



MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

743 – NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTICS INFORMATION NETWORK PROGRAM

GENERAL ORDER: 2021-XX
ISSUED: April 26, 2021

EFFECTIVE: April 26, 2021

REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:
Inspector Paul Formolo
DATE: March 19, 2021

ACTION: Amends General Order 2017-04 (January 4, 2017)

WILEAG STANDARD(S): NONE

ROLL CALL VERSION

**Contains only changes to current policy.
For complete version of SOP, see SharePoint.**

743.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to identify the process for which Milwaukee Police Department members shall process firearms and ~~ammunition components~~ spent cartridge casings in order to ensure the timely submission of ammunition components information into the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) to identify potential links between shooting incidents and a particular firearm.

743.05 POLICY

The department, through the Fusion Division, will be proactive in using the IBIS to enter fired ~~ammunition components~~ spent cartridge casings into the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) in order to determine whether various shooting incidents can be linked to the same firearm or to a particular firearm.

743.10 DEFINITIONS

CD. CRIME GUNS

DE. FIREARMS EXAMINER

A firearms examiner is a member of the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory Bureau (WSCLB) that compares fired cartridge casings that have a ~~high correlation~~ an assigned investigatory lead in order to verify the ~~level of correlation~~ investigatory lead and is ~~are~~ able to testify to the results in court.

EF. INTEGRATED BALLISTICS IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (IBIS)

IBIS is the technology that allows for the digital imaging of fired ~~ammunition components~~ spent cartridge casings so that they can be correlated against an electronic database of images in an effort to determine whether various shooting incidents can be linked to the same firearm or to a particular firearm.

~~F.~~ POTENTIAL CANDIDATE FOR COMPARISON (PCC) INVESTIGATORY LEAD

~~Potential Candidate for Comparison (PCC) for investigative purposes~~ **Investigatory leads**, also known as an unconfirmed hit, is a correlation that indicates the likelihood that two or more cartridge cases were fired in the same ~~weapon~~ **firearm**. However, an unconfirmed hit must be confirmed by a trained firearm examiner from the WSCLB.

~~GG.~~ CORRELATION STATIONS MATCH POINT

~~Match Point is the~~ **correlation stations** ~~are~~ where results from computer searches are reviewed by a trained technician. ~~These stations are known as Match Point (MP associated with Heritage) and Match Point Plus (MPP associated with TRAX units).~~

~~HG.~~ NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTICS INFORMATION NETWORK PROGRAM (NIBIN)**~~IH.~~ NIBIN TECHNICIAN****~~J.~~ ~~SAMPLE TEST~~ FIRED CARTRIDGE ACQUISITION STATION**

~~Sample Test~~ **Sample Test** fired cartridge acquisition station is an apparatus into which a recovered firearm is fired in order to gather a known sample of a fired cartridge casing for entry into IBIS.

743.15 STRUCTURE

The NIBIN program within the department consists of three major components: the BrassTRAX station, the correlation station, and the ~~sample test~~ **sample test** fired cartridge acquisition station. The BrassTRAX station and the correlation station are housed at the Fusion Division. There are two ~~sample test~~ **sample test** fired cartridge acquisition stations within the MPD, one is located at the Property Control Division warehouse and the second in the sub-basement of the Police Administration Building. All stations will be staffed by members of the Fusion Division who are trained as NIBIN technicians. Only department and ATF members that are trained by the ATF are authorized to operate any component of the NIBIN program.

Routinely the Milwaukee Police Department conducts comparisons to NIBIN stations at the WSCLB, the Chicago Police Department, and the Northeastern Illinois Crime Lab. Upon request, comparisons can be made to other NIBIN stations based upon information developed during the investigation.

743.20 TRAINING

The ATF ~~trains~~ **oversees the training of** members in two areas of the system:

- A. Acquisition training is training for successfully acquiring digital images of fired cartridge casings into the database.

- B. Correlation training is training for the purpose of successfully reviewing and comparing digitized images in an effort to determine whether the possibility exists that the same firearm was used.

