Gun Violence Reduction Unit – 2024

- The GVRU is in the Major Investigations Section of the King County Sheriff's Office.
- GVRU administrates the KCSO NIBIN Program.
- GVRU focuses on gun related crimes.
  - High impact offenders
  - Pattern crime/series – Robberies, carjackings, home invasions
  - Illegal gun pipelines
  - Shooting series
- GVRU Coordinates with partnering agencies, crime analysts, community programs and prosecutors to identify and focus resources on combating gun related crimes.
- The following presentation includes year to date statistics for 2024.

GVRU Development

- Unit comprised of 1 sergeant and 4 detectives
  - March 2023-Inception of the unit with 1 sergeant who began development of policy and planning.
  - Detectives added in July, September, October and December

GVRU Workload – All 2024

Crime Category	Percentage of Cases
Assist to Lead	44.44%
Assault	11.97%
Domestic	0.85%
Robbery	12.82%
Homicide	1.71%
Death Investigation	0.00%
Drive-by	10.26%
Suspicious/Misc	5.13%
VUFA	6.84%
ERPO	0.85%
Assist other agency	1.71%
Other	0.85%
Internal	2.56%

Subjects Charged – 2024

- 33 Suspects Charged which include VUFA, Robbery, Assault, PSP

  – 13 Juveniles

  – 20 Adults

* Does not include arrests in assistance of other units

GVRU Firearms Recovered

- Handguns -29
- Rifles-16

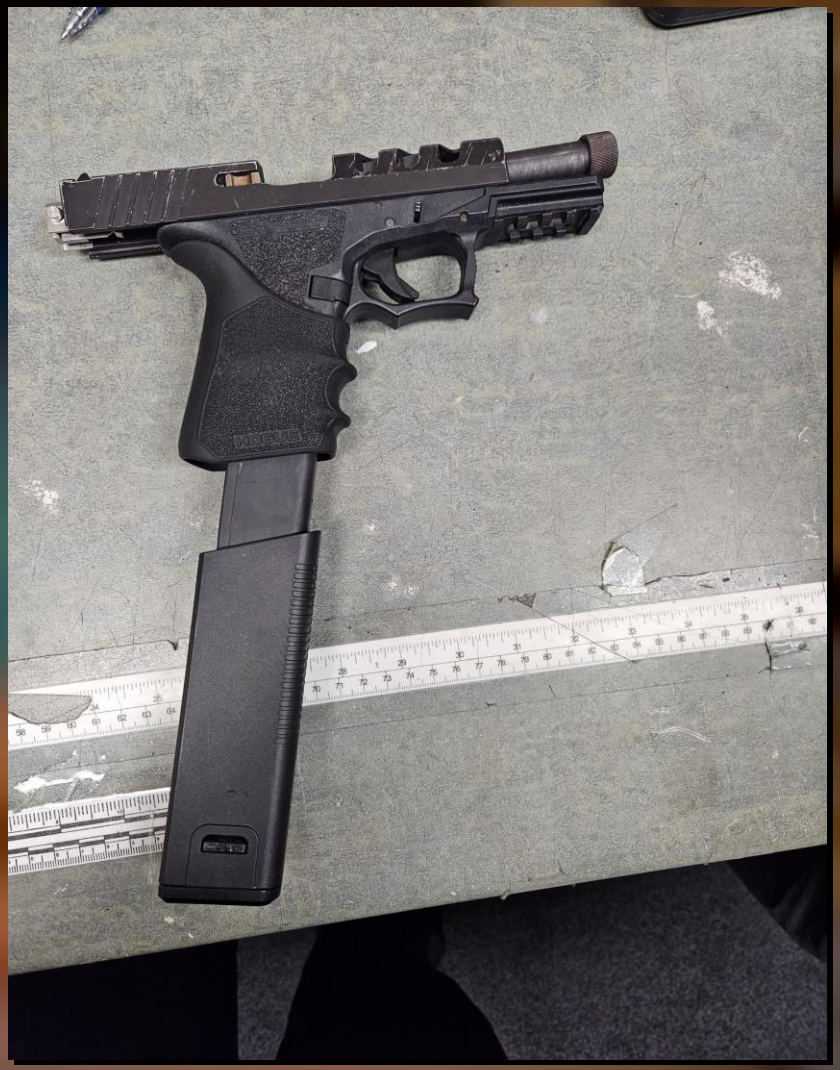
    a. 10 ghost guns
    b. fully automatic

GVRU Firearms Recovered Cont.....

