

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

CRIME LABORATORY SERVICE
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December 18, 2018

To whom it may concern:

As you know, the Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Lab Service decided to voluntarily withdraw from its participation within the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) and ceased accepting new cases for NIBIN entry on August 1, 2018. Since then, our firearms/toolmarks sections have been creating additional test fires for submitted firearms and returning these test fires along with the firearms. The intent was to facilitate the ability of your agency to enter these items into the NIBIN Database with assistance from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Additionally, as we transition out of the NIBIN program, we have been providing your agencies recommendations about which cartridge cases are most suitable for NIBIN.

Effective January 1, 2019, DPS will complete our transition out of the NIBIN program and will cease creating additional test fires or providing recommendations for entry for cases submitted from non-DPS agencies. For DPS agencies, two additional test fires will be returned for any non-law enforcement firearm submitted for analysis. Information about entering test fired cartridge cases into the NIBIN Database can be obtained from your local ATF field office.

The NIBIN Program remains a valuable tool for law enforcement, and the reason behind this decision is to support ATF's desire to perform NIBIN entry close to the time of offense in order to provide effective crime gun intelligence. Unfortunately, the DPS Lab System is not optimized, staffed, or equipped to perform this within the desired timetables set out by ATF. Our laboratories will continue to provide a full scope of firearms/toolmarks analysis such as analyzing firearms for their functionality, comparison of fired bullets and fired cartridge case, serial number restorations, distance determinations, and the comparison of toolmarks made by other tools. Thank you for your service and support, and if you have any questions, please contact your nearest Texas DPS Crime Lab Firearms/Toolmarks Section or local ATF field office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brady W. Mills'.

Brady W. Mills
Assistant Chief
Crime Laboratory Service
Law Enforcement Support

BWM:jcj