

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 6:36 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Subject: Re: Project Gunrunner Briefing

Matt

It's my understanding that your assistant Charles (?) coordinated with Ken's assistant and we are set for Tuesday from 11 to 2. I didn't want to take up any of your time.

That said, I'll give you a call tomorrow to talk about some of the read ahead material that might help orient you to some of the issues at hand.

[REDACTED]
ATF Office of the Director

O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]

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From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed Mar 16 18:30:46 2011
Subject: RE: Project Gunrunner Briefing

Left you a message earlier today. Happy to do this whenever you want.

From: [REDACTED] (ATF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 11:47 AM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Subject: Project Gunrunner Briefing

Matt:

I'd like to pin down a date and time when we can provide you with a complete briefing on Project Gunrunner and Operation Fast and Furious. It's clear that the pace of developments dictates that this happen sooner rather than later. When you have a moment could you give me a call to work out a date?

[REDACTED]
Office of the Director

O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 11:35 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Letter from Chairman Issa
Attachments: 3-16-2011 Letter.pdf

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Office of the Director

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

HQ Room 5 5 100

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 10:45 AM
To: Pelletiere, Christopher A.; [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Letter from Chairman Issa

[Redacted]
*DOJ- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
Chief - Office of Legislative Affairs*

[Redacted]
202.648.7453 (office)
202.648. . . . (fax)

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 10:34 AM
To: Weich, Ron (SMO)
Cc: Hoover, William J.; Gaston, Molly (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO); 'Wade, Jill C'; 'Agrast, Mark D. (SMO)'; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Letter from Chairman Issa

Ron,

See the attached letter from Chairman Issa. I assume that DOJ/OLA will take the lead on answering this. Let me know if otherwise. Thank you.

[Redacted]
*DOJ- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
Chief - Office of Legislative Affairs*

[Redacted]
202.648.7453 (office)
202.648.9708 (fax)

From: Pinto, Ashok [mailto:Ashok.Pinto@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 10:26 AM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Letter from Chairman Issa

Dear Acting Director Melson:

Attached is a letter from Chairman Issa. Please acknowledge receipt of this message.

Sincerely,

Ashok Pinto

Ashok M. Pinto
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Darrell Issa, Chairman
(202) 225-5074

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 11:26 AM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Subject: FW: Letter from Chairman Issa
Attachments: 3-16-2011 Letter.pdf

Matt:

The attached letter from the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform was just received here at ATF. We have forwarded it to AAG Ron Weich and assume OLA is going to take the lead on the response. We wanted to get it to you quickly as well.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: 202-648-7425
[REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 10:45 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter from Chairman Issa

[REDACTED]
DOJ- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
Chief - Office of Legislative Affairs

[REDACTED]
202.648.7453 (office)
202.648.9708 (fax)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 10:34 AM
To: Weich, Ron (SMO)
Cc: Hoover, William J.; Gaston, Molly (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO); 'Wade, Jill C'; 'Agrast, Mark D. (SMO)' (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
[REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Letter from Chairman Issa

Ron,

See the attached letter from Chairman Issa. I assume that DOJ/OLA will take the lead on answering this. Let me know if otherwise. Thank you.

[REDACTED]
DOJ- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
Chief - Office of Legislative Affairs

[REDACTED]
202.648. (office)
202.648. (fax)

From: Pinto, Ashok [mailto:Ashok.Pinto@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 10:26 AM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter from Chairman Issa

Dear Acting Director Melson:

Attached is a letter from Chairman Issa. Please acknowledge receipt of this message.

Sincerely,

Ashok Pinto

Ashok M. Pinto
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Darrell Issa, Chairman
(202) 225-5074

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2011 5:07 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.

Subject: FW: SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and Case #785115-10- [REDACTED]

Attachments: Email dated May 12.2010.pdf; Email dated June 4.2010.pdf; Email dated June 7.2010.pdf; Op plan dated 6.1.2010.pdf; Email dated May 27.2010.pdf; ATF O 3310.4B.pdf

See 5/27 e-mail where request to allow delivery of firearms is made. All of this will be in the briefing books.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Office of the Director

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

HQ Room 5 S 100

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2011 2:44 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: FW: SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and Case #785115-10-0020

fyi

[REDACTED]
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
[REDACTED]

From: Chait, Mark R.

Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 8:22 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Hoover, William J.

Subject: Fw: SA [REDACTED] and Case #785115-10- [REDACTED]

Please print for Monday. Thx

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From: Newell, William D.

To: Chait, Mark R.

Sent: Fri Mar 04 19:55:16 2011

Subject: SA [REDACTED] and Case #785115-10-0020

In response to your request for additional information on this case and the issue regarding the 6 Draco pistols, I encourage you to read the following e-mails, case proposal, op plan (1 of 3) and other documents. Once you've done that I'll be happy to discuss. You will clearly see that contrary to his statements on national TV

where he states he was “forced” to “walk” guns, something he was “dead set against” and “vehemently complained about”. Read the attached e-mails, and there are a lot more like it in which you’ll clearly see the attitude that [REDACTED] had when dealing with a supervisor clearly asking him to document things as required by the Orders. We’ll have these and much more on Monday.

Attachments:

E-mail dated May 12 – response to a request from GS [REDACTED] asking SA [REDACTED] for some basic information on a [REDACTED] he was proposing. At this time there were only 8 guns allegedly trafficked and the primary purpose was to gain information on some alleged [REDACTED]. Obviously we want to know what he wanted to do with this, thus the strategy PROPOSED BY SA [REDACTED].

E-mail dated May 27 – SA [REDACTED] prepared a proposed [REDACTED] REQUESTED what he is saying he was forced to do.

E-mail dated June 4 – response to a request from GS [REDACTED] to properly place currency into custody. SA [REDACTED] had received several hundred dollars from the target in this case to purchase firearms and had this in his desk, unsecured. GS [REDACTED] told him to place it into evidence as required. SA [REDACTED] made the comment that GS [REDACTED] was trying to “set him up” to which GS [REDACTED] told him nothing could be further from the truth, just abide by the Orders.

E-mail June 7 – response to a request from GS [REDACTED] to prepare a short synopsis and status of the case for ASAC Needles (after a request from me to both ASACs) in order to brief the Director who was coming to town for the GRIT.

Op Plan dated 6.1.2010 – one of three op plans in this case, all of which we will have with us on Monday. This one pertains to the deal in which SA [REDACTED] REQUESTED authorization to transfer the 6 Dracos to the subject in furtherance of the case.

ATF Order 3310.4B, Section 148(a)(2) – which states that “weapons transfers” may not be needed or desirable, and the special agent may choose to allow the transfer of firearms to take place in order to further an investigation and allow the identification of additional coconspirators who would have continued to operate and illegally traffic firearms in the future, potentially producing more armed crime”.

Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
Phoenix Field Division (Arizona and New Mexico)
Office - (602)776-[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 11:21 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: I know you love the ATF Orders...

Do the orders define a "day"? Is it; a calendar day? A business day or work day (and if so – how do holidays and leave fit into those equations)? An Earth day (because a day on Venus takes 243 Earth days which would mean that I have plenty of time)?

[REDACTED] Special Agent / ATF - Phoenix Group VII
3010 N 2nd ST, Suite #301
Phoenix, AZ 85012
T: (602) [REDACTED] / Fax: (602) 605-6500 / [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 10:35 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: I know you love the ATF Orders...

ATF Order 3400 -123 (c):

- a. Storage of Currency. The security, budgetary, and accounting problems caused by keeping large amounts of cash has caused great concern within the Department of Justice and Congress. All currency, foreign or domestic, taken into custody, whether subject to forfeiture, abandoned, or seized as evidence shall be converted into a cashier's check or money order payable to ATF in U.S. dollars. The check or money order will then be forwarded to the Asset Forfeiture and Seized Property Branch via overnight courier within 5 days of being taken into Bureau custody so that it can be deposited into the appropriate suspense account.

This is not to "set you up" it is just to ensure that you are aware of the ATF Order/policy when dealing with cash...

[REDACTED]
Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
602-[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 8:37 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: write up for ASAC

Is this OK?

DP

[REDACTED] / Special Agent / ATF - Phoenix Group VII
3010 N 2nd ST, Suite #301
Phoenix, AZ 85012
[REDACTED] / Fax: (602) 605-[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 5:32 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: write up for ASAC

[REDACTED]

In all seriousness can you please provide me a short written summary hitting the high points of your ongoing case. ASAC Needles wants to be able to brief the Director while he is in town. Please have to me be noon Tuesday, June 8th.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Group Supervisor

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 9:17 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: UC Case

[REDACTED]

CI and Straw Purchaser: [REDACTED]
Other Straw Purchaser: [REDACTED]

Weapons: AK Variants, DRAKO (AK) Pistols, FN 5.7's, Colt AR (with BETA mags), Beretta 92's.

[REDACTED] / Special Agent / ATF - Phoenix Group VII
3010 N 2nd ST, Suite #301
Phoenix, AZ 85012
[REDACTED] Fax: (602) 605-[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 11:38 AM
 To: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Case Summary.

File Number	Suspects	Firearms Types	Total Number of Firearms Trafficked	Number of Firearms Recovered	
785115-[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	6	8	04/24 - CD de To date (05/2 S/A [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 0011	[REDACTED]	Barrett 50 cal.	1	1 - Mexico	Attempting t
785115-10-0008	[REDACTED]	Mossberg 12ga Ruger Pistol	2	2 - Florida	Case to be cl

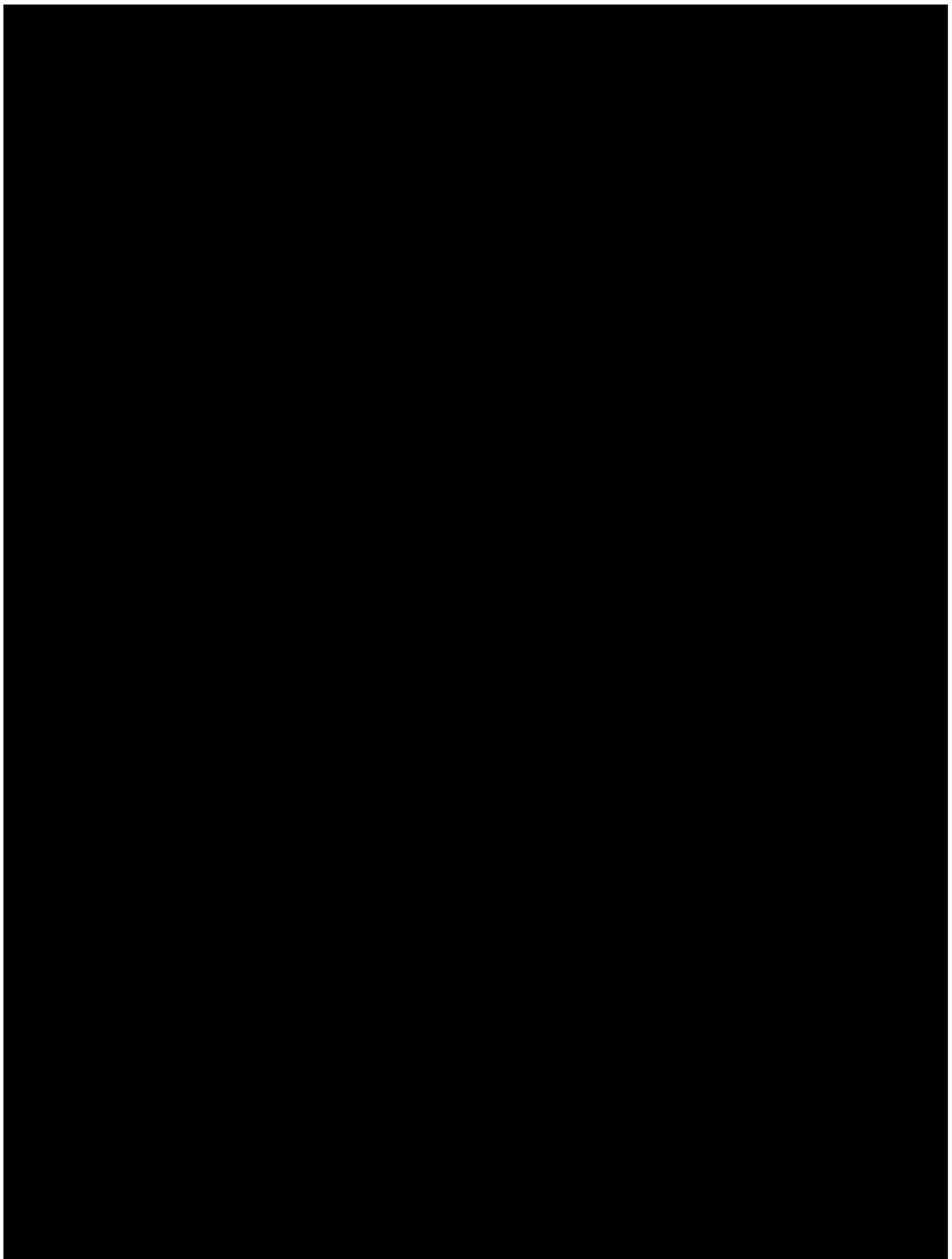
[REDACTED] / Special Agent / ATF - Phoenix Group VII
 3010 N 2nd ST, Suite #301
 Phoenix, AZ 85012
 [REDACTED] / Fax: (602) 605-[REDACTED]

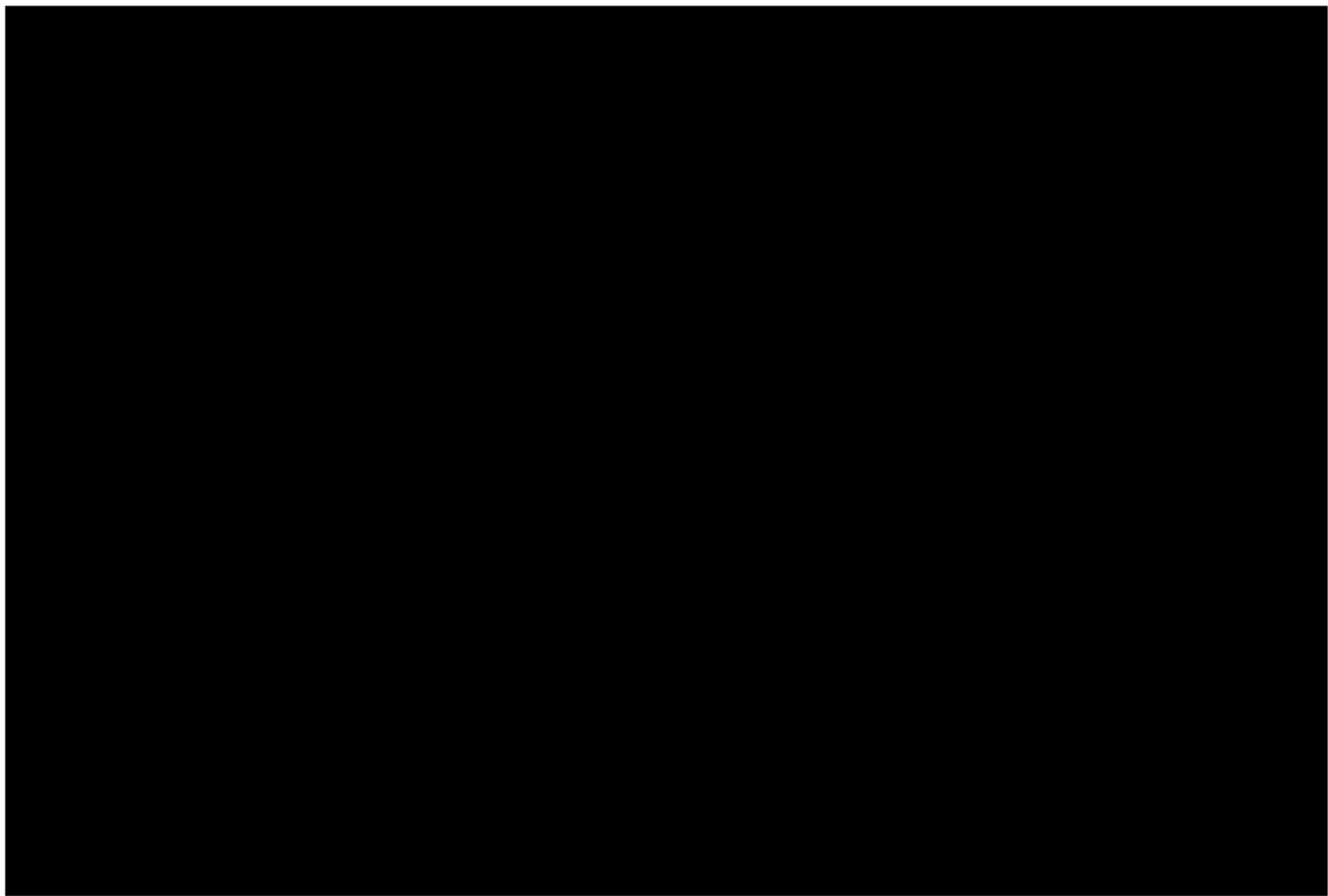
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 12:51 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Vers - 3.0
Attachments: PROPOSED UNDERCOVER.docx

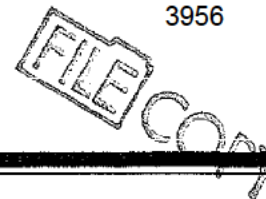
[REDACTED] / Special Agent / ATF - Phoenix Group VII
3010 N 2nd ST, Suite #301
Phoenix, AZ 85012
T: [REDACTED] / Fax: (602) 605-[REDACTED] / C: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





ATF Operational Plan



Case Number [REDACTED]	Field Office/Group Phoenix Field Division Group VII	Case Agent ATF S/A [REDACTED]
---------------------------	--	----------------------------------

Briefing Date and Time [REDACTED]	Operation Date and Time [REDACTED]	Staging Area Date and Time [REDACTED]	Staging Area Location [REDACTED]
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Type of Operation			
[REDACTED] Vehicle Stop	[REDACTED] Arrest Warrant	[REDACTED] Other	Surveillance
[REDACTED] J/C Operation	[REDACTED] Search Warrant		

Target Location/Assessment	
Address [REDACTED]	Telephone Number

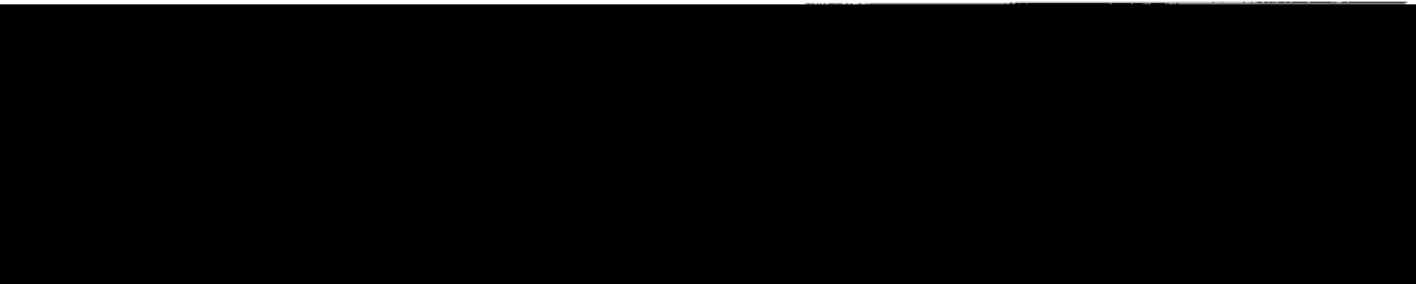
Description and GPS Coordinates (If applicable)
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Physical Fortifications	[REDACTED] Countersurveillance	[REDACTED] Animals
[REDACTED] Explosives	[REDACTED] High Crime Area	[REDACTED] Close Proximity to Schools
[REDACTED] Children Present	[REDACTED] Approach Difficulties	[REDACTED] Vehicular Traffic Difficulties
[REDACTED] High Level of Foot Traffic	[REDACTED] Location Frequented By Public	[REDACTED] Chemical/Bio Hazards
		[REDACTED] Firearms Present at Target Location
Type of Door: [REDACTED]		[REDACTED] Opens: Right or Left

Occupants
[REDACTED]

Operation Objectives
[REDACTED]

Case Background



Suspect Information (Complete one for each suspect-additional Suspect Information forms are located at the end of this document)

Suspect's Name [REDACTED]	Date of Birth [REDACTED]	Race [REDACTED]	Sex [REDACTED]
------------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------	-------------------

Aliases

Description/Characteristics (Height, Weight, Scars, Marks, Tattoos, Language proficiency, etc.)

[REDACTED]

Home Address and Telephone Number [REDACTED]	Work Address and Telephone Number [REDACTED]
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Other Addresses Used

Suspect(s) Known To Be Armed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Photograph Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	--	---------------------	--

Criminal History (Arrests and Convictions)

<input type="checkbox"/> Felony Arrests	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony Convictions	<input type="checkbox"/> History of Violence	<input type="checkbox"/> FBI Number [REDACTED]
---	---	--	--

Describe:

Additional Information

Mental Illness [REDACTED]	Substance Abuse [REDACTED]	Specialized Training [REDACTED]
Gang Affiliation [REDACTED]	Anti-government [REDACTED]	Other [REDACTED]

Suspect Vehicles

Year	Make	Model	Color	License (State)	Other
[REDACTED]					

Undercover/Informant Information

Name	Electronic Equipment	Radio Frequency	Vehicle Description	Description/Clothing
[REDACTED]				

Bust Signals

Primary (Audible)	Secondary (Visual)	Trouble/Rip Off (Audible)	Trouble/Rip Off (Visual)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Pager Signal (Emergency) [REDACTED]	Pager Signal (Wire not working) [REDACTED]	Pager Signal (Nonemergency - leave now) [REDACTED]
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Tactical Plan (*Synopsis*)

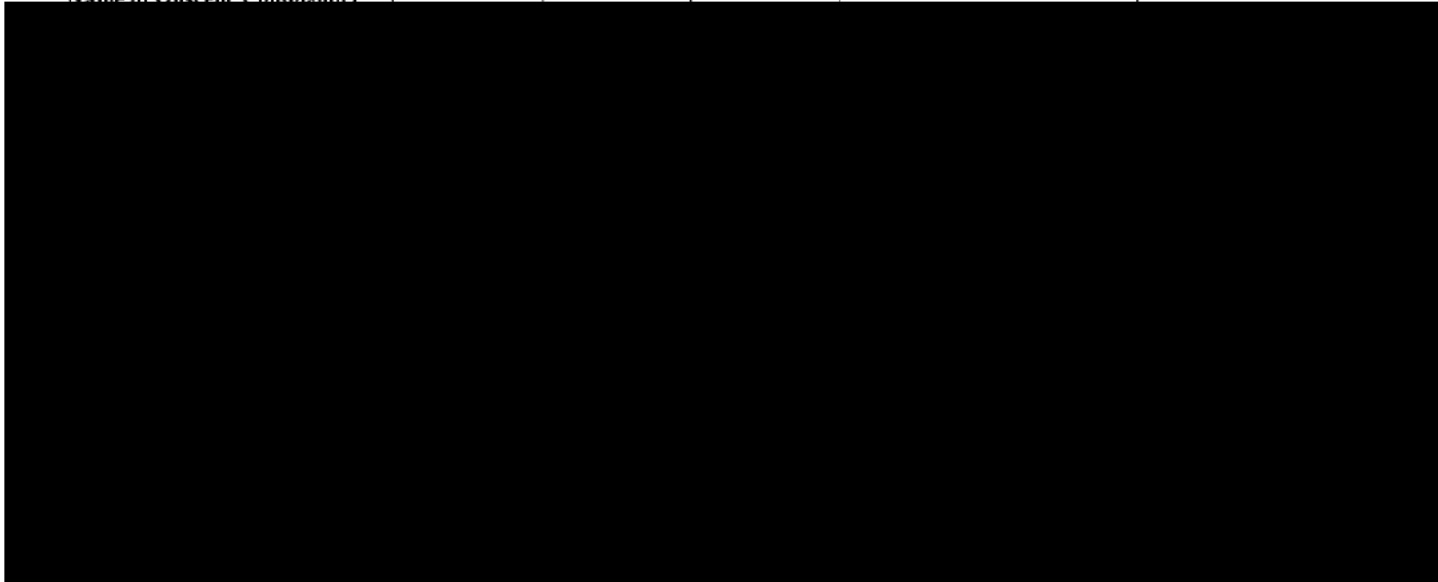


The on scene commander can alter the operation within the parameters of officer safety and risk management.

Personnel and Assignments

Name	Radio Frequency	Pager or Cell Phone	Vehicle Call Sign	Assignment <i>(Primary/Secondary)</i>	Specialized Equipment
------	-----------------	---------------------	-------------------	--	-----------------------

Name of Onscene Commander



10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					
16.					
17.					
18.					
19.					
20.					
21.					
22.					
23.					
24.					
25.					
26.					
27.					

Contingency/Abort Plans (e.g., Agent Extraction, Barricade/Hostage situations, fleeing suspect(s), Team Takes Fire, U/C Rip-off, U/C Trips, etc.)

General:

Specific:

Purchases:

Rip-Off:

Compromise:

Additional Suspects:

Barricaded Suspect/Hostage Situation:

Team Takes Fire/Agent Down:

Explosives:

THIS OPERATIONAL PLAN IS A GUIDELINE THAT WILL BE FOLLOWED UNLESS CIRCUMSTANCES AND/OR SUSPECT(S) OR SUBJECT(S) DICTATE THAT THE TEAM ALTER THE PLAN IN A SAFER MANNER. THIS DECISION WILL BE MADE DURING THE OPERATION AND WILL BE BASED ON THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THE TIME. USE ATTACHMENTS AS NECESSARY.

Telephone Numbers

Police Department Local Number	RAC/G.S. (Cellular phone)	Case Agent
911	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Emergency Information

Nearest Hospital/Trauma Center	Address	Emergency Room Telephone Number(s)
		Life Flight Telephone Number(s)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	911 911

Command Post

Location	Telephone Number	Radio Frequency	Coordinator
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Area Map/Diagram of Location Attached

ATF Firearms/Use of Force Policy Attached

Intel Group Contacted

ATF Pursuit Policy Attached

ATA Contacted

Date

6-1-10

Date

6-1-10

Use of Deadly Force PolicyGeneral Principles

1. Law enforcement officers of the Department of Justice may use deadly force only when necessary, that is, when the officer has a reasonable belief that the subject of such force poses an imminent danger of death or serious physical injury to the officer or to another person.
 - A. Deadly force may not be used solely to prevent the escape of a fleeing suspect.
 - B. Firearms may not be fired solely to disable moving vehicles.
 - C. If feasible and if to do so would not increase the danger to the officer or others, a verbal warning to submit to the authority of the officer shall be given prior to the use of deadly force.
 - D. Warning shots are not permitted outside of the prison context.
 - E. Officers will be trained in alternative methods and tactics for handling resisting subjects which must be used when the use of deadly force is not authorized by this policy.

Emergency Driving and Pursuit Driving Policy

Except under extraordinary circumstances, HIGH SPEED PURSUITS are expressly prohibited. Circumstances that may necessitate a high-speed pursuit or emergency response may include, but are not limited to, the threat of serious bodily injury or death to an agent or other party.

The following factors should be considered before driving at high speed or engaging in maneuvers that place anyone at risk of death or injury.

1. Severity of the offense or emergency
2. Probability of apprehending the violator (s) at a later time.
3. Weather and road conditions.
4. Availability of emergency equipment.

If the potential outweighs the benefits, the pursuit or response will not be initiated or will be terminated.

The use of roadblocks or ramming to stop a vehicle is a seizure under the fourth amendment, and must also be considered the potential use of deadly force, and therefore, should only be attempted when the use of such force is justified.

In any type of driving, agents must have the utmost regard and respect for the safety of others.

Subject: Director's Briefing on SWB Cases

Location: Director's Conference Room - 5 S 100

Start: 3/6/2011 2:00 PM

End: 3/6/2011 6:00 PM

Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Required Attendees: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Deputy Director
 William Hoover; Kenneth E. Melson; Mark Chait; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Newell, William D.; Needles,
 James R.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Resources: Director's Conference Room - 5 S 100

When: Sunday, March 06, 2011 2:00 PM-6:00 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
 Where: Director's Conference Room - 5 S 100

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

NOTE DATE AND TIME - THIS IS A SUNDAY BRIEFING. This will be a detailed briefing on the ATF cases related to the homicide of ICE Special Agent Zapata in response to Sen. Grassley's latest letter

2p - Brief Director - Texas Cases with SAs (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

4:45 - Brief Director - Phoenix case with SAC Newell, ASAC Needles, RAC (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 8:29 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: 2011-03-04 CEG to ATF

We are getting Director up to speed. Chait and company have full details due to him by 1900 Sunday. He will be briefing the DAG Monday. We are on this.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

ATF Office of the Director

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Fri Mar 04 20:26:15 2011
Subject: Fw: 2011-03-04 CEG to ATF

Once more into the breach gentlemen....

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From: Downey, Brian (Judiciary-Rep)
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Cc: CEG (Judiciary-Rep); Foster, Jason (Judiciary-Rep); Leavitt, Tristan (Judiciary-Rep); 'Faith.Burton (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C)'; Gaston, Molly (SMO) (b) (7)(C); 'Edgar.Cher (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Fri Mar 04 19:36:01 2011
Subject: 2011-03-04 CEG to ATF

Please find attached a letter from Senator Grassley. Please ensure that all formal correspondence on this matter is sent electronically in PDF format to ceg@judiciary-rep.senate.gov (cc'd above). Please confirm receipt. Thanks.

Brian M. Downey
Investigator

Employee 3
Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC
(P) 202-224-5225
(F) 202-224-3799

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 8:13 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: 2011-03-04 CEG to ATF
Attachments: 2011-03-04 CEG to ATF.pdf

Importance: High

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

ATF Office of the Director

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: Melson, Kenneth E.
To: Chait, Mark R.; Hoover, William J.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Fri Mar 04 19:46:38 2011
Subject: Fw: 2011-03-04 CEG to ATF

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From: Downey, Brian (Judiciary-Rep)
To: (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Cc: CEG (Judiciary-Rep); Foster, Jason (Judiciary-Rep); Leavitt, Tristan (Judiciary-Rep); 'Faith.Burton'(b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C) Gaston, Molly (SMO)(b) (7)(C) 'Edgar.Cher'(b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C)
Sent: Fri Mar 04 19:36:01 2011
Subject: 2011-03-04 CEG to ATF

Please find attached a letter from Senator Grassley. Please ensure that all formal correspondence on this matter is sent electronically in PDF format to ceg@judiciary-rep.senate.gov (cc'd above). Please confirm receipt. Thanks.

Brian M. Downey

Employee 3

4018

Investigator

Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Washington, DC

(P) 202-224-5225

(F) 202-224-3799

From: (b) (7)(C), (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2011 1:50 PM
To: Smith, Brad (ODAG) (SMO); Michalic, Mark (ODAG)
CC: (b) (7)(C), (b) (6) Hoover, William J.; Melson, Kenneth E.
Subject: ATF ODAG Meeting Agenda 2/17/11
Attachments: ATF ODAG Agenda 2 17 11.docx

Brad:

An agenda for your consideration. Please let us know if this works for you.

(b) (7)(C), (b) (6)
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
C: (b) (7)(C), (b) (6)
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 9:46:00 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Smith letter response

Attachments: Untitled.PDF - Adobe Acrobat Pro.pdf; Smith letter response; smith questions draft 1.docx

Smith's letter is below. The current draft of the department's response is attached as is my very,



very hurried first five minutes of effort on this issue.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Office of the Director

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

HQ Room 5 S 100

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [mailto: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:17 PM
To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Smith letter response

All,

Thanks for your patience on the response to Congressman Smith. We in ODAG are still working on the letter. No final decision has been made about what the letter will look like, but depending on what folks here decide, ^{DP} (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

^{DP} (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) I already have a draft paragraph to address Question #5, which I've reprinted below, but I'm not sure of the answers to the remaining ones. Could you please send me the relevant information? Thanks. I've attached the incoming letter for ease of reference.

Matt

You have also asked for information about eTrace, an important tool in ATF's work to dismantle gun trafficking. eTrace is an Internet-based system that allows participating law enforcement

agencies to submit firearm traces to the ATF National Tracing Center. Authorized users can receive firearm trace results electronically, search a database of all firearm traces submitted by their individual agency, and perform analytical functions. In the last year, eTrace has gained strong new features. eTrace now accommodates data in Spanish, gives translations, and allows users to better sort and search additional data elements and images to improve weapons tracing. In the next 24 months, planned enhancements to eTrace will improve ATF's ability to monitor and map gun tracing data in real time and to share information with other federal agencies, as well as with state and local law enforcement.



Untitled.PDF
- Adobe
Acrobat
Pro.pdf (215
kB)

Matthew S. Axelrod
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Desk (202) 305-0273
Cell (202) 532-3087

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:17:04 PM
To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]
Subject: Smith letter response

Attachments: Untitled.PDF - Adobe Acrobat Pro.pdf

All,

Thanks for your patience on the response to Congressman Smith. We in ODAG are still working on the letter. No final decision has been made about what the letter will look like, but depending on what folks here decide, I may need to incorporate information that addresses the Congressman's six specific questions at the end of the letter. I already have a draft paragraph to address Question #5, which I've reprinted below, but I'm not sure of the answers to the remaining ones. Could you please send me the relevant information? Thanks. I've attached the incoming letter for ease of reference.

Matt

You have also asked for information about eTrace, an important tool in ATF's work to dismantle gun trafficking. eTrace is an Internet-based system that allows participating law enforcement agencies to submit firearm traces to the ATF National Tracing Center. Authorized users can receive firearm trace results electronically, search a database of all firearm traces submitted by their individual agency, and perform analytical functions. In the last year, eTrace has gained strong new features. eTrace now accommodates data in Spanish, gives translations, and allows users to better sort and search additional data elements and images to improve weapons tracing. In the next 24 months, planned enhancements to eTrace will improve ATF's ability to monitor and map gun tracing data in real time and to share information with other federal agencies, as well as with state and local law enforcement.



Untitled.PDF
- Adobe
Acrobat
Pro.pdf (212
kB)

Matthew S. Axelrod
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Desk (202) 305-0273
Cell (202) 532-3087

From: [REDACTED]**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:23 AM**To:** Burton, Faith (SMO); 'Weich, Ron (SMO)'; Moran, Molly (OAG) (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); 'Burke, Dennis (USAAZ)'; Gaston, Molly (SMO); 'Weinstein, Jason (CRM)'; Sullivan, Bill (JMD); McDermond, James E.; Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]; Sarnacki, Jeffrey P.**Subject:** Rep. Poe's Hill blog.....GUNRUNNER ALLEGATIONS


Rep. Poe's assignments:

COMMITTEES

- House Committee on the Judiciary
 - Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security
 - Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement
 - Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition, and the Internet
- House Committee on Foreign Affairs
 - Subcommittee on Europe and Eurasia
 - Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade
 - Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

CAUCUSES

- Congressman Poe is the proud founder and co-chair of the Victim's Rights Caucus
- Congressman Poe is the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on the European Union
- Congressman Poe is a member of the Anti-Terrorism Caucus
- Congressman Poe is a member of the Immigration Reform Caucus
- Congressman Poe is a member of the Port Security Caucus
- Congressman Poe is a member of the Conservative Caucus RSC
- Congressman Poe is a member of the RSC 10th Amendment Task Force
 - Congressman Poe is a member of the Israel Allies Caucus

 http://thehill.com/images/stories/congress_blog_2.gif

Stop putting guns into hands of 'narco-terrorists'

The Hill (Blog)

By Rep. Ted Poe (R-Texas) - 03/21/11 03:06 PM ET

The United States/Mexico border is a lawless warzone controlled by violent drug cartels. More than 34,000 people have been murdered in Mexico since the narco-terrorists began their reign of terror in 2006. Drugs and people are smuggled north into the United States and guns and money are flowing south, enabling the drug cartels to continue to wage their violent war.

Weapons from the United States reach the outlaws in Mexico, mostly because Mexico does not protect its own border any better than we do. Recent whistleblower allegations claim that tactics of the United States government, through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), may be contributing to the problem of delivering weapons to the criminals in Mexico, rather than trying to fix it. I am deeply concerned about this.

Part of ATF's mission is to protect American communities from "the illegal use and trafficking of firearms." Put simply, part of ATF's duty is to make sure guns don't end up in the hands of the bad guys. Through the program "Project Gunrunner," ATF uses electronic tags to trace gun movements on both sides of the border. What has been alleged, however, is that while the program has been successful in apprehending weapons and criminals, too many guns have been intentionally let go into the hands of Mexican drug lords when it is almost guaranteed that the guns will be used in violent crimes.

We know about these allegations through a whistleblower, an ATF agent who recently came forward with troubling allegations that he was ordered by his superiors not to intercept weapons that were sold to "suspicious characters," including well-known gun suppliers for Mexican drug cartels. And that's not all -- the whistleblower alleges that ATF's Phoenix Field office knowingly allowed and facilitated the sale of over 2,500 firearms in 'straw man purchases' destined for Mexico. According to these allegations, one well-known trafficker, Jaime Avila, was allowed to purchase 3 assault weapons in Glendale, Arizona on January 16, 2010. It is also alleged that at least one of the gun dealers tried to stop selling to Avila; however, ATF asked him to continue selling guns to this criminal.

What happened next is deeply troubling. Avila went back to Mexico with the guns he had purchased and sold them to the drug cartels. The weapons travelled freely through the streets of Mexico for nearly a year. During that time, Avila continued to purchase more weapons, sending them from the United States into Mexico. We have since learned that 2 of the 3 weapons purchased by Avila were recovered at the murder scene of U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry. Apparently ATF let 2 guns get sent down into Mexico, and as a result an American citizen and federal government employee was murdered.

The murder of Brian Terry is concrete proof that ATF's system is flawed and dangerous. While Jaime Avila was arrested the day after Brian Terry's murder, the question is, why wasn't he apprehended during the 11 months before when we knew he was up to no good? Project Gunrunner is a sting operation with no sting. Guns are handed to the criminals when we know they will be used for harm. It seems that the ATF just sits back and waits to see what happens.

If these allegations are true, we have much cause for concern. It is my understanding that ATF has denied these allegations. Senator Grassley of Iowa has requested more information from the various agencies involved in investigating Agent Terry's murder. I've been told that one letter that the Senator received back denied that ATF "knowingly allowed the sale of assault weapons to a straw purchaser" and stated that ATF makes "every effort to interdict weapons that have been purchased illegally and prevent their transportation into Mexico." However, the documentation provided to Senator Grassley, including copies of ATF's national tracing center records, seem to tell a different story.

As this investigation continues, we are left with a murdered Border Patrol Agent and his grieving family who is searching for answers. Carolyn Terry, mother of Brian Terry said, "I truly feel that our son's death is a cover-up and they hope that we will go away. That will not happen. We want to know who allowed the sale of that gun that murdered our son." The Terry family deserves to know the truth. As members of Congress, it is our job to demand a full investigation of this murder since the Department of Justice is blissfully silent about whether or not they will investigate the ATF. Agent Terry is one of many unsolved American murders in the ongoing Drug War along the Third Front, the border.

The Judiciary Committee should look into this matter to see if the ATF is contributing to the gunrunning problem in Mexico or not. Congress needs some answers. One murdered agent is one too many. In my opinion, the ATF is playing with fire.

And that's just the way it is.

Employee 3

4130

Congressman Poe was a chief felony prosecutor and felony court judge in Houston, Texas for over 30 years. He currently serves on the House Judiciary and Foreign Affairs Committees as well as the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security

[REDACTED]
DOJ- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
Chief - Office of Legislative Affairs

[REDACTED]
202.648 [REDACTED] (office)
202.648 [REDACTED] (fax)

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From: Burton, Faith (SMO) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:58 PM
To: Hoover, William J.; Weinstein, Jason (CRM); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Pings, Anne (USAEO); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.; Smith, Brad (ODAG)
CC: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Gonzales, Mary (OLA); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Chait, Mark R.
Subject: RE: Draft response to Grassley letters; please review and comment asap

This is fine, but don't want to lead with the policy point – think it's better to reverse those sentences. I've got meetings at 4 pm and 5 pm, but could meet at 4:30 or after the 5 pm – say 5:30 if that's helpful.

From: Hoover, William J. (ATF)
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:22 PM
To: Burton, Faith (SMO); Weinstein, Jason (CRM); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Pings, Anne (USAEO); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); Smith, Brad (ODAG)
Cc: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Gonzales, Mary (OLA); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Chait, Mark R. (ATF)
Subject: FW: Draft response to Grassley letters; please review and comment asap

Faith,

This documents reflect some minor edits we made to the document. I agree with Jason that if it is possible to include a single line such as the one he suggested we should indeed do so.

I have a 4pm meeting at DOJ this afternoon. If you would like to discuss this in person I am happy to come over early or stay later.

<<grassley atf (2).doc>>

Billy

William J. Hoover

Deputy Director

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives

O) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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Please see the enclosed draft response (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

DP

DP

DP

Need to hear from USAO, since they have primary equities in the pending case – Anne, we understand that Dennis was leaving the office yesterday

Employee 3

4134

afternoon – don't know if he's back but perhaps you could route this to the FAUSA and other AUSAs with responsibility for this matter if he's not available. Thanks – sorry for the rush. FB

Attached. << File: grassley atf.docx >>

From: Hoover, William J.

Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 12:48 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Chait, Mark R. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CC: Melson, Kenneth E.

Subject: FW: Draft response to Grassley letters; please review and comment asap

Attachments: grassley atf.docx

All,

Get any comments back to me quickly please!!!!

Billy

William J. Hoover

Deputy Director

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives

O)(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: Burton, Faith (SMO) [mailto:Faith.Burton@usdoj.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 12:26 PM

To: Hoover, William J.; Weinstein, Jason (CRM); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Pings, Anne (USAE0); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.

Cc: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Gonzales, Mary (OLA)

Subject: Draft response to Grassley letters; please review and comment asap

Please see the enclosed draft response, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

DP

DP

DP

Need to hear from USAO, since they have primary equities in the pending case -- Anne, we understand that Dennis was leaving the office yesterday afternoon -- don't know if he's back but perhaps you could route this to the FAUSA and other AUSAs with responsibility for this matter if he's not available. Thanks -- sorry for the rush. FB

Attached.

Subject: Re [REDACTED] (b) (3) (A)

Location: DD's Hoover's Office

Start: 2/26/2013 6:11 PM

End: 2/26/2013 6:11 PM

Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Required Attendees: [REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) : Chait, Mark R.; Melson, Kenneth E.; [REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); [REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Resources: DD's Hoover's Office

When: Thursday, March 31, 2011 11:00 AM-11:30 AM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: DD's Hoover's Office

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 10:26 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Melson, Kenneth E.; Chait, Mark R.; McDermond, James E.; McMahon, William G.
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re [REDACTED]

Let's meet at 11am re this. My office.
Thank you!

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]; Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; McDermond, James E.; McMahon, William G.
Cc: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu Mar 31 09:56:09 2011
Subject: Fw: [REDACTED]

See below. Let me know how you would like me to respond.

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From: Gaston, Molly (SMO)

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Burton, Faith (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); Pope, Amy (CRM) ; Colborn, Paul P (SMO)

Sent: Thu Mar 31 09:36:17 2011

Subject: [REDACTED]

Jim and [REDACTED]

I hope you are doing well. As you know, the State Department received a request from Sen. Grassley regarding AAG Breuer's trips to Mexico and discussions of gun trafficking.



Many thanks,

Molly

Molly Gaston

Office of Legislative Affairs

U.S. Department of Justice

Office: (202) 305-9134 | Cell: (202) 532-3346

<<10 Mexico 4906.pdf>>

From: Hoover, William J.

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 10:25 AM

To: [REDACTED] Melson, Kenneth E.; Chait, Mark R.; McDermond, James E.; McMahon, William G.

CC: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re [REDACTED]

Let's meet at 11am re this. My office.
Thank you!

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]; Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; McDermond, James E.; McMahon, William G.
Cc: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu Mar 31 09:56:09 2011
Subject: [REDACTED]

See below. Let me know how you would like me to respond.

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Employee 3

4276

From: Gaston, Molly (SMO)

To: [REDACTED]; McDermond, James E.

Cc: Burton, Faith (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); Pope, Amy (CRM) ; Colborn, Paul P (SMO)

Sent: Thu Mar 31 09:36:17 2011

Subject: [REDACTED]

Jim and [REDACTED]

I hope you are doing well. As you know, the State Department received a request from Sen. Grassley regarding AAG Breuer's trips to Mexico and discussions of gun trafficking. [REDACTED] DP

DP

Many thanks,

Molly

Molly Gaston

Office of Legislative Affairs

U.S. Department of Justice

Office: (202) 305-9134 | Cell: (202) 532-3346

<<10 Mexico 4906.pdf>>

ATF8-001-001-00012708

Subject: Re: [REDACTED] (b) (1) (A)

Location: DD's Hoover's Office

Start: 3/31/2011 11:00 AM

End: 3/31/2011 11:30 AM

Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Required Attendees: [REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) : Chait, Mark R.; Melson,

Kenneth E.; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Resources: DD's Hoover's Office

From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 10:26 AM
To: [REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
[REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.; Chait, Mark R.; [REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
McMahon, William G.
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [REDACTED] (b) (3) (A)

Let's meet at 11am re this. My office.
Thank you!

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) [REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]; Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; McDermond, James E.; McMahan, William G.
Cc: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu Mar 31 09:56:09 2011
Subject: [REDACTED]

See below. Let me know how you would like me to respond.

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From: Gaston, Molly (SMO)
To: [REDACTED]; McDermond, James E.
Cc: Burton, Faith (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); Pope, Amy (CRM) ; Colborn, Paul P (SMO)
Sent: Thu Mar 31 09:36:17 2011
Subject: [REDACTED]

Jim and [REDACTED]

I hope you are doing well. As you know, the State Department received a request from Sen. Grassley regarding AAG Breuer's trips to Mexico and discussions of gun trafficking.

DP

Many thanks,

Molly

Molly Gaston

Office of Legislative Affairs

U.S. Department of Justice

Office: (202) 305-9134 | Cell: (202) 532-3346

<<10 Mexico 4906.pdf>>

From: Hoover, William J.

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 10:25 AM

To: [REDACTED] Melson, Kenneth E.; Chait, Mark R.; McDermond, James E.; McMahon, William G.

CC: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re [REDACTED]

Let's meet at 11am re this. My office.
Thank you!

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.;
McDermond, James E.; McMahon, William G.
Cc: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu Mar 31 09:56:09 2011
Subject: [REDACTED]

See below. Let me know how you would like me to respond.

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Employee 3

4296

From: Gaston, Molly (SMO)

To: [REDACTED]; McDermond, James E.

Cc: Burton, Faith (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); Pope, Amy (CRM) ; Colborn, Paul P (SMO)

Sent: Thu Mar 31 09:36:17 2011

Subject:

Jim and [REDACTED]

I hope you are doing well. As you know, the State Department received a request from Sen. Grassley regarding AAG Breuer's trips to Mexico and discussions of gun trafficking. [REDACTED] DP

DP

Many thanks,

Molly

Molly Gaston

Office of Legislative Affairs

U.S. Department of Justice

Office: (202) 305-9134 | Cell: (202) 532-3346

<<10 Mexico 4906.pdf>>

From:
To: Hoover, William J.
Subject: RE: Need some quick help

Disclosing our background strategy documents reveals our sources and methods to the criminal element.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Office of the Director

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

HQ Room 5 S 100

From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:55 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

[REDACTED]

Would you start at the bottom of this string and read up? If we can respond Monday that would be great. I will be thinking of things as well. Please share with others for ideas.

Thank you!

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) [REDACTED]

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From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [mailto:Matthew.Axelrod@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:30 PM
To: Hoover, William J.
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Billy,

Here's what Pat sent me. Anything you guys have to add would be useful. Thanks.

Matt

From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 3:43 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Cc: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ); Hurley, Emory (USAAZ); Kelly, Kristen (USAAZ) 6
Subject: RE: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Matt: Yes, this is incredibly rough and the problems are:

A large, bold, white graphic consisting of the letters 'D' and 'P' side-by-side, centered on a solid black rectangular background.

Gong to IG meeting now. PIC

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)

Employee 3

4337

Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 11:32 AM

To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)

Subject: Need some quick help

Any way you can send me a list of the specific ways that the Congressional inquiries are harming your investigation?

DP

DP

Matthew S. Axelrod

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

Desk (202) 305-0273

Cell (202) 532-3087

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Employee 3, April 21, 2011 4:24:42 PM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.
CC: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Hoover, William J.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Fast and Furious review

4361

Please let me know if you want us to meet when they get here. I just want to be clear on the role everyone has in this process.
Thanks.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Acting Deputy Chief Counsel
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
202-648-(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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Original Message

From: Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 3:41 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Fast and Furious review

See the email from Matt Axelrod below. Ken.

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 3:26 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAC) (SMO)
Cc: Chambers, Felicia (CIV); Crabb, John D. (USADC); Safwal, Adam (CRM)
Subject: RE: Fast and Furious review

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Thanks Matt and welcome all.

ATF is at 99 New York Ave N.E. DC and is across the street from the New York Ave. METRO stop. Metro is the best way, to get here, but if driving is required, let me know and I'll try to arrange parking in our garage. If you drive let me know because you will have problems getting in without prior authorization. Upon arrival please come in the visitor entrance which is well marked out front.

Call me at my office or cell below and I will come down to get you. I will then take you to get your PIV cards authorized for our building and give you the nickel tour. I will have those of our team available tomorrow, available to you when you arrive as well.

If I can be of any further assistance or if you have questions please call or e-mail

ATF8-001-001-00014465

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Employee 3
Active Staff
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Desk: 202 648-^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}

4362

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

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-----Original Message-----

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [mailto:Matthew.Axelrod@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 3:00 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Chambers, Felicia (CIV); Crabb, John D. (USADC); Safwat, Adam (CRM)
Subject: Fast and Furious review

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

As we discussed, the three DOJ folks who will be overseeing the Fast and Furious doc review and production (cc'ed here) will come out to ATF tomorrow morning at 9:30 to get started. Can you let them know the address, the best way to get there, where to go, etc.? Thanks so much.

Matt

From: Hoover, William J.

Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 10:04 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CC: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.; Chait, Mark R.; Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)

Subject: Re: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

Thank you (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). Please let me know if I can help in anyway.

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

To: Hoover, William J.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.; Chait, Mark R.

Sent: Fri Apr 29 21:03:46 2011

Subject: Re: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

Sir - not to my knowledge. I believe we discussed this letter and the background weeks ago but were asked to focus on Issa and OIG. I will go in tomorrow to work on a draft reply and documents.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: Hoover, William J.
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Fri Apr 29 19:40:54 2011
Subject: Fw: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Have we previously provided answers to DOJ re Faith's email below?

Thank you,

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: Burton, Faith (SMO)
To: Hoover, William J.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Sent: Fri Apr 29 17:38:39 2011
Subject: FW: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

Have you all prepared a response to this and/or do you have responsive information?

DP

DP

DP

Please advise. Thanks. Faith

From: Downey, Brian (Judiciary-Rep) [mailto:Brian_Downey@judiciary-rep.senate.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 4:19 PM
To: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Hoover, William J. (ATF); Leavitt, Tristan (Judiciary-Rep); CEG (Judiciary-Rep)
Subject: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley
Importance: High

Will Senator Grassley be receiving any response or documents to his March 4th letter besides the March 8th letter from the Department of Justice?

Thank you,

Brian

Brian M. Downey
Investigator
Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC
(P) 202-224-5225
(F) 202-224-3799

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 9:03 PM
To: Hoover, William J.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.; Chait, Mark R.
Subject: Re: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

Sir - not to my knowledge. I believe we discussed this letter and the background weeks ago but were asked to focus on Issa and OIG. I will go in tomorrow to work on a draft reply and documents.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: Hoover, William J.
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Fri Apr 29 19:40:54 2011
Subject: Fw: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Have we previously provided answers to DOJ re Faith's email below?

Thank you,

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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appropriate approval. Any review, use, or dissemination of this e-mail message and any attached file(s) in any form outside of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives or the Department of Justice without express authorization is strictly prohibited.

