



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDERS

SOP 1-58

Effective: 01/31/2023 Review: 01/31/2024 Replaces: 02/25/2022

1-58 CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE CENTER (CGIC)

Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):

A. Related SOP(s)

[1-41 Evidence Unit \(Formerly 3-04 and 5-6\)](#)

B. Form(s)

[PD 1209 Crime Gun Intelligence Center \(CGIC\) Feedback Form](#)

C. Other Resource(s)

None

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

1-58-1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the rules and responsibilities of the Albuquerque Police Department (Department) Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC), which is part of an interagency collaboration focused on the timely collection, management, and analysis of crime gun evidence to identify shooters, disrupt criminal activity, and prevent future violence. The CGIC primarily uses programs, such as the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) and the Electronic Tracing System (e-Trace), in conjunction with human intelligence and additional resources, to identify armed, violent individuals for investigation and prosecution.

1-58-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Department for CGIC personnel to collect and process cartridge casings from crime scenes and test-fired firearms to ensure timely submission into the NIBIN database to identify potential links between shooting incidents and a particular firearm.

N/A 1-58-3 Definitions

A. BrassTrax

The acquisition station that can acquire cartridge case information for entry into the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS).

B. Correlation



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A linking of fired cartridge casings based on the various characteristics, such as caliber, firing pin marks, and breech face marks, to establish the likelihood that the casings were fired from the same firearm.

C. Correlation Stations

The station where results from computer searches are reviewed by a trained technician. These stations are known as Match Point associated with Heritage and Match Point Plus associated with TRAX units.

D. Crime Guns

Firearms that Department personnel have probable cause to believe have been used during the course of a commission of a crime.

E. Crime Gun Intelligence (CGI)

Facts that include, but are not limited to, information collected and/or developed from seized firearms and ballistics evidence, incident and investigative reports, field interviews, surveillance, seized firearm tracing, laboratory examinations, including IBIS/NIBIN results and trace evidence, and social media monitoring, which are related to illegal firearms use in the Department's jurisdiction.

F. Electronic Tracing System (e-Trace):

An internet-based system that allows participating law enforcement agencies to submit firearm traces to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) National Tracing Center (NTC).

G. Firearms Examiner

A member of the Department Firearm and Tool Mark Unit who compares fired cartridge casings that have a high correlation in order to verify the level of correlation and is able to testify to the results in court.

H. Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS)

Technology that allows for the digital imaging of fired ammunition components so that they can be correlated against an electronic database of images to determine whether various shooting incidents can be linked to the same firearm or a particular firearm.

I. National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Program

A partnership between the ATF and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to identify, target, and prosecute individuals who are guilty of crimes involving firearm and their sources of criminal firearms.



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J. NIBIN Hit

A confirmed linkage of two (2) or more firearm-related crimes made by two (2) certified firearms examiners.

K. NIBIN Lead

A possible linkage of two (2) or more firearm-related crimes, shooting or firearm recovery, through the use of NIBIN technology. Information from a NIBIN Lead must be confirmed, in other words, a NIBIN Hit, if it is to be used as probable cause for an arrest or search warrant or as evidence in court. This confirmation is done by the Firearms and Toolmark Unit, and is a separate evaluation of the evidence than what the Brasstrax / NIBIN process provides.

L. NIBIN Technician

Professional staff who examines fired cartridge casings and firearms to determine the suitability for entry into IBIS and who reads and verifies the correlations to assist in establishing a forensic probable cause linking fired cartridge casings.

6 1-58-4 **Rules and Responsibilities**

A. CGIC personnel shall:

1. Support the Department's mission, and goals of reducing gun crime through the collection, management, and analysis of crime gun evidence to identify shooters; and
 - a. CGIC personnel shall supply the Department's pertinent investigative units with related information from NIBIN Leads and NIBIN Hits through efficient and practical methods.
2. Analyze, investigate, disseminate, and assign NIBIN Lead investigations.

