANALYZE

The Denver Approach
Thank you for your time and attention!

Thank you for the work that you do!

Jeffrey.C.Russell@usdoj.gov

pete@triplebarrelstrategies.com
Part Three of Three

Identify – Apprehend - Convict
VIDEO

OHIO INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Teamwork, Tactics & Technology
Some Terms

• “IBIS” - Integrated Ballistics Identification System - IBIS is technology - the standard in over 70 countries

• NIBIN - National Integrated Ballistics Information Network – NIBIN is a program
  • Administered by ATF - Operated by 1,000 certified State and local partner/operators in the U.S

• “NIBIN LEAD = IBIS output results (e.g. high confidence candidate, potential hit, exhibit of interest) Not Evidence

• A “Hit” – Expert confirmation of a Potential Candidate linking at least two criminal cases/shooting events Evidence
Some More Terms . . .

• “Crime Gun Tracing” – A review of firearms transaction records to learn the transfer history associated with a particular firearm from manufacture to first retail sale

• **eTrace** – Electronic Trace system for U.S. sourced guns provided by ATF.
Identify, Apprehend & Convict

Implementation Considerations

• **Build Regional Grime Gun Intelligence Capability**: Operator and first line supervisory level personnel from the relevant police units and ATF to leverage the various sources of information collected (e.g. NCIC, eTrace, NIBIN, other forensic, shotpotter, etc.) and disseminate intel to those who need it in order to advance investigations of crimes involving firearms.
Implementation Considerations

• **Sit Around the Table & Talk:** Hold regular information sharing meetings (e.g. bi-weekly, monthly) with personnel from the relevant regional police units, forensic units and federal and state prosecutor offices with ATF and other DOJ agencies to share information/intelligence about “criminal impact players” and unsolved shootings (e.g. Compstat, NJ CorrStat, ect)
Identify, Apprehend & Convict

Key Takeaways

- The focus should on the timely identification and apprehension of armed and violent criminals in order to prevent them from doing more harm and to bring justice to the victims of gun violence, closure to their families and peace back to their neighborhoods.
Key Takeaways

• **The right mix of cross-jurisdictional stakeholders must think & act together** in order to manage and leverage the new quantities of information being collected from diverse sources and turn it into actionable intelligence.
Key Takeaways

• Internal agency policies must be institutionalized & formal interagency agreements established to support collaborative interaction.

• Relentless investigative follow-up of information will determine success.

• People should be held accountable to do what they agreed to do.

Identify, Apprehend & Convict
JEFF’S SERIES OF SLIDES FOR EXTRACT & ANALYZE

The Denver Approach
The Path Forward

- Find champions & leaders
- Form strategic & tactical groups
- Implement policies to exploit the data inside & outside the gun
- Leverage Strengths & Integrate Programs
- Address the 13 Critical Tasks

Teamwork – Tactics – Technology are Critical to Your Success

- Balance people, processes, and technology for timeliness and sustainability
- Institutionalize Regional Crime Gun Protocols
- Relentless follow-up of intel and reporting
- Continuous review & improvement
ATF CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE CENTERS
ATF Crime Gun Intelligence Centers

The innovative integration & use of NIBIN, Crime Gun Tracing, personnel, partnerships and other technologies to identify serial shooters and their sources of crime guns for immediate disruption, investigation and prosecution.
CGIC Is…

• Change in culture

• Change in beliefs

• Change in business

• Change in what we know about gun violence?
Reality of Gun Violence

• Respect, retaliation & dominance
• 6% of gang members responsible for 70% of murders
• 75% of victims & murderers know each other
• Scope and results
  – 50% - 90% gun violence gang related
  – 89% shootings in public
  – $229 billion estimated direct cost of gun violence
  – $7.48 billion estimated effect to taxpayers
CGIC’S

- Are not cold case squads
- Real-time NIBIN & Crime Gun Tracing means shooters on our streets
- Dedicated investigators
- Show us the who & where
- Urgency
- Tells us who & how to prosecute
- Team work, team work & more team work
EVERY Shooting is a Priority

- The difference between an unlawful discharge and a murder is half an inch

- Must respond to all shots fired calls

- Must find, collect, book into evidence and enter shell casings into NIBIN
EVERY Casing is Urgent

• All casings go in regardless of crime

• “Small stuff solves big stuff”

• Discover victims all the time

• Murder is a rare occurrence

• Don’t dwell on murders- be preventative!
Thank you for your time and attention!

Thank you for the work that you do!

Jeffrey.C.Russell@usdoj.gov

pete@triplebarrelstrategies.com