

NIBIN HELPS NAIL COP KILLER: A DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STORY



June 10, 2001, Washington DC Metro Transit Police Officer Marlon F. Morales was shot as he attempted to stop what appeared to be a routine case of fare evasion.

Investigators found an expended cartridge case at the scene and discovered that the Officer's service weapon a Sig Sauer pistol was missing. It was presumed stolen by the assailant.

The evidence was submitted to the Washington Metropolitan Police Department Firearms Unit for entry into the NIBIN database. A preliminary examination determined that it had been fired from a Glock Pistol.

Three days later, Officer Morales died as a result of the injuries he sustained from the shooting.

Four days later, Walter O. Johnson an ex-con and convicted bank robber wanted for probation violations was stopped for a traffic violation in his home town of Philadelphia. He was found in possession of Officer Morales's Sig Sauer Pistol.



In the meantime, Forensic Technology the developer of the IBS technology used by the NIBIN Program was asked to assist in searching the image of the cartridge case evidence against the various NIBIN databases along the East Coast.

The database search linked the Morales cartridge case to another cartridge case associated with the non-fatal shooting of a man in Philadelphia several days before Officer Morales was shot.

The victim in the Philadelphia shooting identified Walter O. Johnson as the assailant who shot him.

The loop was closed - Police were able to put both the murder weapon and the stolen service weapon in the hands of Walter O. Johnson within days of the Morales shooting.

July 2004, Walter O. Johnson was sentenced to mandatory life in prison for the murder of a law enforcement officer - Officer Marlon F. Morales.