From: Burton, Faith (SMO)
To: Hoover, William J. [REDACTED]
Cc: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Sent: Fri Apr 29 17:38:39 2011
Subject: FW: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

Have you all prepared a response to this and/or do you have responsive information?

DP

DP

DP

Please advise. Thanks. Faith

From: Downey, Brian (Judiciary-Rep) [mailto:Brian_Downey@judiciary-rep.senate.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 4:19 PM
To: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)
Cc: [REDACTED]; Hoover, William J. (ATF); Leavitt, Tristan (Judiciary-Rep); CEG (Judiciary-Rep)
Subject: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley
Importance: High

Will Senator Grassley be receiving any response or documents to his March 4th letter besides the March 8th letter from the Department of Justice?

Thank you,

Brian

Brian M. Downey
Investigator
Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC
(P) 202-224-5225
(F) 202-224-3799

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2011 8:38 PM**To:** Burton, Faith (SMO); Hoover, William J.**CC:** Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Re: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

Looping in some folks working these issues on our side. We are checking to see if we have anything on this. My number is (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Call me anytime.

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From: Burton, Faith (SMO)**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Hoover, William J.**Cc:** Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)**Sent:** Fri Apr 29 19:09:33 2011**Subject:** RE: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

I apologize for any confusion here and we would be glad to work on crafting the response, but we need the underlying responsive info. We understand that this may pertain to a pending case in Dallas and have reached out to folks there, but it would be helpful if you could provide any info and docs responsive to these letters known to ATF. If you've already supplied that to someone here, please let me know. Happy to talk on the phone if that would be most efficient – we want to send a response to both letters on Monday. Thanks. FB

From: [REDACTED]**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2011 7:02 PM**To:** Burton, Faith (SMO); Hoover, William J. (ATF)**Cc:** Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); [REDACTED]**Subject:** Re: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

It is my understanding that, with the exception of two very recent requests (one each from Issa and Grassley), OLA has the pen on all of these requests. If that is no longer the case, we'd be more than happy to craft responses.

From: Burton, Faith (SMO)**To:** Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]**Cc:** Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)**Sent:** Fri Apr 29 17:38:39 2011**Subject:** FW: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

Have you all prepared a response to this and/or do you have responsive information?

DP

DP

DP

DP

Please advise. Thanks. Faith

From: Downey, Brian (Judiciary-Rep) [mailto:Brian_Downey@judiciary-rep.senate.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 4:19 PM
To: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)
Cc: [REDACTED] Hoover, William J. (ATF); Leavitt, Tristan (Judiciary-Rep); CEG (Judiciary-Rep)
Subject: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley
Importance: High

Will Senator Grassley be receiving any response or documents to his March 4th letter besides the March 8th letter from the Department of Justice?

Thank you,

Brian

Brian M. Downey
Investigator
Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC
(P) 202-224-5225
(F) 202-224-3799

From: Hoover, William J.

Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 7:40 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CC: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.

Subject: Fw: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

Attachments: 2011-03-08 DOJ to CEG.pdf; 2011-03-04 CEG to ATF (Zapata).pdf

Importance: High

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Have we previously provided answers to DOJ re Faith's email below?

Thank you,

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: Burton, Faith (SMO)
To: Hoover, William J.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Sent: Fri Apr 29 17:38:39 2011
Subject: FW: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

Have you all prepared a response to this and/or do you have responsive information?

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Please advise. Thanks. Faith

From: Downey, Brian (Judiciary-Rep) [mailto:Brian_Downey@judiciary-rep.senate.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 4:19 PM
To: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)

Cc: [REDACTED]; Hoover, William J. (ATF); Leavitt, Tristan (Judiciary-Rep); CEG (Judiciary-Rep)

Subject: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

Importance: High

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Thank you,

Brian

Brian M. Downey
Investigator
Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC
(P) 202-224-5225
(F) 202-224-3799

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 7:27:22 PM
To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]
Subject: Draft response to Senator Grassley
Attachments: grassley ranking member response 5-2.docx

Attached is a revised draft response to Senator Grassley, as well as his incoming letter. Please vet for complete accuracy and let me know whether you have any changes. In particular, I want to make sure that we are on 100% solid ground saying that "It remains our understanding that ATF's Operation Fast and Furious did not knowingly permit straw buyers to take guns into Mexico." We're planning to get the letter out Monday morning, so I need to hear from you before then. Thanks.

Matt



grassley
ranking
member
response
5-2.docx (17
KB)

Matthew S. Axelrod
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Desk (202) 305-0273
Cell (202) 532-3087

From: Burton, Faith (SMO) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 7:09 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Hoover, William J.
CC: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

I apologize for any confusion here and we would be glad to work on crafting the response, but we need the underlying responsive info. We understand that this may pertain to a pending case in Dallas and have reached out to folks there, but it would be helpful if you could provide any info and docs responsive to these letters known to ATF. If you've already supplied that to someone here, please let me know. Happy to talk on the phone if that would be most efficient -- we want to send a response to both letters on Monday. Thanks. FB

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 7:02 PM
To: Burton, Faith (SMO); Hoover, William J. (ATF)
Cc: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

It is my understanding that, with the exception of two very recent requests (one each from Issa and Grassley), OLA has the pen on all of these requests. If that is no longer the case, we'd be more than happy to craft responses.

From: Burton, Faith (SMO)
To: Hoover, William J.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Sent: Fri Apr 29 17:38:39 2011
Subject: FW: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

Have you all prepared a response to this and/or do you have responsive information?

DP

DP

DP

Please advise. Thanks. Faith

From: Downey, Brian (Judiciary-Rep) [mailto:Brian_Downey@judiciary-rep.senate.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 4:19 PM
To: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Hoover, William J. (ATF); Leavitt, Tristan (Judiciary-Rep); CEG (Judiciary-Rep)
Subject: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley
Importance: High

Will Senator Grassley be receiving any response or documents to his March 4th letter besides the March 8th letter from the Department of Justice?

Thank you,

Brian

Brian M. Downey
Investigator
Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC

Employee 3

4407

(P) 202-224-5225

(F) 202-224-3799

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 7:02 PM
To: Burton, Faith (SMO); Hoover, William J.
CC: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

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From: Burton, Faith (SMO)
To: Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]
Cc: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Sent: Fri Apr 29 17:38:39 2011
Subject: FW: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

Have you all prepared a response to this and/or do you have responsive information?

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Please advise. Thanks. Faith

From: Downey, Brian (Judiciary-Rep) [mailto:Brian_Downey@judiciary-rep.senate.gov]
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Cc: [REDACTED]; Hoover, William J. (ATF); Leavitt, Tristan (Judiciary-Rep); CEG (Judiciary-Rep)
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Brian

Brian M. Downey
Investigator

Employee 3
Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC
(P) 202-224-5225
(F) 202-224-3799

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 7:01 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Hoover, William J.; Melson, Kenneth E.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CC: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Re: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

There has been prepared a response to his april letter to the AG but I am not aware of one specifically addressing this letter. Keep in mind that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) will be the one to know the answer off the top of his head. I will look into Monday unless someone else has specific knowledge

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Hoover, William J.; Melson, Kenneth E. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Fri Apr 29 18:51:16 2011
Subject: Fw: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

It was my understanding that OLA/ODAG had the pen on answering these inquiries. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Have we provided any of these "answers" or info to Matt. Do you want to me to reach out to Faith?

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From: Burton, Faith (SMO)
To: Hoover, William J.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)

Sent: Fri Apr 29 17:38:39 2011

Subject: FW: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

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Please advise. Thanks. Faith

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Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 4:19 PM

To: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)

Cc: Hoover, William J. (ATF); Leavitt, Tristan (Judiciary-Rep); CEG (Judiciary-Rep)

Subject: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

Importance: High

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Investigator
Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC
(P) 202-224-5225
(F) 202-224-3799

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 6:51 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Hoover, William J.; Melson, Kenneth E.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley
Attachments: 2011-03-08 DOJ to CEG.pdf; 2011-03-04 CEG to ATF (Zapata).pdf

Importance: High

It was my understanding that OLA/ODAG had the pen on answering these inquiries. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Have we provided any of these "answers" or info to Matt. Do you want to me to reach out to Faith?

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From: Burton, Faith (SMO)
To: Hoover, William J.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Sent: Fri Apr 29 17:38:39 2011
Subject: FW: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

Have you all prepared a response to this and/or do you have responsive information?

DP

DP

DP

Thanks. Faith

From: Downey, Brian (Judiciary-Rep) [mailto:Brian_Downey@judiciary-rep.senate.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 4:19 PM
To: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Hoover, William J. (ATF); Leavitt, Tristan (Judiciary-Rep); CEG (Judiciary-Rep)
Subject: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley
Importance: High

Will Senator Grassley be receiving any response or documents to his March 4th letter besides the March 8th letter from the Department of Justice?

Thank you,

Employee 3

4413

Brian

Brian M. Downey

Investigator

Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Washington, DC

(P) 202-224-5225

(F) 202-224-3799

From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ) [Patrick.Cunningham@usdoj.gov]

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 10:03 PM

To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Draft letter to Grassley re RMM status and prior DOJ statement

Attachments: 2011-04-13 Grassley Ltr to AG.pdf; grassley ranking member response 4-28 v3.docx

Matt and Colleagues: Dennis and I spoke this evening [REDACTED]

DP

DP

Thanks. PJC

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 2:16 PM

To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); Hoover, William J. (ATF); [REDACTED] (ATF)

Subject: Draft letter to Grassley re RMM status and prior DOJ statement

Here's a draft of a letter going back to Senator Grassley in response to his letter asking about Ranking Minority Member status and a statement in one of our prior letters. Please let me know immediately if you have any edits. We're trying to get this out tomorrow morning. Thanks. Sorry for the short turnaround time.

Matt

<< File: grassley ranking member response 4-28 v3.docx >>

Matthew S. Axelrod
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Desk (202) 305-0273
Cell (202) 532-3087

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

BRUCE A. COHEN, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*
KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Republican Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

April 13, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

At approximately 1:30 p.m. yesterday, my staff learned that the Justice Department was making four documents available at 2:00 pm for Chairman Darrell Issa's staff to review regarding the controversy over ATF's Project Gunrunner, Operation Fast and Furious, and the death of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry. These documents are among those I requested in February of this year. Yet, the Justice Department refused to make them available for my staff to review. In fact, the Justice Department has produced not one single page of documents in response to my inquiries.

Thus far, I have not requested that Chairman Leahy join in any document requests, consider any subpoenas, or schedule any hearings into this matter in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Any such request would be unnecessary and duplicative of the process on the House side, so long as any documents provided there are also provided to the Senate Judiciary Committee at the same time.

The Department's failure to cooperate with my requests is especially troubling in light of the February 4, 2011, reply to my initial letter. In that reply, the Justice Department took the position that those allegations were "false" and specifically denied "that ATF 'sanctioned' or otherwise knowingly allowed the sale of assault weapons" to straw purchasers. The letter further claimed that "ATF makes every effort to interdict weapons that have been purchased illegally and prevent their transportation to Mexico."

I already provided evidence contradicting that denial in my February 9 and March 3 letters. In addition, attached you will find further documentation undermining the Department's assertion. Specifically, the documents are emails between ATF officials and a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) in Arizona. These emails demonstrate that ATF instructed gun dealers to engage in suspicious sales despite the dealers'

concerns. The emails refer to meetings between the FFL and the U.S. Attorney's office to address the concerns being raised by the FFL. ATF supervisor David Voth wrote on April 13, 2010:

I understand that the frequency with which some individuals under investigation by our office have been purchasing firearms from your business has caused concerns for you. ... However, if it helps put you at ease we (ATF) are continually monitoring these suspects using a variety of investigative techniques which I cannot go into [in] detail.¹

In response, the gun dealer expresses concern about potential future liability and sought something in writing to address the issue explicitly:

For us, we were hoping to put together something like a letter of understanding to alleviate concerns of some type of recourse against us down the road for selling these items. We just want to make sure we are cooperating with ATF and that we are not viewed as selling to bad guys.²

Following this email, the ATF arranged a meeting between the FFL and the U.S. Attorney's office. According to the FFL, the U.S. Attorney's office scheduled a follow-up meeting with the FFL, but asked that the FFL's attorney not be present.³

At the meeting on May 13, 2010, the U.S. Attorney's office declined to provide anything in writing but assured the gun dealer in even stronger terms that there were safeguards in place to prevent further distribution of the weapons after being purchased from his business.⁴ As we now know, those assurances proved to be untrue. On June 17, 2010, the gun dealer wrote to the ATF to again express concerns after seeing a report on Fox News about firearms and the border:

The segment, if the information was correct, is disturbing to me. When you, [the Assistant U.S. Attorney], and I met on May 13th, I shared my concerns with you guys that I wanted to make sure that none of the firearms that were sold per our conversation with you and various ATF agents could or would ever end up south of the border or in the hands of the bad guys. ... I want to help ATF with its investigation but not at the risk of agents' safety because I have some very close friends that are U.S. Border Patrol agents in southern AZ[.]⁵

¹ Email from ATF Group VII Supervisor David Voth to Cooperating FFL, Apr. 13, 2010 (Attached).

² Email from Cooperating FFL to ATF Group VII Supervisor David Voth, Apr. 13, 2010 (Attached).

³ Telephone interview with Cooperating FFL, Apr. 5, 2011.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Email from Cooperating FFL to ATF Group VII Supervisor David Voth, Jun. 17, 2010 (Attached).

Incredibly, the FFL sent this email six months before guns from the same ATF operation were found at the scene of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry's murder. So, not only were the ATF agents who later blew the whistle predicting that this operation would end in tragedy, so were the gun dealers—even as ATF urged them to make the sales.

Furthermore, according to the FFL, there were “one or two” occasions on which his employees actually witnessed and recorded with surveillance cameras an exchange of money between the straw purchaser and another individual on the premises.⁶ Despite this actual knowledge of a straw purchase, the dealer said ATF officials wanted him to proceed with the transaction.⁷ However, his employees refused to process the sale.⁸

In light of this new evidence, the Justice Department's claim that the ATF never knowingly sanctioned or allowed the sale of assault weapons to straw purchasers is simply not credible. As you know, I have multiple document and information requests pending with various components of the Justice Department. Unfortunately, however, it appears that senior Department officials are not allowing the components to respond fully and directly.

Please provide written answers to the following questions by no later than April 20, 2011:

1. Do you stand by the assertion in the Department's reply that the ATF whistleblower allegations are “false” and specifically that ATF did not sanction or otherwise knowingly allow the sale of assault weapons to straw purchasers? If so, please explain why in light of the mounting evidence to the contrary.
2. Will you commit to providing the Senate Judiciary Committee with documents, or access to documents, simultaneously with the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform? If not, please explain why not.

⁶ Telephone interview with Cooperating FFL, Apr. 5, 2011.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

If you have any questions regarding this request, please have your staff contact Jason Foster at (202) 224-5225. Thank you for your prompt attention these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Grassley".

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member

Attachment

cc: Chairman Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Chairman Darrell Issa
U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Employee 3

Ongoing ATF investigation

6 messages

[REDACTED] @usdoj.gov> Tue, Apr 13, 2010 at 9:24 AM

To: Cooperating FFL [REDACTED]

Cc: ATF Agent [REDACTED] @usdoj.gov>, ATF Agent [REDACTED] @usdoj.gov>, ATF Agent [REDACTED] @usdoj.gov>, Cooperating FFL [REDACTED]

I understand that the frequency with which some individuals under investigation by our office have been purchasing firearms from your business has caused concerns for you. I totally understand and am not in a position to tell you how to run your business. However, if it helps put you at ease we (ATF) are continually monitoring these suspects using a variety of investigative techniques which I cannot go into detail. We are working in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office (Federal Prosecutors) to secure the most comprehensive case involving the different facets of this organization. If it puts you at ease I can schedule a meeting with the Attorney handling the case and myself to further discuss this issue. Just know that we cannot instruct you on how to run your business but your continued cooperation with our office has greatly aided the investigation thus far.

Thanks again and please let me know how I can be of service to you.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

Group Supervisor

Phoenix Group VII

602-[REDACTED]

Cooperating FFL [REDACTED] Tue, Apr 13, 2010 at 1:29 PM

To: [REDACTED] @usdoj.gov>

Cc: Cooperating FFL [REDACTED] ATF Agent [REDACTED] @usdoj.gov>, ATF Agent [REDACTED] @usdoj.gov>, ATF Agent [REDACTED] @usdoj.gov>, Cooperating FFL [REDACTED]

Employee 3

Let me start by saying thank you for the email and as always we will do what we can to continue to work with you and the ATF on Project Gun Runner. Our goal is to develop a system to get you (ATF) what you need in the most efficient manner possible. For us, we were hoping to put together something like a letter of understanding to alleviate concerns of some type of recourse against us down the road for selling these items. We just want to make sure we are cooperating with ATF and that we are not viewed as selling to bad guys. If you and the case Attorney are free to meet some time this week or next, that would be great. I am out of town Friday of this week and have meetings Thursday afternoon but am open other than that and I am open next week. Please let me know what would work best for you.

Thank you again and I look forward to meeting.

Respectfully,

Cooperating FFL

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted block]

[Redacted block]

Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>

Tue, Apr 13, 2010 at 1:29 PM

To: [Redacted]

Delivery to the following recipient failed permanently:

[Redacted]

Technical details of permanent failure:

Message rejected. Please visit http://www.google.com/mail/help/bulk_mail.html to review our Bulk Email Senders Guidelines.

[Redacted block]

[REDACTED]

From: Cooperating FFL [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] @usdoj.gov>
Cc: Cooperating FFL [REDACTED] ATF Agent [REDACTED] @usdoj.gov>,
ATF Agent [REDACTED] @usdoj.gov>,
Cooperating FFL [REDACTED] ATF Agent [REDACTED] @usdoj.gov>,
Cooperating FFL [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Let me start by saying thank you for the email and as always we will do what we can to continue to work with you and the ATF on Project Gun Runner. Our goal is to develop a system to get you (ATF) what you need in the most efficient manner possible. For us, we were hoping to put together something like a letter of understanding to alleviate concerns of some type of recourse against us down the road for selling these items. We just want to make sure we are cooperating with ATF and that we are not viewed as selling to bad guys. If you and the case Attorney are free to meet some time this week or next, that would be great. I am out of town Friday of this week and have meetings Thursday afternoon but am open other than that and I am open next week. Please let me know what would work best for you.

Thank you again and I look forward to meeting.

Respectfully,

Employee 3

Cooperating FFL

[REDACTED]

Tue, Apr 13, 2010 at 1:31 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Cooperating FFL
Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2010 at 1:29 PM
Subject: Re: Ongoing ATF investigation
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Cooperating FFL, ATF Agent [REDACTED]@usdoj.gov, ATF Agent [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov>, ATF Agent [REDACTED]@usdoj.gov, [REDACTED]
Cooperating FFL

[REDACTED]

Thu, Apr 15, 2010 at 9:23 AM

<[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov>
To: Cooperating FFL
Cc: Cooperating FFL, ATF Agent [REDACTED]@usdoj.gov, ATF Agent [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov, ATF Agent [REDACTED]@usdoj.gov

Cooperating FFL

We at ATF consider [REDACTED] Cooperating FFL to be our ally in Project Gunrunner SWB Initiative and appreciate your cooperation with us in regards to this (and all) law enforcement matters. I have inquired from the Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) handling this case as to his availability to meet with you next week. He is checking his schedule and I expect to hear from him soon.

Employee 3

4445

Thanks again and please contact me any time with questions or concerns,

[Redacted]

Group Supervisor

Phoenix Group VII

602-[Redacted]

From: Cooperating FFL
 Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 1:30 PM
 To: [Redacted]
 Cc: Cooperating FFL; ATF Agent; ATF Agent; ATF Agent; Cooperating FFL
 Subject: Re: Ongoing ATF investigation

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Cooperating FFL
 To: [Redacted]@usdoj.gov
 Cc: [Redacted]@usdoj.gov, ATF Agent@usdoj.gov, ATF Agent@usdoj.gov, ATF Agent
 Thu, Apr 15, 2010 at 10:39 AM

Thank you for the kind words and the continued support. We will continue handling the transactions as we have in the past until we meet. If there is anything you need in the interim please don't hesitate to ask.

See you soon.

Respectfully,

Cooperating FFL

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

2/14/2011

Employee 3

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Fox News report

3 messages

Cooperating FFL

To: [Redacted]@usdoj.gov>

Thu, Jun 17, 2010 at 11:56 AM

I hope this email finds you well.

As per our discussion about over communicating I wanted to share some concerns that came up. Tuesday night I watched a segment of a Fox News report about firearms and the border. The segment, if the information was correct, is disturbing to me. When you, Emory and I met on May 13th I shared my concerns with you guys that I wanted to make sure that none of the firearms that were sold per our conversation with you and various ATF agents could or would ever end up south of the border or in the hands of the bad guys. I guess I am looking for a bit of reassurance that the guns are not getting south or in the wrong hands. I know it is an ongoing investigation so there is limited information you can share with me. But as I said in our meeting, I want to help ATF with its investigation but not at the risk of agents safety because I have some very close friends that are US Border Patrol agents in southern AZ as well as my concern for all the agents safety that protect our country. If possible please email me back and share with me any reassurances that you can.

As always thank you for your time and I send this email with all respect and a hart felt concern to do the right thing.

Respectfully,

Cooperating FFL

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted signature block]

To: Cooperating FFL [Redacted]@usdoj.gov>

Fri, Jun 18, 2010 at 2:25 PM

[Redacted]

Employee 3

Cooperating FFL

Thanks for reaching out to me with your concerns. I would be happy to stop by and speak with you. If possible I have [redacted] next Tuesday, June 22, 2010. Any chance you are available that day around 10:00-10:30 am?

Thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted] Cooperating FFL
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 11:56 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Fox News report

[redacted]

Cooperating FFL
Reply To: Cooperating FFL
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@usdoj.gov>

Mon, Jun 21, 2010 at 9:34 PM

I am back intown. If you are still free to meet on the 22nd [redacted] around 10 and there for a few hours. Please stop by if you are available, if not let me know when we can reschedule.

Thank you,

Cooperating FFL

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@usdoj.gov>
Date: Fri, 18 Jun 2010 17:25:25 -0400
To: Cooperating FFL
Subject: RE: Fox News report

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 7:10 PM
To: Hoover, William J.
CC: Melson, Kenneth E.;
Subject: RE: (Axelrod) Start of Fast and Furious

Can we talk about this tomorrow?

DP

DP

From: Hoover, William J. (ATF)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 6:30 AM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Cc: Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); (ATF); (ATF); (ATF)
Subject: FW: (Axelrod) Start of Fast and Furious

Matt,

Please see our answers to your questions below. I will give you a call later this morning to discuss.

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) 202-648-8710

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From:
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 6:50 PM
To: Chait, Mark R.; Hoover, William J.; McMahon, William G.
Subject: RE: (Axelrod) Start of Fast and Furious

ADAG Axelrod's questions/comments:

DP

DP

██████████
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648-██████████ Cel ██████████

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From: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 3:59 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Start of Fast and Furious

Please obtain this info. thx

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From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 3:30 PM
To: Chait, Mark R.
Subject: Fw: Start of Fast and Furious

Mark,

Can you get me answers to the questions below?

Thank you!!

Billy

William J. Hoover

Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) 202-648-8710

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From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
To: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Tue Apr 26 15:18:22 2011
Subject: Start of Fast and Furious

Billy,



DP

Thanks.

Matt

Matthew S. Axelrod

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

Desk (202) 305-0273

Cell (202) 532-3087

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 5:16:27 PM
To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.;
Subject: Draft letter to Grassley re RMM status and prior DOJ statement

Attachments: grassley ranking member response 4-28 v3.docx

Here's a draft of a letter going back to Senator Grassley in response to his letter asking about Ranking Minority Member status and a statement in one of our prior letters. Please let me know immediately if you have any edits. We're trying to get this out tomorrow morning. Thanks. Sorry for the short turnaround time.

Matt



grassley
ranking
member
response
4-28 v3.docx
(16 kB)

Matthew S. Axelrod
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Desk (202) 305-0273
Cell (202) 532-3087

From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 6:29 AM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
CC: Melson, Kenneth E.; [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: (Axelrod) Start of Fast and Furious

Matt,

Please see our answers to your questions below. I will give you a call later this morning to discuss.

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) 202-648-8710

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 6:50 PM
To: Chait, Mark R.; Hoover, William J.; McMahon, William G.
Subject: RE: (Axelrod) Start of Fast and Furious

ADAG Axelrod's questions/comments:

DP

DP

[REDACTED]
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648. [REDACTED] Cell [REDACTED]

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From: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 3:59 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Start of Fast and Furious

Please obtain this info. thx

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From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 3:30 PM
To: Chait, Mark R.
Subject: Fw: Start of Fast and Furious

Mark,

Can you get me answers to the questions below?

Thank you!!

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) 202-648-8710

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From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
To: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Tue Apr 26 15:18:22 2011
Subject: Start of Fast and Furious

Billy,



DP

Thanks.

Matt

Matthew S. Axelrod

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

Desk (202) 305-0273

Cell (202) 532-3087

From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 5:28:13 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: Grassley Floor Remarks

FYI

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) 202-648-8710

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----- Original Message -----

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.;
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ) <DBurkel@usa.doj.gov>; Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ) <PCunningham@usa.doj.gov>
Sent: Thu Apr 14 15:51:34 2011
Subject: Grassley Floor Remarks

From:
Ranking Member Grassley (Judiciary-Rep) <RankingMemberGrassley@judiciary-rep.senate.gov> Date: Thu, Apr 14, 2011 at 2:06 PM
Subject: Time for Justice Dept., ATF to come clean
To: "Ranking Member Grassley (Judiciary-Rep)" <RankingMemberGrassley@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>
Floor Statement of Senator Chuck Grassley

Justice Department and ATF need to come clean

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Since January, I have been investigating allegations from whistleblowers at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The allegations that I had received are shocking, but sadly they appear to be true. And, praise the Lord for whistleblowers in this government, because we don't know where the skeletons are buried, and they help us to do our constitutional role of oversight checks and balances of government.

The ATF is supposed to stop criminals from trafficking guns to Mexican drug cartels, was actually making that trafficking of arms easier for them. That would be bad enough if it happened because of incompetence or turf battles, but it looks like the agency was doing this on purpose.

The government actually encouraged gun dealers to sell multiple firearms to known and suspected traffickers. Two of those guns ended up at the scene of a murder of U.S. Border Patrol agent in Arizona.

His name was Brian Terry, and his family deserves answers from their very own government.

I have been fighting for those answers. I have written eight letters to the justice Department. I have asked for documents. I've asked that specific questions be answered. At first, the Justice Department simply denied the charges. Then one of the whistleblowers went on television. He risked his career to tell the truth on "CBS Evening News."

He had a sense of duty to Agent Terry's family, and in turn to the entire population of this great country. He could not believe that his own government refused to come clean and to tell the truth when questioned by this United States Senator.

And so he went public to set the record straight. Other whistleblowers confirmed what this other whistleblower had said. In fact, I received internal government documents that confirmed what he said. Anonymous patriots tried to ensure that the truth would come out.

That's about the only crime that whistleblowers commit - committing truth. Isn't that sad?

I forwarded many of those documents that I've received clandestinely to Attorney General Holder and Acting Director Melson, and I asked them how to square the denials from that department with the evidence that I have received both orally and on paper.

At Attorney General Holder's confirmation hearing, now two years ago, I told him, and I quote myself, "I expect that you will be responsive to my oversight

work and that my questions and document requests will be taken seriously. I hope that I have your assurance that if you are confirmed, you will assist me with oversight activities, be responsive to my requests and help me make the Justice Department accountable."

The Attorney General, who was a nominee at that time responded, and I quote -- this is before his confirmation - "I will try to do all that I can to make sure that we respond fully and in a timely fashion to the very legitimate questions that I know that you have propounded to the department."

Now, ironically, I have provided more internal documents to the Justice Department in this investigation than the Justice Department has provided to me. Now, instead of issuing denials, do you know what happens?

It happens all the time when you're doing oversight work, with almost any agency, but in this case, the Justice Department has circled the wagons. They have clammed up. The President of the United States admitted on Spanish language television that "certain mistakes" may have been made here in this instance of this investigation.

He and Attorney General Holder say that they didn't authorize a policy change that allowed criminals to walk away with guns, but there was a change in policy that went tragically wrong.

The prophecy of a lot of whistleblowers turned out to be fact, sadly. So Congress needs to find out what did the highest senior officials know and when did they know it?

The purpose of the policy change was to go after leaders high up in the chain of command and bring down a drug cartel. Nobody can find fault with that, but prosecutors didn't want to just go after criminals that just lie on federal forums to buy guns to go after trafficking. They wanted to go after the really big fish.

The problem is this: they let so many little fish keep operating that between 1,300 and 1,700 guns got away, and that's just in this one case in Arizona that I can document. Hundreds of these guns have in turn turned up in crimes on both sides of the border, some in Mexico, some in the United States.

Federal agents often have to walk a fine line in trying to catch the bad guy. They sometimes have to allow a crime to progress to make sure that everyone

involved in the conspiracy gets caught. I understand that, and that can be legitimate, but you've got to look at it this way. It's a very serious business. It's quite a gamble, you might say. There have to be careful controls in an operation like I just described.

Law enforcement should not cross the line into actually assisting criminals just for the simple process of gathering information. Operations should be carefully focused on stopping crime without risking public safety.

Seizing contraband and making arrests are the most important goals. Big headline-grabbing cases to advance some prosecutor's career should take a back seat in any of these gambles.

Yesterday, I sent a letter to Attorney General Holder with some more documents. So I'm sending the department documents that I'd like to have them send me. These are documents that maybe the Attorney General himself didn't know about. They're emails between a federally licensed firearms dealer and the supervisor in this Arizona case known as Fast and Furious. In one email, the dealer raises for a third time now his concerns about how the case is being handled. This time he was prompted by a story on Fox News about the growing firearms problem on our border with Mexico.

The dealer wrote "the segment...is disturbing to me...I shared my concerns with you guys that I wanted to make sure that none of the firearms that were sold per our conversation with you and various ATF agents could or would ever end up south of the border and in the hands of the bad guys...I want to help ATF with its investigation, but not at the risk of agents' safety because I have some very close friends that are U.S. border patrol agents in southern Arizona."

Now, maybe one of those friends, for all I know, is Agent Terry, and he got murdered -- or at least we think he got murdered with one of these guns. These guns were at the scene, at least.

That email that I just quoted was sent to the supervisor of the case six months before guns from that case were found at the scene of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry's murder.

The government put these firearms dealers in a completely unfair position, and let me explain that. On the one hand, these gun dealers rely upon the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for their license to even be able to be in business. So, of course, these agents (Federal Firearms Licensees) want to cooperate with the government. When you have got this big club hanging over your head, will you be licensed or not licensed.

On the other hand, the government asks these gun dealers to keep selling to the bad guys even after the dealers warned that it might end in tragedy.

Now, I'm going to do whatever it takes to get to the bottom of this. The House Oversight Committee has joined in my effort and issued a subpoena for documents. Because it might duplicate the process in the House, I have not sought any subpoenas or hearings in the Senate Judiciary Committee - yet. I have not exercised my right to object to any unanimous consent requests on nominations because of this issue - yet.

However, I want my colleagues and officials at the Justice Department to hear this loud and clear. If that's what it takes, then I will take those actions.

I hope it doesn't have to come to that. I hope that the Justice Department will decide to cooperate and provide the information we need, doing our constitutional responsibility of oversight to make sure the checks and balances of the system of government under our constitution is working.

It's been nearly three months since I first raised this issue. It's past time for the Justice Department to come clean.

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 3:51:34 PM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.;
; Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Subject: Grassley Floor Remarks

From:
Ranking Member Grassley (Judiciary-Rep) <RankingMemberGrassley@judiciary-
rep.senate.gov> Date: Thu, Apr 14, 2011 at 2:06 PM
Subject: Time for Justice Dept., ATF to come clean
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From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Employee 3, April 13, 2011 10:37:10 PM
To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.;
; Hoover, William J.
Subject: Fw: Emailing: 2011-04-13 CEG to DOJ (ATF)

5242

Attachments: 2011-04-13 CEG to DOJ (ATF).pdf

----- Original Message -----

From: Gaston, Molly (SMO)
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 10:17 PM
To: Burton, Faith (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); Colborn, Paul P (SMO)
Subject: Fw: Emailing: 2011 04 13 CEG to DOJ (ATF)

----- Original Message -----

From: Foster, Jason (Judiciary-Rep) [mailto:Jason_Foster@judiciary-rep.senate.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 09:44 PM
To: Weich, Ron (SMO)
Cc: CEG (Judiciary-Rep) <CEG@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>; Virkstis, Matthew (Judiciary) <Matthew_Virkstis@Judiciary-dem.senate.gov>; Castor, Stephen (Stephen.Castor@mail.house.gov) <Stephen.Castor@mail.house.gov>; Gaston, Molly (SMO)
Subject: Emailing: 2011 04 13 CEG to DOJ (ATF)

Ron,

I appreciate the invitation below, and I do need to discuss with you some process concerns about the way forward on this. If there is a convenient time for you tomorrow, please let me know. Senator Grassley has asked me to personally convey some key points for consideration.

Also, attached please find a letter from Senator Grassley to Attorney General Holder. Please ensure that all official correspondence is sent in electronic format to ceg@judiciary-rep.senate.gov (cc'd above). Thanks.

Cordially,
Jason A. Foster
Chief Investigative Counsel

Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate

Direct: (202) 224 7142

From: Weich, Ron (SMO) [mailto:Ron.Weich@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 11:20 AM
To: Davis, Kolan (Judiciary-Rep)
Cc: Lari, Rita (Judiciary-Rep); Foster, Jason (Judiciary-Rep)
Subject: RE: Letter to Senator Grassley, 3/8/11

Fine, up to you. I just want you to know that I am always available to discuss process concerns, even on matters where we can't get into substance.

ATF8-001-001-00016869

PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT, CHAIRMAN

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 TOM COBURN, OKLAHOMA

United States Senate
 COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

BRUCE A. COHEN, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*
 KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Republican Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

April 13, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
 Attorney General
 U.S. Department of Justice
 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

At approximately 1:30 p.m. yesterday, my staff learned that the Justice Department was making four documents available at 2:00 pm for Chairman Darrell Issa's staff to review regarding the controversy over ATF's Project Gunrunner, Operation Fast and Furious, and the death of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry. These documents are among those I requested in February of this year. Yet, the Justice Department refused to make them available for my staff to review. In fact, the Justice Department has produced not one single page of documents in response to my inquiries.

Thus far, I have not requested that Chairman Leahy join in any document requests, consider any subpoenas, or schedule any hearings into this matter in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Any such request would be unnecessary and duplicative of the process on the House side, so long as any documents provided there are also provided to the Senate Judiciary Committee at the same time.

The Department's failure to cooperate with my requests is especially troubling in light of the February 4, 2011, reply to my initial letter. In that reply, the Justice Department took the position that those allegations were "false" and specifically denied "that ATF 'sanctioned' or otherwise knowingly allowed the sale of assault weapons" to straw purchasers. The letter further claimed that "ATF makes every effort to interdict weapons that have been purchased illegally and prevent their transportation to Mexico."

I already provided evidence contradicting that denial in my February 9 and March 3 letters. In addition, attached you will find further documentation undermining the Department's assertion. Specifically, the documents are emails between ATF officials and a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) in Arizona. These emails demonstrate that ATF instructed gun dealers to engage in suspicious sales despite the dealers'

concerns. The emails refer to meetings between the FFL and the U.S. Attorney's office to address the concerns being raised by the FFL. ATF supervisor David Voth wrote on April 13, 2010:

I understand that the frequency with which some individuals under investigation by our office have been purchasing firearms from your business has caused concerns for you. ... However, if it helps put you at ease we (ATF) are continually monitoring these suspects using a variety of investigative techniques which I cannot go into [in] detail.¹

In response, the gun dealer expresses concern about potential future liability and sought something in writing to address the issue explicitly:

For us, we were hoping to put together something like a letter of understanding to alleviate concerns of some type of recourse against us down the road for selling these items. We just want to make sure we are cooperating with ATF and that we are not viewed as selling to bad guys.²

Following this email, the ATF arranged a meeting between the FFL and the U.S. Attorney's office. According to the FFL, the U.S. Attorney's office scheduled a follow-up meeting with the FFL, but asked that the FFL's attorney not be present.³

At the meeting on May 13, 2010, the U.S. Attorney's office declined to provide anything in writing but assured the gun dealer in even stronger terms that there were safeguards in place to prevent further distribution of the weapons after being purchased from his business.⁴ As we now know, those assurances proved to be untrue. On June 17, 2010, the gun dealer wrote to the ATF to again express concerns after seeing a report on Fox News about firearms and the border:

The segment, if the information was correct, is disturbing to me. When you, [the Assistant U.S. Attorney], and I met on May 13th, I shared my concerns with you guys that I wanted to make sure that none of the firearms that were sold per our conversation with you and various ATF agents could or would ever end up south of the border or in the hands of the bad guys. ... I want to help ATF with its investigation but not at the risk of agents' safety because I have some very close friends that are U.S. Border Patrol agents in southern AZ[.]⁵

¹ Email from ATF Group VII Supervisor David Voth to Cooperating FFL, Apr. 13, 2010 (Attached).

² Email from Cooperating FFL to ATF Group VII Supervisor David Voth, Apr. 13, 2010 (Attached).

³ Telephone interview with Cooperating FFL, Apr. 5, 2011.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Email from Cooperating FFL to ATF Group VII Supervisor David Voth, Jun. 17, 2010 (Attached).

Incredibly, the FFL sent this email six months before guns from the same ATF operation were found at the scene of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry's murder. So, not only were the ATF agents who later blew the whistle predicting that this operation would end in tragedy, so were the gun dealers—even as ATF urged them to make the sales.

Furthermore, according to the FFL, there were “one or two” occasions on which his employees actually witnessed and recorded with surveillance cameras an exchange of money between the straw purchaser and another individual on the premises.⁶ Despite this actual knowledge of a straw purchase, the dealer said ATF officials wanted him to proceed with the transaction.⁷ However, his employees refused to process the sale.⁸

In light of this new evidence, the Justice Department's claim that the ATF never knowingly sanctioned or allowed the sale of assault weapons to straw purchasers is simply not credible. As you know, I have multiple document and information requests pending with various components of the Justice Department. Unfortunately, however, it appears that senior Department officials are not allowing the components to respond fully and directly.

Please provide written answers to the following questions by no later than April 20, 2011:

1. Do you stand by the assertion in the Department's reply that the ATF whistleblower allegations are “false” and specifically that ATF did not sanction or otherwise knowingly allow the sale of assault weapons to straw purchasers? If so, please explain why in light of the mounting evidence to the contrary.
2. Will you commit to providing the Senate Judiciary Committee with documents, or access to documents, simultaneously with the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform? If not, please explain why not.

⁶ Telephone interview with Cooperating FFL, Apr. 5, 2011.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

If you have any questions regarding this request, please have your staff contact Jason Foster at (202) 224-5225. Thank you for your prompt attention these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Grassley".

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member

Attachment

cc: Chairman Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Chairman Darrell Issa
U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Employee 3

Ongoing ATF investigation

6 messages

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov> Tue, Apr 13, 2010 at 9:24 AM

To: Cooperating FFL [REDACTED]

Cc: ATF Agent [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov>, ATF Agent [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov>, ATF Agent [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov>, Cooperating FFL [REDACTED]

I understand that the frequency with which some individuals under investigation by our office have been purchasing firearms from your business has caused concerns for you. I totally understand and am not in a position to tell you how to run your business. However, if it helps put you at ease we (ATF) are continually monitoring these suspects using a variety of investigative techniques which I cannot go into detail. We are working in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office (Federal Prosecutors) to secure the most comprehensive case involving the different facets of this organization. If it puts you at ease I can schedule a meeting with the Attorney handling the case and myself to further discuss this issue. Just know that we cannot instruct you on how to run your business but your continued cooperation with our office has greatly aided the investigation thus far.

Thanks again and please let me know how I can be of service to you.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

Group Supervisor

Phoenix Group VII

602-[REDACTED]

Cooperating FFL [REDACTED] Tue, Apr 13, 2010 at 1:29 PM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov>

Cc: Cooperating FFL [REDACTED] ATF Agent [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov>, ATF Agent [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov>, ATF Agent [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov>, Cooperating FFL [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employee 3

Let me start by saying thank you for the email and as always we will do what we can to continue to work with you and the ATF on Project Gun Runner. Our goal is to develop a system to get you (ATF) what you need in the most efficient manner possible. For us, we were hoping to put together something like a letter of understanding to alleviate concerns of some type of recourse against us down the road for selling these items. We just want to make sure we are cooperating with ATF and that we are not viewed as selling to bad guys. If you and the case Attorney are free to meet some time this week or next, that would be great. I am out of town Friday of this week and have meetings Thursday afternoon but am open other than that and I am open next week. Please let me know what would work best for you.

Thank you again and I look forward to meeting.

Respectfully,

Cooperating FFL

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted block]

[Redacted block]

Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>

Tue, Apr 13, 2010 at 1:29 PM

To: [Redacted]

Delivery to the following recipient failed permanently:

[Redacted recipient address]

Technical details of permanent failure:

Message rejected. Please visit http://www.google.com/mail/help/bulk_mail.html to review our Bulk Email Senders Guidelines.

[Redacted block]

Employee 3

Cooperating FFL

[REDACTED]

Tue, Apr 13, 2010 at 1:31 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Cooperating FFL
Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2010 at 1:29 PM
Subject: Re: Ongoing ATF investigation
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Cooperating FFL, ATF Agent [REDACTED]@usdoj.gov, ATF Agent [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov>, ATF Agent [REDACTED]@usdoj.gov, [REDACTED]
Cooperating FFL

Thu, Apr 15, 2010 at 9:23 AM

To: Cooperating FFL <[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Cooperating FFL, ATF Agent [REDACTED]@usdoj.gov, ATF Agent [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov, ATF Agent [REDACTED]@usdoj.gov

Cooperating FFL

We at ATF consider [REDACTED] Cooperating FFL to be our ally in Project Gunrunner SWB Initiative and appreciate your cooperation with us in regards to this (and all) law enforcement matters. I have inquired from the Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) handling this case as to his availability to meet with you next week. He is checking his schedule and I expect to hear from him soon.

Employee 3

5251

Thanks again and please contact me any time with questions or concerns,

[Redacted]

Group Supervisor

Phoenix Group VII

602-[Redacted]

From: Cooperating FFL [Redacted]
 Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 1:30 PM
 To: [Redacted]
 Cc: Cooperating FFL [Redacted]; ATF Agent [Redacted]; ATF Agent [Redacted]; ATF Agent [Redacted]; Cooperating FFL [Redacted]
 Subject: Re: Ongoing ATF investigation

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Cooperating FFL [Redacted] Thu, Apr 15, 2010 at 10:39 AM
 To: "Voth, David J." <[Redacted]@usdoj.gov>
 Cc: Cooperating FFL [Redacted]; ATF Agent [Redacted]@usdoj.gov>; ATF Agent [Redacted]@usdoj.gov>; ATF Agent [Redacted]@usdoj.gov>

[Redacted]

Thank you for the kind words and the continued support. We will continue handling the transactions as we have in the past until we meet. If there is anything you need in the interim please don't hesitate to ask.

See you soon.

Respectfully,

Cooperating FFL [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

2/14/2011

Employee 3

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Fox News report

3 messages

Cooperating FFL

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@usdoj.gov>

Thu, Jun 17, 2010 at 11:56 AM

I hope this email finds you well.

As per our discussion about over communicating I wanted to share some concerns that came up. Tuesday night I watched a segment of a Fox News report about firearms and the border. The segment, if the information was correct, is disturbing to me. When you, Emory and I met on May 13th I shared my concerns with you guys that I wanted to make sure that none of the firearms that were sold per our conversation with you and various ATF agents could or would ever end up south of the border or in the hands of the bad guys. I guess I am looking for a bit of reassurance that the guns are not getting south or in the wrong hands. I know it is an ongoing investigation so there is limited information you can share with me. But as I said in our meeting, I want to help ATF with its investigation but not at the risk of agents safety because I have some very close friends that are US Border Patrol agents in southern AZ as well as my concern for all the agents safety that protect our country. If possible please email me back and share with me any reassurances that you can.

As always thank you for your time and I send this email with all respect and a hart felt concern to do the right thing.

Respectfully,

Cooperating FFL

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted signature block]

To: Cooperating FFL <[Redacted]@usdoi.gov>

Fri, Jun 18, 2010 at 2:25 PM

[Redacted]

Employee 3

5253

Cooperating FFL

Thanks for reaching out to me with your concerns. I would be happy to stop by and speak with you. If possible I have [redacted] next Tuesday, June 22, 2010. Any chance you are available that day around 10:00-10:30 am?

Thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted] Cooperating FFL
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 11:56 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Fox News report

[redacted]

Cooperating FFL
Reply-To: [redacted] Cooperating FFL
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@usdoj.gov>

Mon, Jun 21, 2010 at 9:34 PM

I am back intown. If you are still free to meet on the 22nd [redacted] around 10 and there for a few hours. Please stop by if you are available, if not let me know when we can reschedule.

Thank you,

Cooperating FFL

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@usdoj.gov>
Date: Fri, 18 Jun 2010 17:25:25 -0400
To: [redacted] Cooperating FFL
Subject: RE: Fox News report

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 7:22:39 PM
To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Hoover, William J.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
CC: Burton, Faith (SMO); Colborn, Paul P (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO)
Subject: Draft letter to Issa for tomorrow

Attachments: issa subpoena response 4-12-11.docx

Attached is a draft letter responding to Chairman Issa's letter of yesterday. We need to send it tomorrow, to coincide with the return date of the subpoena. Please review for accuracy and get me any comments/edits by noon tomorrow EST. Sorry for the quick turnaround time. DP

DP

Matt



issa
subpoena
response
4-12-11.docx
(29 kB)

Matthew S. Axelrod
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Desk (202) 305-0273
Cell (202) 532-3087

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2011 11:48:24 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: 2011 04 08 CEG to ATF (agent contacts)

6036

Attachments: 2011-04-08 CEG to ATF (agent contacts).pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2011 11:31 AM
To: Burton, Faith (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO); Weich, Ron (SMO); Agrast, Mark D. (SMO);
Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Subject: FW: 2011 04 08 CEG to ATF (agent contacts)

Fyi. Please let us know how you would like us to respond.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
DOJ- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives Chief - Office of Legislative Affairs
(mobile1)
(mobile2)
202.648. (office)
202.648.9708 (fax)

-----Original Message-----

From: Foster, Jason (Judiciary-Rep)
[mailto:Jason_Foster@judiciary-rep.senate.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2011 11:04 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Hoover, William J.; Melson, Kenneth E.
Cc: CEG (Judiciary-Rep); Castor, Stephen (Stephen.Castor@mail.house.gov); Virkstis, Matthew
(Judiciary)
Subject: 2011-04-08 CEG to ATF (agent contacts)

Please find attached a letter from Senator Grassley. Please ensure that all formal
correspondence on this matter is sent electronically in PDF format to
ceg@judiciary-rep.senate.gov (cc'd above). Please confirm receipt, and contact me with any
questions regarding this letter.
Thanks.

Cordially,
Jason A. Foster
Chief Investigative Counsel

Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate

(202) 224-5225

ATF8-001-001-00017979

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); [REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:10 PM
To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); [REDACTED]; Hoover, William J.; Melson, Kenneth E.; Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Scheel, Ann (USAAZ); Hernandez, Rachel (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ); Weinstein, Jason (CRM)
CC: Weiner, Robert (ODAG) (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO); Colborn, Paul P (SMO)
Subject: RE: AZ Proposed Edits to Draft Issa response

Thanks, Pat.

Matt

From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:01 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); [REDACTED]; Hoover, William J. (ATF); Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Scheel, Ann (USAAZ); Hernandez, Rachel (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ); Weinstein, Jason (CRM)
Cc: Weiner, Robert (ODAG); Burton, Faith (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO); Colborn, Paul P (SMO)
Subject: AZ Proposed Edits to Draft Issa response

Matt and Colleagues: Enclosed in Track Changes are our AZ proposed changes, and I reprinted the text in this email with the proposed changes in red.

DP

DP

For your background, here are the details of Avila's purchases and the Columbus, New Mexico stop that has been made public in part by the New Mexico USAO indictment of the Councilman [REDACTED]

On January 14, 2010, in Columbus, New Mexico, (a border town), U.S. Border Patrol agents pulled over a vehicle driven by [REDACTED], due to suspicious driving behavior. In the vehicle they found three AK-47 type rifles purchased by [REDACTED], three FN Herstal Five-Seven pistols purchased by [REDACTED] on January 9, 2010, from FFL [REDACTED], and two Ruger pistols purchased by another. U.S. Border Patrol agents did not observe any other criminal conduct and so returned the firearms to the occupants of the vehicle. They did not trace any of the firearms. ATF Phoenix was notified of the observation of the firearms on May 17, 2010, after ATF Las Cruces forwarded information in connection with a firearms trafficking investigation in New Mexico involving [REDACTED] and others. **The investigation of [REDACTED] is still on-going, likely involves public corruption and must be viewed as close-hold.**

[REDACTED]

On November 25, 2009, ATF entered [REDACTED] in the ATF case management system as a suspect in the investigation. This event does not result in the creation of an ROI.

[REDACTED]



Thanks and please call if you need more! PIC

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)

Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:28 PM

To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); [REDACTED] (ATF); Hoover, William J. (ATF); Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Scheel, Ann (USAAZ); Hernandez, Rachel (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ)

Cc: Weiner, Robert (ODAG) (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO); Colborn, Paul P (SMO)

Subject: Draft Issa response

Attached is a draft response to Chairman Issa's letter of March 16, as well as two attachments that would go with it. I've attached the incoming letter as well for ease of reference. We're hoping to get this letter back to Chairman Issa in the next day or two, so I'd ask the USAO and ATF to each send back comments/edits (if any) by the end of the day tomorrow. As always, if anything is inaccurate, please make sure to let me know. As always, thanks for your help on this.

Matt

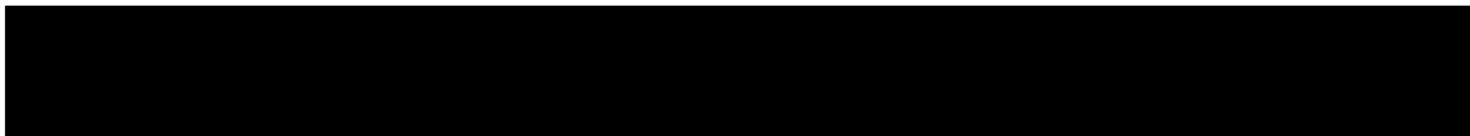
From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:12 AM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Chait, Mark R.

Subject: FW: Operation Wide Receiver - Firearms Summary

Attachments: Wide Receiver - Firearms Summary - Second Request - FINAL.xlsx



(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

202.648. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: Needles, James R.

Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:23 AM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: FW: Operation Wide Receiver - Firearms Summary

FYI

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 4:05 PM
To: Needles, James R.
Cc: [REDACTED]; Gillett, George T. Jr.
Subject: RE: Operation Wide Receiver - Firearms Summary

Jim

Attached is the modified firearms chart reference Operation Wide Receiver. This chart now cites the number of firearms (purchased by one of the listed ATF defendants) seized by ATF before and after these defendants had been identified in the investigation.

Please advise if you have any questions or require additional information.

Thanks.

[REDACTED] - Senior IRS
Acting Intel Group Supervisor
[REDACTED] - Direct
[REDACTED] - Mobile
(602) 776-5519 - Fax

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 3:51 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Operation Wide Receiver - Firearms Summary

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 1:16 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Needles, James R.
Subject: FW: Operation Wide Receiver - Firearms Summary

[REDACTED]

Please break down how many of the recovered firearms in Wide Receiver were seized by ATF specifically.

Thank you,

George

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 8:29 AM
To: Newell, William D.
Cc: Needles, James R.; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Operation Wide Receiver - Firearms Summary

Bill --

The Wide Receiver breakdown that was requested.

George T. Gillett

Assistant Special Agent in Charge
ATF - Phoenix Field Division
Office: (602) 776-5400

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 8:13 PM
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Operation Wide Receiver - Firearms Summary

George

Attached is the final version of the Operation Wide Receiver indicted purchasers.

