Crime Guns: What Every Officer Needs to Know
But Wasn’t Taught at the Academy

Mark Kraft
Today’s Speaker

Mark Kraft

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- Mark Kraft Firearms Consulting and Training
Every Gun Tells a Story

Image Source ATF
Crime Gun Intelligence Centers

WHAT IS A CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE CENTER?
Overview for Local Law Enforcement

The Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) is an innovative approach to combat gun violence by employing cutting-edge technology developed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and a dedicated multiagency investigative team to identify, disrupt, and prosecute violent offenders. The CGIC model allows different agencies and jurisdictions to share information on ballistic evidence recovered from both cartridge casings and test fires and focus on analyzing and investigating gun crime in a local community. The model is an interagency collaboration led by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) with formal partnerships between state and local law enforcement and other partners such as prosecutors and parole, crime analysts, community groups, forensic laboratories, academic organizations, and state and federal prosecutors who are committed to combating gun crime using forensic science and dedicated investigative follow up.

The primary objective of a CGIC is to quickly and directly arrest violent offenders for investigation and prosecution using crime gun evidence, such as cartridge casings, in real time. The model targets are serial shooters—those individuals committing the deployment wide amount of gun crime in a community.

CGICs rely on the multi-prosecution of data from ATF’s National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), which allows law enforcement to link ballistic evidence to multiple incidents in which the same firearm was used and ATF’s Integrated Firearm Evidence (SAFE) system, which allows for the tracing of recovered firearms back to their original manufacturer. ATF’s Minimum Required Operating Standards (MROS) for National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Sites require that all fired or lost/Fed cartridge cases from crime scenes and criminal investigations are entered through a NIBIN acquisition machine within 2 business days of receipt. Correlation and a secondary review of any potential NIBIN hits through an approved NIBIN correlation match list should be conducted within 2 business days. Finally, NIBIN results should be disseminated within 24 hours.

Other crime gun evidence procedures, like tracing, DNA, and fingerprints, are also used to determine the origin and history of the firearm.

Essential CGIC Program Elements

Accordingly, the CGIC can succeed if it is based on four key elements: Comprehensive Ballistics Collection, Timely Turnaround, Investigative Follow-up and Propagation, and Feedback. Incorporating these elements into a CGIC strengthens the effectiveness of NIBIN and those against gun crime throughout the country.

Furthermore, to build an effective and sustainable CGIC, adopting supportive business practices and policies is required across all levels of participating organizations—ranging from patrol officers and laboratory technicians, to the detectives and agents, to prosecutors and agency leadership. Where fully implemented, a CGIC more effectively deploys resources for investigations, improves communication about cases directly affecting officers and public safety, and increases the number of prosecutions for crimes including gun violence. The following seven-step process model has been identified as supporting CGIC development. These steps include ATF’s four key elements.
Exploiting Crime Gun Intelligence
Recovered Cartridge Cases

Image Source: ATF
NIBIN Entry and Correlation

- Trained personnel use a BrassTrax acquisition station to take digital images of the markings on recovered shell casings and test fires from recovered firearms

- IBIS technology compares images to produce a ranked correlation list of potential links

- Trained personnel review the correlation lists on MatchPoint analysis stations to identify possible matches

- The NIBIN site disseminates the NIBIN lead or confirmed hit to law enforcement

Source: ATF: Using NIBIN to Target Shooters and Solve Crime
# National Tracing Center Trace Request

**Phone:** 1-800-735-7113  
**Fax:** 1-800-578-5722

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## Part I - Trace Initiation Information

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a. Date of Request</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b. Priority**</td>
<td>Routine [ ] Urgent [ ] (Justification required) [ ] For NTC Data Entry Only [ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1c. Special Instructions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** *Required Entry Field.* *(Must be completed for trace processing)*  
****Required Entry With Ltd Data Response.* *(See back for codes and options)*

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## Part II - Crime Code Information

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2a. NCSIC Crime Code**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2b. Project Code, Project Title, or Initiative (If you wish to obtain a Project Code, contact the Chief, Firearms Tracing Branch, ATF National Tracing Center)**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## Part III - ATF Agent Requesting Trace

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3a. Organization Code*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3b. Phone Number:
Fax Number:
E-Mail: |   |
| 3c. ATF Special Agent's Name (Last, first, middle) |   |
| 3d. Badge Number |   |
| 3e. ATF Case Number |   |
| 3f. Field Office |   |

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## Part IV - Other Agency Requesting Trace

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4a. ORI Number*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 4b. Phone Number:
Fax Number:
E-Mail: |   |
| 4c. Other Agency Officer's Name (Last, first, middle) |   |
| 4d. Badge Number |   |
| 4e. Other Agency Case Number |   |
| 4f. Department/Unit |   |