- 3 Grenade Launchers
- 1 flame thrower
- 1 shotgun
- 4 pellet guns
- 14 silencers
- 2 3D Printers to manufacture firearm components and auto sear switches

Recovered converted machine gun with select fire switch

Recovered Converted Fully Automatic Firearm



Evidence collected in joint investigation – 2024

Evidence collected in joint investigation – 2024

Evidence collected in joint investigation – 2024

GVRU Highlights – Q3 2024

- GVRU Detectives have conducted two independent firearm investigations into individuals suspected in homicides in King County and Seattle and arrested the suspects on firearm charges. GVRU located evidence in their investigations that allowed MCU and Seattle PD to file their homicide cases.
- GVRU Detectives specialize in undercover surveillance that has resulted in multiple arrest both in their investigations in cooperation with Kent, Seattle and Tukwila Police Departments partnering to assist in their investigations.
- GVRU has been called out 3 times in the third quarter, resulting in 10 detective responses to SeaTac, Precinct 3, IFIT Teams and MCU.
- The joint investigation with Federal Agencies that recovered 22 firearms, explosives and narcotics, has resulted in multiple federal charges. This investigation is still on-going
- GVRU detectives attended IFIT training in use of force.

National Integrated Ballistic Information Network – 2024

- The KCSO NIBIN Machine is now operational and is currently being used by certified KCSO Detectives and is available to neighboring agencies to use with prior coordination with KCSO.
- NIBIN crime scene evidence generated 49 leads for GVRU in 2024, Third Quarter.
- 158 tracked NIBIN leads linked 622 different shootings in 2024; Nearly all are in King County and connecting multiple shootings to cases in Kittitas County, Pierce County, Snohomish County, Spokane County, Nevada, Oregon and California.
- The 158 NIBIN leads linked 20 homicides to other shootings; 17 in King County. 8 of which are KCSO Homicide cases

What is NIBIN?

- “National Integrated Ballistic Information Network.”
- National database maintained by the ATF, containing millions of IBIS entries from around the country
- Casings will be entered and compared to these for potential matches
- Consider that each time a gun is fired. The shell casing becomes much like a fingerprint, that is specific to each and every gun

What is IBIS?

- “Integrated Ballistics Identification System.”
- PRESUMPTIVE examination of shell casings through specific photography and computer comparisons that examine shell casings for specific details
- Can tell you what type of firearm fired the casing
- Compares through the NIBIN database to other casings
- Can presumptively match that casing to casings recovered in other crime scenes, at a national level

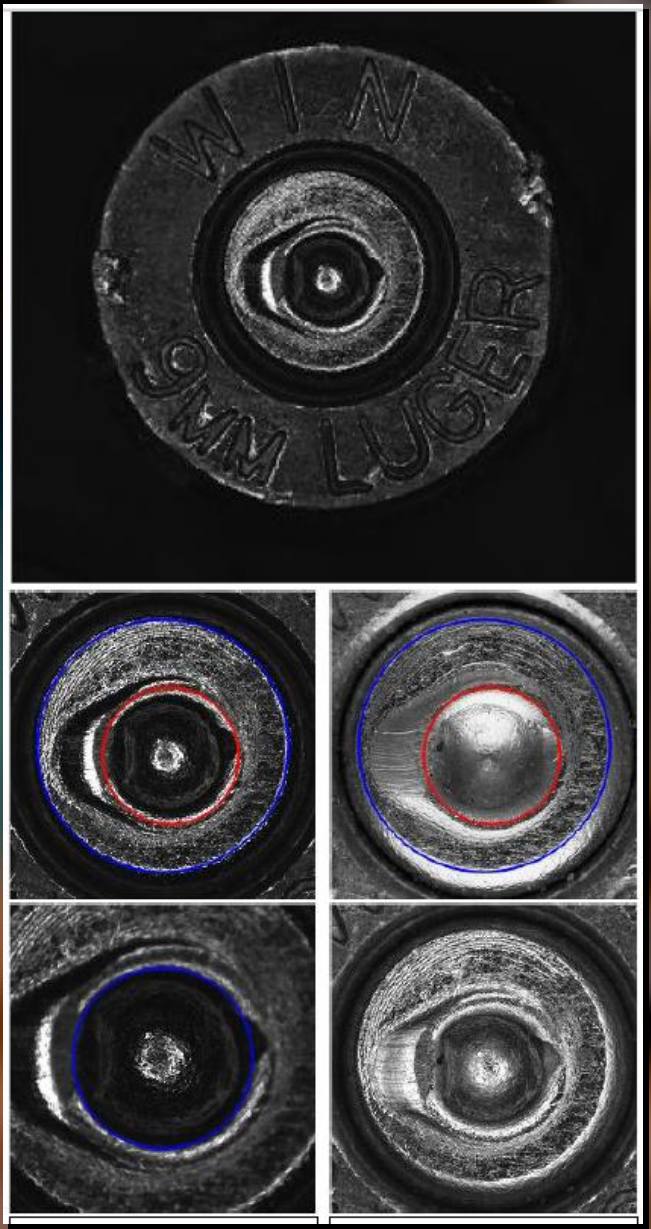
What happens when a gun is fired?