Please advise if you have any questions.

[REDACTED] Thanks for your assistance on this request.

[REDACTED] Direct
[REDACTED] Mobile
(602) 776-5519 - Fax

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 9:33 AM
To: Zicha, Marjorie L.
Cc: [REDACTED]; Newell, William D.
Subject: Re: Operation Wide Receiver - Work in Progress

Thanks [REDACTED]

George T. Gillett
ASAC - Phoenix Field Division
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Cc: [REDACTED]

Employee 3

6107

Sent: Thu Mar 17 12:32:23 2011

Subject: Operation Wide Receiver - Work in Progress

George

I hope this e-mail finds you well. Here is the initial work product for the firearms summary reference the Operation Wide Receiver. [REDACTED] will be updating this chart and I will forward to you today.

Thanks.

[REDACTED] - Senior IRS
Acting Intel Group Supervisor

[REDACTED] - Direct

[REDACTED] - Mobile

(602) 776-5519 - Fax

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 3:39 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject:

[REDACTED]

I have 9 indicted with dates and firearms purchased per an excel spreadsheet. I am still finalizing the totals with e-trace and should have that finalized by tomorrow.

[REDACTED]
Intelligence Research Specialist
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
Phoenix Field Division
Intelligence Group

Office: [REDACTED]

Cell: [REDACTED]

ATF8-001-001-00018368

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 3:48 PM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Subject: RE: Emails and Reports

A third question. Pat's email below indicates that

DP

DP

Thanks.

Matt

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 3:39 PM
To: (ATF); Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); Hoover, William J. (ATF)
Subject: FW: Emails and Reports

Fyi. I have a few follow up questions.

One, was proposed investigation authorized? If so, were guns allowed to walk as he proposed?

And two, proposal includes a sentence that states "[t]his request is predicated on ATF's previous authorization of allowing firearms to be trafficked ('walked') in furtherance of investigations which target FTO's as opposed to individuals." Do you know what "previous authorization" is referring to? Also, do you know whether (or anyone else who saw this proposal) ever asked what he meant by that sentence?

Thanks, guys.

Matt

From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:26 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Cc: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Scheel, Ann (USAAZ); Hernandez, Rachel (USAAZ); Weinstein, Jason (CRM); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ)
Subject: Emails and Reports

Matt and Colleagues: enclosed are the two emails I spoke of last week on our call regarding the Issa letter, now subpoena.

In the Email of May 27 at the bottom of page 3, seeks authority to "walk" guns and specifically states, "The logic employed is that by authorizing the "walking" of a small amount of firearms that, ultimately we can cease the trafficking of a significant number. (i.e. walking 4 to 6 – prevent hundreds from being trafficked.)" The target in this case,

As we discussed last week, this kind of cooperation was never planned or executed in Fast and Furious, yet somehow an ROI from the case made it into a Senator Grassley letter.

DP

DP

What do you think? PIC

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 3:38 PM
To: [REDACTED] Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] Emails and Reports
Attachments: [REDACTED] Email May 24 1010.pdf; [REDACTED] Email May 27 2010.pdf

Fyi. I have a few follow up questions.

One, was [REDACTED] proposed investigation authorized? If so, were guns allowed to walk as he proposed?

And two, [REDACTED] proposal includes a sentence that states "[t]his request is predicated on ATF's previous authorization of allowing firearms to be trafficked ('walked') in furtherance of investigations which target FTO's as opposed to individuals." Do you know what "previous authorization" [REDACTED] is referring to? Also, do you know whether [REDACTED] (or anyone else who saw this proposal) ever asked [REDACTED] what he meant by that sentence?

Thanks, guys.

Matt

From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:26 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Cc: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Scheel, Ann (USAAZ); Hernandez, Rachel (USAAZ); Weinstein, Jason (CRM); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ)
Subject: [REDACTED] Emails and Reports

Matt and Colleagues: enclosed are the two [REDACTED] emails I spoke of last week on our call regarding the Issa letter, now subpoena.

In the [REDACTED] Email of May 27 at the bottom of page 3, [REDACTED] seeks authority to "walk" guns and specifically states, "The logic employed is that by authorizing the "walking" of a small amount of firearms that, ultimately we can cease the trafficking of a significant number. (i.e. walking 4 to 6 – prevent hundreds from being trafficked.)" The target in this case, [REDACTED]

As we discussed last week, this kind of cooperation was never planned or executed in Fast and Furious, yet somehow an ROI from the [REDACTED] case made it into a Senator Grassley letter.

DP

What do you think? PIC

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 2:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 785115-10-0020 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I too believe this to be a great case with a tremendous amount of potential. Although we have discussed much of this, I wanted to take the time to ensure that it was all addressed.

I apologize for the NFORCE issues. Unfortunately, I allowed the quick pace at which the investigation took off, compiled with the hurdles of often having GRIT members utilizing my station, to leave me playing catch-up. Again, my apologies and trust that I will do all that I can to prevent it from happening again. In such an attempt, now that direct contact has been made between [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"an AUSA won't be able to approve of letting firearms "walk" in furtherance of your investigation without first briefing the US Attorney and Criminal Chief."

I appreciate your help and guidance on this,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Special Agent / ATF - Phoenix Group VII
3010 N 2nd ST, Suite #301
Phoenix, AZ 85012
[REDACTED] / Fax: (602) 605-6500 / [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 3:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 785115-10-0020 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

First let me say that this is great case and worthy of your investigative efforts. However, at your earliest convenience we need to speak regarding this case. In reviewing the case in N-Force there are several concerns I have. Additionally, I note that there are several well written reports that have not been generated. Please generate, print, sign, and turn into me these reports ASAP. Also I note there is a audio recording that was made, yet under "Property in ATF Custody" there is nothing listed. Which

brings up the "Electronic Surveillance" issue. Please see the below cut-n-pasted order regarding approval/notification and entry of Electronic Surveillance.

ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE. The Electronic Surveillance folder keeps a record of each subject monitored during an ATF investigation. This critical information is used not only for investigative purposes, but also so that ATF can respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests as required by law. Multiple surveillance subjects can be entered into one Electronic Surveillance Event using the relationship tab feature. Identify the primary subject of the intercept and then choose additional subjects from the Persons folder to relate to the event as a person under surveillance.

- a. The ATF approval authority for consensual monitoring is delegated to the respective RAC/GS. The approval may be made verbally and remains in effect for the life of the investigation. RAC/GS approval of electronic surveillance must be noted in the Management Log and should be entered by the supervisor.
- b. Notification of consensual monitoring should be made to the United States (U.S.) Attorney's Office for the Federal judicial district having jurisdiction over the investigation prior to monitoring any subject. The notification may be made verbally and remains in effect for the life of the investigation.
- c. Non-consensual monitoring shall be handled in accordance with ATF orders and Federal laws governing such conduct. Non-consensual monitoring is also required to be reported in the Electronic Surveillance folder.
- d. The RAC/GS shall ensure that all electronic interceptions are entered into N-Force within 5 business days. An ROI is also required to document the event in which the electronic monitoring occurred. All tapes, disks, or other media used to monitor the surveillance shall be entered as Electronic Intercept property into the Property in ATF Custody folder.

I appreciate your efforts on this case but we need to comply with the ATF Orders and Regulations as well. ATF Orders; 3530.2 Electronic Surveillance, 3400.1B Property Taken into Bureau Custody, 3111.1 Use of N-Force, and 3270.10C Law Enforcement Investigative Reports.

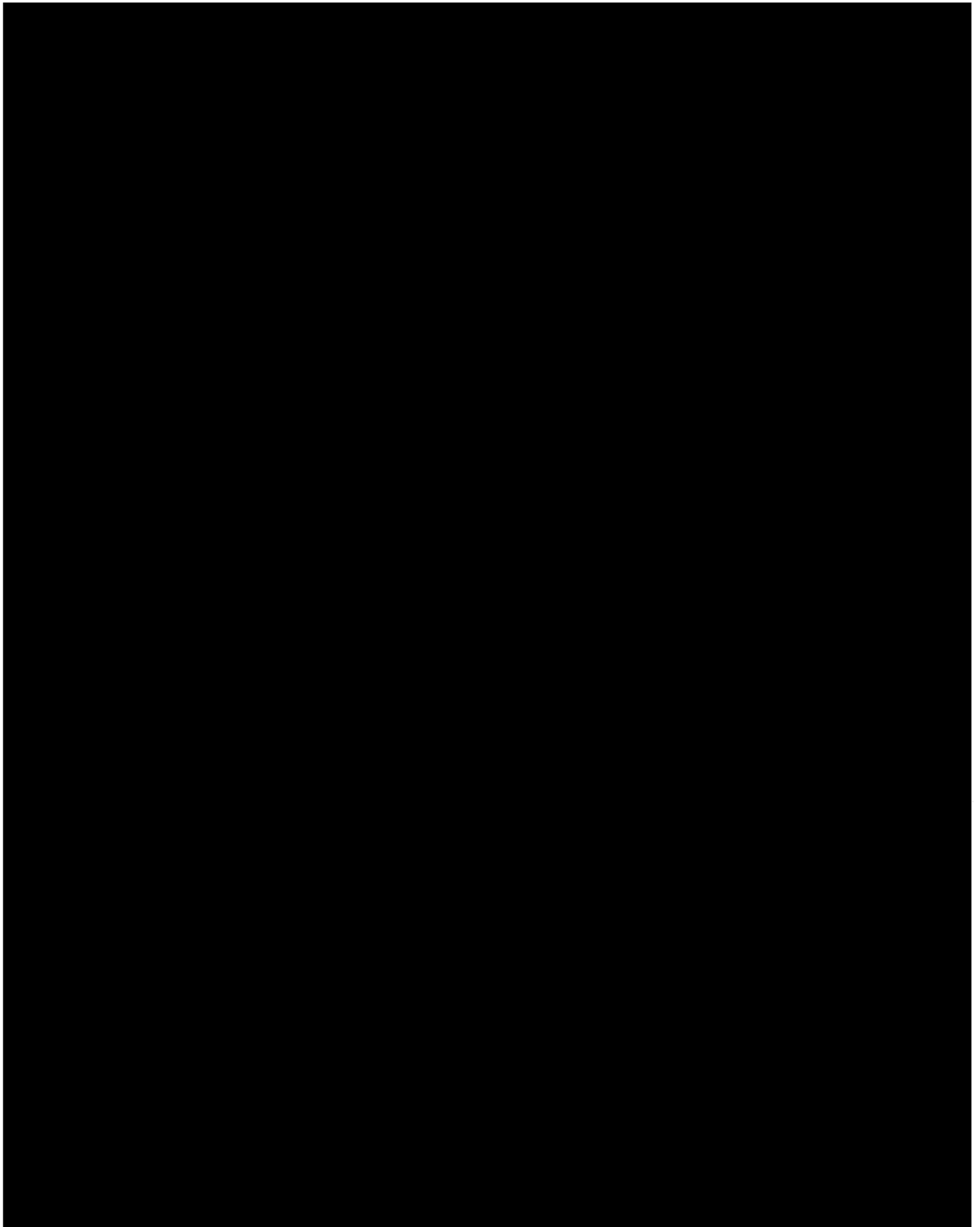
[REDACTED]
Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
[REDACTED]

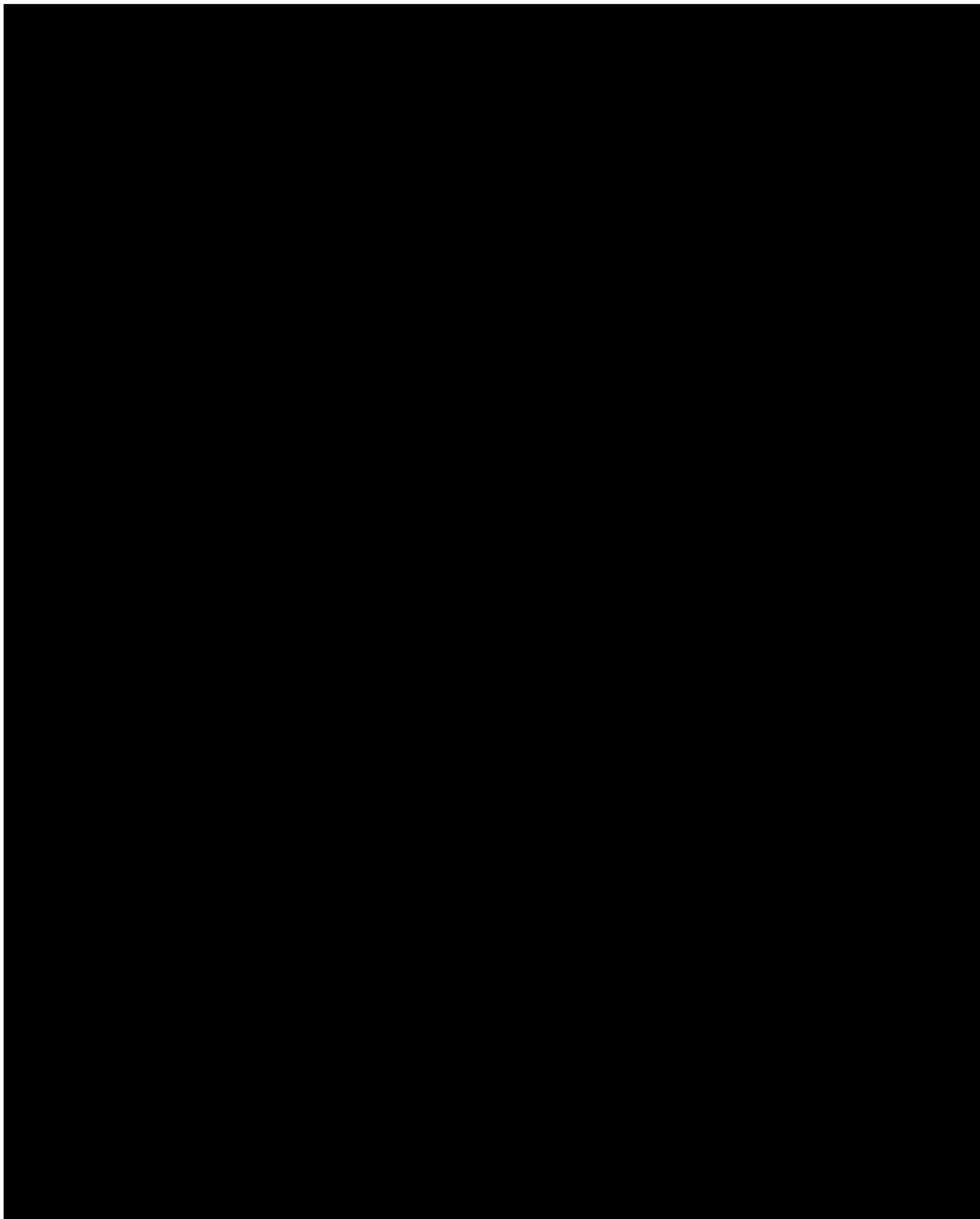
[REDACTED]

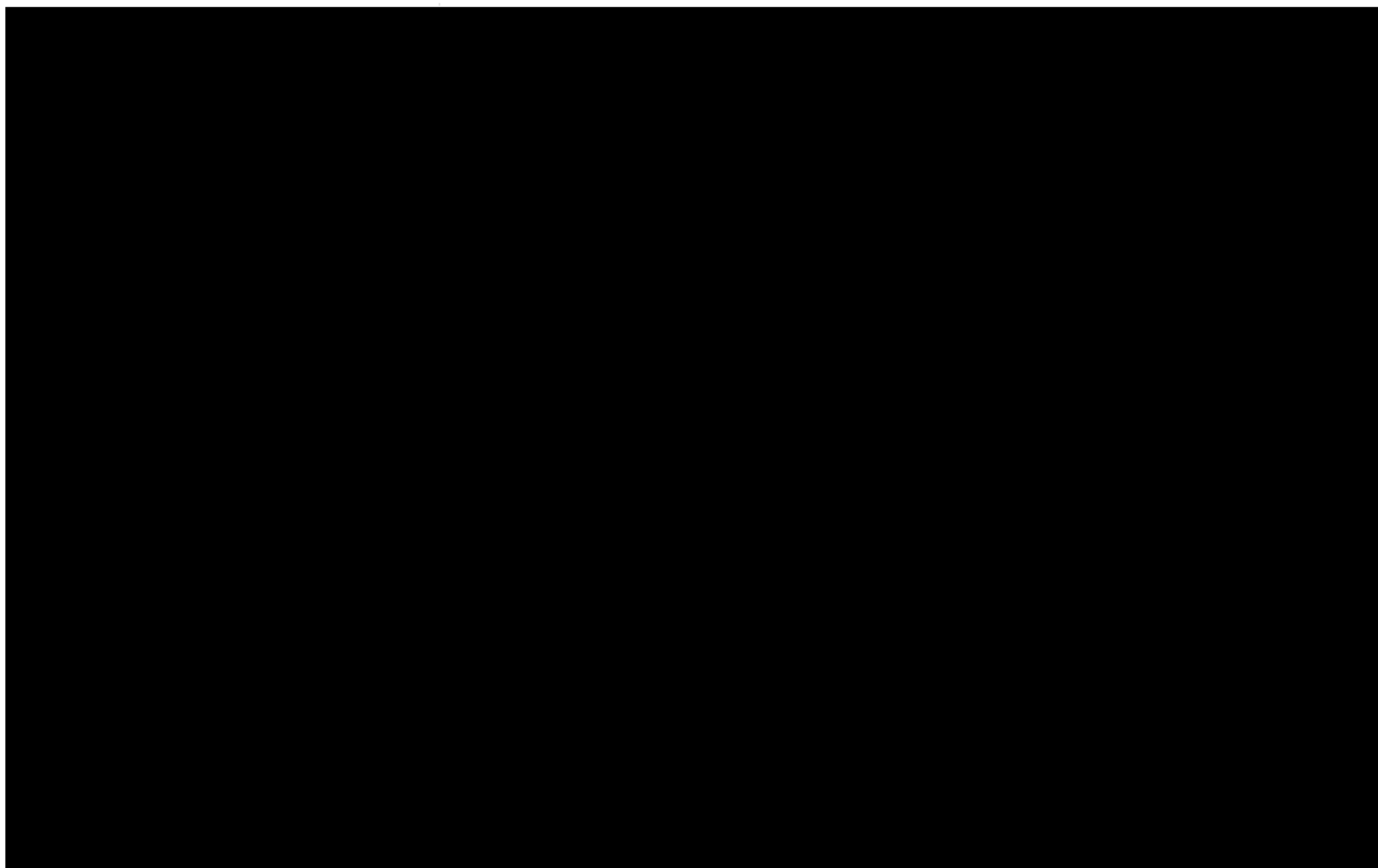
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 12:51 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Vers - 3.0
Attachments: PROPOSED UNDERCOVER.docx

[REDACTED] / Special Agent / ATF - Phoenix Group VII
3010 N 2nd ST, Suite #301
Phoenix, AZ 85012
[REDACTED] / Fax: (602) 605-6500 / [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]







From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 9:41 AM
To: [REDACTED]; Hoover, William J.
Subject: RE: Need some quick help

Definitely. Thanks, [REDACTED] DP
[REDACTED] DP

Matt

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 8:43 AM
To: Hoover, William J. (ATF); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Subject: FW: Need some quick help

[REDACTED] covered the subject well.

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100


From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 6:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Need some quick help

[REDACTED] I can refine this list over the weekend or Monday, but adding or echoing what's been stated already by DOJ, USAO-AZ, and in Rep. Cummings' letter. [REDACTED] DP
[REDACTED] DP

[REDACTED] DP



DP



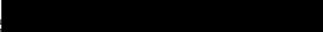

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129




Cell 



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From: 
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:59 PM
To: 
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Guys – anything you can contribute would be welcome.



Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: 
C: 
HQ Room 5 S 100

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From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:55 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

[REDACTED]

Would you start at the bottom of this string and read up? If we can respond Monday that would be great. I will be thinking of things as well. Please share with others for ideas.

Thank you!

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) [REDACTED]

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From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [mailto:Matthew.Axelrod@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:30 PM
To: Hoover, William J.
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Billy,

Here's what Pat sent me. Anything you guys have to add would be useful. Thanks.

Matt

From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 3:43 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Cc: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ); Hurley, Emory (USAAZ); Kelly, Kristen (USAAZ) 6
Subject: RE: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Matt: Yes, this is incredibly rough and the problems are:



DP

Gong to IG meeting now. PIC

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 11:32 AM
To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Subject: Need some quick help

Any way you can send me a list of the specific ways that the Congressional inquiries are harming your investigation?

DP



Matthew S. Axelrod

Employee 3

6132

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

Desk (202) 305-0273

Cell (202) 532-3087

From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Need some quick help

Importance: High

[REDACTED]

Would you start at the bottom of this string and read up? If we can respond Monday that would be great. I will be thinking of things as well. Please share with others for ideas.

Thank you!

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) [REDACTED]

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Matt

From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 3:43 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Cc: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ); Hurley, Emory (USAAZ); Kelly, Kristen (USAAZ) 6
Subject: RE: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Matt: Yes, this is incredibly rough and the problems are:



DP

Gong to IG meeting now. PJC

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 11:32 AM
To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Subject: Need some quick help

Any way you can send me a list of the specific ways that the Congressional inquiries are harming your investigation?

DP
DP



Matthew S. Axelrod

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Employee 3

6136

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

Desk (202) 305-0273

Cell (202) 532-3087

From: Martin, Steve K.
Sent: **Employee 3**, March 31, 2011 4:35:02 PM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.
CC: Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]
Subject: Briefings

6145

Attachments: 12172009 fast and furios organization.pdf; 12172009 [REDACTED] Seizure and Gulf Cartel.pdf; PHX presentation (final) draft presented on 030510.pdf Adobe Acrobat Professional

Sir,
Meeting info is as follows:

- 12/9/09: ATF OSII IRS [REDACTED] briefed you and others in the DCR on the info surrounding the [REDACTED] Seizure (Nov 2009 seizure just across the border in Mex--1st large seizure re F&F).

- 12/10/09: Begin to prepare a Dec 2009 brief for FO re [REDACTED] Seizure and info from [REDACTED] Seizure

- 12/17/09: OSII briefed in SOD 7th floor conf room for ATF senior leadership and DOJ attorneys (Kevin Carwile and Joe Cooley). Scope was the [REDACTED] Seizure and the Phoenix F&F ongoing case. Used paper charts showing link analysis of F&F and link analysis of [REDACTED] (2 attachments 12/17/2009). [REDACTED]

- 1/5/10: OSII SCIF, weekly FO Intel brief focused on F&F and status (I discussed this mtg with you in depth).

3/5/10: OSII lead brief for ATF senior leadership, DOJ attorney (Joe Cooley) in SOD 7th floor space. VTC with Phoenix, Houston, Dallas and LA. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] led briefing with PP (attachment 03052010). [REDACTED]

-3/11/10: ATF Kevin O'Keefe gave you an abbreviated 3/5/10 briefing with PP slides in the DCR (you were unable to attend on 3/5/10.
Steve

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-----Original Message-----

From: Martin, Steve K.
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 10:58 PM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re:

Sir,
We have the PP, the date was March 5? (I will have exact date in the morning) and I will have the attorney's name in the morn.
Steve
Steve Martin-DAD-OSII/ATF

Original Message

From: Melson, Kenneth E.
To: Martin, Steve K.; Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed Mar 30 22:44:24 2011
Subject:

Steve: do you have the date we briefed the DOJ attorney in FO space and do you have a copy

ATF8-001-001-00018645

of the PPT?

Employee 3

6146

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From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:33 PM
To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Scheel, Ann (USAAZ); Hernandez, Rachel (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ); ; Hoover, William J.; Melson, Kenneth E.; Burton, Faith (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO); Colborn, Paul P (SMO)
CC: Weiner, Robert (ODAG) (SMO)
Subject: Final version of Smith response
Attachments: smith fast and furious response 3-31-11.docx

Attached is what I hope and expect to be the final version of the response to Congressman Smith. It incorporates a number of the changes suggested by OLA, the USAO, and ATF. Please let me know by 4:00 EST if you have strong objections to anything in the letter. If I don't hear back from you by then, I will assume that you have none. I will then work to get the final version cleared here so that it can go out the door. Thanks, everyone, for all your hard work on this.

Matt



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES AND THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR ACCESS TO THE FIREARMS TRACKING SYSTEM ETRACE

The Attorney General's Office (PGR) of the United Mexican States and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) of the United States of America, hereinafter "the Participants",

WHEREAS, PGR is the Mexican Government body which is, inter alia, in charge of the investigation and prosecution of federal crimes, and empowered to sign agreements with foreign government agencies to strengthen mutual cooperation against firearms trafficking;

CONSIDERING that ATF is an agency of the Department of Justice of the United States of America dedicated to protect the nation from, among other things, violent crimes, organized crime, illegal use and trafficking of firearms, and illegal use of explosives; and

IN ORDER TO establish the basis for coordination, cooperation and leadership in their respective jurisdictions of law enforcement activities and research related to eTrace system,

Have reached the following understanding:

Section I. Objective

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish the terms and conditions under which PGR may access and use the eTrace system.

ETrace is an electronic firearm trace submission system, which has a trace analysis computer module that is readily accessible through a connection to the World Wide Web (Internet). This internet application provides the necessary utilities for submitting, retrieving, storing and querying firearms trace related information relative to particular jurisdictions, thereby allowing for the systematic tracing of firearms that may have been recovered by law enforcement authorities. The eTrace system is intended solely for the use of law enforcement officials to combat illicit trafficking in firearms.

By submitting and obtaining firearms information through the eTrace system, PGR may better identify firearms trafficking patterns and geographic profiling for criminal hot spots and possible sources of illicit firearms.

Section II. General Provisions

1. The tracking referred by this MOU is limited to firearms seized by Mexican authorities.
2. ATF's National Tracking Center (NTC) will be the receiving and central repository of all information entered into the eTrace system.
3. PGR intend to enter into the eTrace system complete and accurate information related with firearms

tracking in Mexico. To this end, PGR will coordinate and administer, through the National Center of Planning, Analysis and Information Against Delinquency (CENAPI) the information generated by all the Mexican authorities involved in the seizure of firearms.

4. Through the eTrace system, PGR will have access to all data generated by tracking of firearms seized in Mexico, whether it was submitted by users designated by the PGR or by users of US agencies.

Section III. Procedures

To meet the objective of this MOU:

A. PGR will:

1. Appoint a primary and alternate point of contact within PGR. The above appointed individuals are to be responsible for providing and maintaining a list of all personnel within PGR that will require access to eTrace.
2. Complete "Attachment A" (PGR Approved eTrace Users) of this MOU. Only the persons listed in Attachment A will have access to the eTrace system, as PGR's authorized users.
3. Immediately notify the ATF National Tracing Center (NTC) in the event that an individual's eTrace account needs to be suspended or revoked. Such suspension or revocation might be necessary for any number of reasons, to include but not be limited to: employee transfer, retirement, or release from employment. Initial notification for account revocation can be made by contacting the eTrace Customer Support Group at telephone number (304) 260-██████████
4. Refer to the eTrace Customer Support Group of the NTC any technical questions related to the use, operation or solution of technical difficulties related to eTrace contacting the phone number (304) 260-██████████ fax number (800) 578-██████████ email address edward.stely@atf.gov, or postal address:

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
National Tracing Center Division
244 Needy Road
Martinsburg, WV 25401
Attn: eTrace Customer Service Group

B. ATF, through the National Tracing Center will:

1. Appoint a primary and alternate point of contact.
2. Provide to PGR, upon entry into force of this MOU, detailed instructions about the procedure to request and receive an eTrace user account.
3. Process all applications for eTrace access in a timely manner and facilitate the provisioning of accounts to include relative user identifiers and passwords. Once accounts are activated, a representative from the NTC is to contact each individual user and provide them with their account information.

4. Upon receipt of a PGR's request for account revocation, immediately deactivate the pertinent user account.
5. Provide the PGR's and ATF's designated POC with an annual (or upon request) listing of PGR's approved eTrace users for review purposes.

Section IV. Points of Contact

The Participants will designate primary and alternate points of contact for coordinating all communications and issues related to this MOU.

The designated points of contact are as follows:

PGR: National Center of Planning, Analysis and Information Against Delinquency (CENAPI)
 Address: Xóchitl s/n, Col. El Reloj, Del. Coyoacán, C.P. 04640, México D.F.

	Designated PGR Contact	Alternate PGR Contact
Name:	José Luis Figueroa Cuevas	José Luis Palacios Razo
Title:	Head of CENAPI	General Coordinator of Information Against Delinquency
Phone #:	[REDACTED]	

ATF: National Tracing Center
 Address: 244 Needy Road
 Martinsburg, WV 25401
 (800) 788-[REDACTED]

	Designated ATF Contact	Alternate ATF Contact
Name:	[REDACTED]	
Title:	ATF Attaché, Mexico City	Assistant Country Attaché, Mexico City
Phone #:	[REDACTED] 55 (office) [REDACTED] (blackberry)	[REDACTED] (office) [REDACTED] (phone)

Section V. Information Management and Protection

1. The information obtained under this MOU may be used in judicial or administrative proceedings only in accordance with the respective Participants' laws, regulations and legal procedures.
2. Consistent with their respective laws, the Participants acknowledge that premature disclosure of certain firearms trace information can reasonably be expected to interfere with pending or prospective proceedings related to illicit firearms trafficking. This sensitive information includes data that can link a

traced firearm to: the location of a crime; the Federal firearms licensee; retail purchaser or possessor of a traced firearm; or to firearms trafficking patterns involving a traced firearm. Therefore, neither PGR nor ATF may disclose law enforcement sensitive firearms trace information generated pursuant to this MOU to a non-law enforcement entity without the consent of the other Participant, unless otherwise obligated by law.

3. The Participants acknowledge that traces are restricted to firearms that are illegally possessed, used in a crime, taken into custody by public security authorities, or suspected by public security officials of having been used in a crime or act of terrorism.

Section VI. Monitoring Mechanism

Each Participant intends to designate a representative to evaluate and monitor the implementation of this MOU.

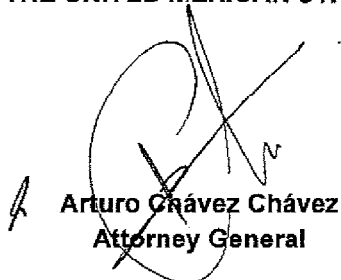
Designated representatives intend to make regular reports to the Participants about the results obtained in the framework of this MOU. Likewise, these representatives will solve any aspect derived from its application or interpretation, through consultations.

Section VII. Final Provisions


1. This MOU will enter into force from its date of signature and will remain in effect until either Participant decides to terminate it by written communication addressed to the other Participant thirty (30) days in advance.
2. The termination of this MOU will entail the revocation of all eTrace accounts provided under this MOU.
3. This MOU may be amended by mutual agreement of the Participants in writing.

Signed in Mexico City, on the fifth day of October, in the year 2010 in two originals in English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

**FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE OF
THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES**


**Arturo Chávez Chávez
Attorney General**

**FOR THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO,
FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA**


**Kenneth E. Melson
Acting Director**

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Employee 3, March 31, 2011 7:51:42 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Hold the presses

6206

Did we know this already?

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Original Message

From: [REDACTED]
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]

Sent: Wed Mar 30 22:41:01 2011
Subject: Re: Hold the presses

I have not returned the proposed language for Mexico to Matt yet. The proposed response to Mr Smith does not address these issues in any form.

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648-[REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]

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----- Original Message -----

From: Melson, Kenneth E.
To: [REDACTED]; Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]

Sent: Wed Mar 30 22:01:39 2011
Subject: Hold the presses

I have not yet come across the ROI concerning [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Is this what Grassley was referring to in his letter?
[REDACTED]

Ken

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 6:35 AM

To: McDermond, James E.; Potter, Mark W.;

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CC: Hoover, William J.; Melson, Kenneth E.

Subject: RE: See request below.

I believe this email from Jill that Greg forwarded yesterday is on topic and precludes our briefing at this time, or at least requires her approval.

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----- Original Message -----

From: Wade, Jill C (SMO) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Wed Mar 30 16:28:59 2011

Subject: Am in ODAG --

Please do not accept ANY briefing requests right now re: SWB...particularly agents carrying in MX. Pls send all requests to me.

You'll see another email soon on this from higher ups.

[REDACTED]
Special Assistant to the Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

From: McDermond, James E.

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 8:35 PM
To: Potter, Mark W.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: See request below.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (3) (A)

Jim
James McDermond, Assistant Director - ATF

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From: Potter, Mark W.
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) McDermond, James E.
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wed Mar 30 18:55:27 2011
Subject: Re: See request below.

Yes
Mark W Potter
Special Agent in Charge
ATF-Phila Field Division
215-446-7801 (o)
215- (c)

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From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]; Potter, Mark W.; McDermond, James E.
Cc: [Redacted]
Sent: Wed Mar 30 18:52:49 2011
Subject: RE: See request below.

DP

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 11:22 AM
To: Potter, Mark W.; McDermond, James E.
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: See request below.

Fyi...

[REDACTED]
DOJ- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
Chief - Office of Legislative Affairs

[REDACTED] (mobile1)
[REDACTED] (mobile2)
[REDACTED] (office)
202.648.9708 (fax)

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From: Wade, Jill C (SMO) [mailto:Jill.C.Wade@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 6:21 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: See request below.

DP

Let me know your reaction.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 10:45 AM
To: Weich, Ron (SMO); Wade, Jill C (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (ATF); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (ATF); [REDACTED] (ATF); Chait, Mark R. (ATF); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (ATF)
Subject: See request below.

From: Rees, Harold
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Request for Briefing

As I mentioned on the phone this morning, the House Foreign Affairs Committee is interested in learning more about ATF international trafficking issues generally regarding Latin America and more specifically, to the extent possible, ATF efforts regarding the trafficking of illegally purchased firearms into Mexico. Although our interest was spurred by recent reports regarding Project Gunrunner, we would not expect ATF to divulge information that would interfere with criminal investigations that are open or ongoing. I understand that ATF testified a few years ago before our Western Hemisphere subcommittee Members. At this point, we are just interested in a staff briefing due to our obvious foreign policy interests in the matter. We also plan to seek a briefing from the Department of State regarding the impact of these reports on the US relationship with the government of Mexico. Below is a copy of a news article that caught our attention:

Mexican legislators demand US talks on gun scandal

Mexico nabs alleged head of 'Resistance' drug gang

Mexican police have captured the alleged leader of a drug gang that calls itself "The Resistance," a group that operates in western Mexico, officials said Monday.

The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY -- Legislators from all of Mexico's three major parties in congress are calling for a joint U.S.-Mexico working group to examine accusations that U.S. federal agents allowed hundreds of guns to flow into Mexico. Congressman Humberto Trevino estimated Tuesday that 150 shooting injuries or deaths have been linked to guns that were allowed to proceed into Mexico as part of a U.S. effort to build cases against traffickers. Two of those weapons were involved in the killing of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent in December in southeastern Arizona.

Mexican drug cartels frequently pay straw purchasers to buy weapons at U.S. gun stores and smuggle them south to avoid stringent gun-control laws in Mexico.

Read more: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/03/08/2104723/mexican-legislators-demand-us.html#ixzz1G7GKLu3c>

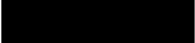
Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions. We look forward to talking with you as soon as possible. Thank you.

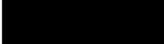
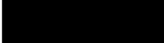
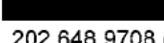
HAROLD REES

Employee 3

6212

CHIEF COUNSEL, OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
2170 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5021


DOJ- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
Chief - Office of Legislative Affairs

 (mobile1)
 (mobile2)
 (office)
202.648.9708 (fax)

From: Melson, Kenneth E.

Sent: **Employee 3**, March 31, 2011 1:55:52 AM

6213

To: [REDACTED]; Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); Hoover, William J.

Subject:

Also see paragraph 163 [REDACTED]

Also, paragraph 148 [REDACTED] Ken

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From: Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Employee 3, March 30, 2011 10:43:16 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Hold the presses

6216

(b) (5)

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----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]

Sent: Wed Mar 30 22:41:01 2011
Subject: Re: Hold the presses

I have not returned the proposed language for Mexico to Matt yet. The proposed response to Mr Smith does not address these issues in any form.

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648-[REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]

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----- Original Message -----

From: Melson, Kenneth E.
To: [REDACTED]; Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]

Sent: Wed Mar 30 22:01:39 2011
Subject: Hold the presses

I have not yet come across the ROI concerning [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Is this what Grassley was referring to in his letter? [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Ken

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ATF8-001-001-00019080

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From: Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: **Employee 3**, Monday, March 30, 2011 10:01:44 PM
To: Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]
Subject: It gets worse!

6218

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■

From: Melson, Kenneth E.

Sent: **Employee 3**, March 30, 2011 10:01:41 PM

6219

To: [REDACTED]; Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]

Subject: More

In paragraph 77 of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: Melson, Kenneth E.

Sent: **Employee 3**, Monday, March 30, 2011 10:01:39 PM

6220

To: [REDACTED]; Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]

Subject: Hold the presses

I have not yet come across the ROI concerning the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Is this what Grassley was referring to in his letter? [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ken

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From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 8:20:21 PM
To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); [REDACTED] Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; Burton, Faith (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO); Colborn, Paul P (SMO); Schmalzer, Tracy (SMO); Wilkinson, Monty (OAG) (SMO); Weiner, Robert (ODAG) (SMO); [REDACTED]
Subject: Response to Congressman Issa letter

All,

I think we need to meet tomorrow from 2:00 to 3:00 EST to discuss the Department's response to Congressman Issa's letter dated March 16, 2011. As I mentioned to some of you on the phone, [REDACTED] DP

[REDACTED] DP I'm hopeful that we can get a preliminary readout from the USAO and ATF on that tomorrow during the meeting. I'll have my assistant set up a call-in # for the folks in Arizona and will get a conference room here for everyone else. Thanks.

Matt

Matthew S. Axelrod
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Desk (202) 305-0273
Cell (202) 532-3087

DRAFT RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS/COMMENTS IN GRASSLEY LETTER OF 2/9/11

Page 1, Para 1: “ATF agents told my staff that the agency allowed the sale of assault rifles to known and suspected straw purchasers for an illegal trafficking ring near the southwest border.”

ATF has an open criminal investigation involving a large, illegal firearms trafficking organization associated with Mexican based drug traffickers. As part of the investigative process, ATF has identified numerous purchasers and other persons potentially and/or suspected of being engaged in the criminal activity. During the course of the investigation, non-prohibited individuals being investigated as suspected straw purchasers continued to periodically purchase firearms from federally licensed firearms dealers. Some of these purchases became known to ATF through reported multiple sales, information from licensed dealers, information from cooperating individuals, surveillances conducted by ATF, interdictions and/or gun traces by other US law enforcement agencies, and in some cases, gun recoveries and/or traces in Mexico.

Page 1, Para 2: “In that letter, the Department categorically denied that the ATF “knowingly allowed the sale of assault weapons to a straw purchaser...” The Department said that the ATF makes “every effort to interdict weapons that have been purchased illegally and prevent their transportation to Mexico.”

The omitted portion of the first statement by DOJ referenced above is “...who then transported them to Mexico – is false.” As noted by DOJ, ATF makes every effort to interdict weapons that have been purchased illegally and prevent their transportation to Mexico. Again, we have to note that all of these purchases involve non-prohibited persons following the federal firearms procedures. The fact that such persons may have made numerous purchases, including purchases of firearms identifiable as weapons of choice in Mexico or purchases involving multiple firearms, does not in itself establish a federal violation. Even if the individuals subsequently sold these firearms to another person, or if some of the firearms were recovered in crimes in the US or Mexico, additional evidence would be required to establish a violation. ATF used every available tool and every effort was made to interdict firearms in this case going south to Mexico. The number of seizures made by ATF and other US law enforcement officials reflect that.

ATF in Phoenix, prior to, during and after the GRIT operation that initiated in May 2010, conducted extensive surveillance on source FFL locations, suspect purchasers and other trafficking suspects. ATF detailed numerous agents from out-of-town and out-of-state to assist in surveillances during this case prior to the arrival of the GRIT participants, from approximately March 14 to May 3, 2010. These detailed agents worked exclusive surveillance for 7 weeks, 7 days a week, for nearly 4,000 hours of surveillance. In addition, the Phoenix Group VII personnel also conducted numerous surveillance operations prior to the arrival and after the

departure of these detailees, including during the GRIT operations. ATF Phoenix developed and maintained a detailed surveillance assignment list. In addition to physical, mobile surveillance, ATF utilized a variety of electronic surveillance methods, including but not limited to pole cameras and [REDACTED] interceptions. Also, the Phoenix Police Department Air Wing was utilized on numerous occasions to conduct aerial surveillance. During all of these surveillance operations, at no time did ATF knowingly conduct surveillance of any person or vehicles in which firearms “walked” into Mexico.

As should be noted, even with the detailees and the additional manpower derived from the GRIT operation, ATF Phoenix could not surveil every “suspected” residence, purchaser and dealer premises on a non-stop, 24/7 basis. This was not, and is not today, the only firearms trafficking case we are working in the Phoenix area. We utilized personnel and other tools as much as possible, but when a “suspected straw purchaser” goes into their home with firearms and nothing happens for days, we must make judgments as to how to best proceed with the investigation. In this case, we were dealing with in excess of [REDACTED] “suspected straw” purchasers and other suspects. This ATF office has at least that many [REDACTED] active cases. In addition, even if we were to approach a suspected straw purchaser, we have no ability to force the person to tell us where or to whom the guns may be going. If such interviews are conducted and lead to legally acceptable responses, we must continue our investigative efforts, despite having alerted the suspect to our efforts.

Page 1, Para 3: “The ATF had been tracking [REDACTED] purchases because [REDACTED] was a suspected trafficker since at least November 2009.”

Page 2, Para 1: “The dealer who sold the weapons... met with ATF representatives and Assistant US Attorneys as early as December 17, 2009...”

Page 2, Para 1: “By January 13, ATF added [REDACTED] to a suspect person database for the investigation.”

Page 2, Para 2: “On January 16, 2010, [REDACTED] bought three AK-47 variant, Romanian WASR-10 assault rifles... ATF entered these weapons into the...Suspect Gun Database three days later.”

In reviewing the attached documents, which appear to be redacted ATF internal investigative reports and emails, the following was noted.

Attachment 1: This multiple sale summary report is dated 11/25/2009. It relates to a purchase made on 11/24/2009. At that time, [REDACTED] was not yet identified by ATF as a “suspect” in the Suspect Gun Database.

Attachment 2: This redacted ATF Management Log, partially illegible, appears to document that ATF coordinated and deconflicted this investigation with other federal OCDETF agencies, including DEA and ICE, in furtherance of the overall US law enforcement efforts along the southwest border. ATF Phoenix VII is an ATF-led OCDETF Strike Force group that is collocated with other federal agencies that lead OCDETF strike force groups. It also notes the contact with the FFL on 12/17/2009.

Attachment 3: This Multiple Sale summary report relates to a purchase by [REDACTED] on 1/9/2010. Again, it is noted that at this time, [REDACTED] is not yet identified as a "suspect" in the ATF Suspect Gun Database. In addition, the NTC comment remains [REDACTED]

Attachment 4: The redacted email, dated 1/13/2010, reflects the entry of 42 subjects into the Suspect Person Database for this investigation. [REDACTED] appears on the chart, with a total of [REDACTED] multiple sales reports involving a total of [REDACTED] as well as [REDACTED] for a total of [REDACTED]. It should be noted that based on this chart, as of 1/13/2010, [REDACTED] had -0- firearms identifiable with him that had been traced by ATF.

Attachment 5: This 1/14/2010 suspect gun summary report is essentially a duplicate of the information in the 1/11/10 multiple sale report (Attachment 3). This report was generated because ATF Phoenix had caused [REDACTED] to be entered into the Suspect Person Database.

Attachment 6: This 1/19/2010 suspect gun summary report relates to the 1/16/2010 purchase or [REDACTED] by [REDACTED]. This information was also made known to ATF by the FFL on 1/19/2010.

Attachment 7: These suspect gun summary reports relate to [REDACTED] purchases by [REDACTED] on June 4 and June 15, 2010. These reports were generated because ATF Phoenix had caused [REDACTED] to be entered into the Suspect Person Database.

Attachment 8: This redacted ATF Significant Information Report dated 12/16/2010 reports the arrest of [REDACTED]. As reported, two firearms purchased by [REDACTED] on 1/16/2010 were recovered on 12/15/2010 at the scene of a shooting incident in which a CBP officer was killed. Following the incident, ATF agents located and interviewed [REDACTED]. ATF arrested [REDACTED] and filed a criminal complaint for federal charges.

Attachment 9: These are two firearms trace summary reports dated 12/16/2010 for the two [REDACTED] firearms recovered at the CBP shooting scene on 12/15/2010. These reports indicate the trace is delayed.

Page 1, Para 3 and Page 2, Para 1:

See two “releases” generated by the FFL and USAO document of that event.

Page 2, Para 3: “...the indictment of [REDACTED] and others references approximately 769 firearms. Of those, the indictment refers to the recovery of only about 103 weapons. So where are the other approximately 666 weapons referenced in the indictment?”

In conjunction with the Fast and Furious investigation, a group of [REDACTED] individuals were entered into the Suspect Gun database. A total of 372 firearms (including 37 recovered in the Tohono O’Odom Indian Reservation) in the database were recovered/seized in the US. The number of firearms recovered in Mexico was 195. In addition, through ATF surveillances and enforcement operations, another 230 firearms were recovered prior to being entered into the database. Therefore, 602 firearms were interdicted in the US, and 195 were recovered in Mexico, for a total of 797 firearms recovered.

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:17:04 PM
To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]
Subject: Smith letter response

Attachments: Untitled.PDF - Adobe Acrobat Pro.pdf

All,

Thanks for your patience on the response to Congressman Smith. We in ODAG are still working on the letter. No final decision has been made about what the letter will look like, but depending on what folks here decide, I may need to incorporate information that addresses the Congressman's six specific questions at the end of the letter. I already have a draft paragraph to address Question #5, which I've reprinted below, but I'm not sure of the answers to the remaining ones. Could you please send me the relevant information? Thanks. I've attached the incoming letter for ease of reference.

Matt

You have also asked for information about eTrace, an important tool in ATF's work to dismantle gun trafficking. eTrace is an Internet-based system that allows participating law enforcement agencies to submit firearm traces to the ATF National Tracing Center. Authorized users can receive firearm trace results electronically, search a database of all firearm traces submitted by their individual agency, and perform analytical functions. In the last year, eTrace has gained strong new features. eTrace now accommodates data in Spanish, gives translations, and allows users to better sort and search additional data elements and images to improve weapons tracing. In the next 24 months, planned enhancements to eTrace will improve ATF's ability to monitor and map gun tracing data in real time and to share information with other federal agencies, as well as with state and local law enforcement.



Untitled.PDF
- Adobe
Acrobat
Pro.pdf (212
kB)

Matthew S. Axelrod
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Desk (202) 305-0273
Cell (202) 532-3087

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:54 AM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: FW: Border Crossing responses - WEST

Attachments: Border Operations.; Firearms crossing international border; Untitled; Questions; Denver response; Untitled; FW: HQ Request

West Divisions:

Phoenix -- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 09 0008, Jan 2010; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 07-0177 092707, BP and ROI 13, 15, 18.

Houston -- 782095-11-0009, 030811, with ICE and Columbia, 15 firearms, delivery and SWs; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 08-0062 two surveillances and border stops, no recoveries, see BP.

Dallas -- Negative

Denver -- Negative

Los Angeles -- Negative

San Francisco -- Negative

Seattle - Negative

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

202.648 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: McMahon, William G.

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:44 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject:

Attached are the responses from the WEST SACs. I will get the EAST and CENTRAL to you shortly.

Thanks,

Bill

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From: Needles, James R.
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 6:44 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: Border Operations.

In January of 2010, one controlled delivery of grenade hulls, spoons and head assemblies was made to defendant [REDACTED] ATF SA's were in contact with Mexican authorities who were on the Mexican side of the border. As [REDACTED] went through the San Louise border the Mexican officials were advised however they did not stop [REDACTED]

From: Richardson, Marvin G.
Sent **E** Thursday, March 17, 2011 7:10:01 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: Denver response

6267

Bill,

Denver's response is negative to both questions.

Take care and get some rest!

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ATF8-001-001-00019401

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 6:02:00 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
CC: Crenshaw, Kelvin N.; [REDACTED]
Subject: Firearms crossing international border

6268

Sir, on behalf of SAC Kelvin Crenshaw, the Seattle Field Division is negative on both questions.

DOO [REDACTED]
Supervisory Special Agent
ATF - Seattle Field Division
915 2nd Ave., Room 790
Seattle, WA. 98174
Office: [REDACTED]
FAX: (206) 389-5829
CELL: [REDACTED]

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ATF8-001-001-00019402

From: Webb, J. Dewey
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 9:47 AM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: FW: HQ Request
Attachments: TRAFICADOR BorderNexus.doc

BILL,

WE ONLY HAVE TWO CASES INVOLVING CONTROLLED DELIVERIES AND THEY ARE VERY RECENT. THE COLOMBIAN CASE TOOK PLACE WHILE YOU WERE ON VACATION. AS TO THE SECOND QUESTION, WE HAVE NEVER ALLOWED GUNS TO GO INTO MEXICO. THE CLOSEST IT EVER CAME IS MENTIONED IN THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT.

J DEWEY WEBB
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
ATF, HOUSTON FIELD DIVISION
OFFICE (281)372-
FAX (281)372-

From:
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 8:36 AM
To: Webb, J. Dewey
Subject: HQ Request

Regarding the HQ inquiry from last night:

1. Controlled Deliveries Outside the US:

[REDACTED]

2. Following Persons to the Mexican Border Where They Subsequently Crossed:

[REDACTED]

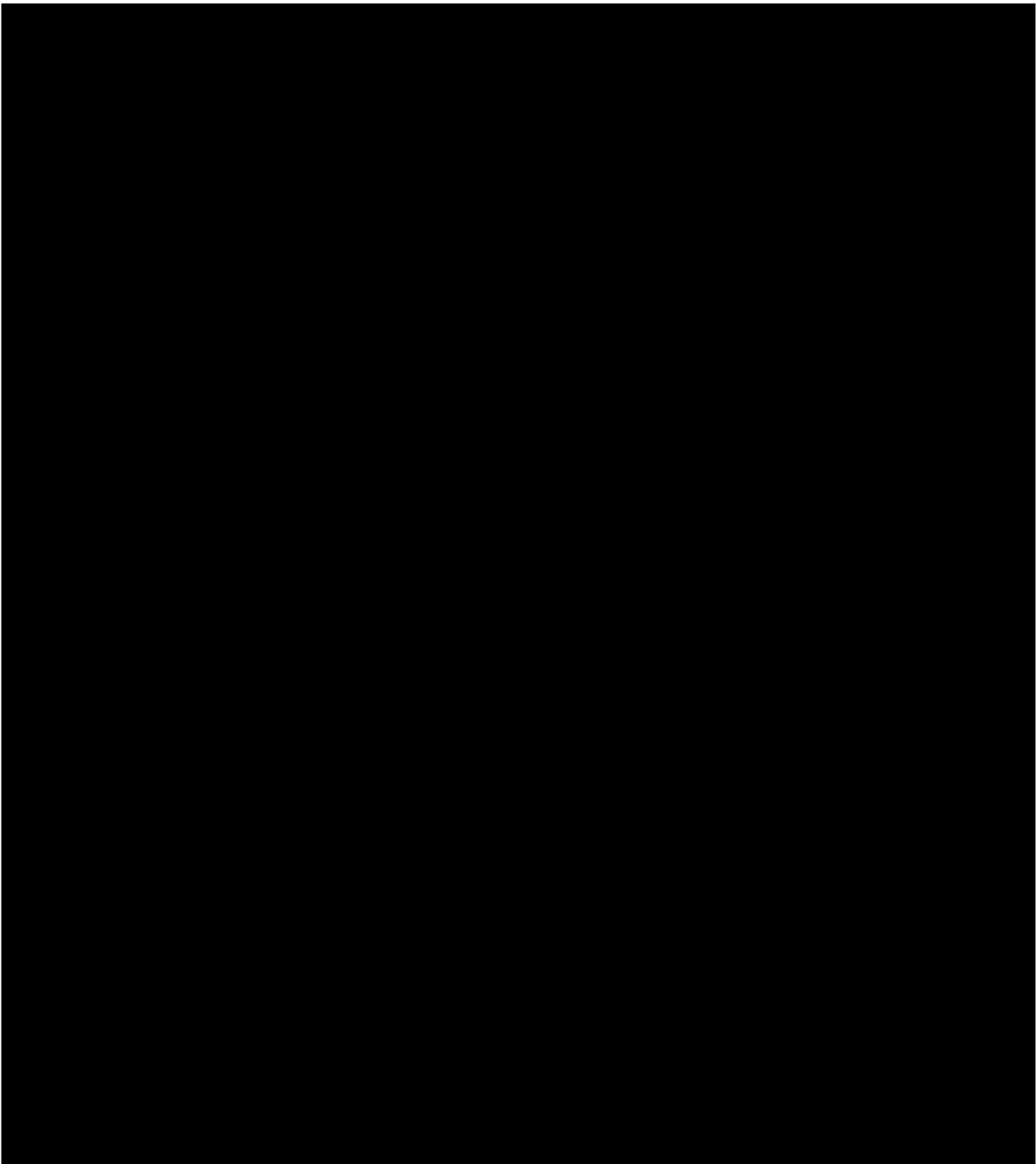
[REDACTED]
SPECIAL AGENT - GROUP SUPERVISOR

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO,
FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES (ATF)
HOUSTON FIELD DIVISION - GROUP II
15355 VANTAGE PARKWAY WEST, SUITE 200
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77032 USA
VOICE [REDACTED]
FAX [REDACTED]

OPERATION FN TRAFICADOR

782025-08-0062

This investigation was initiated by Houston Group VIII (OCDETF Strike Force) Special Agents after receiving information through review of ATF Online Lead multiple sales and firearms tracing database.





