



United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Office of Law Enforcement and Security  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240

August 31, 2023

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY POLICY BULLETIN NO. 23-02**

**SUBJECT:** Department Policy for the required use of the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN)

**1. Purpose**

This Law Enforcement and Security Policy Bulletin establishes Department policy regarding the submission of firearms and fired cartridge casings recovered in connection with every criminal investigation to the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). On March 14, 2023, President Biden issued Executive Order (EO) 14092, *Reducing Gun Violence and Making Our Communities Safer* (Attachment A). Section 3(f) of the EO requires “The heads of Federal law enforcement agencies shall, as soon as practicable, but no later than 180 days from the date of this order, ensure that their respective law enforcement components issue National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) submission and utilization policies with requirements that are equivalent to, or exceed, the requirements of the policy issued by the Department of Justice (DOJ) on December 12, 2022, to ensure the prompt entry of ballistics data recovered in connection with criminal investigations into NIBIN.” This Law Enforcement and Security Bulletin creates Department-wide policy with requirements for the use of NIBIN that are equivalent to DOJ’s policy issued on December 12, 2022 (Attachment B), thereby satisfying the obligation set forth in EO 14092.

**2. Effective Date**

This policy is effective immediately.

**3. Authorities**

- Executive Order (EO) 14092- “Reducing Gun Violence and Making Our Communities Safer,” dated March 14, 2023.
- 5 U.S.C. § 301; 43 U.S.C. § 1454; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950, (64 Stat. 1262), as amended; 54 U.S.C. § 102701 et seq., for the National Park Service; D.C. Code § 5-206 and related authorities for the U.S. Park Police; 43 U.S.C. §§ 1733(c)(1)-(2), for the Bureau of Land Management; law enforcement authorities specific to the Fish and Wildlife Service, including but not limited to 16 U.S.C. § 3375(b) and 16 U.S.C. § 460k-3; 25 U.S.C. § 2803, for the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and 43 U.S.C. § 373b, for the Bureau of Reclamation.

- 446 Department Manual (DM), Chapter 7, Evidence Management

#### **4. Coverage**

This policy applies to all Department Bureaus/Offices that have law enforcement programs or employ law enforcement officers (LEOs). Bureaus/Offices shall immediately implement or revise their policies to reflect the required use of NIBIN. Bureau/Office Directors for Law Enforcement shall track all submissions to NIBIN and provide a report to the Director of the Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES) upon request or during a programmatic review.

#### **5. Policy**

This policy requires that all firearms and fired cartridge casings recovered or seized in connection with a criminal investigation, including investigations as part of Department-funded task force operations, must be analyzed, and entered into NIBIN. This requirement applies regardless of whether a Bureau/Office or a state, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement partner takes possession of the firearm or fired cartridge casing. For any Bureau or Office without a readily accessible NIBIN acquisition site, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) can assist by providing acquisition services at select ATF Field Divisions, as well as the three national ATF NIBIN lab sites.

Prompt entry of ballistics data into NIBIN is critical to preventing and solving firearms related crimes. Bureau/Office Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) and Agents are required to enter ballistics data into NIBIN no later than 14 days after a firearm or fired cartridge casing is recovered, absent unexpected or extenuating circumstances. LEOs and Agents should strive to enter ballistics data into NIBIN within 48 hours of recovery.

Currently, there are approximately 277 Federal, State, and local NIBIN sites around the country. These sites include NIBIN “partners” at Federal, State, and local agencies (Attachments C and D). All NIBIN sites use Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) technology to enter and search ballistic information in an automated environment and provide links between firearms-related violent crimes and recovered firearms. Bureaus should refer to the DOJ’s NIBIN process guidance (Attachment E) when establishing or revising their policies and procedures.

#### **6. Inquires**

Inquires on directives contained in the Security Bulletin can be directed to: Director Robert MacLean, Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)

## 7. Distribution

This policy will be distributed to all Bureau/Office Directors of Law Enforcement and posted on the OLES website.

