



The Executive Summary should be interpreted within the context of the complete engagement report.

BACKGROUND

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), crimes are solved by law enforcement following up on intelligence information from ballistic imaging technology. NIBIN stands for National Integrated Ballistic Information Network. The NIBIN Program automates ballistics evaluations and provides actionable investigative leads in a timely manner.

The turnaround from when an incident occurs to processing evidence for NIBIN is essential to investigators and solving crime. The Unified Forensic Lab (UFL) handles the NIBIN process for the Aurora Police Department, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, and Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office.

February 2023

Firearm Evidence Process Review

SCOPE – January 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022 and processes in place through review period (September – December 2022)

OBJECTIVE - Determine the efficiency and effectiveness of the firearm evidence (NIBIN) process from when each agency collects evidence to its transfer to the UFL for analysis to the agency's receipt of the analysis from UFL.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of our engagement procedures, we conclude that there are opportunities at each agency and the UFL to improve their processes and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the NIBIN process.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSE

Evidence Corrections – We recommend that APD Property and Evidence standardizes and documents its procedures for handling officer corrections, clearly defining which corrections property technicians can and should make. We also recommend that Property and Evidence add a notation to correction emails involving firearm evidence. The Department should provide training on reviewing that notation to ensure the timely completion of the correction.

Evidence Transport – We recommend the department evaluates options to increase transports from districts to Property and Evidence, while monitoring changes to ensure the changes result in a reduction in time it takes to process firearm evidence.

Performance Measures – We recommended developing performance measures for the portion of the firearms review process APD controls and assigning responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the measures.

Management Response

APD agreed with all recommendations.

View complete audit report: [Link](#)