From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 8:57 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
CC: [REDACTED]
Subject: Questions

Sir,

The San Francisco Field Division has canvassed our personnel and reports a negative response to your two questions.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
Assistant Special Agent in Charge (Acting SAC)
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
San Francisco Field Division
Office: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]

From: Champion, Robert R.
Sent: ~~Employee 3~~, March 17, 2011 8:58:01 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject:

6273

Bill,

In regards to the ATF HQ. inquiry regarding International Firearms Trafficking over the last 3 years, the Dallas Field Division does not have any investigations that meet the criteria of control deliveries where FA's were allowed to cross the International Border nor have we witnessed FA's cross the International Border without taking action.

Thank you,

Robert R. Champion
Special Agent in Charge
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Dallas Field Division
(469) 227- [REDACTED]

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ATF8-001-001-00019407

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 9:49 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Questions from Matt Axelrod

Need 3310.4A as well

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Senior Special Agent
Firearms Operations Division
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) office)
(cell)

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 5:36 PM
To: Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; Needles, James R.; [REDACTED]
Cc: Melson, Kenneth E.
Subject: Questions from Matt Axelrod

All:

As we discussed, here are the questions Matt is asking at the moment. Some of this is done.



DP

Employee 3
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: 202 [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 6:13 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: AG's Testimony

Of course not. But I can find for you a summary of it provided by USA. In summary, don't let guns go across border intentionally, even under controlled conditions.

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
To: Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Fri Mar 11 18:10:36 2011
Subject: Re: AG's Testimony

Sorry to bug you but I have no idea what the DAG's guidance to the USAs was. Is there something in writing?

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
C: [REDACTED]

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From: Melson, Kenneth E.
To: Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri Mar 11 18:07:33 2011
Subject: Fw: AG's Testimony

FYI

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From: Monaco, Lisa (ODAG)
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG) ; Smith, Brad (ODAG)
Sent: Fri Mar 11 18:03:32 2011

Subject: RE: AG's Testimony

Yes

From: Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 2:59 PM
To: Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG); Monaco, Lisa (ODAG); Smith, Brad (ODAG)
Subject: RE: AG's Testimony

DP

DP

Ken.

From: Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG) [mailto:Stuart.Goldberg@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 12:25 PM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Monaco, Lisa (ODAG)
Subject: RE: AG's Testimony

Ken – I haven't been watching, DP

Stuart M. Goldberg
 Chief of Staff for the
 Deputy Attorney General
 U.S. Department of Justice
 Room 4210
 950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20530
 Tele: 202-353-8878

From: Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 11:56 AM
To: Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG); Monaco, Lisa (ODAG)
Subject: AG's Testimony

Stuart and Lisa: DP

DP

DP

Ken.

From: Melson, Kenneth E.

Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 6:07 PM

To: Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; [REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

[REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Fw: AG's Testimony

FYI

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From: Monaco, Lisa (ODAG)

To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG) ; Smith, Brad (ODAG)

Sent: Fri Mar 11 18:03:32 2011

Subject: RE: AG's Testimony

Yes

From: Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF)

Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 2:59 PM

To: Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG); Monaco, Lisa (ODAG); Smith, Brad (ODAG)

Subject: RE: AG's Testimony

[REDACTED] DP
DP

Ken.

From: Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG) [mailto:Stuart.Goldberg@usdoj.gov]

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 12:25 PM

To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Monaco, Lisa (ODAG)

Subject: RE: AG's Testimony

Ken -- I haven't been watching. [REDACTED]

DP

Stuart M. Goldberg
Chief of Staff for the
Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Room 4210
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530
Tele: 202-353-8878

From: Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF)

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 11:56 AM

To: Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG); Monaco, Lisa (ODAG)

Subject: AG's Testimony

Stuart and Lisa:

DP

DP

Ken.

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 8:41 PM
To: Hoover, William J.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.
Subject: Re: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

I have not written anything on this and I am unaware of anyone else doing so. I can work on it this weekend if need be.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: Hoover, William J.
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Fri Apr 29 19:40:54 2011
Subject: Fw: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Have we previously provided answers to DOJ re Faith's email below?

Thank you,

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: Burton, Faith (SMO)
To: Hoover, William J.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Sent: Fri Apr 29 17:38:39 2011
Subject: FW: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley

Have you all prepared a response to this and/or do you have responsive information?

DP

DP

DP

Please advise. Thanks. Faith

From: Downey, Brian (Judiciary-Rep) [mailto:Brian_Downey@judiciary-rep.senate.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 4:19 PM
To: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)
Cc: [REDACTED] (ATF); Hoover, William J. (ATF); Leavitt, Tristan (Judiciary-Rep); CEG (Judiciary-Rep)
Subject: March 4th 2011 Letter from Senator Grassley
Importance: High

Will Senator Grassley be receiving any response or documents to his March 4th letter besides the March 8th letter from the Department of Justice?

Thank you,

Brian

Brian M. Downey
Investigator
Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC
(P) 202-224-5225
(F) 202-224-3799

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:24 AM

To: Chait, Mark R.

Subject: FW: Draft Issa response

Attachments: Grassley CIGIE letter.pdf; reno letter.pdf; 3-16-2011 Letter (2).pdf; issa fast and furious response 4-4-11 v3.docx

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff

Office of the Director

O: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

C: [REDACTED]

HQ Room 5 S 100

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [mailto:(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)]

Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 7:28 PM

To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); [REDACTED]; Hoover, William J.; Melson, Kenneth E.; Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Scheel, Ann (USAAZ); Hernandez, Rachel (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ)

Cc: Weiner, Robert (ODAG) (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO); Colborn, Paul P (SMO)

Subject: Draft Issa response

Attached is a draft response to Chairman Issa's letter of March 16, as well as two attachments that would go with it. I've attached the incoming letter as well for ease of reference. We're hoping to get this letter back to Chairman Issa in the next day or two, so I'd ask the USAO and ATF to each send back comments/edits (if any) by the end of the day tomorrow. As always, if anything is inaccurate, please make sure to let me know. As always, thanks for your help on this.

Matt

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MASSACHUSETTS 2021-225-3034
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LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

March 16, 2011

Mr. Kenneth E. Melson
Acting Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
99 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Acting Director Melson:

Recent media reports have raised grave questions about your department's handling of operations involving gun trafficking into Mexico. In the aftermath of the tragic killings of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agent Jaime Zapata, it is imperative that you act decisively to assuage the public's deep suspicions that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has a policy of permitting -- and even encouraging -- the movement of guns into Mexico by straw purchasers. The presence of these guns may have subsequently led to the deaths of hundreds of people on both sides of the border, including Agents Terry and Zapata.¹

It has been brought to my attention that you are not cooperating with congressional inquiries about Project Gunrunner and Operation Fast and Furious. Last week, Senator Charles Grassley expressed frustration at ATF's responsiveness in a letter to the Department of Justice (DOJ): "I'm still asking questions and we're getting the runaround from the Justice Department, [i]they're stonewalling. And the longer the wait, the more they fight, the more egg that they're going to have on their face."²

Operation Fast and Furious is part of ATF's Project Gunrunner program designed to prevent illegal guns from crossing the border into Mexico. ATF implemented the plan in June 2007 and outlined four key areas of Gunrunner: expansion of gun tracing in Mexico, international coordination, domestic activities, and intelligence.

¹ Kim Murphy and Ken Ellingwood, *Mexico Lawmakers Demand Answers about Guns Smuggled under ATF's Watch*, L.A. TIMES, Mar. 11, 2011, <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-naw-mexico-guns-20110311,0,6476764,full.story>.

² William Lajeunesse, *ATF, DOJ Launch Damage Control Effort over Growing Project Gunrunner Scandal*, FOXNEWS, Mar. 9, 2011, [http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/03/09/project-gun-runner-scandal-border/?test=latestnewsrunner Scandal](http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/03/09/project-gun-runner-scandal-border/?test=latestnewsrunner%20Scandal).

A November 2010 DOJ Office of the Inspector General (OIG) report detailed many shortcomings with the program, especially its inability to find and arrest higher-level traffickers.³ With direct approval from ATF headquarters in Washington, a special ATF strike force let federally licensed gun shops sell about 1765 firearms to straw buyers for the drug cartels over a 15 month span beginning in October 2009.⁴ Some 797 of the guns were recovered as a result of criminal activity on both sides of the border, including two at the site of the killing of Agent Terry.

At the same time of the release of the OIG report – and perhaps influenced by it – ATF formalized its policy of letting American guns reach the drug cartels.⁵ Field agents vociferously objected, aghast at the prospect of high-caliber weapons being allowed to enter Mexico.⁶ Senior Agent John Dodson was one of those agents who came forward to complain that the ATF had allowed the guns to be “walked” into Mexico.⁷ ATF even videotaped suspected drug cartel suppliers as they loaded AK-47 type assault rifles into their cars and permitted them to transport those firearms across the border.⁸ ATF officials failed to report this to Mexican authorities⁹ and eventually lost track of hundreds of these guns.¹⁰ Unsurprisingly, these weapons began showing up at crime scenes both in Mexico and the U.S. Notably on December 14, 2010, two “walked” rifles turned up at Agent Terry’s murder site.

Senator Grassley requested specific documents about this policy but, thus far, has received nothing from ATF or DOJ. In fact, Special Agent In Charge (SAC) William D. Newell has steadfastly denied that this policy even exists, as has DOJ.¹¹ When confronted by documentary evidence from Senator Grassley’s office, however, Attorney General Holder asked the Justice Department’s Office of Inspector General (DOJ-OIG) to conduct a review. Such a review by the Acting Inspector General, however, is inadequate. As Senator Grassley wrote to Kevin Perkins, Chair of the Integrity Committee of the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, “the DOJ-OIG does not appear to be completely disinterested in the outcome of its review. Without a greater level of independence, it will be difficult for the public to have faith in the impartiality and integrity of the result.”¹²

³ Department of Justice Office of Inspector General, Review of ATF’s Project Gunrunner, Evaluation and Inspection Report 1-2011-001(Nov. 2010), <http://www.justice.gov/oig/reports/ATF/e1101.pdf>.

⁴ John Solomon, David Heath, and Gordon Whitkin, *ATF Let Hundreds of U.S. Weapons Fall into Hands of Suspected Mexican Gunrunners*, CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY, Mar 3, 2011, <http://www.publicintegrity.org/articles/entry/2976/>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Sharyl Atkisson, *Agent: I Was Ordered To Let U.S. Guns into Mexico*, CBS NEWS, Mar. 3, 2011, <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/03/03/eveningnews/main20039031.shtml>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Murphy & Ellingwood, *supra* note 1.

¹¹ Solomon, *et al.*, *supra* note 4.

¹² Letter from Sen. Charles Grassley, Ranking Member, S. Jud. Comm., to Kevin L. Perkins, Chair, Integrity Comm., Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (Mar. 8, 2011).

I wholeheartedly agree with this sentiment. Given the entanglement of the DOJ-OIG report with the policy change, it has become clear that the Acting Inspector General cannot conduct an objective and independent inquiry sufficient to foster public confidence. Only a full congressional investigation can achieve this result and restore the public's faith in the workings of the ATF. Therefore, I am requesting that you provide the following documents and information:

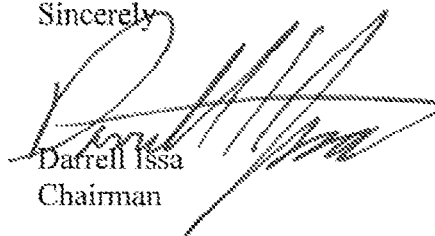
1. Documents and communications relating to the genesis of Project Gunner and Operation Fast and Furious, and any memoranda or reports involving any changes to either program at or near the time of the release of the DOJ-OIG report about Project Gunrunner in November 2010.
2. A list of individuals responsible for authorizing the decision to "walk" guns to Mexico in order to follow them and capture a "bigger fish."
3. Following the fatal shooting of Agent Brian Terry, did ATF conduct an investigation of the circumstances of his killing? Did you determine whether the two guns found at the crime scene were permitted to cross into Mexico?
4. Is ATF aware what weapon was responsible for the death of Agent Brian Terry?
5. All documents, including e-mails, relating to communications between the ATF and the Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) who sold weapons to Jaime Avila, including any Report of Investigation (ROI) or other records relating to a December 17, 2009 meeting "to discuss his role as an FFL during this investigation."
6. A copy of the presentation, approximately 200 pages long, that the Group 7 Supervisor made to officials at ATF headquarters in the spring of 2010.
7. All documents, including e-mails, relating to communications regarding Operation Fast and Furious between ATF headquarters and Special Agent in Charge (SAC) William D. Newell, Assistant Special Agents in Charge Jim Needles and George Gillette, Group Supervisor David Voth, or any Case Agent from November 1, 2009 to the present. The response to this request should include a memorandum, approximately 30 pages long, from SAC Newell to ATF headquarters following the arrest of Jaime Avila and the death of Agent Brian Terry.
8. All documents and communications related to complaints or objections by ATF agents in Phoenix about letting straw buyers with American guns enter Mexico.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight Committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X.

We request that you provide the requested documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 30, 2011. When producing documents to the Committee, please deliver production sets to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The Committee prefers, if possible, to receive all documents in electronic format. An attachment to this letter provides additional information about responding to the Committee's request.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Ashok Pinto or Henry Kerner of the Committee Staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Stipendiary (202) 225-6024
Ministry (202) 225-6024

Responding to Committee Document Requests

1. In complying with this request, you should produce all responsive documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, and representatives acting on your behalf. You should also produce documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy or to which you have access, as well as documents that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party. Requested records, documents, data or information should not be destroyed, modified, removed, transferred or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee.
2. In the event that any entity, organization or individual denoted in this request has been, or is also known by any other name than that herein denoted, the request shall be read also to include that alternative identification.
3. The Committee's preference is to receive documents in electronic form (i.e., CD, memory stick, or thumb drive) in lieu of paper productions.
4. Documents produced in electronic format should also be organized, identified, and indexed electronically.
5. Electronic document productions should be prepared according to the following standards:
 - (a) The production should consist of single page Tagged Image File ("TIF"), files accompanied by a Concordance-format load file, an Opticon reference file, and a file defining the fields and character lengths of the load file.
 - (b) Document numbers in the load file should match document Bates numbers and TIF file names.
 - (c) If the production is completed through a series of multiple partial productions, field names and file order in all load files should match.

6. Documents produced to the Committee should include an index describing the contents of the production. To the extent more than one CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, box or folder is produced, each CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, box or folder should contain an index describing its contents.
7. Documents produced in response to this request shall be produced together with copies of file labels, dividers or identifying markers with which they were associated when they were requested.
8. When you produce documents, you should identify the paragraph in the Committee's request to which the documents respond.
9. It shall not be a basis for refusal to produce documents that any other person or entity also possesses non-identical or identical copies of the same documents.
10. If any of the requested information is only reasonably available in machine-readable form (such as on a computer server, hard drive, or computer backup tape), you should consult with the Committee staff to determine the appropriate format in which to produce the information.
11. If compliance with the request cannot be made in full, compliance shall be made to the extent possible and shall include an explanation of why full compliance is not possible.
12. In the event that a document is withheld on the basis of privilege, provide a privilege log containing the following information concerning any such document: (a) the privilege asserted; (b) the type of document; (c) the general subject matter; (d) the date, author and addressee; and (e) the relationship of the author and addressee to each other.
13. If any document responsive to this request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody, or control, identify the document (stating its date, author, subject and recipients) and explain the circumstances under which the document ceased to be in your possession, custody, or control.
14. If a date or other descriptive detail set forth in this request referring to a document is inaccurate, but the actual date or other descriptive detail is known to you or is otherwise apparent from the context of the request, you should produce all documents which would be responsive as if the date or other descriptive detail were correct.
15. The time period covered by this request is included in the attached request. To the extent a time period is not specified, produce relevant documents from January 1, 2009 to the present.
16. This request is continuing in nature and applies to any newly-discovered information. Any record, document, compilation of data or information, not produced because it has not been located or discovered by the return date, shall be produced immediately upon subsequent location or discovery.

17. All documents shall be Bates-stamped sequentially and produced sequentially.
18. Two sets of documents shall be delivered, one set to the Majority Staff and one set to the Minority Staff. When documents are produced to the Committee, production sets shall be delivered to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building.
19. Upon completion of the document production, you should submit a written certification, signed by you or your counsel, stating that: (1) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in your possession, custody, or control which reasonably could contain responsive documents; and (2) all documents located during the search that are responsive have been produced to the Committee.

Definitions

1. The term "document" means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, inter-office and intra-office communications, electronic mail (e-mail), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape or otherwise. A document bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate document. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.
2. The term "communication" means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether in a meeting, by telephone, facsimile, email, regular mail, telexes, releases, or otherwise.
3. The terms "and" and "or" shall be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information which might

otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The singular includes plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neuter genders.

4. The terms "person" or "persons" mean natural persons, firms, partnerships, associations, corporations, subsidiaries, divisions, departments, joint ventures, proprietorships, syndicates, or other legal, business or government entities, and all subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, departments, branches, or other units thereof.
5. The term "identify," when used in a question about individuals, means to provide the following information: (a) the individual's complete name and title; and (b) the individual's business address and phone number.
6. The term "referring or relating," with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with or is pertinent to that subject in any manner whatsoever.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 9:44 AM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); Hoover, William J.
CC: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Need some quick help

We'll get on it. Please give me a deadline.

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [mailto:Matthew.Axelrod@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 9:41 AM
To: [REDACTED]; Hoover, William J.
Subject: RE: Need some quick help

Definitely. Thanks, [REDACTED] DP

[REDACTED] DP

Matt

From: [REDACTED] (ATF)
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 8:43 AM
To: Hoover, William J. (ATF); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Subject: FW: Need some quick help

[REDACTED] covered the subject well.

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 6:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Need some quick help

[REDACTED] I can refine this list over the weekend or Monday, but adding or echoing what's been stated already by DOJ, USAO-AZ, and in Rep. Cummings' letter [REDACTED] DP

DP

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

Cell

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:59 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Guys – anything you can contribute would be welcome.

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

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From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:55 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

[REDACTED]

Would you start at the bottom of this string and read up? If we can respond Monday that would be great. I will be thinking of things as well. Please share with others for ideas.

Thank you!

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) [REDACTED]

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From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [mailto:Matthew.Axelrod@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:30 PM
To: Hoover, William J.
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Billy,

Here's what Pat sent me. Anything you guys have to add would be useful. Thanks.

Matt

From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 3:43 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Cc: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ); Hurley, Emory (USAAZ); Kelly, Kristen (USAAZ) 6
Subject: RE: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Matt: Yes, this is incredibly rough and the problems are:



DP

Gong to IG meeting now. PJC

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 11:32 AM
To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Subject: Need some quick help

Any way you can send me a list of the specific ways that the Congressional inquiries are harming your investigation?

DP

DP

Matthew S. Axelrod

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

Desk (202) 305-0273

Cell (202) 532-3087

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 8:42 AM
To: Hoover, William J.; Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Subject: FW: Need some quick help

[REDACTED] covered the subject well.

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 6:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Need some quick help

[REDACTED] - I can refine this list over the weekend or Monday, but adding or echoing what's been stated already by DOJ, USAO-AZ, and in Rep. Cummings' letter. [REDACTED] DP

[REDACTED] DP

DP

[REDACTED]
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

[REDACTED] Cell [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:59 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Guys – anything you can contribute would be welcome.

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

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From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:55 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

[REDACTED]

Would you start at the bottom of this string and read up? If we can respond Monday that

would be great. I will be thinking of things as well. Please share with others for ideas.

Thank you!

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) [REDACTED]

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From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [mailto:Matthew.Axelrod@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:30 PM
To: Hoover, William J.
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Billy,

Here's what Pat sent me. Anything you guys have to add would be useful. Thanks.

Matt

From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 3:43 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Cc: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ); Hurley, Emory (USAAZ); Kelly, Kristen (USAAZ) 6
Subject: RE: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Matt: Yes, this is incredibly rough and the problems are:

DP

DP

Gong to IG meeting now. PJC

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 11:32 AM
To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Subject: Need some quick help

Any way you can send me a list of the specific ways that the Congressional inquiries are harming your investigation?

DP

DP

Matthew S. Axelrod

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

Desk (202) 305-0273

Cell (202) 532-3087

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 6:50 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Need some quick help

That's plenty. Consider yourself done.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
C: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Sent: Fri Apr 01 18:17:23 2011
Subject: RE: Need some quick help

[redacted] I can refine this list over the weekend or Monday, but adding or echoing what's been stated already by DOJ, USAO-AZ, and in Rep. Cummings' letter. [redacted] DP [redacted]

DP

DP

DP

[redacted]
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

[redacted] Cell [redacted]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:59 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Guys – anything you can contribute would be welcome.

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

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From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:55 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

[REDACTED]

Would you start at the bottom of this string and read up? If we can respond Monday that would be great. I will be thinking of things as well. Please share with others for ideas.

Thank you!

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) 202-648-8710

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From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [mailto:Matthew.Axelrod@usdoj.gov]
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To: Hoover, William J.
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Billy,

Here's what Pat sent me. Anything you guys have to add would be useful. Thanks.

Matt

From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 3:43 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Cc: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ); Hurley, Emory (USAAZ); Kelly, Kristen (USAAZ) 6
Subject: RE: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Matt: Yes, this is incredibly rough and the problems are:



DP

DP

Gong to IG meeting now. PJC

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)

Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 11:32 AM

To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)

Subject: Need some quick help

Any way you can send me a list of the specific ways that the Congressional inquiries are harming your investigation?

DP

DP

Matthew S. Axelrod

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

Desk (202) 305-0273

Cell (202) 532-3087

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 5:13 PM
To: Hoover, William J.
Subject: RE: Need some quick help

On it -- I've looped in (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
C:
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:55 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Would you start at the bottom of this string and read up? If we can respond Monday that would be great. I will be thinking of things as well. Please share with others for ideas.

Thank you!

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) 202-648-8710

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From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [mailto:Matthew.Axelrod@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:30 PM
To: Hoover, William J.
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Billy,

Here's what Pat sent me. Anything you guys have to add would be useful. Thanks.

Matt

From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 3:43 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Cc: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ); Hurley, Emory (USAAZ); Kelly, Kristen (USAAZ) 6
Subject: RE: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Matt: Yes, this is incredibly rough and the problems are:



DP

Gong to IG meeting now. PIC

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)

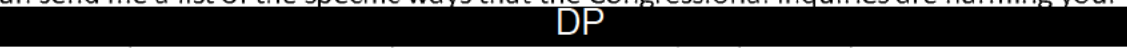
Employee 3

6546

Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 11:32 AM

To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)

Subject: Need some quick help

Any way you can send me a list of the specific ways that the Congressional inquiries are harming your investigation?  DP

 DP

Matthew S. Axelrod

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

Desk (202) 305-0273

Cell (202) 532-3087

DAN BURTON, INDIANA
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
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TREV GOWDY, SOUTH CAROLINA
DENNIS A. ROUSE, FLORIDA
FRANK C. GUINTA, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BLAKE FARENTHOLD, TEXAS
KIRK KELLY, PENNSYLVANIA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
JACKIE SPEER, CALIFORNIA

LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

April 1, 2011

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to memorialize my serious concerns with the unilateral subpoena you issued last night to the Department of Justice, despite my objection. I am providing copies of this letter to all Members of the Committee because they were not informed about the objections raised by the Department of Justice before you issued the subpoena and were not provided an opportunity to deliberate on this significant action by the Committee.

On March 16, 2011, you sent a letter to the Department of Justice requesting a wide range of documents relating to operations by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives involving gun trafficking into Mexico. You requested the production of all of these documents in two weeks.¹

Yesterday, the Department of Justice notified the Committee that it was working rapidly to comply with this request and was collecting responsive documents to be produced to the Committee. The Department raised serious concerns, however, about producing certain documents relating to two active, ongoing criminal investigations, one of which has already resulted in a 53 count indictment of at least 20 individuals alleged to have "conspired to purchase hundreds of firearms, including AK-47s, to be illegally exported to Mexico."²

¹ Letter from Chairman Darrell E. Issa to Kenneth Melson, Acting Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (Mar. 16, 2011) (online at http://oversight.house.gov/images/stories/Other_Documents/2011-03-16_DEI_to_Melson-ATF_-_Mexico_gun_trafficking_due_3-30.pdf).

² Office of the United States Attorney, District of Arizona, *Grand Juries Indict 34 Suspects in Drug and Firearms Trafficking Organization: Multi-Agency Task Force Rounds Up Defendants Accused of Illegal Gun Purchases, Money Laundering, and Conspiracy* (Jan. 25, 2011) (online at www.justice.gov/usao/az/press_releases/2011/PR_01252011).

The Department also raised concerns about producing documents relating to the ongoing criminal investigation into the death of U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry on December 14, 2010.

Previous Committee chairmen have handled such concerns with great care. For example, during the Department's criminal investigation into fatal shootings by Blackwater contractors in Nisoor Square, Iraq, the Committee worked very carefully with the Department to obtain the information it needed without negatively impacting ongoing prosecutions.³

Last night, however, you issued a unilateral subpoena over the Department's objection, over my objection, and without any knowledge or debate by other Members of our Committee. You took this step without meeting with the Department to determine whether an accommodation might have satisfied both the Committee's legitimate interest in conducting appropriate oversight and the Department's legitimate interest in achieving successful prosecutions.

Today, the Justice Department wrote a letter to you with the following statement:

Yesterday, we informed Committee staff that we intended to produce a number of responsive documents within the next week. As we explained, there are some documents that we would be unable to provide without compromising the Department's ongoing criminal investigation into the death of Agent Brian Terry as well as other investigations and prosecutions, but we would seek to work productively with the Committee to find other ways to be responsive to its needs.⁴

This type of intrusion into ongoing criminal investigations is exactly what I hoped to avoid when I wrote you on January 24, 2011, to request that you honor the historical practice of both Republican and Democratic chairmen of this Committee to obtain (1) the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member or (2) a Committee vote when issuing controversial subpoenas.⁵

Press%20Conference.pdf); See also, Indictment, *United States v. Avila, et. al.*, Case No. 2:11-CR-126-JAT (D. Ariz. Jan. 19, 2011).

³ See, e.g., *Transcript*, Hearing on Private Security Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, U.S. House of Representatives (Oct. 2, 2007).

⁴ Letter from Ronald Weich, Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice to Chairman Darrell Issa (April 1, 2011).

⁵ Letter from Ranking Member Elijah Cummings to Chairman Darrell Issa, (Jan. 24, 2011) (online at http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/images/stories/2011_0124_Cummings_to_Issa_access_to_records.pdf).

Compromising the potential prosecution and ultimate conviction of international criminals would be inexcusable. Before taking any further steps, I urge you to join me in meeting with Department officials personally in order to fully understand the potential ramifications of these actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elijah E. Cummings". The signature is stylized with a large, prominent "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: Members, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:58 PM
To: [REDACTED] Kraft, Mark E.
Subject: FW: Need some quick help

Importance: High

Guys – anything you can contribute would be welcome.

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:55 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

[REDACTED]

Would you start at the bottom of this string and read up? If we can respond Monday that would be great. I will be thinking of things as well. Please share with others for ideas.

Thank you!

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) 202-648-8710

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From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [mailto:Matthew.Axelrod@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:30 PM
To: Hoover, William J.
Subject: FW: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Billy,

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Matt

From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 3:43 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Cc: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ); Hurley, Emory (USAAZ); Kelly, Kristen (USAAZ) 6
Subject: RE: Need some quick help
Importance: High

Matt: Yes, this is incredibly rough and the problems are:



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Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 11:32 AM
To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Subject: Need some quick help

Any way you can send me a list of the specific ways that the Congressional inquiries are harming your investigation? DP

DP

Matthew S. Axelrod

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

Desk (202) 305-0273

Cell (202) 532-3087

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 10:15 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: Subpoena from H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform
Attachments: sharpcopier@mail.house.gov_20110331_174634.pdf

Looks like our document production efforts are going to be expedited.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648-^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}
C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: Axeirod, Matthew (ODAG)
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Hoover, William J.; Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ)
Sent: Thu Mar 31 20:47:50 2011
Subject: Fw: Subpoena from H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform

Fyi.

From: Burton, Faith (SMO)
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 07:59 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Cc: Monaco, Lisa (ODAG); Miller, Matthew A (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO); Weich, Ron (SMO); Colborn, Paul P (SMO); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (JMD); Greenfeld, Helaine (SMO); Richardson, Margaret (SMO); Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG)
Subject: FW: Subpoena from H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform

Matt, I hit the send button too quickly. Apologies. All, please circulate to anyone else who should see this tonight. Thanks.

From: Burton, Faith (SMO)
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 7:58 PM
To: Monaco, Lisa (ODAG); Miller, Matthew A (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO); Weich, Ron (SMO); Colborn, Paul P (SMO); Krass, Caroline D. (SMO); Greenfeld, Helaine (SMO); Richardson, Margaret (SMO); Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG)
Subject: FW: Subpoena from H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform

Actually, I never said that we would accept service by email -- but here it is. FB

From: Castor, Stephen [mailto:Stephen.Castor@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 7:17 PM
To: Burton, Faith (SMO)
Cc: Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF)
Subject: Subpoena from H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform

Faith

Attached is a subpoena duces tecum the Chairman authorized for Kenneth E. Melson, Acting Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

I understand you are authorized to accept service of this subpoena by e-mail. Ashok Pinto and Henry Kerner of our staff informed me you have agreed to accept it.

If this is not the case, please let me know, and we can make alternative arrangements for service.

Thank you,

Steve

Steve Castor
Committee on Oversight and Gov't Reform
Rep. Darrell Issa, Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
202-225-5074

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 9:56 PM
To: Serres, Greg; Rubenstein, Steve R.
Subject: Fw: Subpoena from H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform
Attachments: sharpcopier@mail.house.gov_20110331_174634.pdf

Steve and Greg:

Prepare for some busy days ahead. Do we have anyone familiar with how these issues play out?

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648-^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}
C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Hoover, William J.; Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ)
Sent: Thu Mar 31 20:47:50 2011
Subject: Fw: Subpoena from H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform

Fyi.

From: Burton, Faith (SMO)
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 07:59 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Cc: Monaco, Lisa (ODAG); Miller, Matthew A (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO); Weich, Ron (SMO); Colborn, Paul P (SMO); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (JMD); Greenfeld, Helaine (SMO); Richardson, Margaret (SMO); Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG)
Subject: FW: Subpoena from H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform

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Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 7:58 PM
To: Monaco, Lisa (ODAG); Miller, Matthew A (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO); Weich, Ron (SMO); Colborn, Paul P (SMO); Krass, Caroline D. (SMO); Greenfeld, Helaine (SMO); Richardson, Margaret (SMO); Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG)
Subject: FW: Subpoena from H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform

Actually, I never said that we would accept service by email – but here it is. FB

From: Castor, Stephen [mailto:Stephen.Castor@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 7:17 PM
To: Burton, Faith (SMO)
Cc: Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF)
Subject: Subpoena from H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform

Faith

Attached is a subpoena duces tecum the Chairman authorized for Kenneth E. Melson, Acting Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Employee 3

6573

I understand you are authorized to accept service of this subpoena by e-mail. Ashok Pinto and Henry Kerner of our staff informed me you have agreed to accept it.

If this is not the case, please let me know, and we can make alternative arrangements for service.

Thank you,

Steve

Steve Castor
Committee on Oversight and Gov't Reform
Rep. Darrell Issa, Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
202-225-5074

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2011 10:41:01 PM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, [REDACTED]

6583

Subject: Re: Hold the presses

I have not returned the proposed language for Mexico to Mall yet. The proposed response to Mr Smith does not address these issues in any form.

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648-[REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]

Original Message

From: Melson, Kenneth E. [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]; Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]

Sent: Wed Mar 30 22:01:39 2011
Subject: Hold the presses

I have not yet come across the ROI concerning the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Is this what Grassley was referring to in his letter? [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ken

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 6:31:25 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
CC: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Subject: RE: Draft response to Congressman Smith letter

Attachments: smith fast and furious response 3-30-11 review w axelrod.docx



smith fast
and furious
response
3-30-11
review w
axelrod.docx
(27 kB)

I have just completed a phone call with Matt. The attached is a near final draft (maybe) of the letter to Mr. Smith as I understand it. Matt indicated that OLA has some additional changes they want made that are still in negotiation.

DP

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [mailto:Matthew.Axelrod@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:52 PM
To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); [REDACTED]
Cc: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Subject: Draft response to Congressman Smith letter

Pat [REDACTED]

Attached is the most current version of a draft response to Congressman Smith. It's still not final, but we're getting close. [REDACTED]

DP

DP

DP DP

Thanks.

Matt

<< File: smith fast and furious response 3-30-11.docx >>

Matthew S. Axelrod
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Desk (202) 305-0273
Cell (202) 532-3087

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 7:23:18 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Response to Grassley 3/3 Letter

DP

Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tue Mar 29 19:18:48 2011
Subject: Fw: Response to Grassley 3/3 Letter

Fyi.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Gaston, Molly (SMO)
To: [REDACTED]
To: Weich, Ron (SMO)
To: Weinstein, Jason (CRM)
To: Dennis (USAAZ) Burke
To: James E. McDermond
To: Smith, Brad (ODAG)
To: Kenneth Melson
To: William J. Hoover
To: Agrast, Mark D. (SMO)
Subject: RE: Response to Grassley 3/3 Letter
Sent: Mar 4, 2011 12:43 PM

Looping in Mark in OLA.

From: [REDACTED]
(ATF) Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 12:25 PM To: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Weich, Ron (SMO); Weinstein, Jason (CRM); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); McDermond, James E. (ATF); Smith, Brad (ODAG); Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); Hoover, William J. (ATF) Subject: RE: Response to Grassley 3/3 Letter

DP

DP

Edits Highlighted Below.

March 4, 2011 Draft
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Dear Senator Grassley:

DP

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2011 7:02:01 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: First Grassley Response

6614

Did we see 3/4 before it went?

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tue Mar 29 19:01:06 2011
Subject: Re: First Grassley Response

Yes. 3/3 was stopped. 3/4 went the next day.

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Original Message

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tue Mar 29 18:57:41 2011
Subject: First Grassley Response

[REDACTED]
Regarding the first letter back to Grassley - there are two versions signed by Ron, one dated 3/3 that we saw and one dated 3/4 that I do not believe we (anybody in ATF) saw it before it was sent. Can you confirm or deny whether we saw the 3/4 letter before it went?

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Employee 3 March 29, 2011 6:57:41 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: First Grassley Response

6615

[REDACTED]

Regarding the first letter back to Grassley there are two versions signed by Ron, one dated 3/3 that we saw and one dated 3/4 that I do not believe we (anybody in ATF) saw it before it was sent. Can you confirm or deny whether we saw the 3/4 letter before it went?

[REDACTED]

Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director

O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]

ATF8-001-001-00024759

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 6:50 PM
To: Burton, Faith (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); Hoover, William J.
Subject: Fw: DP
Attachments: FF DEA 785115 10 0004.docx

Matt/Faith:

DP [REDACTED]

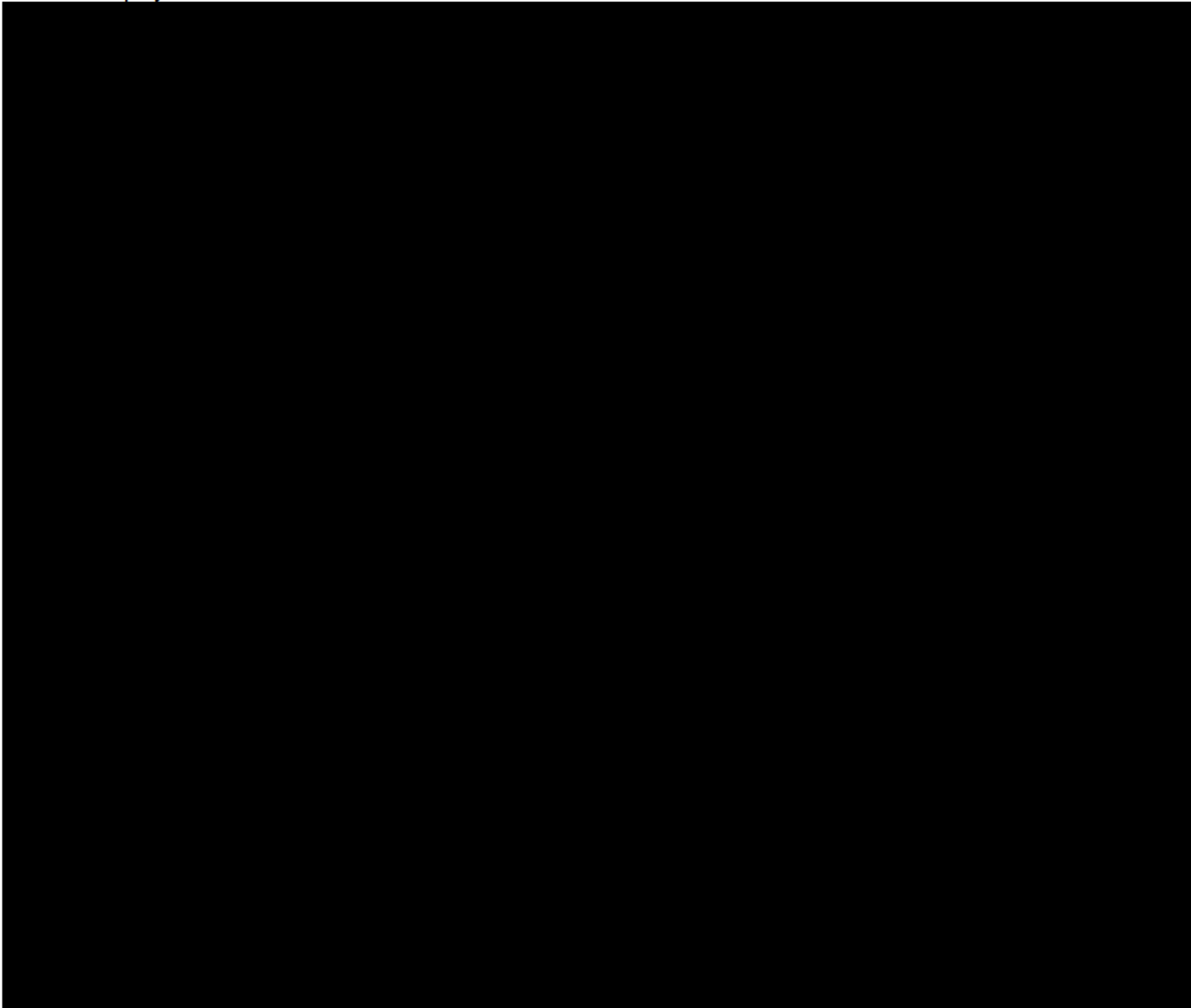
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648 [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]; Hoover, William J.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Sat Mar 26 16:57:54 2011
Subject: F&F - DEA Involvement per ROIs

<<FF DEA 785115 10 0004.docx>>

DP [REDACTED]

DP, (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(A)





Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

202.648.7212, 

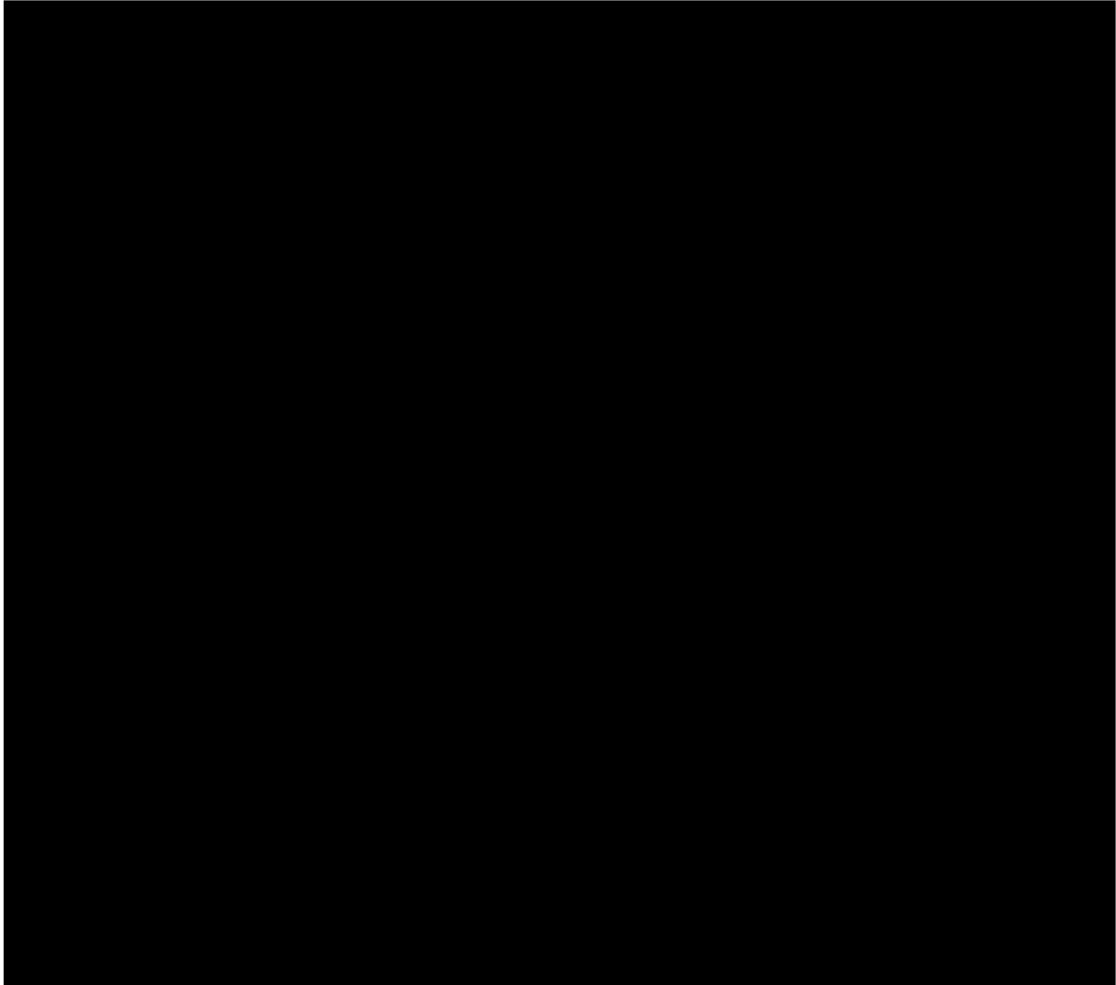
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785115-10-0004 ROI 50



Open
OTHER (NON-EXPLOSIVE/FIRE)
I



785115-10-0004 ROI 171

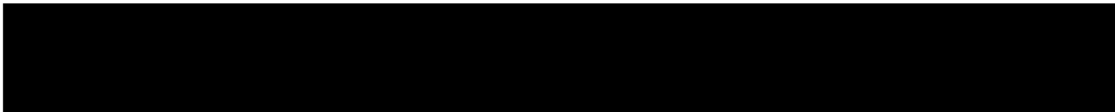


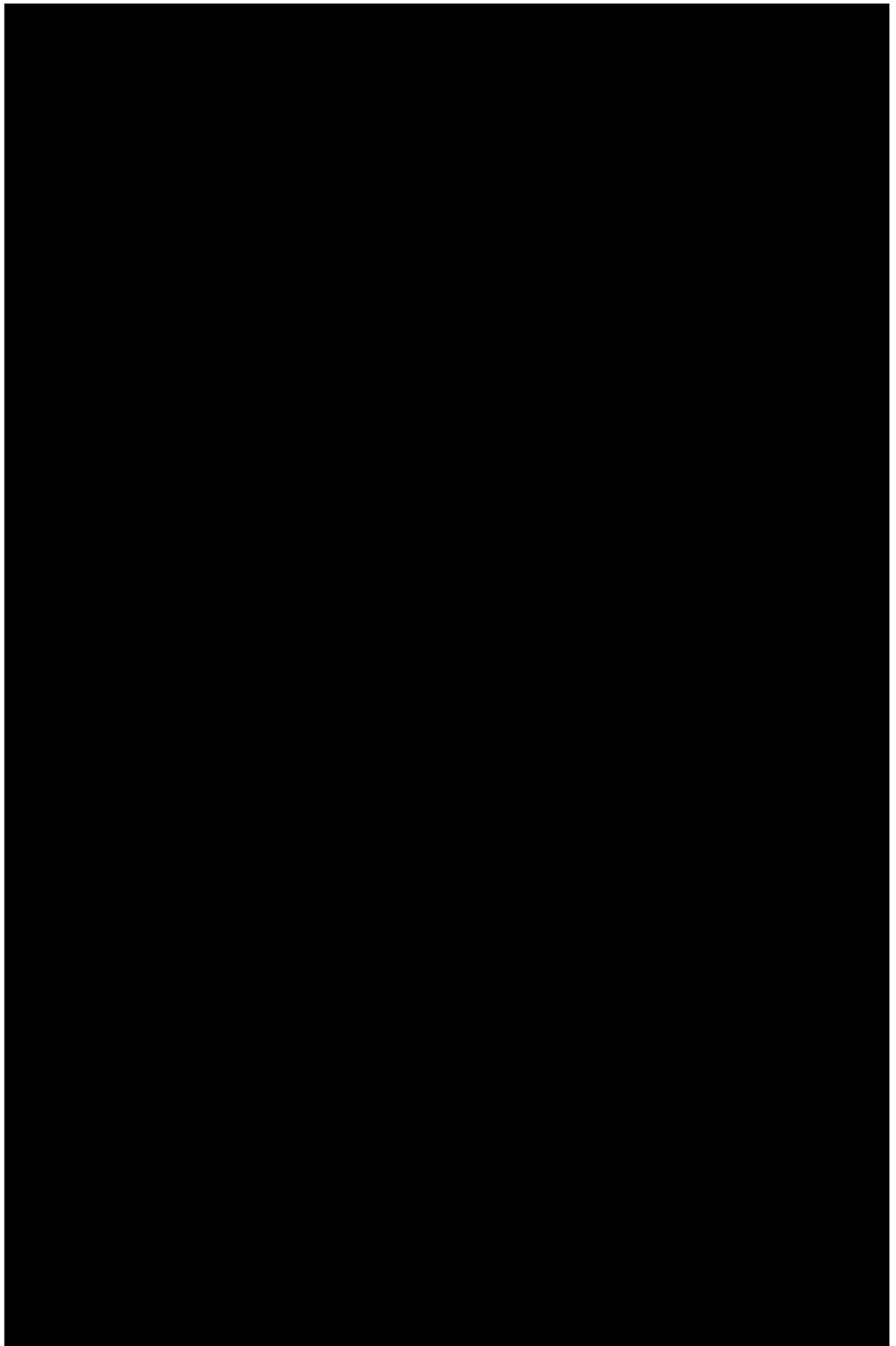
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SURVEILLANCE
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993348



20100329





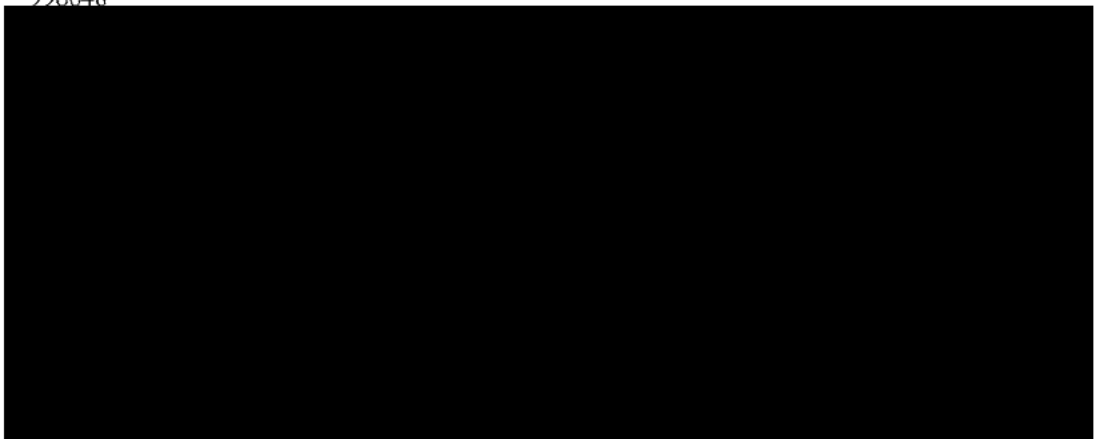


996048
785115-10-0004 ROI 205



Open
CONTACT INTERVIEW
I

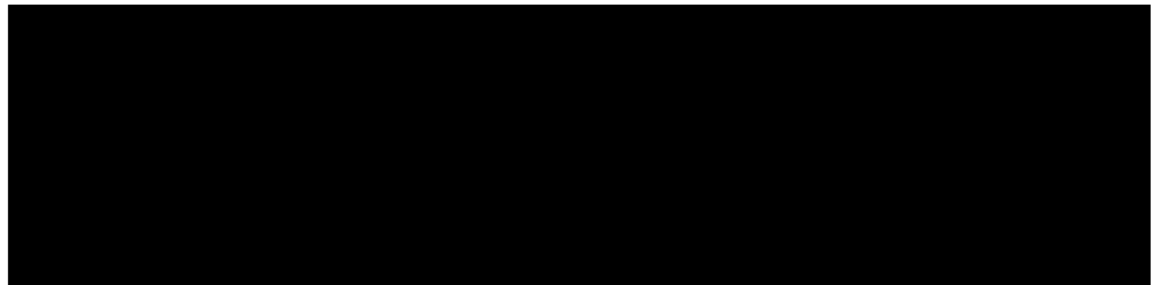
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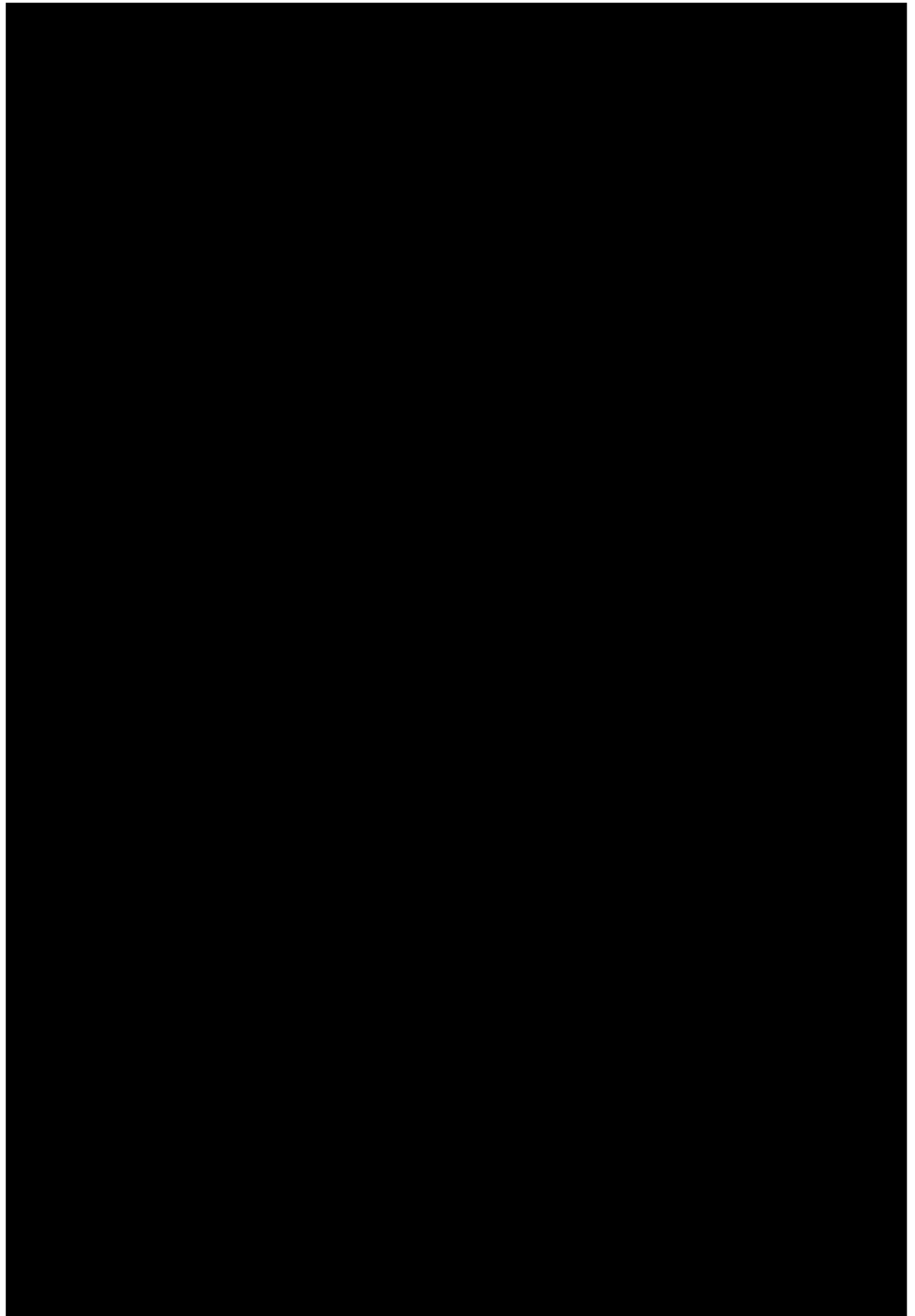