- Four distinctive actions occur.
- The “breach face” is pressed against the round, locking it in place inside the firing chamber, until the shot is fired
- The “firing pin” strikes the bullet primer causing the explosive charge that fires the projectiles from the gun, leaving the empty casing
- The “extractor” grabs and removes the casing from the chamber
- The “ejector” grabs the casing and ejects it from the firearm so a new round can load

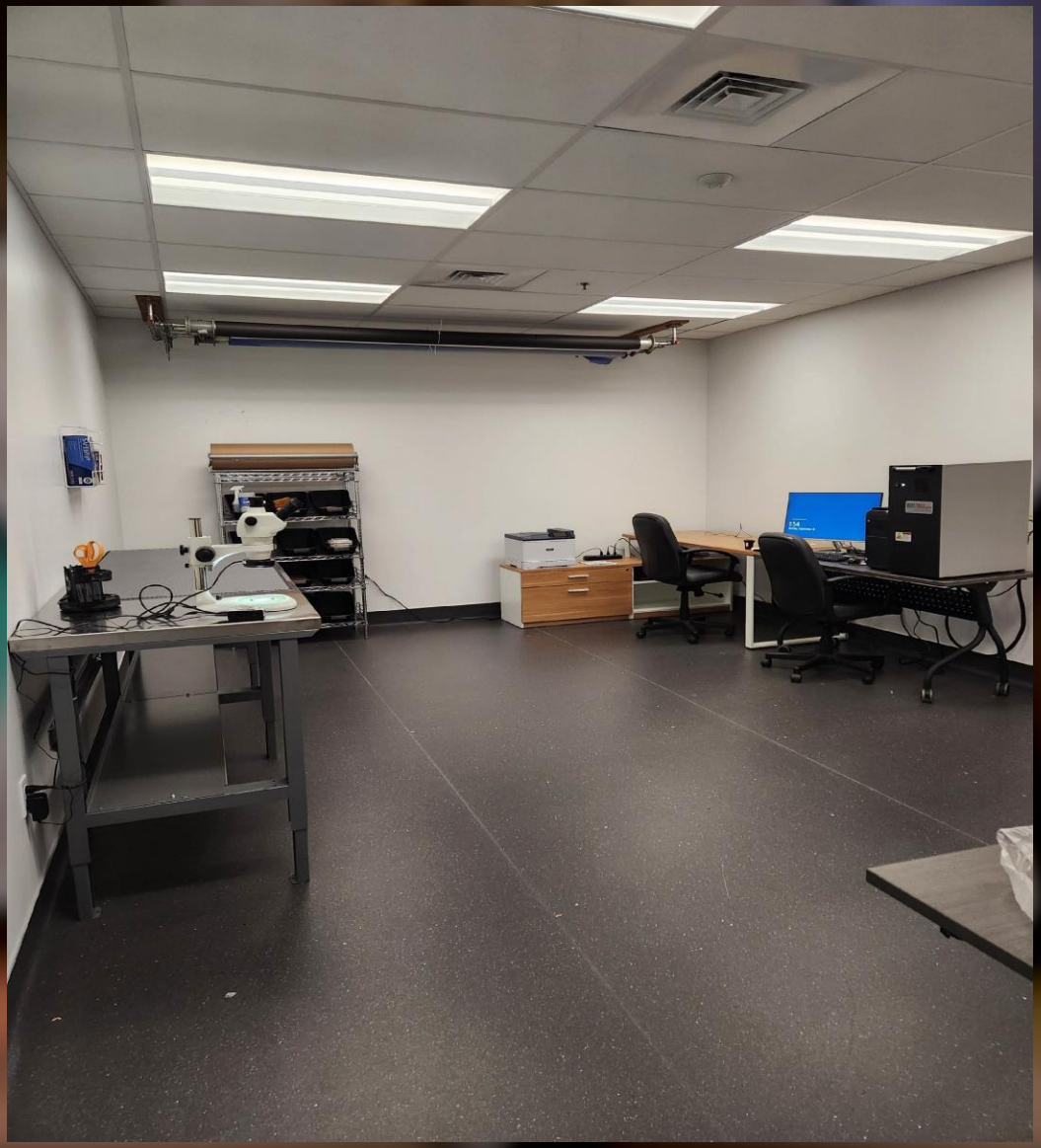
IBIS / NIBIN

- The IBIS Acquisition examines casings for these four actions.
- Each action leaves a distinctive mark on a shell casing
- Each mark is specific to that single firearm and is not replicated in any other firearm
- IBIS and NIBIN examine and compare these marks to marks on shell casings submitted in other investigations and potential matches are discovered
- Examinations are conducted at the National NIBIN Correlation Center in Huntsville, Alabama

NIBIN IMAGE



KCSO NIBIN Room – 2024



KCSO Brasstrax NIBIN Machine 2024

Questions?

Chief Jose Marenco
King County Sheriff's Office
Criminal Investigations Division
(206)263-2528
(206)423-8767
Jose.Marenco@kingcounty.gov