C. Crime Gun Intelligence Analysis

1. One (1) of the CGIC goals is to produce actionable intelligence to assist in identifying, arresting, and prosecution of individuals who drive gun-related crime. These core areas are defined as follows:
 - a. NIBIN Leads and NIBIN Hits;
 - b. Gunshot detection system activations;
 - c. Firearm-related arrests and recoveries;
 - d. Firearm retraces completed by the ATF; and
 - e. Stolen firearm-related reports.



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2. CGIC personnel shall focus primarily on core areas of crime gun intelligence by analyzing the individual(s), locations, property, firearms, and ballistic evidence associated with each area to identify criminal patterns, relationships, individuals, and witnesses.

D. NIBIN Lead/Hit Assignment

1. NIBIN routinely provides leads to the designated point of contact within the CGIC.
 - a. CGIC personnel shall correlate the NIBIN Lead and/or NIBIN Hit and triage the lead to determine investigative potential.
 - b. When CGIC personnel determine the triaged NIBIN Lead shall be referred to other investigative units, they shall adhere to the following protocol:
 - i. Tier 1: An actionable lead that is currently assigned to a Department investigator;
 - ii. Tier 2: An actionable lead that is not currently assigned to a Department investigator; and
 - iii. Tier 3: A lead that is not actionable.
 - c. If an actionable NIBIN Lead is assigned to the CGIC for follow-up investigation, ATF Task Force Officers within the Investigative Support Unit shall be assigned as the lead case agent.
 - d. CGIC and Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) personnel shall collaborate to develop tracking of all leads.
 - i. CGIC personnel shall create a unique CGIC identifying number that is used throughout the process to track all leads and referrals.

E. CGIC personnel may review and follow up on gunshot detection system events, which includes but is not limited to:

1. Re-canvassing the areas where the event occurred;
2. Searching for any related evidence; and
3. The proper collection of evidence if it is located.

F. CGIC Referral and Feedback

1. CGIC personnel shall maintain open communication with internal and external partners/stakeholders related to the leads developed and referred by CGIC personnel.
2. Investigative case agents/detectives shall complete the CGIC Feedback Form within thirty (30) days and email a copy to CGIC@cabq.gov.

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G. NIBIN Entry and Correlation

1. The NIBIN technician shall test-fire all eligible seized firearms.



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2. A NIBIN technician or CGIC personnel shall transport the test-fired casings from seized NIBIN-eligible firearms, as well as seized NIBIN-eligible fired casings, to the designated IBIS/NIBIN site for entry into IBIS/NIBIN.
3. If CGIC personnel encounter a firearm that is inoperable or unsafe, they shall confer with Firearm and Tool Marks Unit personnel for further evaluation prior to proceeding with any testing.
 - a. If the firearm is deemed inoperable, no testing shall be conducted.

H. All persons present for the test-firing at the indoor bullet trap secure area shall wear the provided safety equipment, including:

- a. Eye protection;
- b. Hearing protection;
- c. Gloves; and
- d. A respirator.

I. NIBIN Requests

1. Sworn personnel that need immediate entry of casings or need to have a firearm test fired, shall email a request to the NIBIN Unit at NIBIN@cabq.gov.
 - a. The email request shall include the reason why the case is a priority, the case number, and if the case only has casings, a firearm, or both.
 - b. The NIBIN Unit shall acknowledge these requests via email and notify CGIC Unit personnel once they have been entered.

N/A G. Outside Agency Requests

Requests from outside agencies for scene casings and/or firearm test firing for entry into NIBIN shall be submitted into Evidence through proper channels as outlined in SOP Evidence Unit (refer to SOP Evidence Unit for sanctions classifications and additional duties).

6 1-58-5 **Training**

- A. All CGIC personnel shall complete and maintain all specialized training and certifications as considered necessary by the Scientific Evidence Division (SED) Commander.