

# 5 THINGS

## YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE CENTERS

[crimegunintelcenters.org](http://crimegunintelcenters.org)

A Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) is an interagency collaboration focused on the timely collection, management, and analysis of crime gun evidence, such as shell casings and semiautomatic handguns, using [NIBIN](#) and [eTrace](#). The CGIC process occurs in real time to identify serial shooters, disrupt criminal activity, and prevent future gun violence. The primary goal of these Centers is the timely identification, arrest, and prosecution of armed violent offenders. Other outcomes include: the identification of crime gun sources, efficient resource allocation, providing decision makers with the most accurate gun crime data available, and increased public safety.

Coupled with effective evidenced-based interventions such as Focused Deterrence and Hot Spot Policing, CGIC efforts decrease the number of shootings in a given community, improve the quality of gun crime investigations, increase clearance rates, and impactful prosecutorial outcomes; and increase public trust and confidence in law enforcement through meaningful community engagement. CGICs use forensic evidence- not race, socioeconomic status or other factors- to drive investigations and identify offenders.

These Centers are an intensive, ongoing, collaborative partnership between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), local police, crime/forensic laboratories, probation and parole, police gang units, prosecutors, the U.S. Attorney's Office, crime analysts, community groups, and academics. The role of each partner is equally as important as the next. To maintain effectiveness and sustainability, each partner must dedicate sufficient resources and personnel to the CGIC effort.



A project of the Improving Investigations Training and Technical Assistance Resource Center

### 1

### CONSISTENTLY COLLECT ALL BALLISTIC EVIDENCE

The immediate collection of all ballistic evidence (shell casings and crime guns) is critical to the success of the CGIC. All ballistic evidence is considered evidence of equal importance regardless of the circumstances of its recovery or the severity of the crime being investigated. This includes nonfatal shootings and shots fired calls.

### 2

### UTILIZE NIBIN AND eTRACE IN A TIMELY MANNER

The goal is to guarantee timely and relevant NIBIN processing of all crime guns and recovered shell casings to develop actionable investigative leads and impactful prosecutions. Recovered crime guns are also entered into eTrace to identify sources of crime guns and how violent offenders obtain crime guns. NIBIN and eTrace processes should occur within 24-48 hours of recovery.

### 3

### ESTABLISH A DEDICATED INVESTIGATIVE TEAM THAT COORDINATES EFFORTS

It is common for NIBIN to link multiple shootings that cross police districts and/or cities. CGIC partners, both police and prosecutors, investigate and coordinate efforts to pursue the immediate identification and arrest of serial shooters before they commit their next shooting.

### 4

### USE FORENSIC TECHNOLOGY TO DRIVE INVESTIGATIONS & PROSECUTIONS

The CGIC approach is unique because it utilizes forensic technology to focus law enforcement investigations and ultimately state/federal prosecutions on the most violent, armed offenders. Investigations and prosecutions are based on the acts of violence perpetrated by criminals who merit the full scrutiny of the criminal justice system.

### 5

### ESTABLISH & MAINTAIN PARTNERSHIPS

Key strategic and tactical stakeholders are identified and resources committed based on shared priorities and formalized by memorandums of understanding (MOUs).

The National Crime Gun Intelligence Center Initiative ([crimegunintelcenters.org](http://crimegunintelcenters.org)), funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, supports local multidisciplinary teams in their efforts to prevent and reduce violent crime by identifying perpetrators, linking criminal activities, and identifying sources of crime guns for immediate disruption, investigation, and prosecution. These efforts and others are all components of CGICs, an innovative and collaborative concept developed by the [Denver Police Department](#) and the [ATF](#). To request technical assistance, training, or other resources through this initiative, agency POCs should fill out a request form [here](#).

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