**ROBERT  
MACLEAN**

Digitally signed by  
ROBERT MACLEAN  
Date: 2023.08.31  
09:49:15 -04'00'

---

Robert D. MacLean  
Director, Office of Law Enforcement and Security

### Attachments:

- A. Executive Order 14092 - *Reducing Gun Violence and Making Our Communities Safer*
- B. *Processing Ballistics Evidence in the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) in Connection with Criminal Investigations*, Department of Justice, Office of the Deputy Attorney General, December 12, 2022.
- C. Map of NIBIN laboratory and acquisition sites (not for public release)
- D. Map legend for map of NIBIN laboratory and acquisition sites (not for public release)
- E. *NIBIN Process Suggestions for LEA Partners*, Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, January 26, 2023. (not for public release)



# Presidential Documents

## Title 3—

## Executive Order 14092 of March 14, 2023

## The President

## Reducing Gun Violence and Making Our Communities Safer

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby order as follows:

**Section 1. Policy.** Every few days in the United States, we mourn a new mass shooting. Daily acts of gun violence—including community violence, domestic violence, suicide, and accidental shootings—may not always make the evening news, but they too cut lives short and leave survivors and their communities with long-lasting physical and mental wounds. We cannot accept these facts as the enduring reality of life in America. Instead, we must together insist that we have had enough, and that we will no longer allow the interests of the gun manufacturers to win out over the safety of our children and Nation.

It is the policy of my Administration that executive departments and agencies (agencies) will pursue every legally available and appropriate action to reduce gun violence. Through this whole-of-government approach, my Administration has made historic progress to save lives. My Administration has taken action to keep guns out of dangerous hands and especially dangerous weapons off of our streets; hold gun traffickers and rogue gun dealers accountable; fund accountable, effective community policing; and invest in community violence interventions and prevention strategies.

Last year, I signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (the “Act”), the most significant bipartisan gun safety legislation in nearly 30 years. The Act provides communities with new tools to combat gun violence, including enhanced gun background checks for individuals under age 21, funding for extreme risk protection orders and other crisis interventions, and increased mental health resources to help children impacted by gun violence heal from the resulting grief and trauma.

I continue to call on the Congress to take additional action to reduce gun violence, including by banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, requiring background checks for all gun sales, requiring safe storage of firearms, funding my comprehensive Safer America Plan, and expanding community violence intervention and prevention strategies. In the meantime, my Administration will continue to do all that we can, within existing authority, to make our communities safer.

**Sec. 2. Implementation of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.** The Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall each submit a report to the President within 60 days of the date of this order describing what actions their respective agencies have taken to implement the Act, data and analysis regarding the use and early effects of the Act, and additional steps their respective agencies will take to maximize the benefits of the Act. These reports shall include a plan for increasing public awareness and use of resources made available by the Act.

**Sec. 3. Additional Agency Actions to Reduce Gun Violence.** (a) The Attorney General shall develop and implement a plan to:

- (i) clarify the definition of who is engaged in the business of dealing in firearms, and thus required to become Federal firearms licensees (FFLs),

in order to increase compliance with the Federal background check requirement for firearm sales, including by considering a rulemaking, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law;

(ii) prevent former FFLs whose licenses have been revoked or surrendered from continuing to engage in the business of dealing in firearms;

(iii) publicly release, to the fullest extent permissible by law, inspection reports of FFL dealers cited for violations of the law; and

(iv) support efforts to modernize and make permanent the Undetectable Firearms Act (18 U.S.C. 922(p)).

(b) The Secretary of Defense; the Attorney General; the Secretary of Homeland Security; the Secretary of Health and Human Services, including through the Surgeon General of the United States; the Secretary of Education; and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall expand existing Federal campaigns and other efforts to promote safe storage of firearms.

(c) The Secretary of Defense; the Attorney General; the Secretary of Homeland Security; the Secretary of Health and Human Services, including through the Surgeon General of the United States; and the Secretary of Education shall undertake efforts to encourage effective use of extreme risk protection orders ("red flag" laws), partnering with law enforcement, health care providers, educators, and other community leaders.

(d) The Attorney General; the Secretary of Health and Human Services, including through the Surgeon General of the United States; the Secretary of Education; the Secretary of Homeland Security; the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; and the heads of other agencies, as appropriate, shall develop a proposal for the President, and submit it no later than September 15, 2023, on how the Federal Government can better support the recovery, mental health, and other needs of survivors of gun violence, families of victims and survivors of gun violence, first responders to incidents of gun violence, and communities affected by gun violence. The proposal should draw on existing evidence, where available, and take into account how to address needs in both the immediate aftermath of mass shootings and in the years following such events. The proposal should recommend any additional executive branch coordination and additional resources or authorities from the Congress needed to implement the proposal, as well as how agencies will assess the outcomes for the activities implemented.

(e) The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall develop and implement principles to further firearm and public safety practices through the Department of Defense's acquisition of firearms, consistent with applicable law.

(f) The heads of Federal law enforcement agencies shall, as soon as practicable, but no later than 180 days from the date of this order, ensure that their respective law enforcement components issue National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) submission and utilization policies with requirements that are equivalent to, or exceed, the requirements of the policy issued by the Department of Justice on December 12, 2022, to ensure the prompt entry of ballistics data recovered in connection with criminal investigations into NIBIN. In consultation with the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense policies may be tailored to address specific operational considerations.