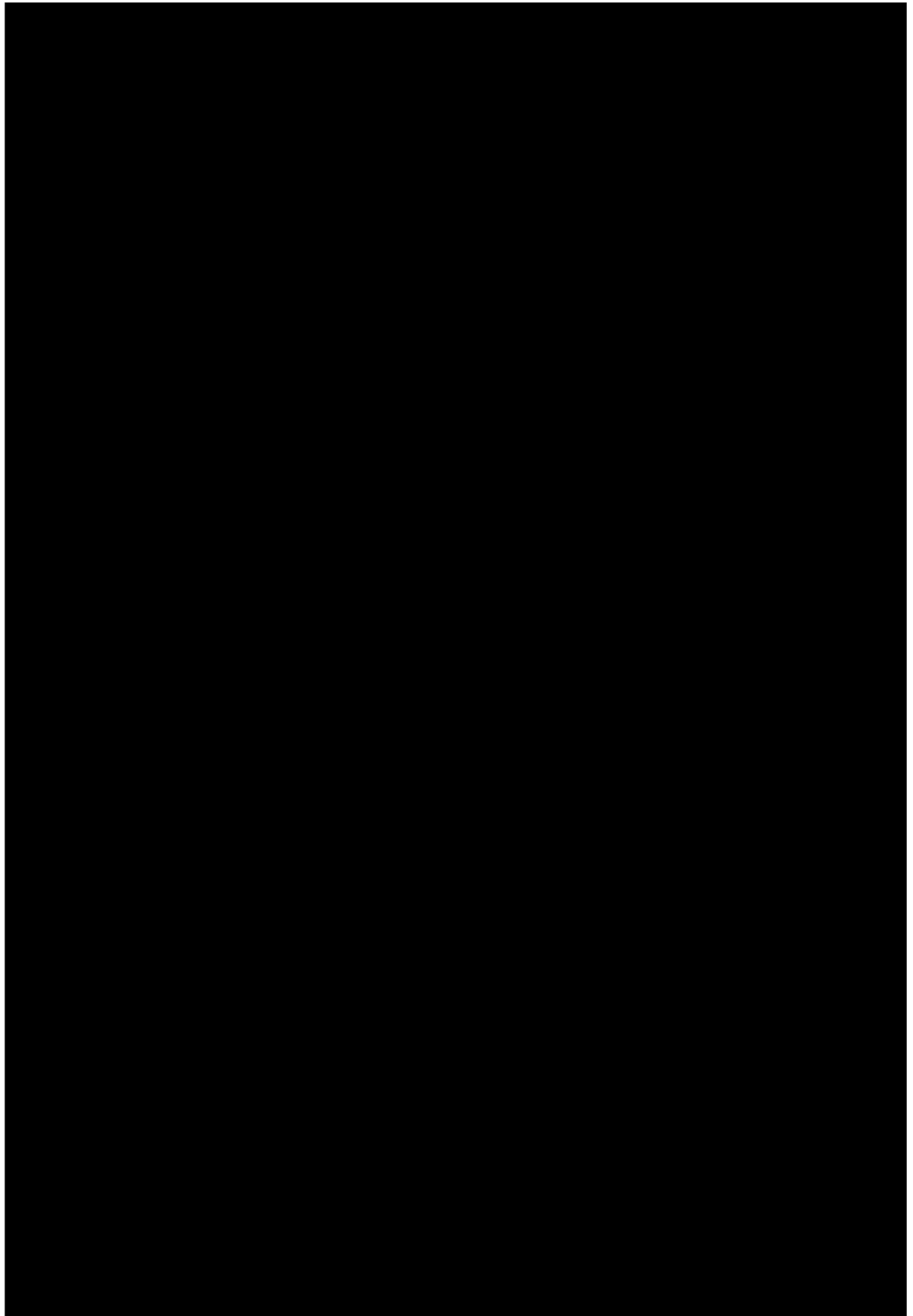
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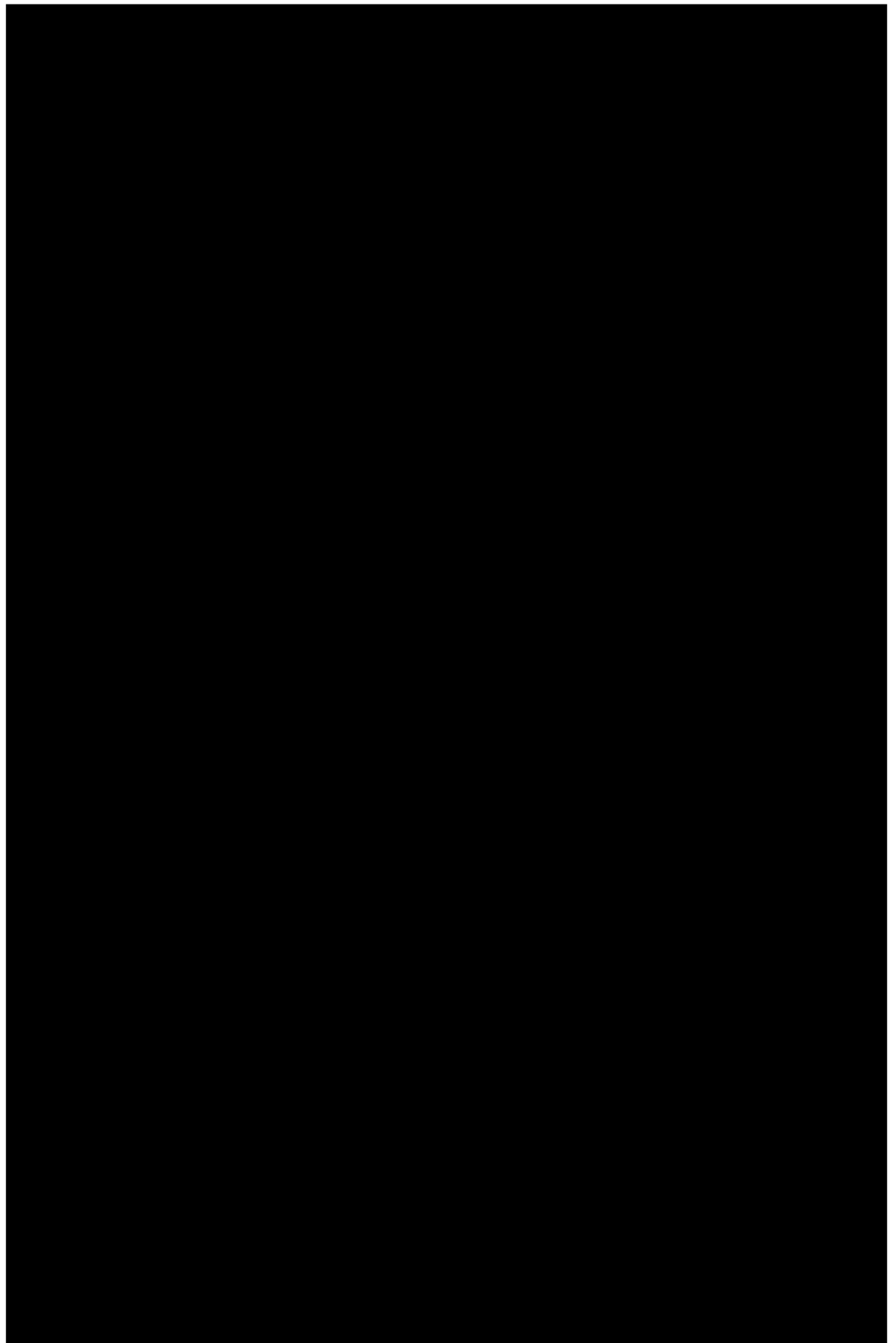


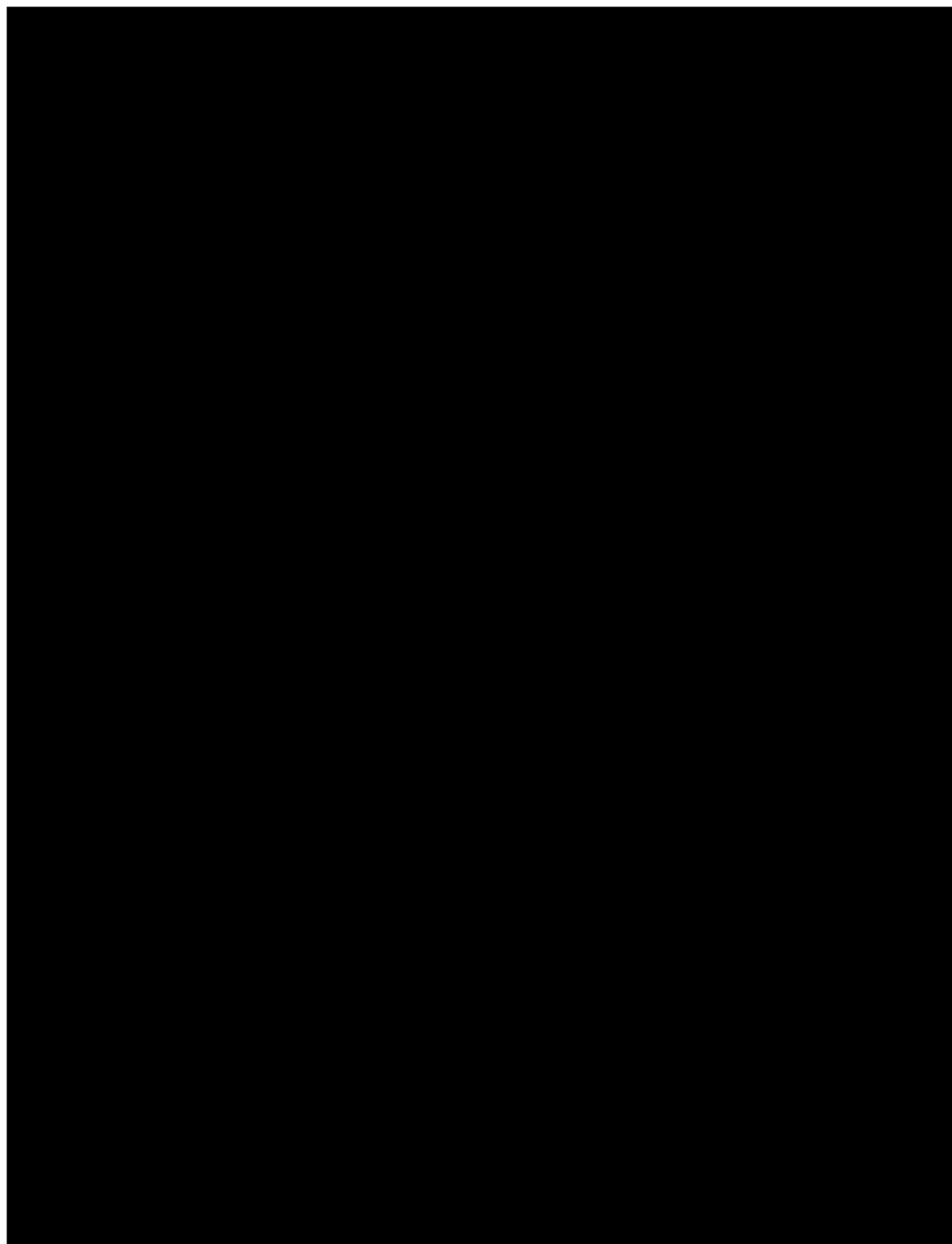
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CONTACT INTERVIEW
I









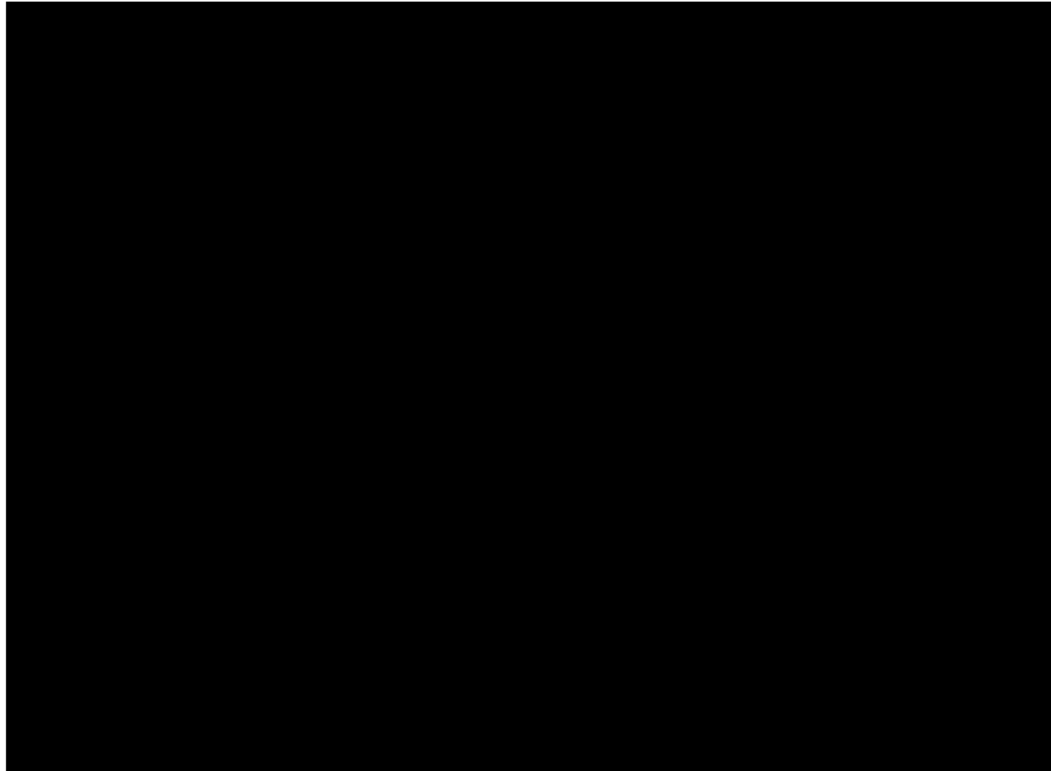


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Open
OTHER (NON-EXPLOSIVE/FIRE)
I

1022312



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785115-10-0004 ROI 382

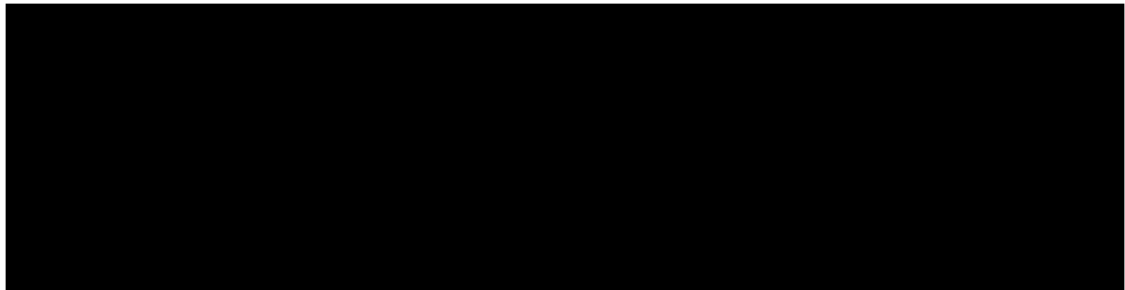


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OTHER (NON-EXPLOSIVE/FIRE)
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1041319



20100909



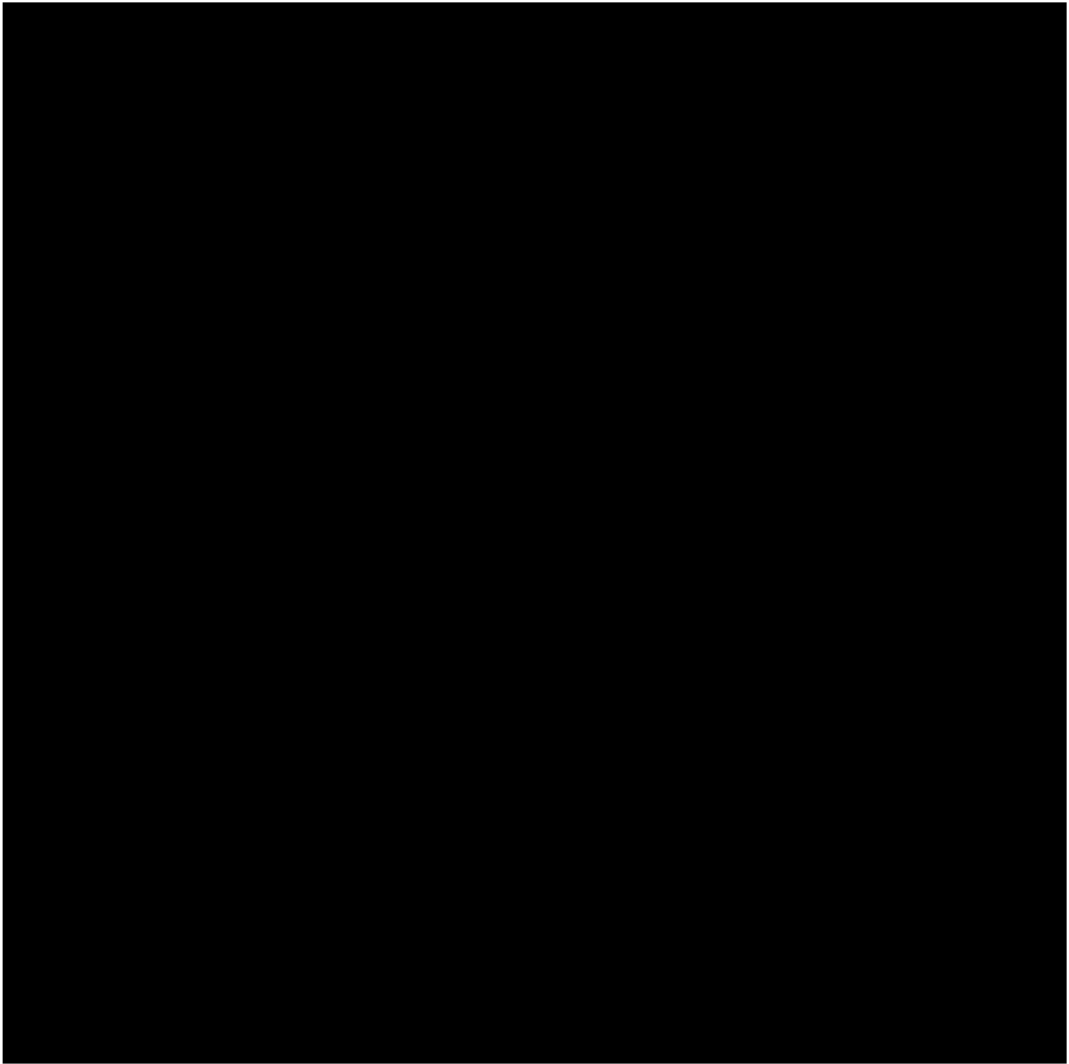


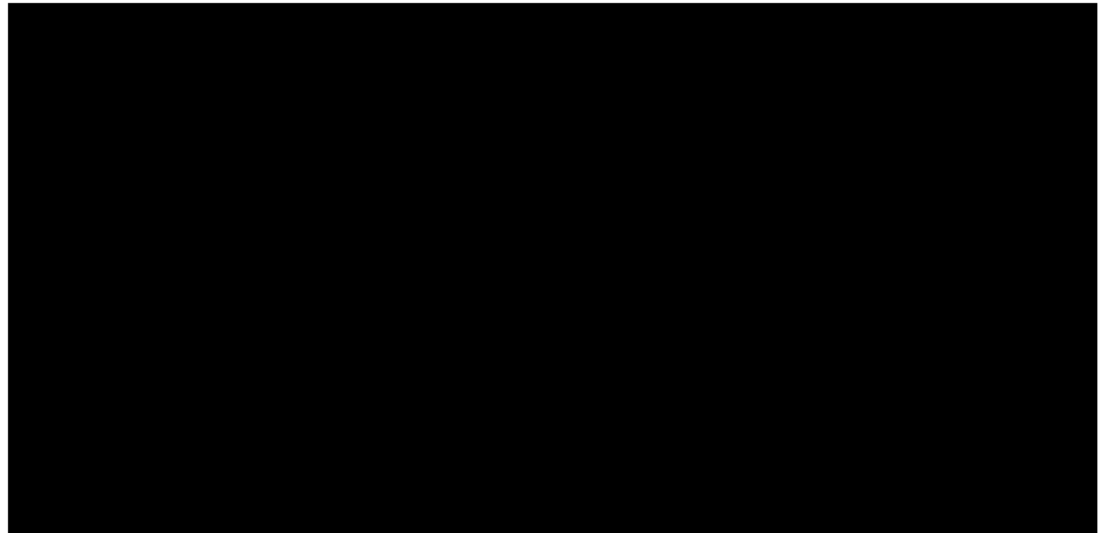
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Open
CONTACT INTERVIEW
I

1053501



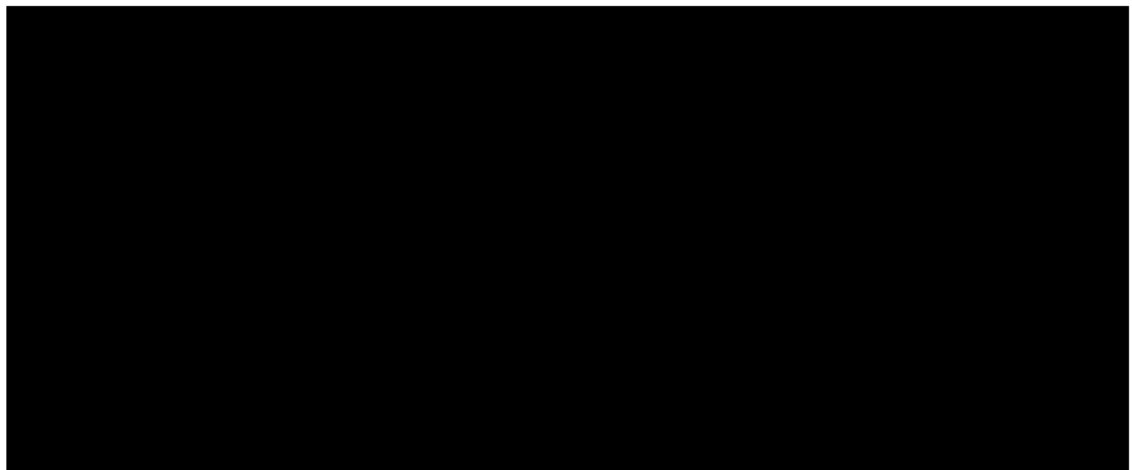


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785115-10-0004 ROI 447

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ARREST
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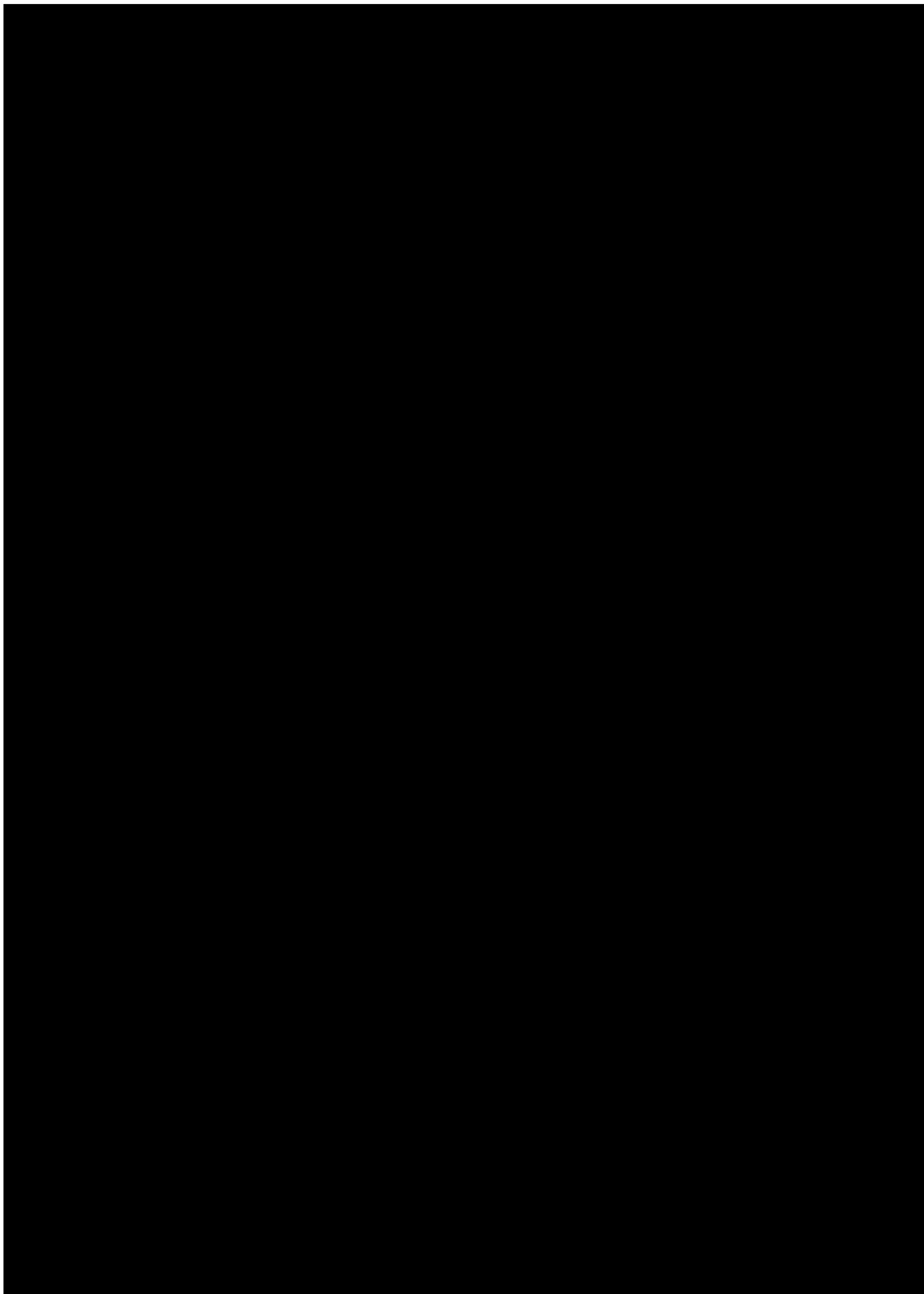


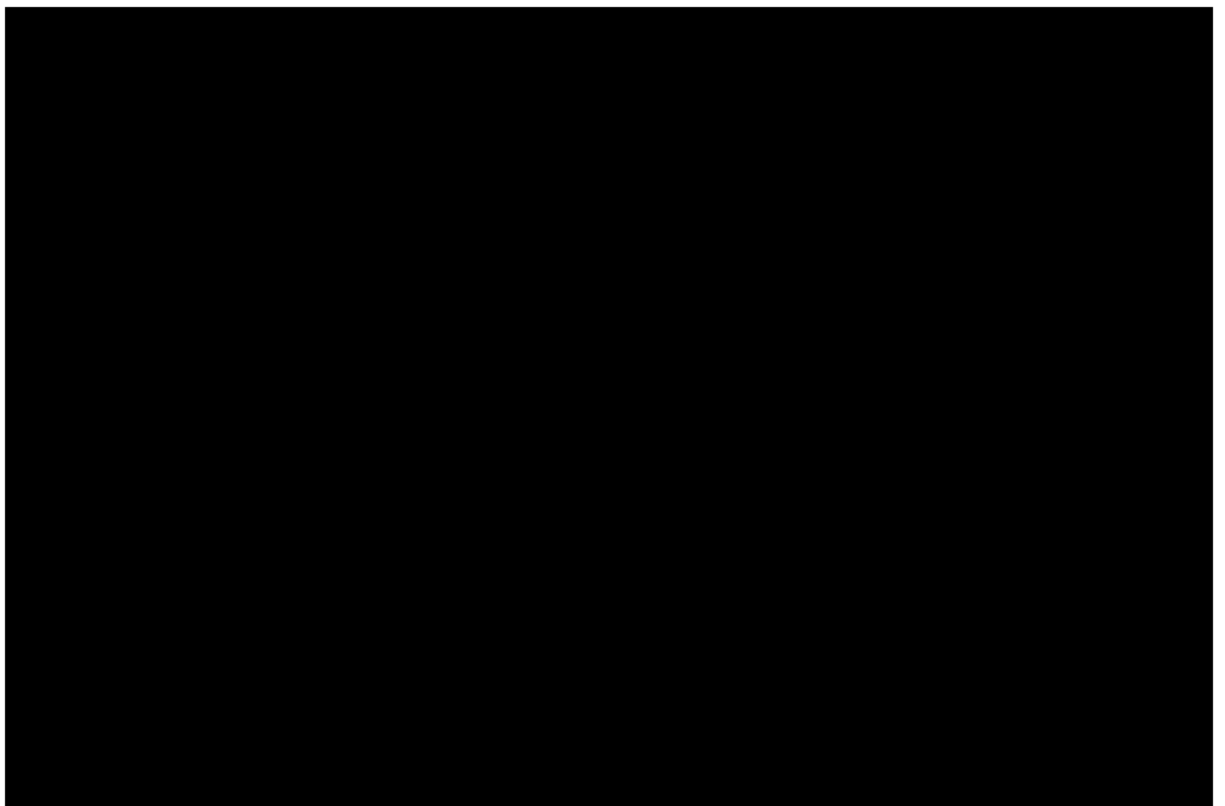
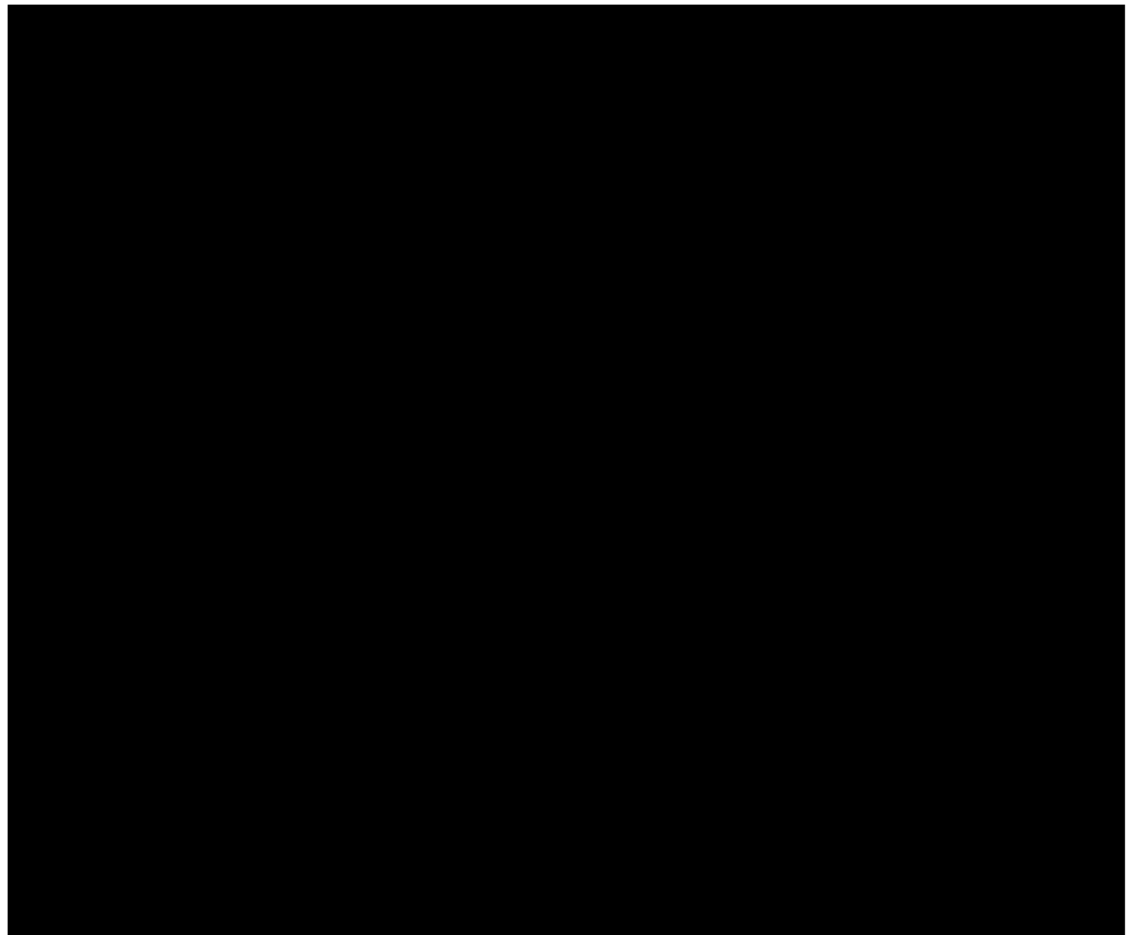
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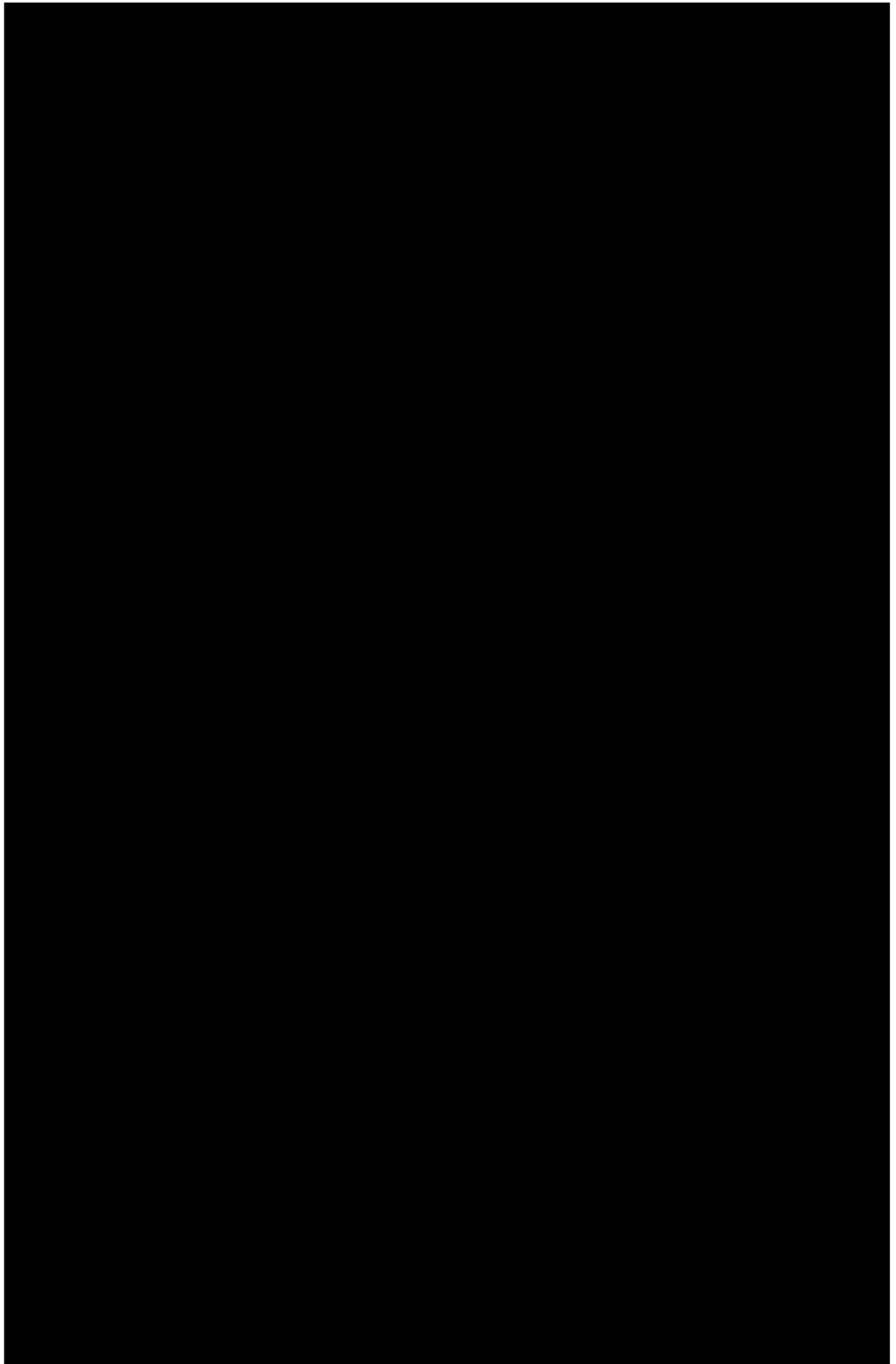
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Open
SEARCH WARRANT
I

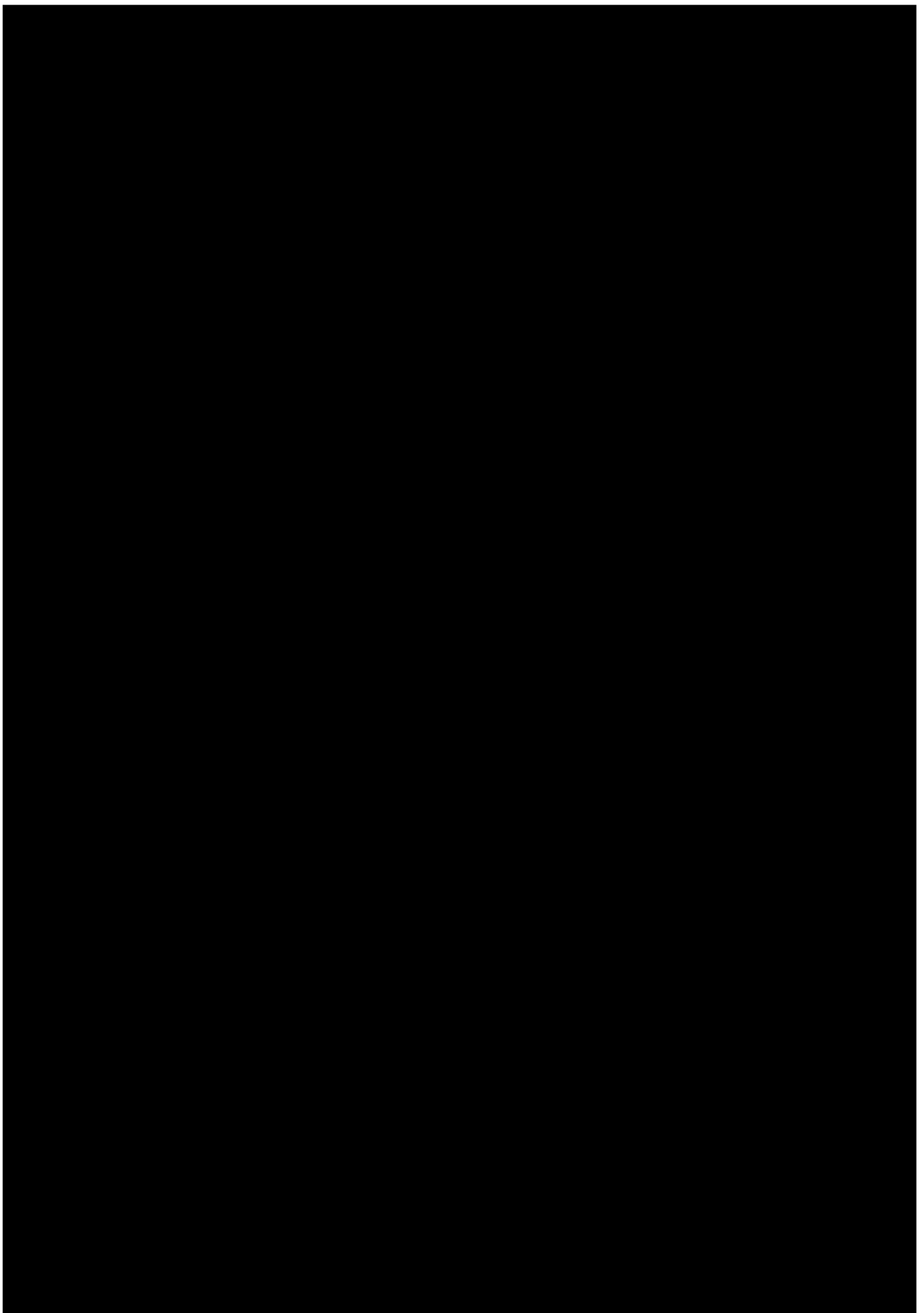
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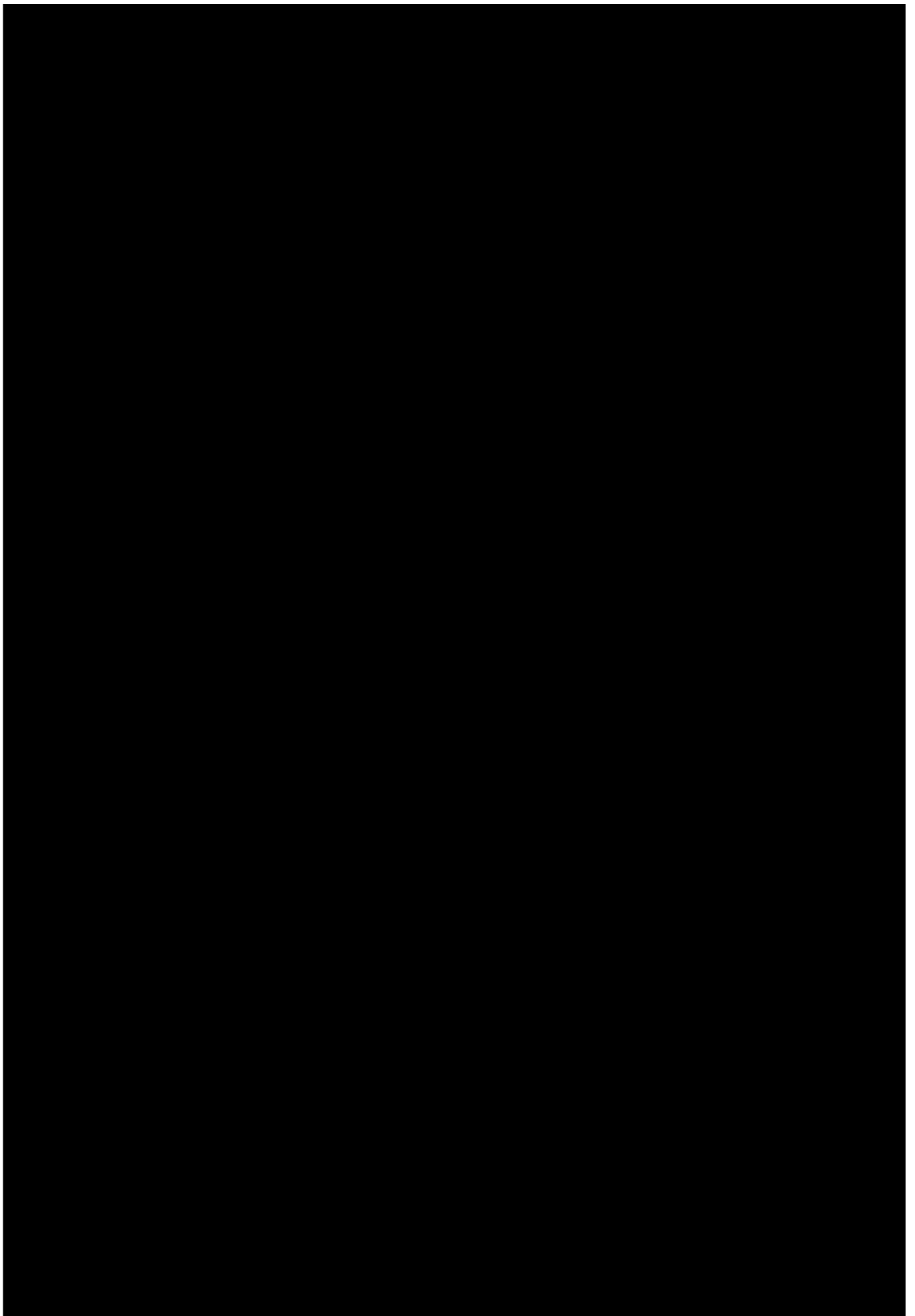
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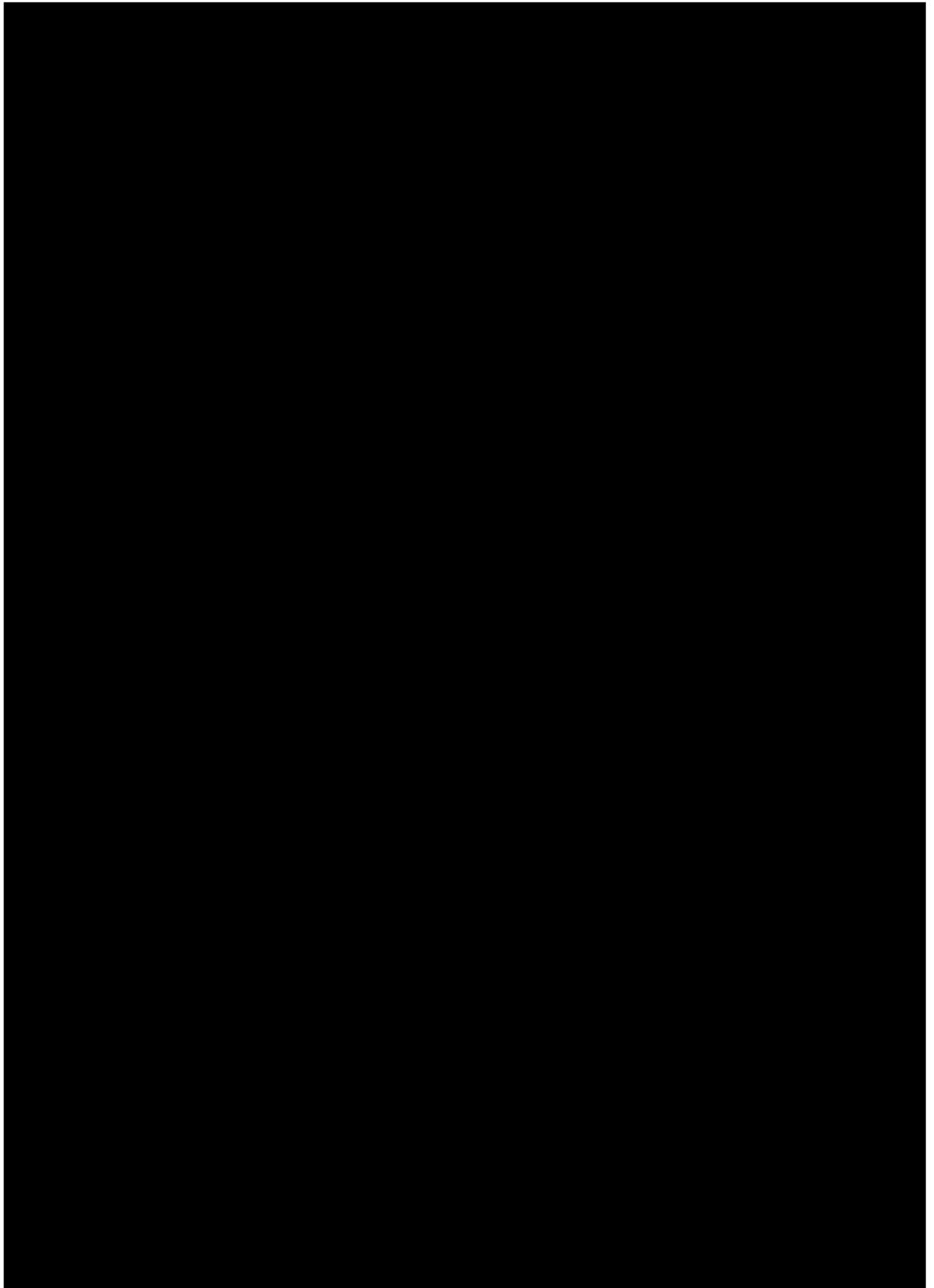


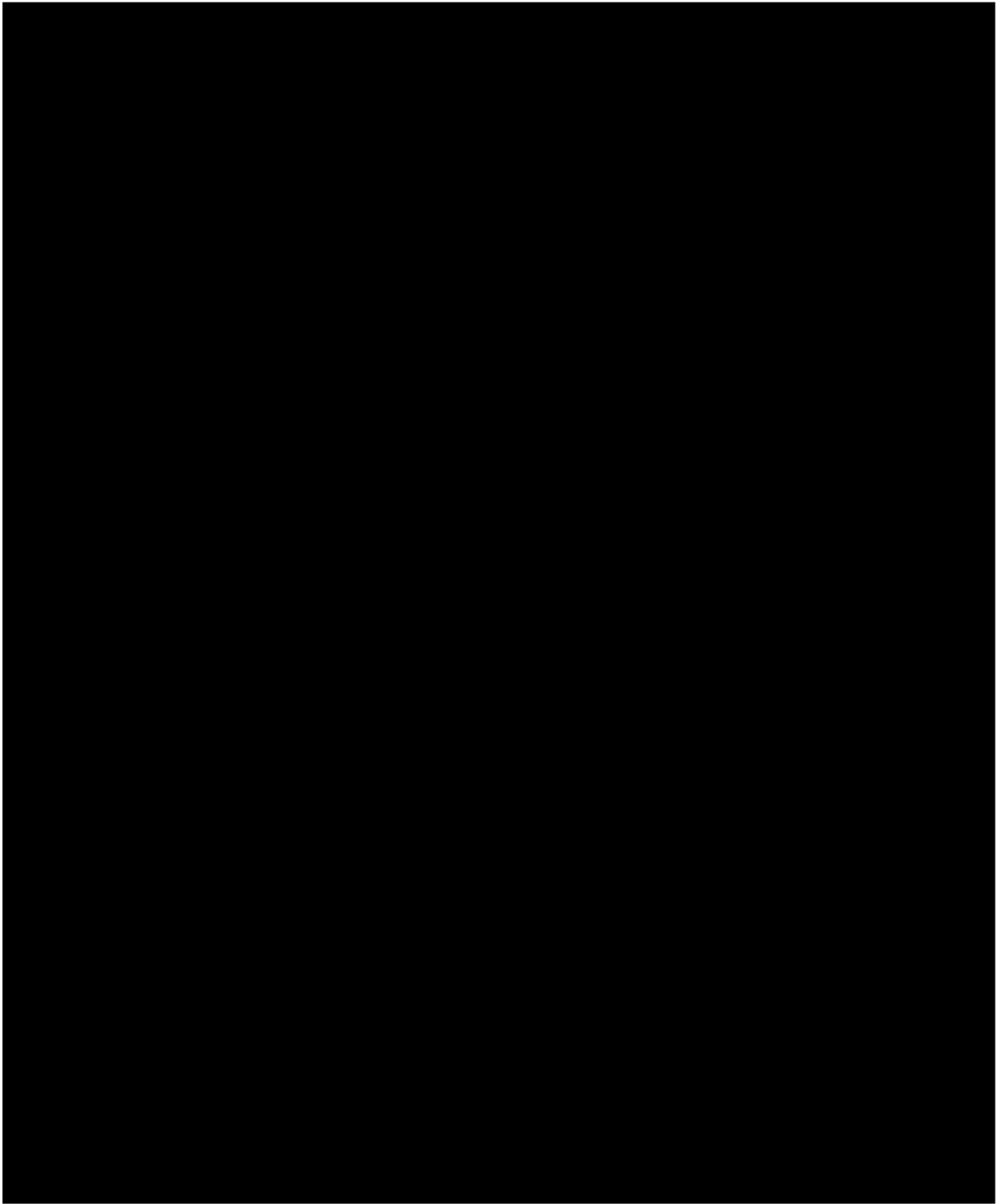












From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 5:06 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: DP

I can easily do it Monday. No need to mess with it now.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Sat Mar 26 17:05:38 2011
Subject: DP

Let me see if I can do that now...