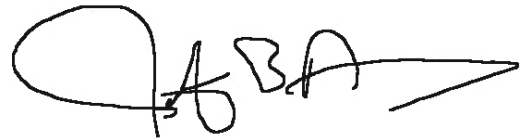
743.25 PROCESSING OF RECOVERED FIRED CARTRIDGE CASINGS AND FIREARMS

- F. After evidence items have been processed for DNA and latent prints, a member of the NIBIN program from the Fusion Division will regularly retrieve all fired cartridge casings from PCD and firearms from the Forensics Division for processing firearms from the Forensics Division for processing and all fired cartridge casings from PCD.
- G. NIBIN members who are taking possession of crime guns for test firing purposes shall stamp the original completed electronic WinAce-Officer Drop inventory with the transfer stamp and make a tracking entry into the PCD SharePoint site.
- H. Upon completing the NIBIN test fire of a crime gun, the NIBIN member shall immediately return the firearm to the Forensics Division, stamp the original completed electronic WinAce-Officer Drop inventory with the transfer stamp and make a tracking entry into the PCD SharePoint site.
- I. Fired cartridge casings shall be delivered to the Brass TRAX station and correlation station for triage of multiple casing recoveries and the entry of fired cartridge casings, and correlation.
- K. For recovered crime guns, a member of the NIBIN program shall retrieve the firearm from the Forensics Division, verify the firearm information and ensure that the information on the firearm is correct on the firearms report.
- ~~KL.~~ If a firearm appears to be in a state of disrepair or has obvious signs of inoperability, they shall not test fire the weapon unless it can be fixed with parts in the onsite library. In such cases If the firearm cannot be fixed with parts in the onsite library, the firearm(s) shall be transmitted to the WSCLB for evaluation of the operability of the firearm. If the WSCLB determines that the firearm is operable or can be test fired, the WSCLB will conduct a test fire and enter the casing into NIBIN. The Letter of Transmittal must indicate that along with evaluation of the firearm, a test fire and entry into NIBIN are desired comparison to scene casings are desired.
- M. A member of the NIBIN program shall ensure that an eTrace search is initiated.
- ~~LN.~~ A NIBIN member shall collect two samples of a fired cartridge casing from the firearm. The sample fired cartridge casings shall be delivered to the BrassTRAX station for entry into IBIS and the correlation station for analysis for entry into IBIS. The NIBIN member shall then return the firearm to the Forensics Division for later delivery to the PCD.
- ~~MO.~~ If during the course of the investigation the case officer receives credible intelligence that the firearm used in the offense originated from or was used in an offense in an area outside the standard search area of Wisconsin and northern Illinois, the case

officer shall contact a NIBIN technician and inform them of the suspected point of origin so that the suspected point of origin can be included in the search.

- NP. The NIBIN technician shall file a supplemental report regarding the processing of the firearm and fired cartridge casing, the results of the NIBIN search entry, and the correlation of fired cartridge casings.
- OQ. If the NIBIN search correlation results in an investigatory lead PCC, the NIBIN technician shall notify a Fusion Division supervisor and the commanding officer(s), or their representative(s) of the investigations division(s) that the PCC investigatory lead exists.
- PR. A Fusion Division supervisor shall assign the NIBIN case a NIBIN Designation and assign the NIBIN case to the primary investigator from the investigating work location. ~~If the NIBIN case is assigned a designation at the Red CGIC level, a member of the Crime Gun Intelligence Center will be assigned the case to conduct follow-up in conjunction with an investigator(s) from the investigations division(s) in which the offenses occurred.~~
- QS. The case officer/detective will need to confer with the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office to determine if the PCC investigatory lead will be sent to the WSCLB for confirmation. The WSCLB will only accept PCC investigatory lead confirmation cases that have been authorized by a prosecutor. If so authorized, the case officer/detective shall be responsible for submitting the *Letter of Transmittal*.
- RT. Cases that are linked to a homicide shall be referred to the Homicide Division for investigation and coordination. The commanding officer of the investigations division(s) with the associated offenses will also receive a notification regarding the results.
- SU. Priority requests for NIBIN processing can be made by contacting the Fusion Division watch desk at extension [REDACTED].
- TV. NIBIN processing hierarchy is:
1. Homicides;
 2. Sexual Assaults;
 3. Non-Fatal Shootings;
 4. Armed Robberies;
 5. General Felonies;
 6. Misdemeanor Offenses.

UW. The NIBIN program shall not process firearms evidence for an officer-involved shooting. All such evidence must be transmitted to the WSCLB by the investigator.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JBN', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JEFFREY B. NORMAN
ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE

JBN:mfk