Part VI.

Recovered Stolen Firearms and Firearms With Obliterated Serial Numbers

RECOVERED STOLEN FIREARMS AND FIREARMS WITH OBLITERATED SERIAL NUMBERS

1. RECOVERED STOLEN FIREARMS

The gun buy-back program resulted in the recovery of 45 guns that had been reported stolen from 17 different states. None of these guns had been stolen in the period during or immediately preceding the program. Most had been stolen many years earlier. The average period of time between the report of theft and their recovery is approximately 13 years *(13.16)*.

The stolen guns consisted of 14 pistols, 27 revolvers, 3 shotguns and 1 pellet gun. The gun most recently reported stolen was reported stolen in November 1998 and had been missing for less than one year. The gun that was missing the longest was a Colt .38 revolver reported stolen in December 1969.

The information on the recoveries and the buy-back program was provided to each of the police departments reporting the thefts for follow-up investigations. Because they are part of open criminal investigations, no more information is disclosed regarding the stolen firearms.

2. OBLITERATED SERIAL NUMBERS

The removal of a serial number from a firearm is one of the characteristic signatures of the criminal who seeks to mask the origin and ownership of a firearm. It is also the tool of the firearms trafficker. Many firearms trafficking investigations have stemmed from the recovery of a firearm or firearms that had the serial numbers obliterated.

The gun buy-back program resulted in the recovery of 63 firearms with the serial numbers purposely removed *(obliterated)*. The majority of these (61) were handguns. The remaining two were shotguns.

Some patterns were identified from the recovered firearms with obliterated serial numbers. As with all crime firearms recovered by MPD, attempts will be made to raise the serial numbers to allow those firearms to be traced. No more is disclosed regarding these firearms until any investigations that may be initiated are completed.