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 5:05 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: DP

Hang on to them. We may need to scan and send to DEA.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director

O: 202-648-^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}
C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Sat Mar 26 17:04:08 2011
Subject: DP

I have printed out clean hard copies of all these ROIs if you need that...

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 5:03 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Hoover, William J.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Subject: DP

Excellent work (b) (6), (b) Bill and Billy - DP
DP

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648-^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}
C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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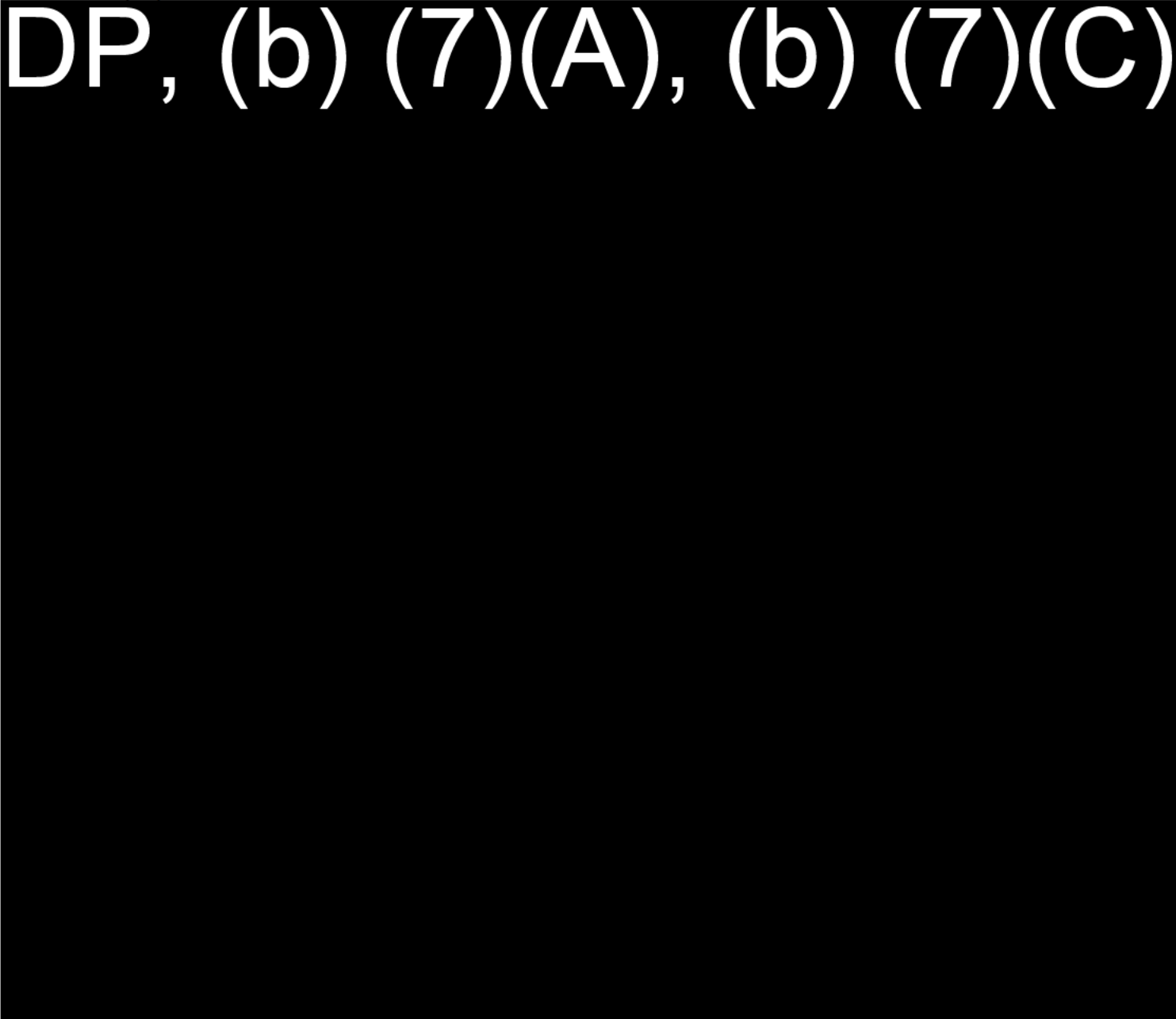
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]; Hoover, William J.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Sat Mar 26 16:57:54 2011
Subject: DP [REDACTED]

<<FF DEA 785115 10 0004.docx>>

DP [REDACTED]

DP, (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)


DP, (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)





Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

202.648.7212, 

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 5:05 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: F&F - DEA Involvement per ROIs

Hang on to them. We may need to scan and send to DEA.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648-
C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Sat Mar 26 17:04:08 2011
Subject: DP

I have printed out clean hard copies of all these ROIs if you need that...

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6 S.129
202.648.7212, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 5:03 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Hoover, William J.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Subject: DP

Excellent work (b) (6), (b) (7) Bill and Billy - DP

DP
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Employee 3

6650

Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648-^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}
C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: ^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}
To: ^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)} Hoover, William J.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Sat Mar 26 16:57:54 2011
Subject: ^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}

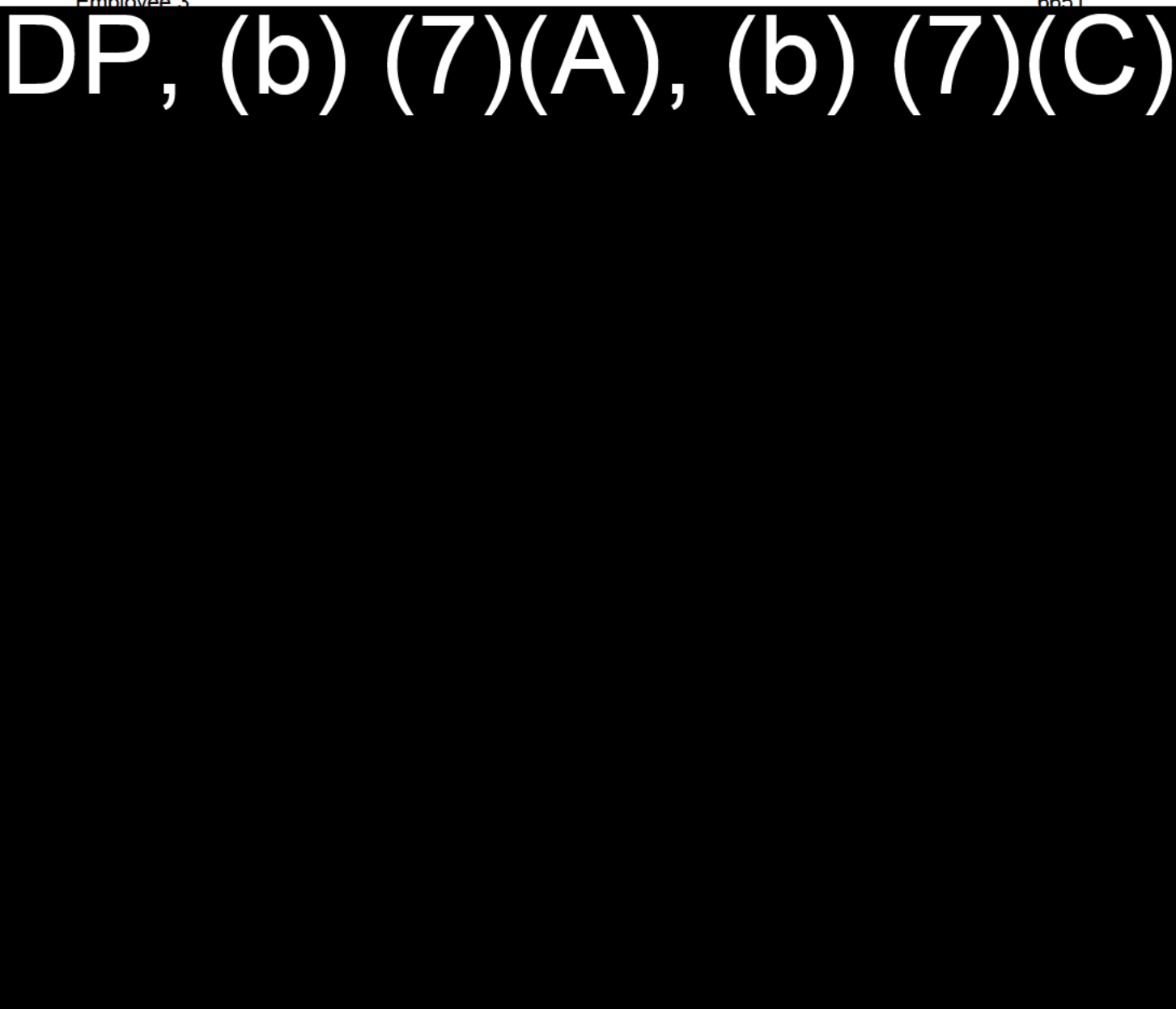
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DP

DP, (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)

ATF8-001-001-00024934


DP, (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)





Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

202.648.7212, 

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 5:03 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Hoover, William J.
CC: McMahon, William G.
Subject: DP

Excellent work (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Bill and Billy DP
DP
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Hoover, William J.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Sat Mar 26 16:57:54 2011
Subject: DP

<<FF DEA 785115 10 0004.docx>>

DP

DP, (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)


DP, (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)





Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

202.648.7212, 

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	Investigation Number: 785115-10-0004	Report Number: 205
--	---	-----------------------

SUMMARY OF EVENT:

[REDACTED]

NARRATIVE:

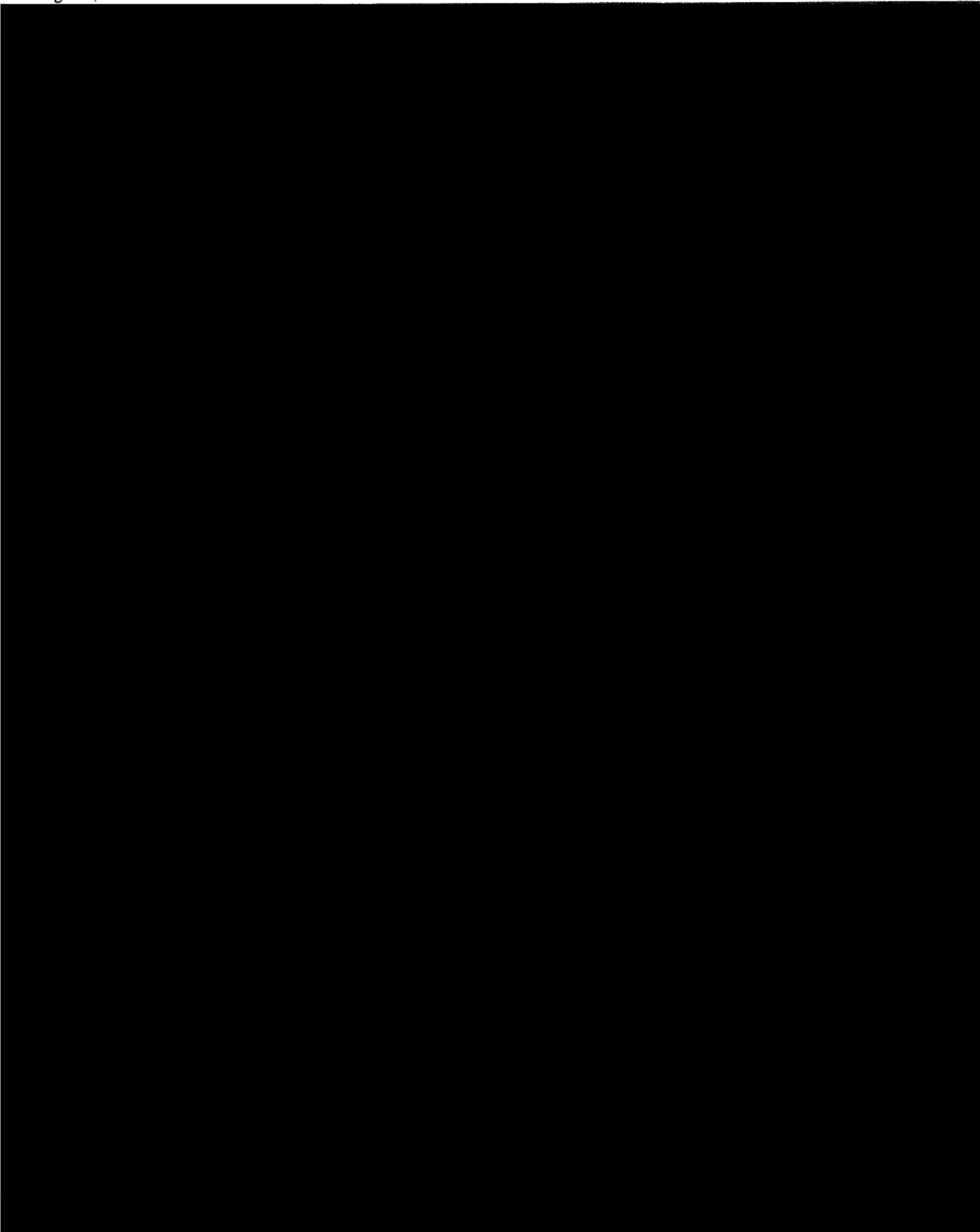
[REDACTED]

ATTACHMENTS:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	Title: Special Agent, Phoenix VII Field Office	[REDACTED]	Date: 4-7-2010
[REDACTED]	Title: Group Supervisor, Phoenix VII Field Office	[REDACTED]	Date: 4-7-10
William D. Newell	Title: Special Agent in Charge, Phoenix Field Division	[REDACTED]	Date:

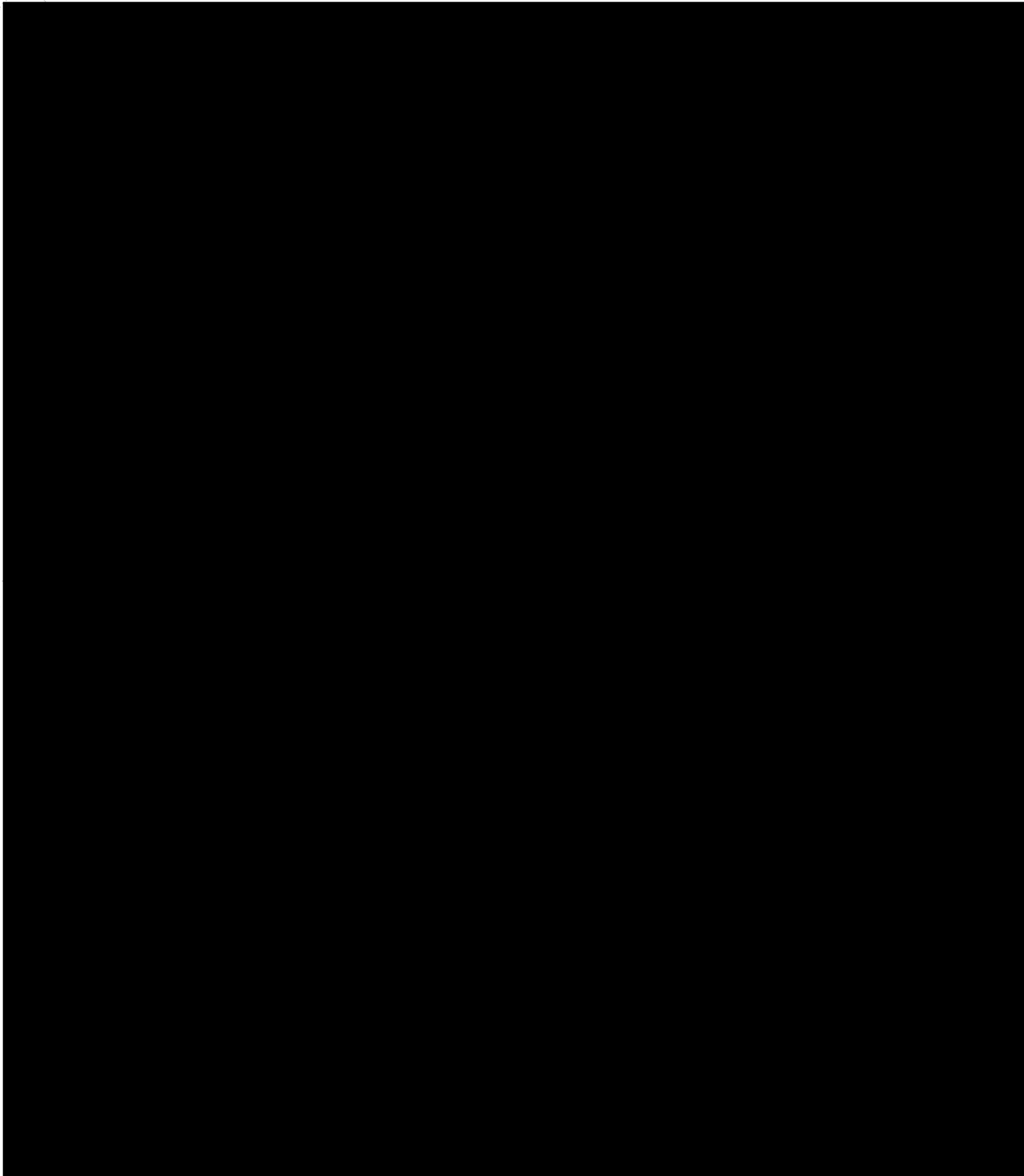
U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration



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U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration



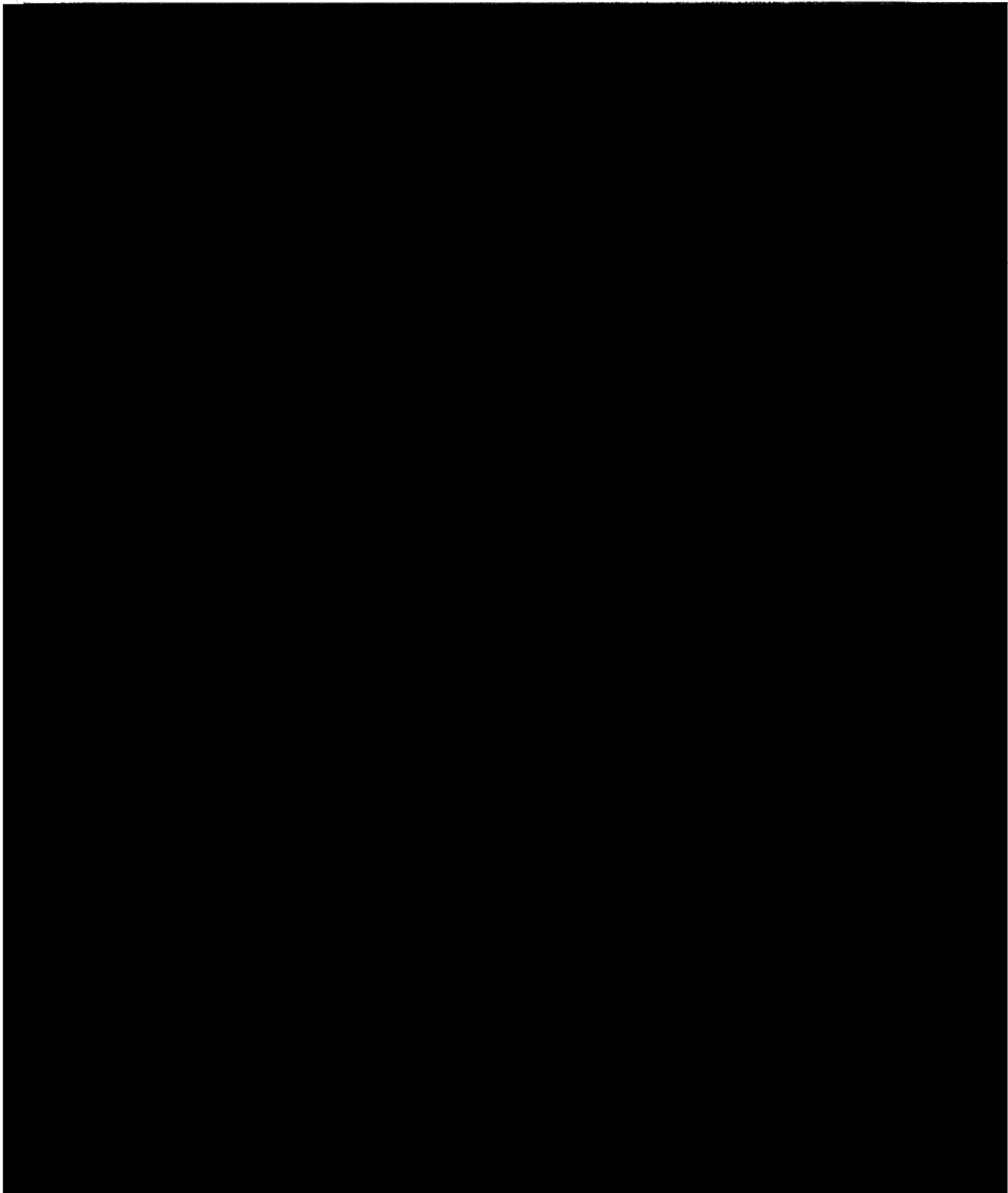
DEA Form - 6a
(Jul. 1996)

DEA SENSITIVE
Drug Enforcement Administration

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U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration



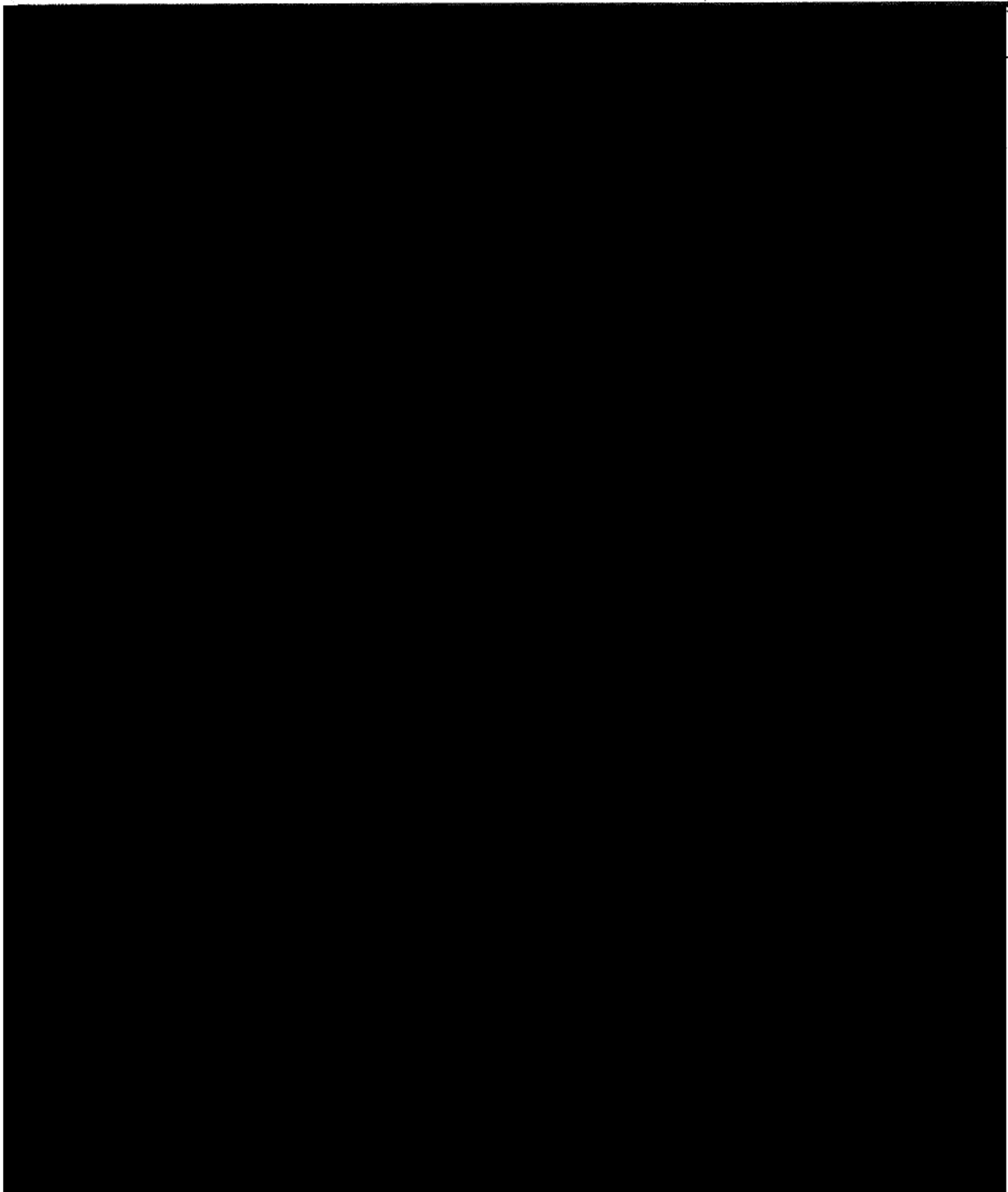
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U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration



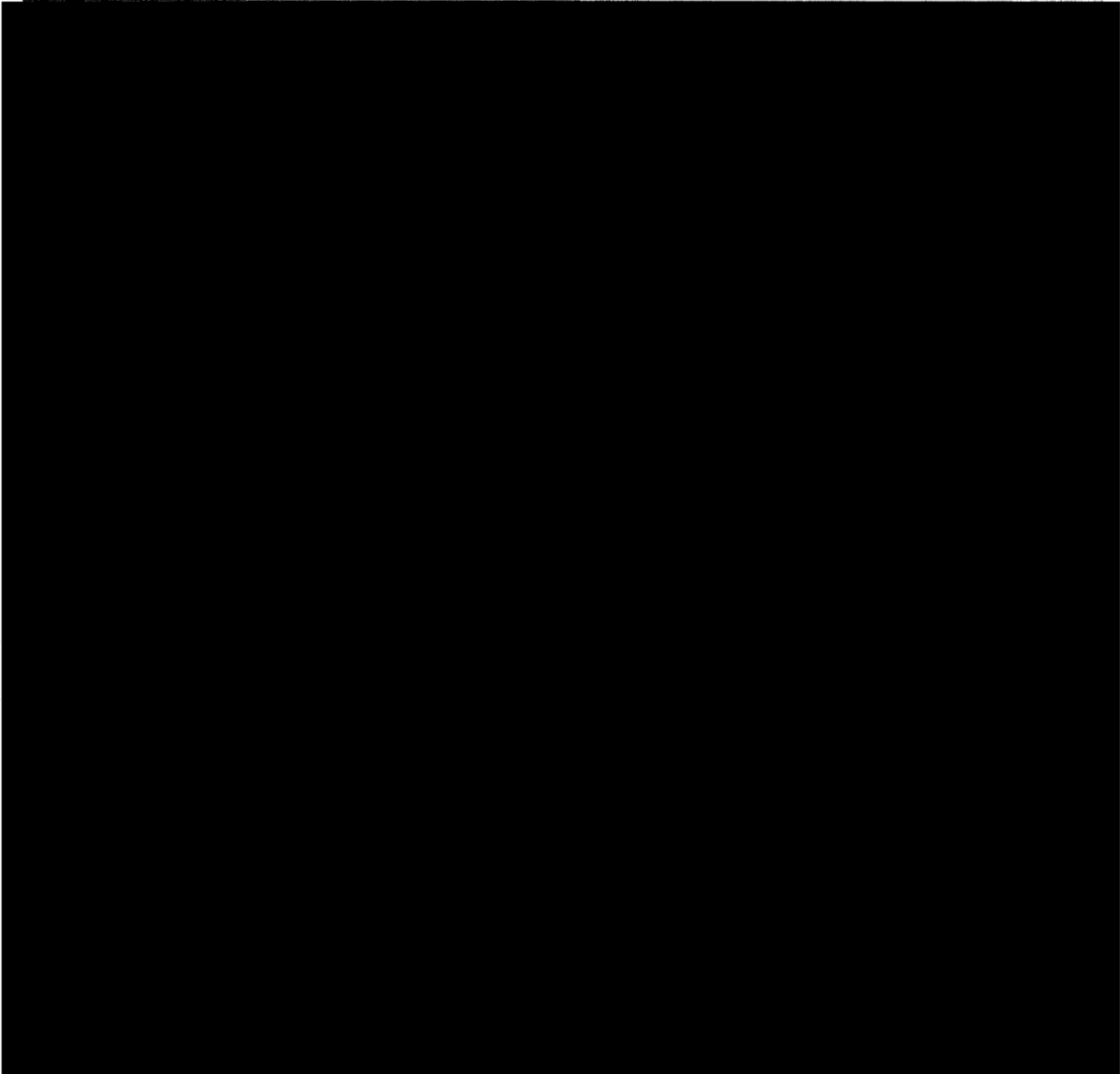
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Previous edition dated 8/94 may be used.

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 5:22 PM

To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.

Subject: RE: Smith letter response

Matt:

Following up on our call, you will have something from us this weekend.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director

O: 202-648-^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}

C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

HQ Room 5 S 100

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [mailto:^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}]

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 1:09 PM

To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); ^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}; Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.

Subject: RE: Smith letter response

Do you guys have an ETA on when you can get me draft answers? It would be helpful to get them today, if possible. Thanks.

Matt

From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)

Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:25 PM

To: ^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}; Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); Hoover, William J. (ATF)

Subject: RE: Smith letter response

Matt: Likewise, we will propose answers to the questions for you tomorrow. PIC

From: ^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}

Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 6:23 PM

To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); Hoover, William J. (ATF)

Subject: Re: Smith letter response

We're on it.

^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director

O: 202-^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}

C: ^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)

To: ^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}; Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.

Sent: Wed Mar 23 21:22:02 2011

Subject: RE: Smith letter response

Tomorrow sometime would be great. Thanks, [REDACTED]

Matt

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:20 PM

To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); Hoover, William J. (ATF)

Subject: Re: Smith letter response

Matt

What is the timeline for a response to you?

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202 [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)

To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ) ; Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ) ; Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, [REDACTED]

Sent: Wed Mar 23 21:17:04 2011

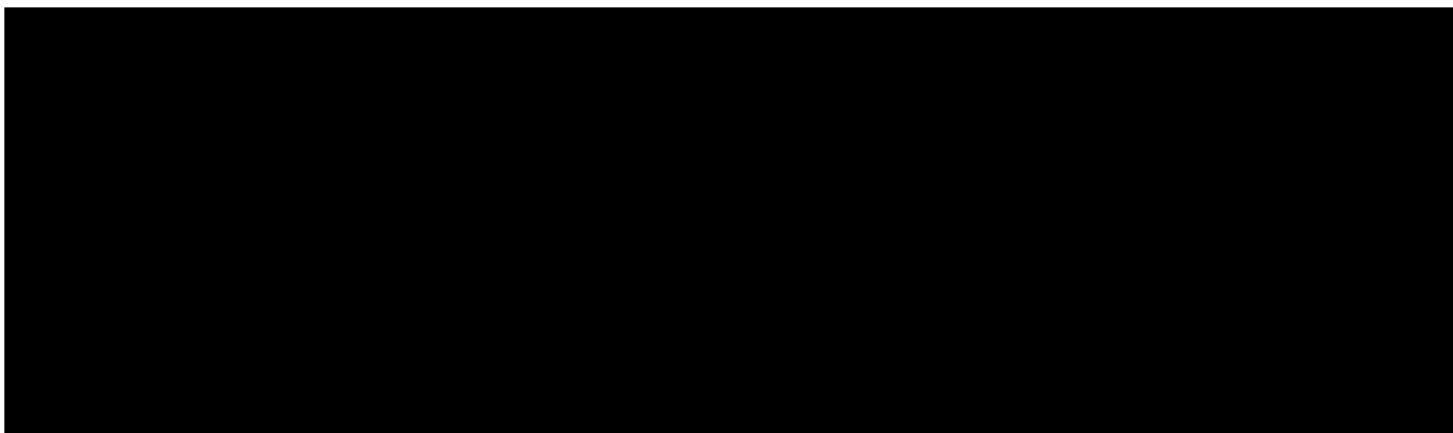
Subject: Smith letter response

All,

Thanks for your patience on the response to Congressman Smith. We in ODAG are still working on the letter. No final decision has been made about what the letter will look like, but depending on what folks here decide [REDACTED] DP

[REDACTED] DP I already have a draft paragraph to address Question #5, which I've reprinted below, but I'm not sure of the answers to the remaining ones. Could you please send me the relevant information? Thanks. I've attached the incoming letter for ease of reference.

Matt



Matthew S. Axelrod

Employee 3

6665

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

Desk (202) 305-0273

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 2:48:45 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Latest CBS story - coordination

Thanks

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director

O: 202-648 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

HQ Room 5 S 100

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 2:42 PM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Cc: McDermond, James E.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Latest CBS story - coordination
Importance: High

All:

Scot wanted to make sure you all got this immediately. Here is the link to the latest story posted to the CBS News website today. I have pasted the contents of the accompanying article below as well. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) DP

Latest CBS News story:
http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-31727_162-20047027-10391695.html

March 25, 2011 11:52 AM

ATF gunwalking: Who knew, and how high up?

Posted by [Sharyl Attkisson](#) [Leave Comment](#)

by *CBS News investigative correspondent Sharyl Attkisson*

Since [our first report](#) in which ATF agents told us they allowed thousands of weapons to cross into Mexico, one crucial question has been: Who knew -- how high up? This week for the first time, [President Obama addressed the controversy](#). It was in an interview

Tuesday evening with the Spanish language network Univision.

Watch: Obama on "gunwalking"

"Well first of all I did not authorize it. Eric Holder the Attorney General did not authorize it. He's been very clear that our policy is to catch gun runners and put 'em into jail," Mr. Obama said of the controversial ATF operation called "Fast and Furious."

"You were not even informed about it?" asked Univision reporter Jorge Ramos.

"Absolutely not," said Mr. Obama. "There may be a situation here which a serious mistake was made and if that's the case then we'll find out and well hold somebody accountable."

But who? In an exclusive interview with CBS News, the lead ATF official in Mexico at the time Darren Gil says somebody in the Justice Department did know about the case. Gil says his supervisor at ATF's Washington D.C. headquarters told him point-blank the operation was approved even higher than ATF Director Kenneth Melson.

Gunrunning scandal uncovered at the ATF

"Is the director aware of this," Gil asked the supervisor. Gil says his supervisor answered "Yes, the director's aware of it. Not only is the director aware of it, D.O.J.'s aware of it... Department of Justice was aware of it."

Gil goes on to say senior Justice official Lanny Breuer and several of his deputies visited Mexico amid the controversy last summer, and spoke to ATF staff generally about a big trafficking case that they claimed was "getting good results." Gil says Melson, ATF's Acting Director, also visited Mexico City. Gil's Deputy Attache and his Analyst questioned Melson about the case that surrounding all the weapons showing up in Mexico. "His response was 'it's a good case, it's still going on,'" recalls Gil, "and we'll close it down as soon as we possibly can."

AK47s vs. bean bags in border drug war

As to what Melson, Breuer and the other officials knew, Senator Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) has been asking. Among other things, he has told the State Department to turn over notes and records from any Breuer visits to Mexico City in summer of 2010. But his repeated requests have so far been denied. And the officials mentioned would not speak with CBS News.

The whole controversy was exposed last month when ATF agent John Dodson and others blew the whistle to CBS News. They told us they were ordered to let assault rifles and other weapons "walk" into the hands of Mexican drug cartels in a failed attempt to take down a cartel.

Agent: I was ordered to let U.S. guns into Mexico

But if Justice Department officials knew, it's even more incredible when you find out who didn't: ATF's own agents in Mexico.

Gil first found out something was amiss in early 2010 when serial numbers from a flood of guns used in cartel crimes were all tracing back to the same case in Phoenix: "Fast and Furious." But when Gil's analyst checked ATF's computer files to find out more, he hit a brick wall.

"Not only did he not have access, I as the attache, the head agent in Mexico for ATF operations, did not have access," says Gil. He was locked out.

That was a red flag because Gil says as the senior ATF official in Mexico, it was his job to approve any ATF operation involving Mexico; and he didn't approve this one.

In fact, Gil specifically emailed his staff on Jan. 25, 2010 that no firearms would be

allowed to cross into Mexico for a case without his approval. The email also stated that if he ever approved such an operation, he'd make sure the weapons were "stopped on the Mexican side of the border." They'd never be allowed to "walk" or reach the streets. Gil didn't know it but even as he wrote that email, ATF agents in Phoenix have told CBS News they were already letting traffickers move weapons to Mexican drug cartels without stopping them. The idea was apparently to see where the guns would end up and try to build a big case.

Faced with the flow of guns and the serial number evidence tracing to Phoenix, but locked out of the computer case files, Gil says he repeatedly questioned his supervisor in Washington. He says some of the conversations became screaming and shouting matches. He says he was instructed not to tell his Mexican counterparts about the case. Gil said he inquired, "when is this case gonna shut down? The Mexicans are gonna have a fit when they find out about it." Gil says he also noted "at some point, these guns are gonna end up killing either a government of Mexico official, a police officer or military folks, and then what are we gonna do?"

Gil is the second ATF agent to tell CBS News that he specifically warned of such an outcome. Agent John Dodson says he told his superiors in Phoenix much the same.

"I specifically asked one time, 'are you prepared to go to the funeral of a Border Patrol agent...are you prepared for that fact because it's only a matter of time before that happens,'" Dodson told CBS News.

That's exactly what happened. Two of the weapons, AK-47 variant assault rifles, were eventually found at the murder of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry last December.

Officials are looking into possible connections to the murder of Customs Agent Jaime Zapata in February.

Gil retired from ATF in December, in part over his objections to Fast and Furious and the way it was handled. He says he's speaking out because nobody else in charge has stepped up to explain that ATF agents in Mexico were never part of it. Yet they're now facing threats of prosecution from some Mexican politicians.

"The (Mexican) government's looking at (ATF agents) potentially bringing weapons into their country, which in many cases is an act of war." Gil says by not explaining that ATF agents in Mexico weren't part of Fast and Furious, ATF executives are putting the agents in danger. "They're leaving my guys out in Mexico alone, and they're not doing the right thing."

[REDACTED]
Deputy Chief
ATF - Public Affairs Division
Direct [REDACTED]
Main) [REDACTED]

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From: Sweeney, Laura (SMO) [mailto:Laura.Sweeney2@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 2:14 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Schmalzer, Tracy (SMO)
Subject: Latest CBS story - coordination
Importance: High

Just touching base with you guys on the latest one:

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-31727_162-20047027-10391695.html

DP

Laura Sweeney
Public Affairs Specialist
Department of Justice
laura.sweeney2@usdoj.gov
202-514-2007

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 9:46:00 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Smith letter response

Attachments: Untitled.PDF - Adobe Acrobat Pro.pdf; Smith letter response; smith questions draft 1.docx

Smiths letter is below.

(b) (3) (A)



smith
questions
draft 1.docx
(17 kB)

(b) (3) (A)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: 202-648-^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}
C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) [mailto:^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:17 PM
To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; ^{(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)}
Subject: Smith letter response

All,

Thanks for your patience on the response to Congressman Smith. We in ODAG are still working on the letter. No final decision has been made about what the letter will look like, but depending on what folks here decide, I may need to incorporate information that addresses the Congressman's six specific questions at the end of the letter. I already have a draft paragraph to address Question #5, which I've reprinted below, but I'm not sure of the answers to the remaining ones. Could you please send me the relevant information? Thanks. I've attached the incoming letter for ease of reference.

Matt

You have also asked for information about eTrace, an important tool in ATF's work to dismantle gun trafficking. eTrace is an Internet-based system that allows participating law enforcement

agencies to submit firearm traces to the ATF National Tracing Center. Authorized users can receive firearm trace results electronically, search a database of all firearm traces submitted by their individual agency, and perform analytical functions. In the last year, eTrace has gained strong new features. eTrace now accommodates data in Spanish, gives translations, and allows users to better sort and search additional data elements and images to improve weapons tracing. In the next 24 months, planned enhancements to eTrace will improve ATF's ability to monitor and map gun tracing data in real time and to share information with other federal agencies, as well as with state and local law enforcement.



Untitled.PDF
- Adobe
Acrobat
Pro.pdf (215
kB)

Matthew S. Axelrod
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Desk (202) 305-0273
Cell (202) 532-3087

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:17:04 PM
To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.;
Subject: Smith letter response

Attachments: Untitled.PDF - Adobe Acrobat Pro.pdf

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- Adobe
Acrobat
Pro.pdf (212
kB)

Matthew S. Axelrod
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Desk (202) 305-0273
Cell (202) 532-3087

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:23 PM

To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); 'DBurke1@usa.doj.gov'; 'PCunningham@usa.doj.gov'; Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.

Subject: Re: Smith letter response

We're on it.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff

ATF Office of the Director

O: 202-648-

C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ) ; Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ) ; Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.

Sent: Wed Mar 23 21:22:02 2011

Subject: RE: Smith letter response

Tomorrow sometime would be great. Thanks, Chris.

Matt

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:20 PM

To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); Hoover, William J. (ATF)

Subject: Re: Smith letter response

Matt

What is the timeline for a response to you?

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff

ATF Office of the Director

O: 202-648-

C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)

To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ) ; Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ) ; Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Wed Mar 23 21:17:04 2011

Subject: Smith letter response

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Matthew S. Axelrod

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

Desk (202) 305-0273

Cell (202) 532-3087

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:19 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); 'DBurke1@usa.doj.gov'; 'PCunningham@usa.doj.gov'; Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Subject: Re: Smith letter response

Matt

What is the timeline for a response to you?

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648-[REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ) ; Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ) ; Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed Mar 23 21:17:04 2011
Subject: Smith letter response

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<<Untitled.PDF - Adobe Acrobat Pro.pdf>>

Matthew S. Axelrod

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

Employee 3
U.S. Department of Justice

6688

Desk (202) 305-0273

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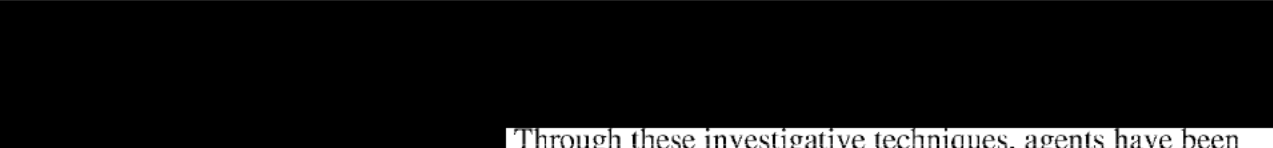
Briefing Paper**Phoenix Field Division****Phoenix Group VII****(OCDETF Strike Force/Gunrunner Group)****ATF Investigation 785115-10-0004****Operation: Fast & Furious, OCDETF No. SW-AZ-0496****January 14, 2011**

Purpose: Indictment and arrest of approximately nineteen individuals involved in firearms trafficking to Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations/Cartels.

Date of Operation: January 25, 2011.

Background: Since October 2009, ATF, and other partners, have been investigating a firearm trafficking organization that is being funded by a drug trafficking organization (DTO) that is involved in violent criminal activity in Mexico, Southern Arizona and many other regions of the United States. These acts contribute to violations of Federal Laws to include Firearms, Narcotics, Money Laundering, and Conspiracy Laws.

Agents believe that the Phoenix-based firearm trafficking group is actively purchasing firearms through straw purchasers using bulk narcotics proceeds. From October 2009 to October 2010 agents have documented that this organization has spent approximately 1.25 million dollars in cash at various Phoenix area FFLs to acquire in excess of 1,900 firearms. The firearms are then being trafficked into Mexico.

 Through these investigative techniques, agents have been able to identify additional co-conspirators and disrupt the firearms trafficking organization by seizing numerous firearms and narcotics. To date, 278 firearms and over fifty (50) pounds of marijuana have been recovered by ATF agents in addition to the numerous firearms and narcotic seizures in Mexico related to this investigation. An additional 72 firearms have been seized by U.S. law enforcement agencies in response to information received from ATF.

Evidence in ATF Custody: 278 firearms, 250 "drum" magazines, thousands of rounds of various caliber ammunition.

OPERATION DETAILS:

Command Post: 3010 North 2nd Street, Phoenix, AZ (OCEDTF Strike Force location).

Incident Commander(s): Incident Commander ASAC Jim Needles.

Arrest Teams: Four arrest teams, four search teams.

Additional ATF Support: No additional ATF support outside the reporting division will be needed to complete the operation.

Specialized ATF Support: ATF Special Response Team, (SRT).

Issues/Problems: No issues or problems that are anticipated.

Anticipated Seizures: No significant seizures are anticipated during the enforcement operation.

Media: Acting Director Melson, SAC Newell, and United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Dennis Burke will hold a press conference at the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Action or Follow-up: [REDACTED]

Participants: ATF, IRS, DEA, ICE (HSI), USMS, Phoenix PD, USDA-OIG.

Case Agent: [REDACTED]
Telephone: [REDACTED]

RAC/GS: [REDACTED]
Telephone: [REDACTED]




Office of the Deputy Attorney General

The Deputy Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

January 7, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENT COMPONENTS
ALL UNITED STATES ATTORNEYSFROM: David W. Ogden 
Deputy Attorney GeneralSUBJECT: Strategy for Combating the Mexican Cartels

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of the Department of Justice Strategy for Combating the Mexican Cartels (the "Cartel Strategy"), which was approved by the Attorney General earlier this week.

The Cartel Strategy is a product of the Department's Southwest Border Strategy Group, which I chair, and which has been meeting for the last several months. The Strategy Group is vice-chaired by the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, and includes the heads of: ATF, BOP, DEA, EOUSA, FBI, OCDETF, USMS, as well as the Chair of the AGAC and the U.S. Attorneys from the five Southwest Border Districts. The Cartel Strategy resulted from an active dialogue among, and significant input from, the components represented on the Strategy Group.

The Cartel Strategy is premised on the notion that a large share of the violence, drug-trafficking, corruption, and other criminal activity occurring along the Southwest Border is perpetrated by a relatively small number of hierarchical criminal organizations. The Strategy Group believes that the most effective mechanism to attack those organizations is the use of intelligence-based, prosecutor-led multi-agency task forces, that simultaneously attack all levels of, and all criminal activities of, the operations of the organizations. The Cartel Strategy sets forth a blueprint for accomplishing this with the resources of the Department of Justice. By design, the Cartel Strategy is consistent with the National Drug Control Strategy and the National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy, both of which guide the larger interagency efforts, and both of which DOJ played a significant role in drafting.

The Cartel Strategy is not a radical departure from efforts that are already underway in the Department. To the contrary, the Cartel Strategy articulates those basic principles that already inform the Department's most successful efforts against the cartels. It is anticipated that the Cartel Strategy will serve as a guidepost toward what types of activities the Department should

Memorandum for Component Heads and United States Attorneys
Subject: Strategy for Combating Mexican Cartels

Page 2

pursue going forward. The Department will measure future initiatives in this area by reference to their ability to further the principles and objectives set forth in the Strategy. Furthermore, the document will help advise those outside the Department – our non-DOJ partners in federal law enforcement, our state and local partners, and policy-makers at all levels of government – how it is that the Department of Justice intends to confront this pervasive challenge.

It is important to note that, although the Cartel Strategy was developed under the auspices of the Southwest Border Strategy Group, the Strategy contemplates vigorous enforcement activity by law enforcement agents and prosecutors, not just at the Southwest Border, but in every jurisdiction. As you are all well aware, the criminal activities perpetrated by the Mexican cartels are not confined to the Southwest Border, but rather extend throughout our country, and internationally. Effective implementation of our strategy to attack all elements of the cartels comprehensively and simultaneously requires that we attack them vigorously in whatever locale they may be found.

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the active involvement of all the components of the Department in the effort against the Mexican drug cartels. As a result of your hard work, talent, and dedication, we have already struck many hard blows against them. I am confident that, going forward, and with the courageous assistance of our partners in Mexico, we will be on the proper path toward achieving even greater successes in disrupting and dismantling these dangerous criminal enterprises.

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE STRATEGY FOR COMBATING THE MEXICAN CARTELS

It is a priority of the Department of Justice to disrupt and dismantle the Mexican drug cartels, bring to justice their leadership, and stem the growing violence and associated criminal activity perpetrated by the cartels, both along the Southwest Border and throughout the Nation. In order to maximize the efficacy of its limited resources, which are spread through numerous components of the Department, it is necessary that the Department deploy those resources pursuant to a single, coherent strategic plan, under a single coordinating body, the Southwest Border Strategy Group.

An essential aspect of the DOJ plan must be ensuring a productive partnership with the government of Mexico, as well as with our state, local, and tribal law enforcement counterparts. Equally important, we must avoid wasteful overlap and duplication of efforts with the activities of our other federal partners, particularly the law enforcement agencies at the Department of Homeland Security.

The following document sets forth the policy considerations that will guide the Department in this process.

The Strategy

The Department will implement its Strategy for Combating the Mexican Cartels under the supervision of the newly-created Southwest Border Strategy Group. The Strategy is intended to be consistent with the Administration's overarching National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy.

The Department's strategy will be executed through the proven mechanism of prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven multi-agency task forces, with the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) Program serving the primary coordinating function. Multiple OCDETF investigations should continue to be linked together at a national level in coordination with the Special Operations Division (SOD), resulting in nationwide takedowns coordinated by SOD, on the model of Project Reckoning, Operation Xcellerator, and Project Coronado.

The DOJ Strategy's key objectives are to:

- Increase the safety and security of U.S. citizens throughout the United States by enforcing violations of federal law that have a particular nexus to the threats posed by the Mexican Cartels, i.e. drug trafficking, money laundering and bulk cash smuggling, firearms trafficking, and corruption.
- Reduce the flow of narcotics and other contraband entering the United States.
- Reduce the flow of illegal weapons, ammunition, explosives, and currency exiting the United States and entering Mexico.

