

## CHIEF OF DETECTIVES

**NOTICE**  
8.9

April 14, 2021

**TO:** All Concerned Personnel

**FROM:** Chief of Detectives

**SUBJECT:** CHANGES TO EVIDENCE ENTERED INTO THE NATIONAL  
INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK (NIBIN)

Effective Deployment Period 3, March 14, 2021, entry of projectile evidence into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) database has been suspended.

The Forensic Science Division (FSD) Firearm Analysis Unit has been managing the Department's NIBIN operations since 2001. The NIBIN program was built on capturing digital images of discharged cartridge cases (DCCs) from shooting evidence and test fired guns, searching a database for other similar images, and providing tentative investigative leads ("cold hits") linking shootings involving the same gun. In November 2014, FSD began a pilot program with BulletTrax, the newest NIBIN imaging technology at the time.

Each BulletTrax entry was extremely labor intensive compared to DCCs and limited to the most common revolvers, 38/357 calibers. During this pilot program, less than 1% of projectile entries (both evidence and firearms) resulted in an investigative lead, compared to nearly 20% of DCCs. The BulletTrax program operates outdated technology and is no longer supported by the manufacturer who has discontinued service. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives supports suspension of BulletTrax so the Department can focus on the comprehensive entry of DCCs.

The Firearm Analysis Unit will continue to provide all other services, including Type & Caliber and Microscopic Comparison for projectile evidence as well as NIBIN services for DCCs and semi-automatic pistols. Should you have any questions, the Firearm Analysis Unit can be reached at (323) 415-8160 or via email at [FSD-Firearms@lapd.online](mailto:FSD-Firearms@lapd.online), or [FSD-NIBIN@lapd.online](mailto:FSD-NIBIN@lapd.online).

APPROVED:



KRIS E. PITCHER, Deputy Chief  
Chief of Detectives



DANIEL RANDOLPH, Commander  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Chief of Police

DISTRIBUTION "D"