(g) The Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Department of Justice, shall work to reduce the loss or theft of firearms during shipment between FFLs and to improve reporting of such losses or thefts, including by engaging with carriers and shippers.

(h) The Federal Trade Commission is encouraged to issue a public report analyzing how gun manufacturers market firearms to minors and how such manufacturers market firearms to civilians, including through the use of military imagery.



**Sec. 4. Definitions.** For purposes of this order, the term “Federal law enforcement agency” means an organizational unit or subunit of the executive branch that employs officers who are authorized to make arrests and carry firearms, and that is responsible for the prevention, detection, and investigation of crime or the apprehension of alleged offenders. The term “heads of Federal law enforcement agencies” means the heads of those units or subunits.

**Sec. 5. General Provisions.** (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.



THE WHITE HOUSE,  
March 14, 2023.



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

The Deputy Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

December 12, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS  
AND EXPLOSIVES  
ADMINISTRATOR, DRUG ENFORCEMENT  
ADMINISTRATION  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS  
DIRECTOR, UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE  
DIRECTOR, EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR UNITED STATES  
ATTORNEYS  
INSPECTOR GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR  
GENERAL  
HEADS OF LITIGATING COMPONENTS  
ALL UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

FROM:

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

*Lisa Monaco*

SUBJECT:

Processing Ballistics Evidence in the National Integrated Ballistic  
Information Network (NIBIN) in Connection with Criminal  
Investigations

The Department of Justice is committed to addressing the gun violence epidemic that takes the lives of too many people in our communities. To combat this senseless violence, we must make effective use of innovative tools and technologies that help law enforcement prevent violent crime by tracing guns used in criminal activity, analyzing ballistics evidence, connecting crime scenes, and identifying deadly shooters for arrest and prosecution.

The National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) is an essential gun intelligence tool. Operated by ATF, NIBIN enables federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial investigators to match fired cartridge casings to the guns from which they were fired and link shooting incidents. NIBIN technology has proven its value by generating investigative leads essential to solving gun crimes and reducing violence.

The effectiveness of NIBIN is dependent on the comprehensive collection of fired casings, the prompt test-firing of recovered firearms, and the timely entry of all that ballistics evidence into the NIBIN system. To enhance NIBIN's effectiveness, ATF has engaged in extensive outreach and training to federal law enforcement and our state, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement partners, and these efforts have resulted in significant progress. Entry of ballistic data into NIBIN has steadily increased, as has the number of investigative leads the



system generates. In fiscal year 2022, the NIBIN network processed the entry of 631,533 acquisitions and generated 189,197 leads linking one or more shooting incidents across the United States.

**Enhancing the Requirement to Enter Evidence into NIBIN.** Over 20 years ago, Attorney General Janet Reno required that the Department's agents and investigators enter ballistics evidence into NIBIN. Today, I reaffirm this requirement and expand it to require that all firearms and fired cartridge casings recovered in connection with every criminal investigation opened by your agencies, including during Department-funded task force operations, must be analyzed and entered into NIBIN. This requirement applies regardless of whether a Department component or a state, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement partner takes possession of the firearm or fired cartridge casing. For any agency without a readily accessible NIBIN acquisition site, ATF can assist by providing acquisition services at select ATF Field Divisions, as well as the three national ATF NIBIN lab sites.

**Improving Timeliness of Ballistics Data Entry.** Prompt entry of ballistics data into NIBIN is critical to preventing and solving gun crimes. The sooner that leads linking shooting incidents are generated, the more swiftly law enforcement can take shooters off the streets before they can strike again. Accordingly, commencing 60 days from today, the Department's agents and investigators will be required to enter ballistics data into NIBIN no later than 14 days after a firearm or fired cartridge casing is recovered, absent unexpected and extenuating circumstances.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the Department's agents and investigators should strive to enter ballistics data into NIBIN within 48 hours of recovery.

As set forth in our Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Violent Crime, the Department is most effective when we target our federal enforcement resources and work collaboratively with our law enforcement partners. The use of NIBIN to prevent and solve violent crimes at all levels of the justice system illustrates the Department's ability to leverage technology and partnerships to make our communities safer. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for all that you do to further the Department's commitment to reducing violent crime.

---

<sup>1</sup> To the extent logistical barriers are identified that complicate compliance with this requirement, components should contact the Office of the Deputy Attorney General for assistance.