- Strengthen Mexico's operational capacities and enhance its law enforcement institutions.
- Increase bilateral cooperation between Mexico and the United States on fugitive capture and extradition activities.
- Increase intelligence and information sharing among law enforcement agencies in the United States and with Mexico to achieve focused targeting of the most significant criminal organizations.
- Improve case building through interagency coordination, leveraging the expertise and authority of each investigative and prosecutorial agency.
- Maximize the effectiveness of prosecution by locating, arresting, extraditing, and trying all levels, including most importantly the leadership, of these criminal organizations, and disrupting and dismantling the organizations' domestic transportation and distribution cells.
- Coordinate enhanced enforcement initiatives to address "downstream" impacts on judicial security, court and detention operations, prison management and fugitive apprehension.

Division of Responsibilities with DHS

Addressing the Southwest Border threat has two basic elements: policing the actual border to interdict and deter the illegal crossing of undocumented persons or contraband goods, and confronting the large criminal organizations operating simultaneously on both sides of the border.

Given its statutory mission and the resources it can bring to bear at the border, DHS clearly bears primary responsibility for the policing function at the border. DOJ fully supports DHS in that endeavor by sharing relevant intelligence and by prosecuting the most egregious offenders DHS arrests in the course of its policing function. The Department of Justice prosecutes tens of thousands of these reactive law enforcement cases in federal court every year.

However, the root cause of the explosion of violence just south of our border is the conflicts within and among a limited number of sophisticated, transnational criminal organizations. These hierarchical, Mexico-based cartels are responsible for smuggling into the United States most of our nation's illegal drug supply. While the cartels' primary business is drug trafficking, they also sponsor a panoply of other crimes that support their illegal operations. These other crimes include extortion, torture, murder, corruption of public officials, sheltering of wanted fugitives, kidnapping and human smuggling, laundering of illicit criminal proceeds through the existing financial system

and through bulk cash smuggling, and the illegal acquisition, trafficking, and use of firearms and explosives.

It is in taking down these organized, multi-faceted criminal enterprises that DOJ plays the primary role and brings to bear its special expertise. DOJ's success in this endeavor assists, in turn, DHS in the performance of its policing and enforcement function, by disrupting the operations of the cartels, thereby decreasing the pressure on the border. For its part, DHS, and in particular ICE, provides invaluable assistance to the attack on these criminal organizations, by bringing to bear its unique expertise on cross-border transit of contraband.

Border policing and interdiction, and the resulting prosecutions, are key elements of the U.S. government's overall border security strategy. However, the investigation, apprehension, extradition, and prosecution of key cartel leaders and their associates, and the deprivation through forfeiture of their ill-gotten gains, is the most effective means by which we can move past merely addressing the symptoms of our problems along the Southwest Border and attack, instead, the underlying causes.

Deployment of Resources

The Department's view – based on its decades of experience in investigating, prosecuting, and dismantling organized criminal groups, such as the Mafia, international terrorist groups, and domestic and transnational gangs – is that the best way to fight large scale criminal organizations is through prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency task forces that blend the strengths, resources, and expertise of the complete spectrum of federal, state, local, and international investigative and prosecutorial agencies. Through their participation in such task forces, the Department's prosecutors, together with its component law enforcement agencies – DEA, ATF, FBI, and USMS – give the Department the capacity to carry out the full range of activities necessary to succeed against these organizations.

The Department has embraced a model to achieve these comprehensive goals that is proactive, in which we develop priority targets through the extensive use of intelligence. This intelligence is obtained from law enforcement sources, as well as through the careful and disciplined use of classified information from intelligence community agencies to provide unclassified leads. Sharing information, we build cases, coordinating long-term, extensive investigations to identify all the tentacles of a particular organization. Through sustained coordination of these operations, we are able to execute a coordinated enforcement action, arresting as many high-level members of the organization as possible, disrupting and dismantling the domestic transportation and distribution cells of the organization, and seizing as many of the organization's assets as possible, whether those assets be in the form of bank accounts, real property, cash, drugs, or weapons. Finally, we prosecute the leaders of the cartels and their principal facilitators, locating, arresting, and extraditing them from abroad as necessary. In this effort, we coordinate closely with our Mexican counterparts to achieve the goal: destruction or weakening of the drug cartels to the point that they no longer pose a viable

threat to U.S. interests and can be dealt with by Mexican law enforcement in conjunction with a strengthened judicial system and an improved legal framework for fighting organized crime.

In most places, along the border and throughout the country, OCDETF provides an effective mechanism for law enforcement agencies from within DOJ, from elsewhere in the federal government (including DHS and Treasury), and state and local law enforcement, to combine with federal prosecutors to form a “virtual task force” for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting a particular high-value drug trafficking organization. In certain key locales, OCDETF has established actual, brick-and-mortar Co-Located Strike Forces, for the pursuit of the highest level traffickers of drugs, guns, and money. For instance, the San Diego Major Mexican Traffickers Task Force has been responsible for coordinating the U.S. government's successful efforts against the Arellano-Felix Organization. The Houston OCDETF Strike Force has directed our most damaging blows against the Gulf Cartel. And in the first several months of its existence, the Arizona OCDETF Strike Force has been responsible for the indictment of a leader and other members of a major Mexican cartel and the seizure of millions of dollars in cartel assets.

The Department will use the OCDETF Strike Force concept to target all the organized crime activities of the drug cartels – not just those crimes directly related to the drug trade. By further leveraging and coordinating the investigative expertise and jurisdiction of law enforcement agencies outside the drug enforcement area, the Department will task the Strike Forces to disrupt and dismantle every area of the cartels' infrastructure and undermine their ability to operate successfully in any illegal activity.

On a local level, each Strike Force co-locates law enforcement resources that are supplemented by one or more on-site Assistant United States Attorneys. Retaining the current Strike Force structure, specifically the co-location and intensive and early prosecutorial involvement, ensures that the Department capitalizes upon the proven synergy of these Strike Forces to maximize the effectiveness of long-term investigations of these organizations. The synergy created by co-locating the diverse expertise of federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies with prosecutors from the U.S. Attorney's Office, has had demonstrable success against major criminal organizations operating throughout the country. It is for this reason that the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General should have the flexibility to call upon and leverage the resources of the already successful multi-agency task forces around the country, including the OCDETF Strike Forces, HIDTA Task Forces, DEA task force groups, FBI Safe Streets Task Forces, and VCITs, drawing upon the expertise of all of the agencies that contribute to them.

In those locations where they currently exist, DOJ will make the OCDETF Co-Located Strike Forces the focal point for interagency efforts against the Mexican criminal organizations.¹ Elsewhere along the border, and throughout the nation, DOJ will seek to

¹ OCDETF Co-Located Strike Forces are currently located in San Diego, Phoenix, El Paso, Houston (with satellites in Laredo and McAllen), Tampa, San Juan, Atlanta, New York, and Boston.

replicate, to the extent possible, the OCDETF Strike Force model, in particular the characteristics of interagency cooperation, information sharing, and strategic, intelligence-based targeting that have been embodied in these Strike Forces.

Supplementing the regional operations of the prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven multi-agency task forces with a comprehensive national policy and coordination body, the Southwest Border Strategy Group, run out of the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, will give the Department a unified and comprehensive vehicle through which the United States government can disrupt the influence of the cartels. This unified and coordinated approach to law enforcement is not only the best way to use the formidable resources of the United States government, but also the most effective way to decrease the influence of these violent criminal enterprises while enhancing the public safety.

While the prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency task force model is a key component of the Department's strategy, it will not be the only component. We must also recognize and support the important daily work performed by our investigators and prosecutors in stopping and seizing the massive amounts of narcotics, firearms, and bulk cash that flow across the border in both directions. These more reactive narcotics cases are important to the overall cartel strategy, because in the process we are seizing millions of pounds of drugs, thousands of firearms, and millions of dollars in bulk cash as they enter and exit the country. In addition, these commodity-focused cases yield significant intelligence that is then fed into the Special Operations Division (SOD), the OCDETF Fusion Center (OFC), and the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) for use in supporting more proactive, intelligence-driven investigations that are designed to attack all of the cartels' diverse lines of illegal business. Therefore, the Department's Strategy for Combating the Mexican Cartels must include an assessment of the resource needs of all our components, and a plan for how they intend to achieve the stated goals of the Strategy in light of the specific cartel activity impacting their jurisdictions.

Intelligence

Law enforcement agencies must have the ability to access, link, and interpret voluminous intelligence information from as wide a community as possible. We use this shared information to identify and target the most significant organizations, so that we can achieve the greatest impact with our finite resources. We also use shared information to develop coordinated, multi-jurisdictional investigations of those high-impact targets, making sure that investigations are mutually reinforcing, without duplicating or jeopardizing other investigations targeting overlapping organizations.

Several multi-agency endeavors are particularly important to the provision of tactical intelligence and operational support in targeting the largest and most dangerous Mexican cartels.

The Attorney General's Consolidated Priority Organization Target (CPOT) List

The CPOT list of international “Most Wanted” drug kingpins will be used to help focus our critical resources on the greatest threats from the Mexican cartels. Of the 59 worldwide organizations currently on the list, 25 of them are Mexico-based. DOJ will also work in partnership with the Secretary of the Treasury to impose sanctions against Mexican drug trafficking organizations pursuant to the President’s authority under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act.

The El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC)

EPIC is a DEA-led multi-agency organization that provides case-specific tactical intelligence, focusing specifically on the Southwest Border. The ATF Firearms Intelligence Analysis Team is a specialized component of EPIC that serves as a central point of analysis and repository for all Southwest Border firearms-related intelligence. FBI recently created the Southwest Intelligence Group (SWIG), a clearinghouse of all FBI activities involving Mexico, and it is in the process of moving that clearinghouse to EPIC. EPIC houses the National Seizure System, which collects and maintains data on seizures of drugs, guns, and money by law enforcement agencies throughout the nation.

The Special Operations Division (SOD)

SOD is a DEA-led multi-agency coordination center that targets the communication devices the criminal organizations’ leaders use to communicate with each other. SOD actively supports multi-jurisdictional, multi-national, and multi-agency electronic surveillance investigations, coordinating overlapping investigations and ensuring that tactical and operational intelligence is shared between law enforcement agencies.

The OCDETF Fusion Center (OFC)

The OFC is a comprehensive, multi-agency data center containing drug and related financial data from DEA, ATF, FBI, ICE, CBP, IRS, USMS, EPIC, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, the State Department’s Bureau of Consular Affairs, and other key agencies. It conducts cross-agency and cross-jurisdictional integration and analyses to create comprehensive pictures of targeted organizations and to pass usable leads through SOD to participants in the field.

Current Areas of Focus

Pursuant to the principles articulated above, DOJ is pursuing initiatives in the following areas:

1. Ramping up Establishment and Use of Vetted Units in Mexico

An important aspect of case building in Mexico involves U.S. cooperation with specially vetted Mexican law enforcement units. DOJ law enforcement agents work in an advisory capacity to develop elite vetted units of Mexican federal police officers,

training them to conduct law enforcement operations that lead to the discovery and seizure of drugs, guns, explosives, money, and documentary evidence to support bilateral investigations and prosecutions. The Mexican units also arrest active members of the cartels, who may eventually become either cooperating witnesses, defendants, or both. These units are essential to our operations. In order to properly leverage and support these crucial operations, the Department must expand their number, to include more drug trafficking units, a firearms trafficking unit, a money-laundering/financial unit, and a fugitive apprehension unit.

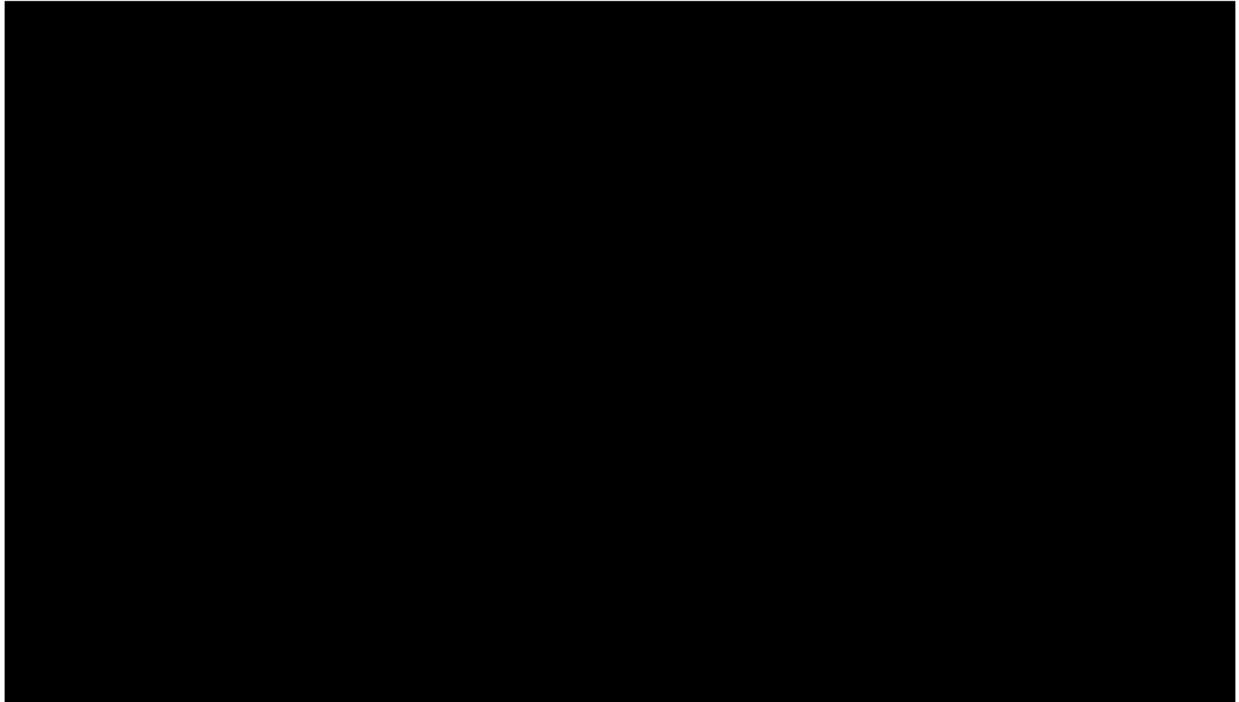
2. Continued Focus on Attacking Cartel Finances

A particular point of emphasis in recent years has been the dismantlement of the financial infrastructure of the drug trafficking organizations. These efforts have been hampered by the fact that financial cases are complex and time-consuming, and the pool of experienced financial investigators is finite. Since the curtailment of IRS involvement in drug investigations in 2005, ATF, DEA, FBI, and USMS have hired additional financial investigators and forfeiture specialists. OCDETF has established the Financial Investigative Contractor (FIC) Program to bring additional experienced financial investigators to bear on the largest cartels, and has buttressed the analytical and document exploitation capabilities of its Co-Located Strike Forces in San Diego, Phoenix, El Paso, Houston, and Atlanta. DEA has implemented Financial Investigation Teams (FITs) in its field divisions to target the financial assets of drug traffickers. Analysts and attorneys in the U.S. Attorney's Offices and in the Department's Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section have also stepped up their efforts to assist in prosecuting money laundering activities of all types. In addition, Southwest Region federal agencies are working with state and local law enforcement agencies on an OCDETF bulk currency initiative that targets the highest level drug cartels and their transportation routes in the Southwest. These efforts must be supported and expanded.

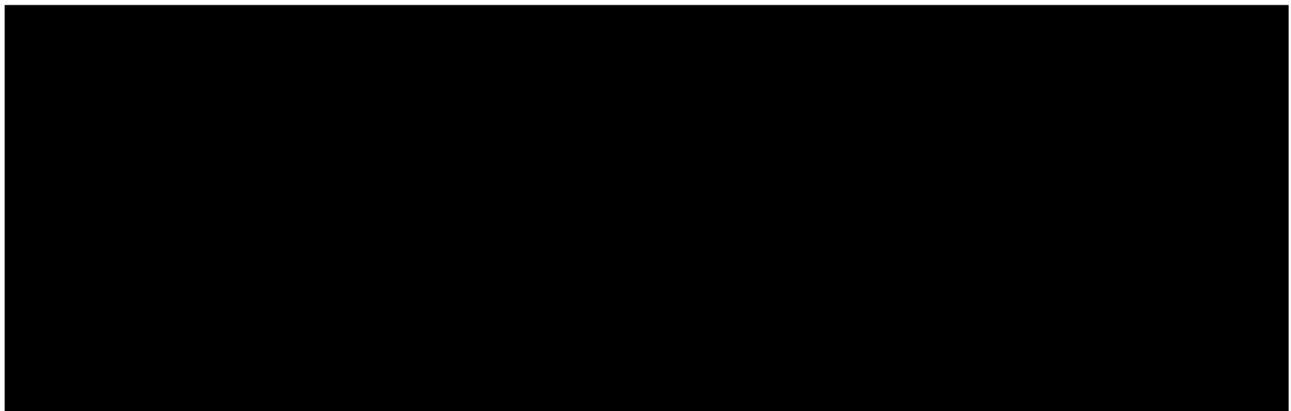
3. Attacking the Southbound Flow of Firearms

Addressing the flow of weapons into Mexico from the United States is also a primary focus of our efforts. ATF's intelligence has shown that the prevalence of firearms and explosives trafficking into Mexico has a direct nexus to the cartels' national domestic drug distribution network. Thus, given the national scope of this issue, merely seizing firearms through interdiction will not stop firearms trafficking to Mexico. We must identify, investigate, and eliminate the sources of illegally trafficked firearms and the networks that transport them. Since 2006, Project Gunrunner has been ATF's comprehensive strategy to combat firearms-related violence perpetrated by the drug cartels along the Southwest Border. Increasingly close collaboration between ATF and the efforts of the multi-agency drug task forces along the border, including, most particularly, the OCDETF co-located Strike Forces, ensures that scarce ATF resources are directed at the most important targets. Additionally, DOJ is sponsoring and hosting U.S./Mexico bilateral working groups focusing on joint efforts to combat arms trafficking, and is ensuring that U.S. Attorneys Offices around the country are coordinating on firearms trafficking cases.

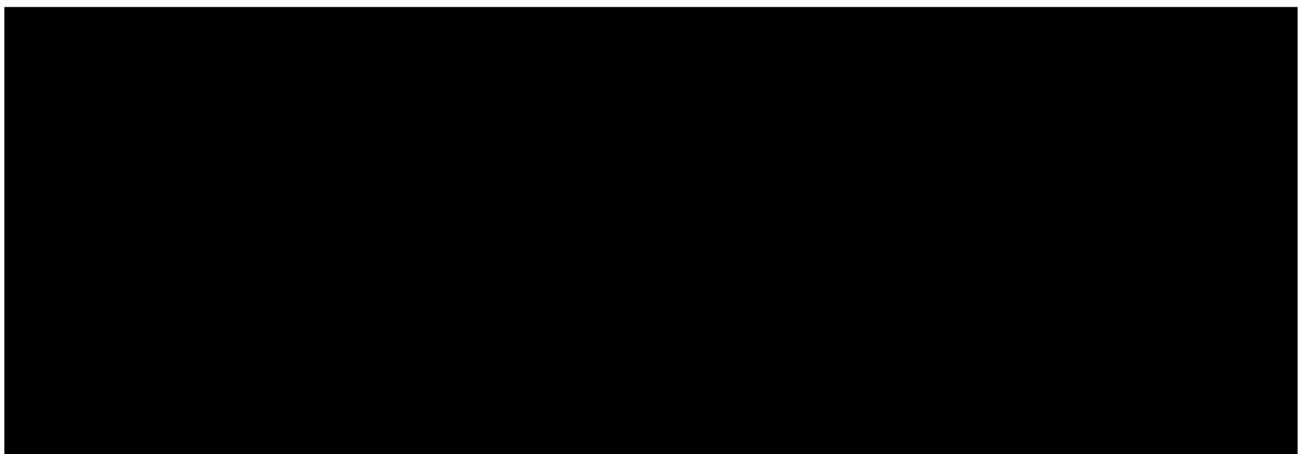
4. Increased Focus on Locating and Apprehending Fugitives

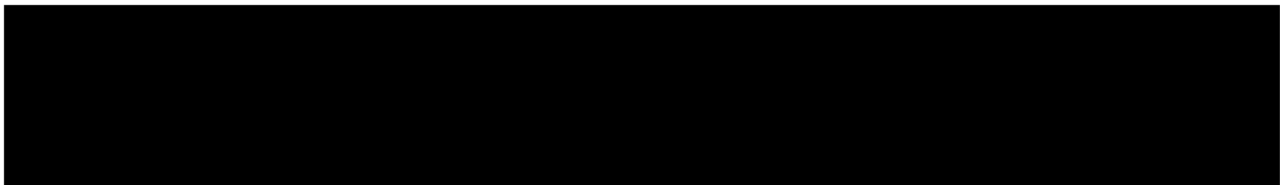


5. Expanded Use of the Extradition Process

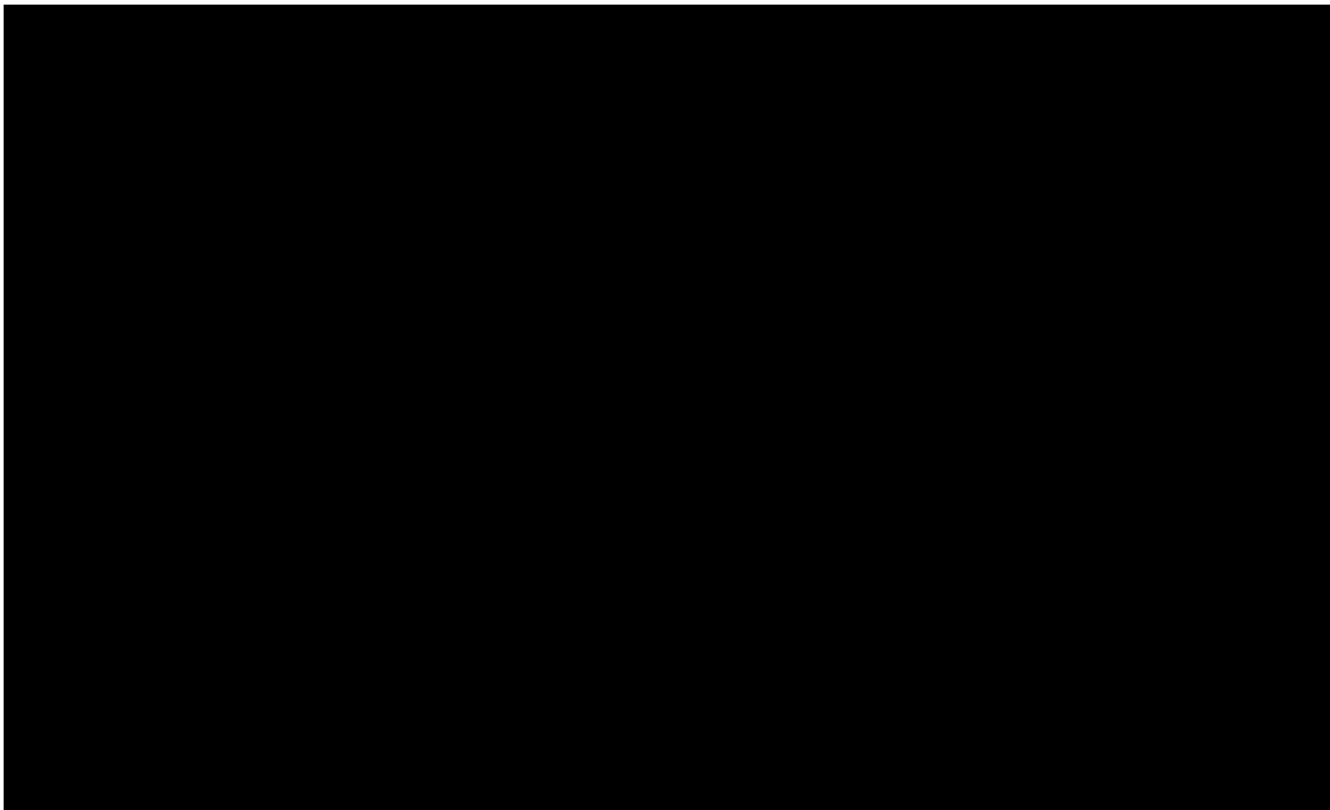


6. Continued Pursuit of Corrupt Public Officials Who Facilitate the Drug Trade





7. Merida



From: [REDACTED]**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 12:56 PM**To:** Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)**CC:** Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; McMahon, William G.; Needles, James R. [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]**Subject:** 3/22 Fast and Furious Briefing Get Backs

Following up from yesterday's discussions:

Are we aware of any times when guns were handed off to [REDACTED]

See ROI 18 – we followed some guns to a residence we later learned was associated with [REDACTED]

See also ROI 36 – [REDACTED] purchased 20 AK's. After a long surveillance, Phoenix PD conducted a traffic stop. [REDACTED] claimed ownership of the guns. [REDACTED] was in the car at the time of the stop. The guns were not seized.

Did ASAC Gillette receive any complaints or feedback regarding the investigative techniques used in F&F? Per ASAC Needles, he checked with ASAC Gillette, the answer is no.

The Ombudsman indicates they have not received any communications from S/A [REDACTED]

OPRSO is checking to make sure they have not received any communications from S/A [REDACTED]

What audio exists on the video tape of the surveillance aired by CBS? The tape was reviewed. It is short, The audio on the tape is "typical surveillance audio" e.g. "They are coming out." There is no inflammatory audio. The tape ends as the surveillance pulls out of the parking lot.

Were all suspects entered in TECS? Yes, and they always have been. As of yesterday there were no hits on [REDACTED] (reference the letter from Grassley to CBP)

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: 202-648-[REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 10:29 AM
To: [REDACTED]; Needles, James R.
CC: McMahon, William G.; Chait, Mark R.; Hoover, William J.; Melson, Kenneth E.
Subject: Additional Document Requests from Matt Axelrod:

All:

Matt spent the weekend reading the first 370 ROIs. He has requested the following additional documents as a result of that review:

DP

Repeat request from last week:

DP

Thanks in advance,

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: 202-648-[REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 7:58 AM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.
Subject: RE: Questions from Matt Axelrod

Yes sir.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: 202-648-^{(b) (6), (b) (7)}
C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 7:28 PM
To: ^{(b) (6), (b) (7)}; Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; Needles, James R.; ^{(b) (6), (b) (7)}
Subject: RE: Questions from Matt Axelrod

I assume you will provide a copy of all to me as well. Thanks. Ken.

From: ^{(b) (6), (b) (7)}
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 5:36 PM
To: Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; Needles, James R.; ^{(b) (6), (b) (7)}
Cc: Melson, Kenneth E.
Subject: Questions from Matt Axelrod

All:

As we discussed, here are the questions Matt is asking at the moment. Some of this is done.



DP

^{(b) (6), (b) (7)}
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: 202-648-^{(b) (6), (b) (7)}
C: ^{(b) (6), (b) (7)}
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 7:57 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Questions from Matt Axelrod

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

I don't think so, at least not in terms of discussing Fast and Furious. Let's talk.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: 202-648-
C:
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 7:58 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Questions from Matt Axelrod

For #6 you'll want to include Para 42 (?) of

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From:
To: Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; Needles, James R.;
Cc: Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Thu Mar 17 17:36:00 2011
Subject: Questions from Matt Axelrod
All:

As we discussed, here are the questions Matt is asking at the moment. Some of this is done.



DP

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: 202-648-[REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 5:36 PM
To: Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; Needles, James R.; [REDACTED]
CC: Melson, Kenneth E.
Subject: Questions from Matt Axelrod

All:

As we discussed, here are the questions Matt is asking at the moment. Some of this is done.



DP

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: 202-648-[REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
HQ Room 5 S 100

From:**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2011 6:14 PM**To:** Melson, Kenneth E.**Subject:** Re: AG's Testimony

Got it

Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648-
C:

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From: Melson, Kenneth E.
To: Pellettiere, Christopher A.
Sent: Fri Mar 11 18:13:21 2011
Subject: Re: AG's Testimony

Of course not. But I can find for you a summary of it provided by USA. In summary, don't let guns go across border intentionally, even under controlled conditions.

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From: Pellettiere, Christopher A.
To: Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Fri Mar 11 18:10:36 2011
Subject: Re: AG's Testimony

Sorry to big you but I have no idea what the DAG's guidance to the USAs was. Is there something in writing?
Chris Pellettiere
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648-7425
C: 786-298-6042

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From: Melson, Kenneth E.

To: Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; [REDACTED]

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Fri Mar 11 18:07:33 2011

Subject: Fw: AG's Testimony

FYI

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From: Monaco, Lisa (ODAG)

To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG) ; Smith, Brad (ODAG)

Sent: Fri Mar 11 18:03:32 2011

Subject: RE: AG's Testimony

Yes

From: Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF)

Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 2:59 PM

To: Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG); Monaco, Lisa (ODAG); Smith, Brad (ODAG)

Subject: RE: AG's Testimony

DP

From: Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG) [mailto:Stuart.Goldberg@usdoj.gov]

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 12:25 PM

To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Monaco, Lisa (ODAG)

Subject: RE: AG's Testimony

Ken -- I haven't been watching, [REDACTED]

DP

Stuart M. Goldberg
Chief of Staff for the
Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Room 4210
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530
Tele: 202-353-8878

From: Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF)

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 11:56 AM

To: Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG); Monaco, Lisa (ODAG)

Subject: AG's Testimony

Stuart and Lisa:

DP

Ken.

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 6:10 PM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.
Subject: Re: AG's Testimony

Sorry to big you but I have no idea what the DAG's guidance to the USAs was. Is there something in writing?

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
C: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: Melson, Kenneth E.
To: Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Fri Mar 11 18:07:33 2011
Subject: Fw: AG's Testimony

FYI

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From: Monaco, Lisa (ODAG)
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG) ; Smith, Brad (ODAG)
Sent: Fri Mar 11 18:03:32 2011
Subject: RE: AG's Testimony

Yes

From: Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 2:59 PM
To: Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG); Monaco, Lisa (ODAG); Smith, Brad (ODAG)
Subject: RE: AG's Testimony

DP

From: Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG) [mailto:Stuart.Goldberg@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 12:25 PM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Monaco, Lisa (ODAG)
Subject: RE: AG's Testimony

Ken – I haven't been watching.

DP

Stuart M. Goldberg
Chief of Staff for the
Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Room 4210
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530
Tele: 202-353-8878

From: Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 11:56 AM
To: Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG); Monaco, Lisa (ODAG)
Subject: AG's Testimony

Stuart and Lisa:

DP

Ken.

U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Report of Investigation

Title of Investigation: [REDACTED]	Investigation Number: 785115-10-0004	Report Number: 238
---------------------------------------	---	-----------------------

SUMMARY OF EVENT:

Surveillance Report for April 27, 2010

NARRATIVE:

1. On April 27, 2010, [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED]

Prepared by: [REDACTED]	Title: Special Agent, Phoenix II Field Office	Signature:	Date:
Authorized by: [REDACTED]	Title: Group Supervisor, Phoenix VII Field Office	Signature:	Date:
Second level reviewer (optional): William D. Newell	Title: Special Agent in Charge, Phoenix Field Division	Signature:	Date:

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14

15. This investigation is ongoing.

ATTACHMENTS: ATF F 4473's, Multiple Sale Form, and Receipts re:

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:52:27 PM
To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ);
CC: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Subject: Draft response to Congressman Smith letter

Attachments: smith fast and furious response 3-30-11.docx

Pat/

Attached is the most current version of a draft response to Congressman Smith. It's still not final, but we're getting close.

DP

Thanks.

Matt



smith fast
and furious
response
3-30-11.docx
(27 kB)

Matthew S. Axelrod
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Desk (202) 305-0273
Cell (202) 532-3087

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 27, 2011

Via Electronic Transmission

Kenneth E. Melson
Acting Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
99 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Acting Director Melson:

It is my understanding that the ATF is continually conducting operations along the southwestern United States border to thwart illegal firearm trafficking. I am specifically writing you concerning an ATF operation called "Project Gunrunner." There are serious concerns that the ATF may have become careless, if not negligent, in implementing the Gunrunner strategy.

Members of the Judiciary Committee have received numerous allegations that the ATF sanctioned the sale of hundreds of assault weapons to suspected straw purchasers, who then allegedly transported these weapons throughout the southwestern border area and into Mexico. According to the allegations, one of these individuals purchased three assault rifles with cash in Glendale, Arizona on January 16, 2010. Two of the weapons were then allegedly used in a firefight on December 14, 2010 against Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents, killing CBP Agent Brian Terry. These extremely serious allegations were accompanied by detailed documentation which appears to lend credibility to the claims and partially corroborates them.

On Tuesday, according to press reports, the ATF arrested 17 suspects in a Project Gunrunner bust. William Newell, the Special Agent in Charge of the ATF's Phoenix Field Office was quoted as saying, "We strongly believe we took down the entire organization from top to bottom that operated out of the Phoenix area." However, if the 17 individuals were merely straw purchasers of whom the ATF had been previously aware before Agent Terry's death, then that raises a host of serious questions that the ATF needs to address immediately.

As you know, the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a review of ATF's Project Gunrunner in November of 2010, in which the OIG concluded that Project Gunrunner has been unsuccessful, in large part because:

Project Gunrunner's investigative focus has largely remained on gun dealer inspections and straw purchaser investigations, rather than targeting higher-level traffickers and smugglers. As a result, ATF has not made full use of the

intelligence, technological, and prosecutorial resources that can help ATF's investigations reach into the higher levels of trafficking rings.¹

Therefore, in order to gain a more complete understanding of ATF activities in Project Gunrunner, I request that you arrange for my staff to be briefed by knowledgeable ATF supervisors no later than February 3, 2011. Please contact Jason Foster or Brian Downey at (202) 224-5225 to schedule the briefing. All formal correspondence should be sent electronically in PDF format to Brian_Downey@judiciary-rep.senate.gov or via facsimile to (202) 224-3799.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member

¹ *Review of ATF's Project Gunrunner, Evaluation and Inspections Report 1-2011-001*, November 2010, available at <http://www.justice.gov/oig/reports/ATF/e1101.pdf>



Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D. C. 20530

February 4, 2011

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

This responds to your letters, dated January 27, 2011 and January 31, 2011, to Acting Director Kenneth Melson of the Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), regarding Project Gunrunner. We appreciate your strong support for the Department's law enforcement mission.

At the outset, the allegation described in your January 27 letter—that ATF "sanctioned" or otherwise knowingly allowed the sale of assault weapons to a straw purchaser who then transported them into Mexico—is false. ATF makes every effort to interdict weapons that have been purchased illegally and prevent their transportation to Mexico. Indeed, an important goal of Project Gunrunner is to stop the flow of weapons from the United States to drug cartels in Mexico. Since its inception in 2006, Project Gunrunner investigations have seized in excess of 10,000 firearms and 1.1 million rounds of ammunition destined for Mexico. Hundreds of individuals have been convicted of criminal offenses arising from these investigations and many others are on-going. ATF remains committed to investigating and dismantling firearms trafficking organizations, and will continue to pursue those cases vigorously with all available investigative resources.

In this vein, the suggestion that Project Gunrunner focuses simply on straw purchasers is incorrect. The defendants named in the indictments referenced in your January 27 letter include leaders of a sophisticated gun trafficking organization. One of the goals of the investigation that led to those indictments is to dismantle the entire trafficking organization, not merely to arrest straw purchasers.

I also want to assure you that ATF has made no attempt to retaliate against any of its agents regarding this matter. We recognize the importance of protecting employees from retaliation relating to their disclosures of waste, fraud, and abuse. ATF employees receive annual training on their rights under the Whistleblower Protection Act, and those with knowledge of waste, fraud, or abuse are encouraged to communicate directly with the

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Page Two

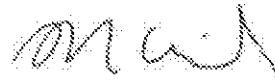
Department's Office of Inspector General. These protections do not negate the Department's legitimate interest in protecting confidential information about pending criminal investigations.

We also want to protect investigations and the law enforcement personnel who directly conduct them from inappropriate political influence. For this reason, we respectfully request that Committee staff not contact law enforcement personnel seeking information about pending criminal investigations, including the investigation into the death of Customs and Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry. Like you, we are deeply concerned by his murder, and we are actively investigating the matter. Please direct any inquiry into his killing to this office.

The Department would be pleased to provide a briefing to Committee staff about Project Gunrunner and ATF's efforts to work with its law enforcement partners to build cases that will disrupt and dismantle criminal organizations. That briefing would not address the on-going criminal investigation referenced in your letter. As you know, the Department has a long-standing policy against the disclosure of non-public information about pending criminal investigations, which protects the independence and effectiveness of our law enforcement efforts as well as the privacy and due process interests of individuals who may or may not ever be charged with criminal offenses.

We hope that this information is helpful and look forward to briefing Committee staff about Project Gunrunner. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance about this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Ronald Weich
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman

PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT, CHAIRMAN

HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN
 DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
 CHARLES E. SCHUMER, NEW YORK
 RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
 SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND
 AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA
 AL FRANKEN, MINNESOTA
 CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE
 RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA
 ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH
 JON KYL, ARIZONA
 JEFF SESSIONS, ALABAMA
 LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
 JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
 MICHAEL S. LEE, UTAH
 TOM COBURN, OKLAHOMA

United States Senate
 COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510-8275

BRUCE A. COHEN, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*
 KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Republican Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

March 15, 2011

Via Electronic Transmission

The Honorable Michele M. Leonhart
 Administrator
 U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
 U.S. Department of Justice
 700 Army Navy Drive
 Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Administrator Leonhart:

Since January, I have been investigating the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) operation called "Fast and Furious"—part of the broader "Project Gunrunner" initiative. According to several agents, ATF leadership encouraged gun dealers to engage in sales of multiple weapons to individuals suspected of illegally purchasing for resale to Mexican cartels.

I understand from documents and other information provided that Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Agents were aware of Operation Fast and Furious and possibly deeply involved in the operation. Reportedly, DEA funds were used to facilitate operations in ATF's Operation Fast and Furious.

Accordingly, in order to get a better understanding of DEA's involvement with Operation Fast and Furious please provide all records relating to communications between supervisors and DEA headquarters regarding DEA's involvement. Additionally, I request that you arrange for knowledgeable DEA supervisors to brief members of my staff no later than March 25, 2011.

I would appreciate a response to this letter no later than March 18, 2011. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Brian Downey at (202) 224-5225. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
 Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
 Attorney General, United States Department of Justice

JOHN CORNYN, U.S. SENATOR FROM TEXAS
 1200 AUSTIN AVENUE, SUITE 1000
 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2000
 TEL: 512/491-7000
 FAX: 512/491-7000
 WWW.CORNYN.Senate.GOV

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
 WASHINGTON, DC 20540-2076

March 16, 2011

Via Electronic Transmission

The Honorable Alan D. Bersin
 Commissioner
 U.S. Customs and Border Protection
 U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20229

Dear Commissioner Bersin:

Since January, I have been investigating the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) operation called “Fast and Furious”—part of the broader “Project Gunrunner” initiative. According to several agents, ATF leadership encouraged gun dealers to engage in sales of multiple weapons to individuals suspected of illegally purchasing them for resale to Mexican cartels. Specifically, I am seeking information on whether CBP officials had an opportunity to seize weapons from straw purchasers on two specific occasions.

First, on March 8, 2011, federal authorities indicted 11 defendants, including the Mayor and the Police Chief of a small town in New Mexico, for conspiring to smuggle weapons from the United States into Mexico.¹ According to the indictment, on January 14, 2010, Blas Gutierrez and Miguel Carrillo were pulled over near the border and were found in possession of eight weapons, including three AK-47-type pistols.² Also according to the indictment, two of the weapons were later smuggled to Mexico, where they were found this month, March 2011.³ I understand that CBP may have been the agency that conducted the vehicle stop referenced in the indictment and that some of the weapons may have been connected to Operation Fast and Furious. However, CBP allegedly let the individuals go, perhaps because it failed to determine that the weapons or individuals were connected to ATF operation at the time of the vehicle stop.

Second, CBP officials allegedly stopped Jaime Avila near the border in the spring or summer of 2010. He allegedly had the two WASR-10 rifles in his possession that were later found at the scene of Agent Brian Terry’s murder, along with over thirty additional weapons. CBP officials contacted ATF or an Assistant United States Attorney who allegedly instructed CBP to allow Avila proceed without seizing the weapons.

¹ Indictment, filed March 8, 2011, *United States v. Villalobos*, Case 2:11-cr-00487. (Attachment 1)

² *Id.* at 3.

³ *Id.*

In order to ascertain the extent to which these accounts are accurate, please ensure that CBP officials are prepared to answer questions about these two incidents in addition to questions about the use of force policy at the staff briefing scheduled for this Friday. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Brian Downey at (202) 224-5225. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member

Attachment

Employee 4
From: [REDACTED], John A.
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 7:09:19 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject:

274

Sir Answer to both questions after asking each group is negative.

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 27, 2011

Via Electronic Transmission

Kenneth E. Melson
Acting Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
99 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Acting Director Melson:

It is my understanding that the ATF is continually conducting operations along the southwestern United States border to thwart illegal firearm trafficking. I am specifically writing you concerning an ATF operation called "Project Gunrunner." There are serious concerns that the ATF may have become careless, if not negligent, in implementing the Gunrunner strategy.

Members of the Judiciary Committee have received numerous allegations that the ATF sanctioned the sale of hundreds of assault weapons to suspected straw purchasers, who then allegedly transported these weapons throughout the southwestern border area and into Mexico. According to the allegations, one of these individuals purchased three assault rifles with cash in Glendale, Arizona on January 16, 2010. Two of the weapons were then allegedly used in a firefight on December 14, 2010 against Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents, killing CBP Agent Brian Terry. These extremely serious allegations were accompanied by detailed documentation which appears to lend credibility to the claims and partially corroborates them.

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As you know, the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a review of ATF's Project Gunrunner in November of 2010, in which the OIG concluded that Project Gunrunner has been unsuccessful, in large part because:

Project Gunrunner's investigative focus has largely remained on gun dealer inspections and straw purchaser investigations, rather than targeting higher-level traffickers and smugglers. As a result, ATF has not made full use of the

intelligence, technological, and prosecutorial resources that can help ATF's investigations reach into the higher levels of trafficking rings.¹

Therefore, in order to gain a more complete understanding of ATF activities in Project Gunrunner, I request that you arrange for my staff to be briefed by knowledgeable ATF supervisors no later than February 3, 2011. Please contact Jason Foster or Brian Downey at (202) 224-5225 to schedule the briefing. All formal correspondence should be sent electronically in PDF format to Brian_Downey@judiciary-rep.senate.gov or via facsimile to (202) 224-3799.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member

¹ *Review of ATF's Project Gunrunner, Evaluation and Inspections Report 1-2011-001*, November 2010, available at <http://www.justice.gov/oig/reports/ATF/e1101.pdf>



Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D. C. 20530

February 4, 2011

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

This responds to your letters, dated January 27, 2011 and January 31, 2011, to Acting Director Kenneth Melson of the Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), regarding Project Gunrunner. We appreciate your strong support for the Department's law enforcement mission.

At the outset, the allegation described in your January 27 letter—that ATF “sanctioned” or otherwise knowingly allowed the sale of assault weapons to a straw purchaser who then transported them into Mexico—is false. ATF makes every effort to interdict weapons that have been purchased illegally and prevent their transportation to Mexico. Indeed, an important goal of Project Gunrunner is to stop the flow of weapons from the United States to drug cartels in Mexico. Since its inception in 2006, Project Gunrunner investigations have seized in excess of 10,000 firearms and 1.1 million rounds of ammunition destined for Mexico. Hundreds of individuals have been convicted of criminal offenses arising from these investigations and many others are on-going. ATF remains committed to investigating and dismantling firearms trafficking organizations, and will continue to pursue those cases vigorously with all available investigative resources.

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I also want to assure you that ATF has made no attempt to retaliate against any of its agents regarding this matter. We recognize the importance of protecting employees from retaliation relating to their disclosures of waste, fraud, and abuse. ATF employees receive annual training on their rights under the Whistleblower Protection Act, and those with knowledge of waste, fraud, or abuse are encouraged to communicate directly with the

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Page Two

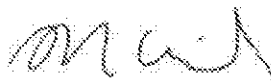
Department's Office of Inspector General. These protections do not negate the Department's legitimate interest in protecting confidential information about pending criminal investigations.

We also want to protect investigations and the law enforcement personnel who directly conduct them from inappropriate political influence. For this reason, we respectfully request that Committee staff not contact law enforcement personnel seeking information about pending criminal investigations, including the investigation into the death of Customs and Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry. Like you, we are deeply concerned by his murder, and we are actively investigating the matter. Please direct any inquiry into his killing to this office.

The Department would be pleased to provide a briefing to Committee staff about Project Gunrunner and ATF's efforts to work with its law enforcement partners to build cases that will disrupt and dismantle criminal organizations. That briefing would not address the on-going criminal investigation referenced in your letter. As you know, the Department has a long-standing policy against the disclosure of non-public information about pending criminal investigations, which protects the independence and effectiveness of our law enforcement efforts as well as the privacy and due process interests of individuals who may or may not ever be charged with criminal offenses.

We hope that this information is helpful and look forward to briefing Committee staff about Project Gunrunner. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance about this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Ronald Weich
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman

1. Documents and communications relating to the genesis of Project Gunrunner and Operation Fast and Furious, and any memoranda or reports involving any changes to either program at or near the time of the release of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General report about Project Gunrunner in November 2010.

2. Documents and communications relating to complaints or objections by ATF agents about: (1) encouraging, sanctioning, or otherwise allowing FELs to sell firearms to known or suspected straw buyers, (2) failure to maintain surveillance on known or suspected straw buyers, (3) failure to maintain operational control over weapons purchased by known or suspected straw buyers, or (4) letting known or suspected straw buyers with American guns enter Mexico.

**PRESERVATION DIRECTIVE FOR RECORDS
RELATED TO ATF PROJECT GUNRUNNER**

This is in reference to the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's review of ATF's firearms trafficking enforcement strategy known as Project Gunrunner. The requirements of this preservation directive are *in addition* to the requirements of the Preservation Directive issued on March 28, 2011 related to Operation Fast and Furious.

Pursuant to ATF Order 1340.4, **please identify and preserve any relevant documents and materials within your custody which may be relevant to this matter.** Relevant documents and materials include all records and evidence, **including electronic files and email,** relating in any way to Project Gunrunner. This requires a search of relevant documents and materials under your control that may include, but are not limited to, the following: Reports, any formal and informal documents (*e.g.*, memoranda, hand written notes), correspondence, telephone log entries, e-mail, word processing documents, internet usage files, systems manuals, and network access information. Please note that your preservation of Project Gunrunner documents should include any information related to the fatal shooting of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry, this includes any property (*i.e.*, firearms and ammunition) in ATF custody relating to this incident.

Relevant documents and materials may include not only hard-copy documents, but all electronically-stored information ("ESI") created, received, and/or maintained by ATF on computer systems and elsewhere. Sources of information may include hard-copy files, computer hard drives, removable media (*e.g.* CDs, DVDs), laptop computers, PDAs, BlackBerry devices, telephones and pagers. All ESI should be preserved in its originally-created or "native" format. Please keep in mind that this is not an exhaustive list of date types or sources.

At this time, please –

- **Identify and preserve all documents and materials which may be relevant to Project Gunrunner. The relevant time period would begin July 1, 2009 until the present.**

If you have any documents or materials that fall within this directive, please place the hard copies in a separate file marked "PRESERVATION OF DOCUMENTS FOR PROJECT GUNRUNNER." Retain the file in a place where you can readily locate it upon request. E-mails should be retained in a PRESERVATION folder on Outlook, and Word and other documents in electronic format (*e.g.*, PowerPoint, Excel, Adobe Acrobat) should be identified and moved to a separate PRESERVATION folder in your personal library.

- **Assign a point of contact (POC) from the following Field Divisions in order to coordinate the preservation of relevant documents and materials:**
 - **Houston Field Division**
 - **Dallas Field Division**
 - **Los Angeles Field Division**

Please provide the POC's name to Assistant Director Melanie Stinnett by COB on Friday April 15, 2011.

- **In connection with the IG's review of Operation Fast and Furious, Assistant Director Stinnett has already established POCs in the other necessary Divisions and Offices. Unless you provide a second POC to Assistant Director Stinnett by April 15, 2011, she will assume that the same POC will be used for both the IG review and the House of Representatives Committee review.**

The POC is to ensure that all persons who may have information or a need to know about this directive are appropriately notified and instructed on their responsibility in a timely fashion. Also, the POC has the responsibility to notify Assistant Director Stinnett if (1) any additional ESI related to Project Gunrunner is discovered; (2) personnel involved in this directive are leaving the division, office or directorate; (3) the division, office or directorate will perform imminent data destruction; (4) the directorate will replace or discard equipment preserving ESI in this matter.

Of particular importance will be ensuring that no ESI is erased through routine destruction. If any ESI relating to Project Gunrunner has been purged as a result of routine destruction (*i.e.*, the aging process, separation from employment, etc) please, to the extent possible, find the dates of such purge and the information which would have been subject to destruction.

Please note that the failure to comply with this directive and/or the failure to maintain records, documents and information could negatively impact the Bureau, therefore please err on the side of retaining documents and information. Employees who fail to comply with their duties as outlined above will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including removal. Please note that this directive is in effect until you are notified that the hold has been terminated.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions concerning this directive, please contact Assistant Director Melanie Stinnett.

From: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:12:40 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: SWB Supp Mtg. at OMB -- Thursday at 2 pm

(b) (7)(C)

First I am hearing of this as well. I think this is exactly the type of meeting you need to attend for us as our SWB Coordinator. A budget person should attend with you as well. If you do not have the insight then you need to get with (b) (7)(C) and get up to speed on what the Agencies' plan is for the supp money.

Thanks,

William G. McMahon
Deputy Assistant Director (West)
Office of Field Operations
Office - (202) 648-(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 8:25 AM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: FW: SWB Supp Mtg. at OMB -- Thursday at 2 pm
Importance: High

Bill, this is the first I have heard of this. Seems to me that (b) (7)(C) ought to be going and maybe (b) (7)(C) as he has the most insight to what and why we are doing what we are doing with the supp money.

(b) (7)(C)
ATF National Coordinator
Southwest Border/Project Gunrunner

(202) 648-(b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C) cell

with DOJ and DHS to get the status of agencies' spending of FY 2010 Border Security Supplemental funding on activities affecting the Southwest border.

Based on a review of Q1 obligations, it appears that DOJ components spending is not in line with spending plans. We realize additional obligations likely occurred in Q2 but given the importance of this emergency funding and the time remaining in FY 2011 to obligate these funds, we would like to discuss your plans for the remainder of the year.

Please ensure the appropriate program and budget staff who can speak to plans and issues regarding supp funding attend the meeting.

It is my understanding that DHS plans to send one person from headquarters and perhaps as many as 3-5 people from each of the affected components and the CBP CFO. You are encouraged to bring those folks you deem most relevant to the discussion (numbers within reason, of course).

The meeting is scheduled for 2pm on Thursday, March 24th, at the New Executive Office Bldg, 725 17th St NW. Room TBD. Please note that we will need to clear in all attendees before 2pm tomorrow so please provide the following information:

Name (first, middle, and last)

DOB

SSN

Country of Birth

Current Residence (City and State)

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Thanks, (b) (7)(C).
Kim

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

Kimberly A. Newman
Executive Office of the President
Office of Management & Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503
(b) (7)(C) - phone
202-395-1292 - facsimile
(b) (7)(C) - blackberry

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:54 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Sen. Grassley letter to USCBP

News to me

(b) (7)(C)
Chief
ATF Public Affairs Division
Washington, DC
Desk 202-648 (b) (7)(C)
Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:50 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Sen. Grassley letter to USCBP

Aware of this?

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C), Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Needles, James R.

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:34 PM

To: (b) (7)(C) Hoover, William J.; McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Sen. Grassley letter to USCBP

Sen. Grassley letter dated March 16 to US Customs and Border Patrol.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:01 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: CBP Agents Find Grenade Launcher, Assault Rifles Near Border - Rio Grande City, TX
--MMC IOI #1542-11

Yes. This was initiated by DEA. (b) (7)(E). They in turn called us and we (ATF, DEA, BP) all went out on it. I would not put too much faith in the statement by BP spokesperson though. If you need further explanation please give me a call.

(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:24 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: CBP Agents Find Grenade Launcher, Assault Rifles Near Border - Rio Grande City, TX --MMC IOI #1542-11

FYI - Is your group the ones handling this?

