



**State of Wyoming**  
**Office of the Attorney General**  
**Division of Criminal Investigation**  
**Steven R. Woodson, Director**

Matthew H. Mead  
Governor  
  
Peter K. Michael  
Attorney General

September 21, 2018

To: Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police

Re: National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) and Operation Hot Brass

We are proud to announce that the Wyoming State Crime Lab (WSCL) is now participating in the NIBIN program and Operation Hot Brass. In cooperation with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) lab in Greeley, Colorado, the WSCL can enter fired shell case evidence into NIBIN and Operation Hot Brass.

NIBIN is an automated imaging network that allows for the capture and comparison of ballistic evidence to aid in solving crimes involving firearms. It allows fired cartridge cases/shotshells to be compared around the region. Cartridge cases from crime scenes where no gun was recovered are compared to other no gun recovered scenes, as well as, test fires from seized guns that are entered into the system. The goal is to both link no-gun recovered crimes together and to eventually link those to a recovered firearm.

The common calibers that are suitable for NIBIN entry:

- Any caliber that is typically shot from a semi-automatic pistol (.22LR, 9mm Luger, .40 S&W...etc.)
- .223 REM/5.56mm (AR-15)
- 7.62x39mm (AK-47)
- 12 gauge

(Other calibers may be entered to NIBIN on a case by case basis, but call the WSCL to discuss the case.)

**To ensure your items get entered into NIBIN (either crime scene evidence or Firearms recovered) add a Firearms (FA) assignment in the BEAST and under submission comments add "NIBIN submission."**

Operation Hot Brass has been in existence since 2014 and has had tremendous success throughout Colorado. Operation Hot Brass expedites the entering of cartridge cases found at crime scenes into NIBIN, giving investigative agencies potential investigative leads, linking their cases to other shooting cases within the region.

Operation Hot Brass is most successful when the submitting agencies bring the cartridge cases found at crime scenes, where no firearm was recovered, to the Crime Lab as soon

as possible. Since November 2014, over 3,000 cartridge cases have been processed in Colorado with 500 investigative leads deriving from those submissions. (Operation Hot Brass has the same submission criteria as NIBIN.)

If a potential lead is found on your submission, a letter will be forwarded to the investigator containing pertinent information of the case(s) yours might be linked to. The WSCL will also call to your Investigator to discuss the next steps in the process.

**To ensure your items get entered into NIBIN under Operation Hot Brass (either crime scene evidence or Firearms recovered) add a High priority Firearms (FA) assignment in the BEAST and under submission comments add "NIBIN submission/Operation Hot Brass"**

For more information on NIBIN please visit <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/national-integrated-ballistic-information-network-nibin>

If you have any questions or what more information about this program feel free to contact the FATM Unit Technical Leader.

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Sincerely,



Steven R. Woodson  
Director