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## Part V - Firearm Information

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5a. Serial Number* (from Frame or Receiver)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5b. Obtained (If yes, complete Part IV)</td>
<td>Yes [ ] No [ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5c. Firearm Manufacturer*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5d. Type*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5e. Caliber*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5f. Model*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5g. Country of Origin* (Importer required if other than U.S.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5h. Importer*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5i. Additional Markings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## Part VI - Processor Information

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6a. Name (Last, First, Middle, Suffix)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6b. Alias (If given) (Last, First, Middle, Suffix)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6c. Alias Date of Birth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Image Source: ATF
ATF Trace Process

• All traces begin with the domestic manufacturer or importer

• The company name and city and state of operation appear on the firearm but may be in the form of an abbreviation

• This literally tells ATF who to contact to begin the trace
ATF Trace Process

Manufacturer/Importer

Dealer/Wholesaler

FFL(s)

FFL Identifies Purchaser
ATF Form 4473
Firearms Traced By Calendar Year

Source: ATF Fact Sheet, National Tracing Center, May 2018
Why Do You Need to Identify a Firearm Accurately?

• Describe the recovered firearm in reports
  • Incident report
  • Property report
  • Evidence tag
  • Search warrant return
• Run the firearm in NCIC to see if it is stolen
• Trace the firearm to determine its origin
• Testify about the firearm
• You want to look professional
Firearms Safety

Know and follow your department’s policy on the handling, examination, packaging and storage of firearms

Keep your FINGER off the TRIGGER!

Treat every firearm as if it were loaded at all times—even if you just cleared it

Always point the firearm in a safe direction

CHECK IT—CHECK IT TWICE!
How Does a Gun Get Its Identity?
.38 Smith & Wesson Revolver?
9mm Class

- 9x17 Kurz
- .380 ACP
- .380 Auto
- 9mm short
- 9x18
- 9mm Makarov
- 9mm Police
- 9x19
- 9mm Luger
- 9mm Parabellum
- 9mm NATO
- 9x21
- 9x21 IMI
- 9x23
- 9mm Steyr
Calibers

.38

.38 Short Colt  .38 S&W  .38 Auto Super  .38 Special  .38-.40
The term firearm means, in part:

- Any weapon, including a starter gun, that will or is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive

- The frame or receiver of any such weapon
Frame or Receiver
Serial Number on Frame or Receiver
Identifying the Type of Firearm

Rifle

Shotgun

Pistol

Revolver
Identifying the Type of Firearm
Identifying the Type of Firearm

Rifle

Shotgun
Required Markings on U.S. Manufactured Firearms

1. NAME of the MANUFACTURER
   CITY and STATE

2. MODEL (if assigned)

3. CALIBER or GAUGE

4. SERIAL NUMBER
   Must be on the frame or receiver
   Manufacturer cannot duplicate a serial number
Manufacturer’s Name
City and State
Model

MOD. 92FS--CAL. 9mm Parabellum--PATENTED
Caliber
Serial Number

BERETTA U.S.A. CORP.

ACKK, MD. -- MADE IN USA

BER189511 Z
1. Determine the type of firearm
   PISTOL

2. Name of the manufacturer
   INTRATEC

3. Manufacturer’s City and State
   MIAMI, FLA

4. Model
   TEC-9

5. Caliber
   9MM LUGER

6. Serial number
Required Markings on Firearms Imported Into the United States

1. NAME of the MANUFACTURER
2. COUNTRY of ORIGIN
3. IMPORTERS NAME, CITY and STATE
4. MODEL (if assigned)
5. CALIBER or GAUGE

6. SERIAL NUMBER
   Must be on the frame or receiver
   Manufacturer cannot duplicate a serial number
Country of Origin
Importers Name, City, and State
Importer’s Markings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importer’s Marking</th>
<th>Company Name, City &amp; State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSI ONT CA</td>
<td>China Sports, Ontario, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIG VB VA</td>
<td>Delta Investment Group, Virginia Beach, Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA RDFLD NJ</td>
<td>Navy Arms, Ridgefield, New Jersey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAI ST ALB VT</td>
<td>Century Arms Inc., St Albans, Vermont</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source ATF Pub. 6320.1
Markings on Imported Guns
Crime Gun Intelligence

Putting Tracing and NIBIN Together

9/28/2003—PD recovered a Glock 9mm pistol

9/30/1995—Victim was shot and killed (NIBIN)

9/29/1995—Glock was purchased (eTrace)
Contact Us

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THANK YOU!