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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without express authorization is strictly prohibited.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 10:14 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: CBP Agents Find Grenade Launcher, Assault Rifles Near Border - Rio Grande City, TX --MMC IOI #1542-11

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From: NOC Media Monitoring
To: Undisclosed recipients
Sent: Thu Mar 17 18:44:38 2011
Subject: CBP Agents Find Grenade Launcher, Assault Rifles Near Border - Rio Grande City, TX --MMC IOI #1542-11
NOC Media Monitoring Capability - Traditional Media
Title: Grenade launcher, assault rifles found near Rio Grande
Location: Texas
NOC MMC CIR #3: Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

Excerpt from News Article:

U.S. Border Patrol agents seized a grenade launcher, assault rifles and hundreds of rounds of ammunition near the Rio Grande.

Agents stationed in Rio Grande City confiscated the arsenal Wednesday in Fronton after spotting a pickup near the river and then drive away.

According to a news release, the agents discovered footprints and found a large duffel bag hidden in the brush.

Inside the bag agents found eight AK-47 assault rifles, two AR-15 assault rifles, two grenades, nearly 350 rounds of ammunition of varying calibers, several 30-round magazines and a 40 mm grenade launcher.

The McAllen Police Department's Bomb Squad was called to detonate the grenades.

"The seizure of these weapons near the river indicates that weapons smugglers are having a hard time getting their contraband into Mexico via the normal points of entry," a border patrol spokesman said. "Therefore, they are taking more desperate measures and trying to get them across the river through various other methods."

The weapons and ammunition were turned over to the ATF.

Sources (some page content may change or not be available over time):

- The Brownsville Herald

-- <http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/news/grande-124039-rio-assault.html>

(b) (7)(C)

Operations Analyst

DHS NOC Media Monitoring

Phone: 202-895-7620 ext ^{(b) (7)(C)}

Cell: **(b) (7)(C)**

To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Partial responses to Axelrod questions

3/21 email, #1, "Any emails advising management of concerns...": SAC Newell previously forwarded me the attached document, "New Phoenix which RAC (b) (7)(C) had reported was taped to his door.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C), Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Needles, James R.
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 1:38:50 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Train delay

13

10 4

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 5:09 AM
To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Train delay

I'm hitting several big delays on inbound train. Should be in by 830 or so.

Jim and (b) (7)(C) can give (b) (7)(C) an overview of assignment if he arrives and I'm not in yet.

I have 1 hour portion of annual physical when I arrive. Let's plan on a 10AM meeting to discuss plans, office space, etc.

(b) (7)(C) - I'll get you the FF reports back when I arrive.

Jim - you can get copy(s) from (b) (7)(C) cabinet.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202 648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 12:48:20 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]
Subject:

14

In
Role
Date
Uc Op (yes/no
Surv of person(s)
Pre-identified as suspect(s)
Prohibited?
Initiated at FFL
Initiated at other location
Suspect(s) in possession of guns
Observe meet with other person(s)
Other person(s) ID?
Other person(s) a suspect?
Surv to a residence
Suspect(s)/car/guns entered residence?
Surv ended with stop/interview?
Surv ended with stop/seizure?
Surv ended without stop?
Reason - lost target
Reason - suspicious driving
Reason - no violation/no activity
Surveillance to border FOE area?
Border crossing/no stop planned?
Border crossing/stop planned but unsuccessful?
Border crossing/stop planned and successful?
Controlled border crossing with interdiction planned?
Controlled border crossing with interdiction successful?
Controlled border crossing with interdiction unsuccessful?

(b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) [REDACTED], Cell (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]

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Subject: Discuss the Fast and Furious Briefing

Location: Director's Conference Room

Start: 2/26/2013 5:55 PM

End: 2/26/2013 5:55 PM

Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Required Attendees: Hoover, William J.; McMahon, William G. (b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C)
E.; Needles, James R. (b) (7)(C)

Resources: Director's Conference Room

When: Monday, March 21, 2011 2:00 PM-3:00 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Director's Conference Room

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

This is a pre-meet to discuss how we will present the briefing on Fast and Furious to Matt Axelrod Tuesday morning.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 9:09:02 AM
To: (b) (7)(C); Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Train delay

16

10 4

(b) (7)(C)

Senior Special Agent
Firearms Operations Division
202.648.(b) (7)(C) (office)
(b) (7)(C) (cell)

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:09 AM
To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Train delay

I'm hitting several big delays on inbound train. Should be in by 830 or so.

Jim and (b) (7)(C) can give (b) (7)(C) an overview of assignment if he arrives and I'm not in yet.

I have 1 hour portion of annual physical when I arrive. Let's plan on a 10AM meeting to discuss plans, office space, etc.

(b) (7)(C) I'll get you the FF reports back when I arrive.

Jim you can get copy(s) from (b) (7)(C) cabinet.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:21:37 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Train delay

17

Sounds good (b) (7)(C)

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:09 AM
To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Train delay

I'm hitting several big delays on inbound train. Should be in by 830 or so.

Jim and (b) (7)(C) can give (b) (7)(C) an overview of assignment if he arrives and I'm not in yet.

I have 1 hour portion of annual physical when I arrive. Let's plan on a 10AM meeting to discuss plans, office space, etc.

(b) (7)(C) - I'll get you the FF reports back when I arrive.

Jim - you can get copy(s) from (b) (7)(C) cabinet.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202 648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:16:28 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Staff today sounds good. Do u have anything for me to report?

18

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Mon Mar 21 08:10:44 2011
Subject: Staff today

My train is significantly delayed. I'm meeting with FF Team at 10am. Your call as to whether to have "staff" this morning with others.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 10:13 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: CBP Agents Find Grenade Launcher, Assault Rifles Near Border - Rio Grande City, TX
--MMC IOI #1542-11

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From: NOC Media Monitoring
To: Undisclosed recipients
Sent: Thu Mar 17 18:44:38 2011
Subject: CBP Agents Find Grenade Launcher, Assault Rifles Near Border - Rio Grande City, TX --MMC IOI #1542-11

NOC Media Monitoring Capability - Traditional Media

Title: Grenade launcher, assault rifles found near Rio Grande

Location: Texas

NOC MMC CIR #3: Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

Excerpt from News Article:

U.S. Border Patrol agents seized a grenade launcher, assault rifles and hundreds of rounds of ammunition near the Rio Grande.

Agents stationed in Rio Grande City confiscated the arsenal Wednesday in Fronzon after spotting a pickup near the river and then drive away.

According to a news release, the agents discovered footprints and found a large duffel bag hidden in the brush.

Inside the bag agents found eight AK-47 assault rifles, two AR-15 assault rifles, two grenades, nearly 350 rounds of ammunition of varying calibers, several 30-round magazines and a 40 mm grenade launcher.

The McAllen Police Department's Bomb Squad was called to detonate the grenades.

"The seizure of these weapons near the river indicates that weapons smugglers are having a hard time getting their contraband into Mexico via the normal points of entry," a border patrol spokesman said. "Therefore, they are taking more desperate measures and trying to get them across the river through various other methods."

The weapons and ammunition were turned over to the ATF.

Sources (some page content may change or not be available over time):

- **The Brownsville Herald**

-- <http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/news/grande-124039-rio-assault.html>

E

(b) (7)(C)

Operations Analyst

DHS NOC Media Monitoring

Phone: 202-895-7620 ext (b) (7)(C)

Cell: (b) (7)(C)



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

March 17, 2011

9300:MVD

www.atf.gov

MEMORANDUM TO: Ron Weich
DAG Office of Legislative Affairs

FROM: (b) (7)(C)
ATF Office of Legislative Affairs

THRU: (b) (7)(C) Chief
ATF Office of Legislative Affairs

THRU Jill Wade
DOJ Office of Legislative Affairs

This memorandum details ATF's meetings and other significant events related to Congressional affairs for the week of March 14, 2011.

Briefings:

- On March 15, Acting Director Melson, met with Representative Reyes to discuss the SWB initiative.
- On March 15 – (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) I met with Judiciary staff of Senator Casey to discuss ATF's mission and firearms trafficking patterns in Pennsylvania.

Other Matters:

- On March 16, 2011, Chairman Darrell Issa of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee sent a letter to Director Melson asking for information about "Fast and Furious." See http://www.cbsnews.com/htdocs/pdf/IssaLettertoATF_031611.pdf?tag=contentMain;contentBody for the text of the letter.

Upcoming events:

- On March 18, (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) will meet with Senator Rockefeller's Judiciary staff to discuss ATF's mission.
- On March 21, (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) will meet with staff for Senator Snow to provide information about ATF's mission.
- On March 23, (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) will meet with staff for Senator Lugar to provide information about ATF's mission.

- On March 24, (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) will provide a tour of Virginia field office staff from Senator Webb's Office.

If you need further information, please contact me at (202) 648 (b) (7)(C). I will be on leave on Friday, March 18, through March 23, and can be reached by cell at (b) (7)(C).

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 3:28 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Don't Lie

You have to let me know what your concerns were, I am not sure I understand your comments/concerns?

(b) (7)(C)
ATF National Coordinator
Southwest Border/Project Gunrunner

(202) 648-(b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C) cell

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 3:26 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Don't Lie

There you go...

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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in any form outside of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives or the Department of Justice without express authorization is strictly prohibited.

From: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 3:25 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Don't Lie

Let's get the info from Tampa ad share it with the SWB Division and get feedback from them. I like the idea.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 3:02 PM
To: McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Don't Lie

Bill, I was thinking about a program to get out the Don't Lie for The Other Guy to college campuses along the SWB. I spoke to (b) (7)(C) who is excited about it and he told me that Virginia O'Brien may be doing this along with the DIO in Tampa area. (b) (7)(C) has cards made up for distribution to kids on campuses and I asked about posters for places like the student unions etc.. and he has those in English and Spanish.

I spoke to Virginia and she said their program is very successful at Florida State. FSU has made it a part of the new student orientation and they spell out the penalties up front so kids are aware of what can happen. I was wondering if there had been any thought to have the SWB Divs. do something like this. It could be the PIO's, DIO's, Div Counsel etc.. I think we are seeing an increase in students purchasing guns on the SWB as straw buyers and this may be a good way to head them off and also show we are proactively working to stop it at all levels.

I will reach out to DIO (b) (7)(C) if you think this might worth pushing out.

(b) (7)(C)
ATF National Coordinator
Southwest Border/Project Gunrunner

(202) 648-(b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C) cell

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From: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 3:25 PM
To: (b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Don't Lie

Let's get the info from Tampa ad share it with the SWB Division and get feedback from them. I like the idea.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 3:02 PM
To: McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Don't Lie

Bill, I was thinking about a program to get out the Don't Lie for The Other Guy to college campuses along the SWB. I spoke to (b) (7)(C) who is excited about it and he told me that Virginia O'Brien may be doing this along with the DIO in Tampa area. (b) (7)(C) has cards made up for distribution to kids on campuses and I asked about posters for places like the student unions etc.. and he has those in English and Spanish.

I spoke to Virginia and she said their program is very successful at Florida State. FSU has made it a part of the new student orientation and they spell out the penalties up front so kids are aware of what can happen. I was wondering if there had been any thought to have the SWB Divs. do something like this. It could be the PIO's, DIO's, Div Counsel etc.. I think we are seeing an increase in students purchasing guns on the SWB as straw buyers and this may be a good way to head them off and also show we are proactively working to stop it at all levels.

I will reach out to DIO (b) (7)(C) if you think this might worth pushing out.

(b) (7)(C)
ATF National Coordinator
Southwest Border/Project Gunrunner

(202) 648-(b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C) cell

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appropriate approval. Any review, use, or dissemination of this e-mail message and any attached file(s) in any form outside of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives or the Department of Justice without express authorization is strictly prohibited.

Subject: Discuss The Fast and Furious Briefing
Location: Director's Conference Room

Start: 3/21/2011 2:00 PM
End: 3/21/2011 3:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Required Attendees: Hoover, William J.; McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C) Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)

When: Monday, March 21, 2011 2:00 PM 3:00 PM (GMT 05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Director's Conference Room

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

This is a pre-meet to discuss how we will present the briefing on Fast and Furious to Matt Axelrod Tuesday morning.

Subject: Discuss the Fast and Furious Briefing

Location: Director's Conference Room

Start: 3/21/2011 2:00 PM

End: 3/21/2011 3:00 PM

Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Required Attendees: Hoover, William J.; McMahon, William G. (b) (7)(C)
E.; Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)

Resources: Director's Conference Room

This is a pre-meet to discuss how we will present the briefing on Fast and Furious to Matt Axelrod Tuesday morning.

Subject: Discuss the Fast and Furious Briefing

Location: Director's Conference Room

Start: 3/21/2011 2:00 PM

End: 3/21/2011 3:00 PM

Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Required Attendees: Hoover, William J.; McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C) Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)

Resources: Director's Conference Room

This is a pre-meet to discuss how we will present the briefing on Fast and Furious to Matt Axelrod Tuesday morning.

Subject: Firearms policy

Location: Mark Chait's office

Start: 3/15/2011 9:00 AM

End: 3/15/2011 10:00 AM

Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Required Attendees: Chait, Mark R.; (b) (7)(C)
Serres, Greg

Resources: Mark Chait's office

Mr. Chait asked me to set a meeting to discuss guidance to the field regarding certain types of firearms investigations.

Subject: DOJ/ATF Response to Grassley's incoming letters of 2/9 and 2/16 re Gunrunner investigation

Location: OLA Conference Room, 1137

Start: 2/23/2011 4:00 PM

End: 2/23/2011 5:00 PM

Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Required Attendees: Weinstein, Jason (CRM); (b) (7)(C) (ATF); McDermond, James E. (ATF); (b) (7)(C) (ATF); Gaston, Molly (SMO)

Optional Attendees: McMahon, William G.

Resources: OLA Conference Room, 1137

Subject: Briefing on Grassley Letters
Location: Acting Dir. off.

Start: 2/11/2011 1:30 PM
End: 2/11/2011 2:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Required Attendees: (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) Melson, Kenneth E.

Resources: Acting Dir. off.

When: Friday, February 11, 2011 1:30 PM-2:00 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Acting Dir. off.

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

Subject: Updated: ATF Gunrunner moot for SJC briefing

Location: 1137

Start: 2/26/2013 5:56 PM

End: 2/26/2013 5:56 PM

Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Required Attendees: (b) (7)(C) (SMO); Chait, Mark R.; (b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C) 'Smith, Brad (ODAG)'; McDermond, James E.; 'Gaston,
Molly (SMO)'; (b) (7)(C) 'Weinstein, Jason (CRM)'; (b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C) (CRM); 'Moran, Molly (OAG)'; 'Johnston, Deborah A. (ODAG)';
'Burton, Faith (SMO)'; 'Gross, Charles R. (SMO)'; 'Thiemann, Robyn (OLP)';
'Wilkinson, Monty (OAG)'

Resources: 1137

<<2011-01-27 Letter to ATF (2).pdf>> <<Weich to grassley atf 2411.pdf>>



2011-01-27
Letter to ATF
(2).pdf (171
kB)



Weich to
grassley atf
2411.pdf
(400 kB)

From:
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: Needles, James R.
Subject: FW: Partial response to your email of 3/21, Q#1
Attachments: August 11, 2010 letter on my door

Partial response -- Your 3/21 email, Q#1, "Any emails advising management of concerns over the investigative techniques...":

SAC Newell previously forwarded me the attached email and "faux" document, "New Phoenix VII Office Procedures" which RAC (b) (7)(C) reported was on his office door on August 11, 2010.

ASAC Needles mentioned this today. Not sure that this constitutes "advising management of concerns over investigative techniques" but am providing it for your consideration.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 11:15 AM
To: Chait, Mark R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: August 11, 2010 letter on my door.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Professional

Was on GS's door. Put there by SA (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thu Mar 03 11:12:38 2011
Subject: August 11, 2010 letter on my door.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Professional

NEW PHOENIX VII OFFICE PROCEDURES:

- ANY INVESTIGATION INVOLVING AN FFL MUST BE CLEARED WITH SA (b) (7)(C) PRIOR TO ANY INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY.
- PRIOR TO HAVING ANY CONVERSATION WITH AN FFL OR ANY EMPLOYEE OF AN FFL, CONFER WITH SA (b) (7)(C) AND OBTAIN A PRE-AUTHORIZED SCRIPT FOR THE SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION (IF AUTHORIZED).
- IF ANY AGENT OBTAINS INFORMATION REGARDING THE RECOVERY OF ANY GUN, REFER SAID INFORMATION TO SA (b) (7)(C) PRIOR TO SUBMITTING A TRACE REQUEST OR TAKING ANY OTHER INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY.
- PRIOR TO OPENING A CASE IN NFORCE, QUERY NFORCE TO ENSURE THAT THE SUBJECT OF YOUR CASE IS NOT CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION BY SA (b) (7)(C). WHILE SA (b) (7)(C) IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN A MAJOR COMPLEX TIII CASE, SHE RETAINS THE RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL TO ANY ADDITIONAL TRAFFICKING CASES.
- IF SA (b) (7)(C) ACTUALLY GRANTS YOU THE AUTHORITY TO DO YOUR JOB, YOU SHALL REVIEW ALL SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION WITH SA (b) (7)(C) AS SHE RETAINS RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL TO ANY SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION. (PLEASE NOTE THAT SA (b) (7)(C) IN THE ABSENCE OF BEING INFORMED BY YOU, WILL CONDUCT A PARALLEL INVESTIGATION OF YOUR INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES).
- ANY INVESTIGATION THAT ULTIMATELY RELATES TO THE SINALOAN CARTEL OR CHAPO GUZMAN, MUST BE COORDINATED WITH SA (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C)
- PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROCEDURES ARE UNILATERAL AND NOT RECIPROCAL TO SA (b) (7)(C)
- ANY AGENT HAVING CONCERNS ABOUT THE ABOVE LISTED PROCEDURES, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR GROUP SUPERVISOR, (b) (7)(C). HE WILL FORWARD YOUR CONCERNS TO SA (b) (7)(C) AND ADVISE IF SHE WILL AUTHORIZE ANY AMENDMENT OF DEVIATION TO SAID PROCEDURES.

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 7:05 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Read: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Your message

To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)

Subject: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Sent: 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

was read on 3/25/2011 6:05 PM

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:57 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Read: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Your message

To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)

Subject: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Sent: 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

was read on 3/25/2011 5:57 PM

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:50 PM
To: (b) (7)(C).
Subject: Re: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

10-4

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)
Sent: Fri Mar 25 18:40:41 2011
Subject: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

ALL – PLEASE NOTE THAT MY EMAILING OF THIS INFORMATION TO YOU WAS APPARENTLY PREMATURE. THE MATERIAL THAT I FORWARDED TO YOU IS BEING REVIEWED/REVISED AT THIS TIME AND **MUST NOT BE DISSEMINATED** IN THIS FORM. PLEASE DO NOT DISSEMINATE THIS DATA. TO AVOID ANY MISUSE OF THE DATA, PLEASE DELETE THE ORIGINAL EMAIL AND ATTACHMENTS.

ONCE IT HAS BEEN AMENDED AND APPROVED FOR USE, I WILL PROVIDE YOU THE CORRECTED VERSION. SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE. PLEASE ADVISE ME IF YOU HAVE FURTHER DISSEMINATED THE MATERIAL SO WE CAN ENSURE PROPER GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED TO ANY RECIPIENTS. THANK YOU.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 11:54 AM
To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)
Subject: FW: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

FYI

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: Martin, Steve K.
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 11:21 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

This is the data that will be published on the ATF website for public consumption.
Steve

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 3:51 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Ford, Larry W.; Martin, Steve K.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Deputy Division Chief (b) (7)(C)

Please find attached statistical studies for firearms recovered and traced in Mexico during Calendar Years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. The statistics are based on a query of the Firearms Tracing System on March 1, 2011 and exclude duplicate traces. The studies are intended for use on the ATF public website. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Please complete the attached OSH Customer Satisfaction Survey form. Click on the "Mail" box located at the bottom of the form and then click on "Send".

Please be advised that the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010, Public L. 111-117, which became effective on December 16, 2009, restricts the disclosure of any part of the contents of the Firearms Tracing System or any information required to be kept by Federal Firearms Licensees pursuant to 18 USC 923(g), or required to be reported pursuant to 18 USC 923(g)(3) and 923(g)(7).

The information, which is being provided per your request, is for official law enforcement use only and may only be disseminated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to a Federal, State,

local, or tribal law enforcement agency, or a Federal, State, or local prosecutor; or a foreign law enforcement agency solely in connection with and for use in a criminal investigation or prosecution; or a Federal agency for a national security or intelligence purpose. This disclosure restriction shall not be construed to prevent the sharing or exchange of such information among and between Federal, State, local, or foreign law enforcement agencies, Federal, State, or local prosecutors, and Federal national security, intelligence, or counterterrorism officials. Congress has prohibited the public release of any data by the recipient law enforcement agency. The publication of statistical aggregate data regarding firearms traffickers and trafficking channels, firearms misuse, felons, and trafficking investigations is exempt from the restriction. If you have questions regarding these restrictions please contact ATF legal counsel prior to disclosing any of the information provided in this correspondence outside of ATF.

Thank you,

(b) (7)(C)

*Supervisory Intelligence Program Specialist
Violent Crime Analysis Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives*

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:43 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Read: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Your message

To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)

Subject: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Sent: 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

was read on 3/25/2011 5:43 PM

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:42 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Read: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Your message

To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)

Subject: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Sent: 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

was read on 3/25/2011 5:42 PM

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:42 PM

To: (b) (7)(C).

Subject: Read: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Your message

To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)

Subject: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Sent: 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

was read on 3/25/2011 5:42 PM

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:41 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Read: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Your message

To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)

Subject: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Sent: 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

was read on 3/25/2011 5:41 PM

From: System Administrator
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:40 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Subject: Delivered: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Your message

To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)

Subject: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Sent: 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

was delivered to the following recipient(s):

(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

From: System Administrator

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:40 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Delivered: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Your message

To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)

Subject: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Sent: 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

was delivered to the following recipient(s):

(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM
(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM
(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM
(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM
(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

From: System Administrator

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:40 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Delivered: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Your message

To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)

Subject: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Sent: 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

was delivered to the following recipient(s):

(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM
(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM
(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM
(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

From: System Administrator
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:40 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Delivered: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Your message

To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)
Subject: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10
Sent: 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

was delivered to the following recipient(s):

(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM
(b) (7)(C) on 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:40:43 PM

75

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Out of Office AutoReply: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

If you require immediate assistance, please contact via (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:40 PM
To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)
Subject: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

ALL – PLEASE NOTE THAT MY EMAILING OF THIS INFORMATION TO YOU WAS APPARENTLY PREMATURE. THE MATERIAL THAT I FORWARDED TO YOU IS BEING REVIEWED/REVISED AT THIS TIME AND **MUST NOT BE DISSEMINATED** IN THIS FORM. **PLEASE DO NOT DISSEMINATE THIS DATA.** TO AVOID ANY MISUSE OF THE DATA, PLEASE DELETE THE ORIGINAL EMAIL AND ATTACHMENTS.

ONCE IT HAS BEEN AMENDED AND APPROVED FOR USE, I WILL PROVIDE YOU THE CORRECTED VERSION. SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE. PLEASE ADVISE ME IF YOU HAVE FURTHER DISSEMINATED THE MATERIAL SO WE CAN ENSURE PROPER GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED TO ANY RECIPIENTS. THANK YOU.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 11:54 AM
To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)
Subject: FW: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

FYI

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: Martin, Steve K.
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 11:21 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

**This is the data that will be published on the ATF website for public consumption.
Steve**

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 3:51 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Ford, Larry W.; Martin, Steve K.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Deputy Division Chief (b) (7)(C)

Please find attached statistical studies for firearms recovered and traced in Mexico during Calendar Years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. The statistics are based on a query of the Firearms Tracing System on March 1, 2011 and exclude duplicate traces. The studies are intended for use on the ATF public website. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Please complete the attached OSII Customer Satisfaction Survey form. Click on the "Mail" box located at the bottom of the form and then click on "Send".

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Thank you,

(b) (7)(C)

Supervisory Intelligence Program Specialist
Violent Crime Analysis Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
304-616-(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 5:54 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: ROI # 205 with DEA 6 as attached
Attachments: ROI 205

(b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: 202-648-(b) (7)(C)
C: (b) (7)(C)
HQ Room 5 S 100

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From: Needles, James R.
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 5:33 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: ROI # 205 with DEA 6 as attached

#6 Axelrod

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 11:19 AM
To: Needles, James R.
Subject: ROI # 205 with DEA 6 as attached

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 3:02 PM
To: McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Don't Lie

Bill, I was thinking about a program to get out the Don't Lie for The Other Guy to college campuses along the SWB. I spoke to (b) (7)(C) who is excited about it and he told me that Virginia O'Brien may be doing this along with the DIO in Tampa area. (b) (7)(C) has cards made up for distribution to kids on campuses and I asked about posters for places like the student unions etc.. and he has those in English and Spanish.

I spoke to Virginia and she said their program is very successful at Florida State. FSU has made it a part of the new student orientation and they spell out the penalties up front so kids are aware of what can happen. I was wondering if there had been any thought to have the SWB Divs. do something like this. It could be the PIO's, DIO's, Div Counsel etc.. I think we are seeing an increase in students purchasing guns on the SWB as straw buyers and this may be a good way to head them off and also show we are proactively working to stop it at all levels.

I will reach out to DIO (b) (7)(C) if you think this might worth pushing out.

(b) (7)(C)
ATF National Coordinator
Southwest Border/Project Gunrunner

(202) 648-(b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C) cell

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From: Needles, James R.
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 1:50 PM
To: (b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Does anyone recall this

I am not aware of this investigation.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 10:49 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Needles, James R.
Subject: RE: Does anyone recall this

I do not have any background or knowledge of this.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 1:47 PM

To: (b) (7)(C); Needles, James R.
Subject: Does anyone recall this

I know this dates back almost 6 years but as I recall this case involved our letting guns go into Mexico or our providing info to Mexico so the guns could be recovered there – I may be mixing things up due to the passage of time and my advanced age. This is the only reference to the case I can find.

- Douglas, Arizona November 2005: In just the past few weeks ATF has been involved in the arrest of seven individuals suspected of trafficking firearms from Arizona into Mexico , where they were sold for twice their market value here in the United States. ATF has documented that at least 84 firearms, including AK-47 rifles were purchased and smuggled into Mexico. The investigation began when Mexican law enforcement officials arrested two Mexican citizens for firearms trafficking in the State of Senora, which is contiguous with Douglas, Arizona. This case is demonstrative of the cooperative effort between ATF and Mexican law enforcement authorities.

(b) (7)(C)

Senior Special Agent
Firearms Operations Division
202.648.(b) (7)(C) office)
(b) (7)(C) (cell)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 1:46 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) Needles, James R.
Subject: Does anyone recall this

I know this dates back almost 6 years but as I recall this case involved our letting guns go into Mexico or our providing info to Mexico so the guns could be recovered there – I may be mixing things up due to the passage of time and my advanced age. This is the only reference to the case I can find.

- Douglas, Arizona November 2005: In just the past few weeks ATF has been involved in the arrest of seven individuals suspected of trafficking firearms from Arizona into Mexico , where they were sold for twice their market value here in the United States. ATF has documented that at least 84 firearms, including AK-47 rifles were purchased and smuggled into Mexico. The investigation began when Mexican law enforcement officials arrested two Mexican citizens for firearms trafficking in the State of Senora, which is contiguous with Douglas, Arizona. This case is demonstrative of the cooperative effort between ATF and Mexican law enforcement authorities.

(b) (7)(C)

Senior Special Agent
Firearms Operations Division
202.648(b) (7)(C)office)
(b) (7)(C) (cell)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 1:39:21 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) (USABEO)
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Straw purchasers--enhancing the Sentencing Guidelines consequences

90

Below is an additional write up on a case involving guns going to Mexico -

From (b) (7)(C) was employed by the (b) (7)(C) and worked at the Olay Mesa Port of Entry in San Diego, California. During this same time period, (b) (7)(C) California and later in (b) (7)(C) Baja California, Mexico. This investigation was initiated in 2008 after an ATF review of multiple sales reports.

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) no longer possesses any of these firearms. (b) (7)(C) repeatedly admitted in his recorded conversations that he sold each of them. Two of the above firearms have been recovered in Mexico. According to records maintained by the Procurdaria General De La Republica ("PGR") in Mexico, a Glock model 23 .40 caliber pistol serial number HNX558 that (b) (7)(C) purchased on July 11, 2006, was recovered in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico on May 6, 2007, when possessed by (b) (7)(C). Additionally, a Sig Sauer model P230 .380 caliber pistol serial number S267942 that (b) (7)(C) purchased on May 9, 2006, was recovered in Allacomulco, Mexico on November 12, 2009, when possessed by (b) (7)(C).

The investigation of (b) (7)(C) spanned almost two years, involved multiple ATF Field Divisions, Special Agents and Financial Investigators; it concluded on September 9, 2010, when (b) (7)(C) pled guilty to dealing firearms without a license, in violation of Title 18, United States

(b) (7)(C)
Senior Special Agent
Firearms Operations Division
202.648 (b) (7)(C) (office)
(b) (7)(C) (cell)

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 3:33 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Straw purchasers--enhancing the Sentencing Guidelines consequences

(b) (7)(C)

Good news: the Sentencing Comm. is re-visiting the guidelines for straw purchaser cases. Can you send me a synopsis of that MS case prosecuted in Chicago? We want to cite that case as a compelling example of straw purchasers and the consequences..

Another example of the consequences of straw purchasing which leads to violence is that Milwaukee case. We intend to cite that.

I think there was a big case out of Maine that resulted in a homicide in NYC. Do you recall this case?

Any other recent cases that we should highlight?

Many thanks!

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 6:11:24 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Mexico stats.

91

Heading out now.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief

ATF Public Affairs Division

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thu Mar 24 18:10:23 2011
Subject: RE: Mexico stats.

The calls have been made regarding non-release. I'll be back down with you in a minute.

(b) (7)(C) was in the room when this was first discussed.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 6:02 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Mexico stats.

(b) (7)(C)

Did you stop it?? If those stats get out before we are ready to release them and prior to the Dir. approving the release it is going to be really ugly.

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 6:01:32 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Mexico stats.

(b) (7)(C)

Did you stop it?? If those stats get out before we are ready to release them and prior to the Dir. approving the release it's going to be really ugly.

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Chief
ATF Public Affairs Division

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From: Stinnett, Melanie S.
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:58 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Request for Extension - Interim Reivew of ATF's Project Gunrunner, Report # I-2009-006

My understanding the last time I checked was that the reonse to Project Gunrunner II is that it is in Melson's office. I am meeting with him at 2:00 so I will see what I can find out.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:57 AM
To: Stinnett, Melanie S.
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Request for Extension - Interim Reivew of ATF's Project Gunrunner, Report # I-2009-006

All,

Please refer to the preceding email to Mr. Gulledge requesting an extension on the Interim Review of Project Gunrunner, as of today, we have not received a response. Just wanted to check the status of Project Gunrunner , II. Perhaps this is why we have not received a response.

(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 5:45 PM
To: Gulledge, Michael (OIG)

Cc: Theis, Richard P (JMD); Myers, Mary T (JMD); (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Request for Extension - Interim Reivew of ATF's Project Gunrunner, Report # I-2009-006

Good afternoon Mr. Gullledge,

This email serves as a request for an extension on the submittal of ATF's response to the "Interim Review of ATF's Project Gunrunner," due by March 22, 2011. ATF requires additional time to complete its response; an extension until April 7, 2011, is requested.

Thank you for your consideration.

(b) (7)(C) *Audit Liaison*
ATF/OPRSO/Inspection Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:56 AM
To: Stinnett, Melanie S.
CC: (b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Request for Extension - Interim Reivew of ATF's Project Gunrunner, Report # I-2009-006

All,

Please refer to the preceding email to Mr. Gulledge requesting an extension on the Interim Review of Project Gunrunner, as of today, we have not received a response. Just wanted to check the status of Project Gunrunner , II. Perhaps this is why we have not received a response.

(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 5:45 PM
To: Gulledge, Michael (OIG)
Cc: Theis, Richard P (JMD); Myers, Mary T (JMD); (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Request for Extension - Interim Reivew of ATF's Project Gunrunner, Report # I-2009-006

Good afternoon Mr. Gulledge,

This email serves as a request for an extension on the submittal of ATF's response to the "Interim Review of ATF's Project Gunrunner," due by March 22, 2011. ATF requires additional time to complete its response; an extension until April 7, 2011, is requested.

Thank you for your consideration.

(b) (7)(C) : Audit Liaison
ATF/OPRSO/Inspection Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 10:17 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject:

In case you have not seen yet.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-31727_162-20046151-10391695.html

SPECIAL AGENT (b) (7)(C)
PROJECT OFFICER
OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS
FIREARMS OPERATIONS DIVISION
CELL (b) (7)(C)
DESK (202) 648-(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 10:11 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: transcripts

(b) (7)(C)

Thanks. Can I get another copy on the CI doc we discussed. You had provided a copy to me of the one missing report but there was a report missing in between. If I've totally confused you we can discuss but I am looking for the two reports that were missing from the initial package.

(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thu Mar 24 10:03:48 2011
Subject: transcripts

Jim Needles advised that you contacted him on this yesterday afternoon as well and that he later emailed these directly to Melson.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:00 PM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C); Needles, James R.
Subject: FW: ODAG's Strategy for Combatting Mexican Cartels
Attachments: Strategy for Combating the Mexican Cartels.pdf

Resending this so everyone has a copy handy

(b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: 202-648-(b) (7)(C)
C: (b) (7)(C)
HQ Room 5 S 100

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 1:56 PM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Subject: ODAG's Strategy for Combatting Mexican Cartels

Matt:

I missed this in the last group of documents I sent to you.

(b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: 202-648-(b) (7)(C)
C: (b) (7)(C)
HQ Room 5 S 100

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 11:13 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: (OLA wf101957) FW: LRM [AMS-112-24] ONDCP Report on Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy #568429311#
Attachments: 2011.03.21 Final SWB CN Strategy clean.doc; wf101957 control.doc

Your folks should review at least the chapter on Weapons. Please let us know if you have any comments by 3/25.

(b) (7)(C)
Associate Chief Counsel (Field Operations and Information)
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
U.S. Department of Justice
99 New York Ave. NE
Rm. 6E-441
Washington, DC 20226
202-648-(b) (7)(C)-desk
202-309-(b) (7)(C)-cell
202-648-(b) (7)(C)-fax

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From: Rubenstein, Steve R.
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 11:06 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: (OLA wf101957) FW: LRM [AMS-112-24] ONDCP Report on Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy #568429311#

Please review and advise.

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From: Freeman, Andria D (SMO) [mailto:Andria.D.Freeman@usdoj.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 6:07 PM

To: (b) (7)(C) Rubenstein, Steve R.; Boobar, Jeffrey R. (DEA-US); Johnson, Robert A. (DEA-US); Lord, Mandy H. (DEA-US); Perkins, Keith C (DEA-US); Shoemaker, Sheldon R. (DEA-US); Stacy Sparks; Stolaruk, Lisa J. (DEA-US); Strait, Matthew J. (DEA-US); USAEO-Legislative (USA); Beers, Elizabeth R. (FBI); Hayn, Linda S. (FBI); Kelly, Stephen (FBI); Lee, Lashan S. (FBI); Mack, Kristan E. (FBI); Schwartz, Tyler (FBI); Spinola, Theresa M. (FBI); Kimball, Sharon (SMO); Padden, Thomas (SMO); Davis, Valorie A (SMO); Hemmick, Theresa (SMO); Jackson, Wykema C (SMO); Matthews, Matrina (OLP) (SMO); Brown, Natalie (USMS); Chiquoine, Alexander (USMS); Clark, Mary (USMS); Disrud, Doug (USMS); Eskra, Jennifer (USMS); Noory, John (USMS); Peters, Jodi (USMS); (b) (7)(C) (CRM); (b) (7)(C) (CRM); (b) (7)(C) (CRM); (b) (7)(C) (CRM); Opl, Legislation (CRM); (b) (7)(C) (CRM); Miller, Charles (NDIC); Smith, William T. (NDIC); Chaney, Christopher (USAEO); Tenoso, Gaye (USAEO); Toulou, Tracy (USAEO)
Cc: Levine, Doug (SMO); Agrast, Mark D. (SMO); Wade, Jill C (SMO); Temple Claggett, Karyn (SMO); Burrows, Charlotte (SMO); Columbus, Eric (ODAG) (SMO); Adiga, Mala (SMO); Gunn, Currie (SMO); Hauck, Brian (SMO); Hirsch, Sam (SMO); Leff, Deborah (SMO); Overmann, Lynn (SMO)
Subject: (OLA wf101957) FW: LRM [AMS-112-24] ONDCP Report on Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy #568429311#

**PLEASE PROVIDE COMMENTS TO DOUG LEVINE,
OLA, NO LATER THAN COB 03/25/11.**

From: Justice Lrm (SMO)

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 11:53 AM

To: Clifton, Deborah J (SMO); Freeman, Andria D (SMO)

Subject: FW: LRM [AMS-112-24] ONDCP Report on Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy #568429311#

From: Simms, Angela M.[SMTP:ANGELA_M._SIMMS@OMB.EOP.GOV]

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 11:46:28 AM

To: DEFENSE; DHS; INTERIOR; Justice Lrm (SMO); DL-NSS-LRM; ODNI; STATE; HHS; TREASURY; TRANSPORTATION

Cc: Jukes, James J.; Green, Richard E.; Briggs, Xavier; Haun, David J.; Boden, James; DL-WHO-WHGC-LRM; Aitken, Steven D.; Luczynski, Kimberley S.; Fisher, Alyssa D.; Kang, Christopher; Ventura, Alexandra; Ortiz, Michael; Bansal, Preeti D.; Singiser, Dana E.; Wilson, Denise R.; Maher, Shawn P.; McCarthy, Nell; Pope, David F.; Samuels, Jonathan D.; Berman, Lindsey R.; Bullock, Bob; Croley, Steve; Theroux, Richard P.; Lallemand, Chad A.; Richardson, Bill; Kadakia, Pooja; Newman, Kimberly A.; DL-OVP-LRM; Raphael, Maria S.; Gonzalez, Oscar; Burnim, John D.; Siskel, Edward;

Kimball, Astri B.; Mertens, Steven M.; Bortnick, David;
Darling, Michael P.; White, Kamela G.; Holm, Jim; Garufi, Marc;
Brown, Kelly D.; Mignone, Laurie A.; Pipan, Joseph G.; Kimball1, Astri B.;
DL-OPD-NEC-LRM; Liu, Lin; Winseck, Brian C.; Schwartz, Candice M.;
Weatherly, Mark A.

Subject: LRM [AMS-112-24] ONDCP Report on Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy #568429311#
Auto forwarded by a Rule

DEADLINE: 4 p.m. Monday, March 28, 2011

Attached for your review is the Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) draft National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy, in accordance with the requirements of Section 1110 of the ONDCP Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-469).

By 4 p.m. Monday, March 28th, please provide any comments on the draft report. Thank you.

LRM ID: AMS-112-24

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM
Tuesday, March 22, 2011

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer - See Distribution

FROM: Green, Richard (for) Assistant Director for Legislative Reference
SUBJECT: LRM [AMS-112-24] ONDCP Report on Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy

OMB CONTACT: **Simms, Angela**
E-Mail: Angela_M_Simms@omb.eop.gov
PHONE: (202) 395-3857
FAX: (202) 395-3109

In accordance with OMB Circular A-19, OMB requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President. By the deadline above, please reply by e-mail or telephone, using the OMB Contact information above.

Please advise us if this item will affect direct spending or receipts for the purposes of the Statutory Pay-as-You-Go Act of 2010.

Thank you.

Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs
Internal Control Sheet

Date of Document: 03/22/2011
Date Received: 03/22/2011
Date Due: 3/28/2011 4:00 PM
LRM: AMS-112-24

OLA WF ID: 101957
WF Type: OMB Request
CONGRESS: 112
File #: B.186

Component Assign Date 03/22/2011

Component Due Date 03/28/2011

Component	Responded	Time	Action	Notes
ATF			No Response	
DEA			No Response	
EOUSA			No Response	
FBI			No Response	
OCDETF			No Response	
OLP			No Response	
USMS			No Response	
CRM			No Response	
OTJ			No Response	

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:58 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: (b) (7)(C) gunrunner clean.docx
Attachments: (b) (7)(C) gunrunner clean.docx

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From: Needles, James R.

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:34 PM

To: (b) (7)(C) Hoover, William J.; McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Sen. Grassley letter to USCBP

Attachments: SKMBT_C25311032117410.pdf

Sen. Grassley letter dated March 16 to US Customs and Border Patrol.

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From: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:47 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: Questions

FYI

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From: Boxler, Michael B.
To: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Tue Mar 22 12:15:33 2011
Subject: Fw: Questions

KC response

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From: Gleysteen, Mike P.
To: Boxler, Michael B.
Sent: Tue Mar 22 11:53:37 2011
Subject: RE: Questions

Hi Mike,

Sorry I missed your call and I just got back from the opening ceremonies for the 29th Annual Kansas City Arson Task Force Educational Seminar. The answer to both questions for the Kansas City Field Division is no.

Once again sorry for the delay in responding.

Michael Gleysteen
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Kansas City Field Division
Office: (816) 559-(b) (7)(C)
Cell: (b) (7)(C)

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From: Boxler, Michael B.
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:17 AM
To: Gleysteen, Mike P.
Subject: Questions

Last week we asked you about the Division having UC or surveillance where guns were allowed to cross the border. I need you to send me an e-mail stating the answer to both questions was no. Thanks.

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From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:36 PM

To: Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; Boxler, Michael B.; Torres, Julie M.; (b) (7)(C); Torres, John A.; Newell, William D.; Champion, Robert R.; Webb, J. Dewey; (b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) Shaefer, Christopher C.; (b) (7)(C)

Gillett, George T. Jr.; (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

CC: (b) (7)(C) Golson Sr., Michael A.; (b) (7)(C);

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Milanowski, Frederick J.; (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Intel-Group Supervisors; (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Subject: SWB Briefing Paper - March 21, 2011

Attachments: SWB Briefing Paper - March 21, 2011.docx

Good afternoon. Attached is the approved edition of the Southwest Border briefing paper, dated March 21, 2011. New updates to the SWB paper are now due to (b) (7)(C) by COB Friday, April 1, 2011.

Thanks, (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Program Analyst
Firearms Operations Division
Office of Field Operations
Bureau of ATF
202-648-(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

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**Southwest Border Initiative
(Project Gunrunner)**

Biweekly Update

March 21, 2011

The following is a biweekly update on significant events related to the Southwest Border Initiative. The information is collected from the different ATF offices involved in this initiative and intended for ATF use only.

FIELD OPERATIONS

DALLAS FIELD DIVISION

Investigations:

El Paso – Gunrunner

781035-11-0128 (b) (7)(C): On March 3, 2011, United State Border Patrol (USBP) agents stopped (b) (7)(C) due to a K-9 alert. During a search of the vehicle (b) (7)(C) was driving and the boat he was towing, USBP Agents seized approximately one pound of marijuana, a small amount of hashish, and a Winchester, Model 100, .308 caliber rifle. It was later determined that (b) (7)(C) has multiple felony convictions, dating back to 1970. ATF agents responded to the scene and obtained a statement from (b) (7)(C) and a passenger, (b) (7)(C). This investigation continues.

781035-11-0067 (b) (7)(C): AUSA (b) (7)(C) has been assigned the case. Interview of (b) (7)(C) is set up for March 23, 2011. SA (b) (7)(C) and SA (b) (7)(C) will travel to Brownsville, Texas next week to conduct the interview. A meeting has been scheduled for (b) (7)(C) and his attorney at the AUSA Office in New Mexico for March 31, 2011. Investigation is still ongoing.

781035-11-0120 (b) (7)(C): On February 18, 2011, USBP Patrol agents at the Sierra Blanca, Texas Checkpoint encountered (b) (7)(C). After a canine alert, approximately 104.8 pounds of marijuana and a Glock model 19 pistol were found in the sleeper cab portion of the tractor/trailer that (b) (7)(C) was driving. ATF Special Agent (b) (7)(C) responded to the checkpoint and interviewed (b) (7)(C) who claimed ownership of the firearm and admitted that he had it with him for protection.

781035-11-0130 (b) (7)(C): (b) (7)(A)
(b) (7)(A)
(b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)

781035-11-0005 SINALOA Cartel (SWB): (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)

Fort Worth Field Office

781040-11-0030 (b) (7)(C) : On Saturday, February 26, 2011, the ATF Fort Worth Field Office was contacted by (b) (7)(C) The (b) (7)(C) had purchased three assault type rifles with cash on Friday, February 25, 2011, and had returned on February 26 and purchased two additional assault rifles with cash. The employee advised that on February 26, (b) (7)(C) brought a young female with him who also purchased two assault rifles with cash. The employee advised that this female was (b) (7)(C)) and that the two individuals used the same address in Comanche, TX. The employee advised that the individuals were driving an (b) (7)(C).

(b) (7)(C) stated that on Saturday, February 26, 2011, (b) (7)(C), called him because (b) (7)(C) were at his house looking for him. (b) (7)(C) advised (b) (7)(C) that she was going to drive to Fort Worth and purchase some rifles for (b) (7)(C) advised that he told her not to do it but that she was determined to do it so he agreed to go with her. (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) gave (b) (7)(C) \$3,000.00 and (b) (7)(C) \$2,000.00 and told them he wanted .308, .223 and AK type rifles. (b) (7)(C) advised that he, (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) drove (b) (7)(C) to Cheaper Than Dirt and that he and (b) (7)(C) both purchase two rifles each while (b) (7)(C) waited in the (b) (7)(C) advised that they then drove back to Comanche and met (b) (7)(C) paid them and then took (b) (7)(C) and the four rifles and left.

On March 4, 2011, Fort Worth agents located (b) (7)(C) in Comanche, TX and (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) advised that he purchased the firearms for a Hispanic male he knew only as (b) (7)(C) stated that he met (b) (7)(C) through a friend named (b) (7)(C) advised that (b) (7)(C) did not speak English and that (b) (7)(C) translated everything for him. (b) (7)(C) stated that (b) (7)(C) told him he would pay him \$200.00 for each rifle he purchased for him. (b) (7)(C) stated that (b) (7)(C) told him the rifles were going back to Mexico for a family ranch. (b) (7)(C) stated that on Friday, February 25, 2011, (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) met (b) (7)(C) at (b) (7)(C) house and (b) (7)(C) provided (b) (7)(C) with \$4,000.00 and (b) (7)(C) and told him to go to Cheaper Than Dirt in Fort Worth, TX and purchase three rifles. (b) (7)(C) was instructed to purchase .308, .223 and AK

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

type rifles. (b) (7)(C) stated that he drove to Cheaper Than Dirt and purchased three rifles and drove them back in (b) (7)(C) stated he drove to (b) (7)(C) house where he met (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) paid him \$800.00 for purchasing the three rifles. (b) (7)(C) left in (b) (7)(C) with the rifles. (b) (7)(C) advised that he had also purchased rifles for (b) (7)(C) on another occasion a few weeks before. A records check with Cheaper Than Dirt revealed that (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C) (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C). (b) (7)(C) advised that on at least one occasion that (b) (7)(C) followed him in a white car all the way to Fort Worth and back to Comanche.

(b) (7)(C). On (b) (7)(C) contacted (b) (7)(C) and advised that (b) (7)(C) told him they may be looking to purchase more rifles the upcoming weekend.

This investigation is continuing and the identities of (b) (7)(C) are unknown at this time. Their residences have been identified. (Sec 3/10/11 SIR.)

781040-11-0015 (b) (7)(C) In October of 2010, agents with the Fort Worth Field Office received information that a number of individuals were purchasing a large number of .223 caliber assault styled rifles. The group was reported paying for the firearms in cash, particularly utilizing \$20.00 bills. Acting on this information, agents have identified 6 associated Hispanic males who, from October 2010 through the present date, have purchased approximately 120 firearms from several different FFLs. The organization has spent a total of approximately \$100,000.00 in cash for these firearm purchases. Intelligence information indicates that some of these individuals have made multiple Mexican border crossings within this same timeframe. A straw purchaser for the group has been identified and interviewed. Information gathered during the interview suggests that the group has been obliterating firearm serial numbers and trafficking the firearms into Mexico. (b) (7)(C). ICE Agents have been debriefed on the investigation and are actively assisting in the case.

781040-11-0026 (b) (7)(C): On February 11, 2011, the ATF Fort Worth Field Office was (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) a group of unknown males were purchasing 15 AR-15 style assault rifles and 12 AK-47 style assault rifles with cash. Agents with the Fort Worth Field Office established surveillance at Cheaper Than Dirt and (b) (7)(C) who identified the males who were purchasing the 27 rifles. One of the males in the group, identified as (b) (7)(C) filled out the ATF Form 4473 and paid for the purchase in cash. Upon purchasing the rifles, the group exited the store and agents watched four males load the rifles into the bed of a dark colored 2000 Chevrolet extended-cab pickup, bearing Texas License plate (b) (7)(C), registered to (b) (7)(C). Three of the individuals got into the pickup and the fourth individual, later determined to be (b) (7)(C), got into a gold colored Ford Escape. Both vehicles left the store and proceeded in different directions. Surveillance stayed with the truck carrying the firearms. Surveillance was established, which subsequently led to a vehicle traffic stop.

The driver of the truck was (b) (7)(C). The front seat passenger was identified as (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) was sitting in the rear seat of the truck. The

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

purchaser of the firearms, (b) (7)(C), was not in the truck with the firearms and it was determined that he was the male that left the gun store in the gold Ford Escape. Inside the cab of the truck officers found five cases of .223 caliber ammunition and five cases of 7.62 mm ammunition, equaling 3,700 rounds of ammunition total. The 27 rifles were in the bed of the truck.

(b) (7)(C) were transported to the ATF Fort Worth Field Office where (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) waived their rights per Miranda and agreed to speak with agents. Fort Worth Police located (b) (7)(C) at his residence in Fort Worth and transported him to the ATF Fort Worth Field Office where he also waived his rights per Miranda and agreed to speak with agents. (b) (7)(C) both admitted to the conspiracy to straw purchase the firearms (b) (7)(C) stated that earlier in the evening, he, (b) (7)(C) went to a residence in Grand Prairie, TX and (b) (7)(C) picked up \$20,000.00 from a male named Ruben to purchase the firearms. (b) (7)(C) stated that he used \$4,900.00 of his own money to help purchase the firearms because he would quadruple his money when the firearms crossed the border into Mexico. During the interviews, it was determined that the firearms were to be smuggled to Mexico and trafficked to members of the Zetas organization.

The United States Attorney's Office agreed to a Criminal Complaint charging (b) (7)(C) with 18 USC 371 Conspiracy and (b) (7)(C) with 18 USC 922 (a)(6) making false statements during the purchase of a firearm. (b) (7)(C) were booked into the PARKER County Jail on a hold pending the Federal Complaint. The USAO advised they would look into the possible charges on (b) (7)(C) and he was released. On February 12, 2011, a Federal Complaint was obtained in the Northern District of Texas for the above-mentioned violations. On February 17, 2011, (b) (7)(C) was detained and (b) (7)(C) was released on home detention/supervised release. This investigation is continuing and the identities of (b) (7)(C) are unknown at this time.

HOUSTON FIELD DIVISION

Liaison, Training, Media, and Other SWB Interaction:

Houston IX - Gunrunner

782095-11-0009 (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) has had over \$118,000 wired into his accounts from Colombia. ATF, in conjunction with ICE, has intercepted 15 packages bound for Colombia, which contained 34 firearms with obliterated serial numbers and numerous firearm parts and accessories. On March 2, 2011, ATF intercepted 9 packages with 15 firearms. On March 3, 2011, ATF/ICE Houston agents transported these 15 firearms to the Colombian National Police in Bogota, Colombia to assist with a Colombia controlled delivery. On March 8, 2011, ATF executed four search warrants and recovered 7 firearms, including an NFA rifle, 49 .223 caliber receivers, 3,000+ rounds of ammo, numerous un-milled receivers, drills, and 4 computers. Coinciding with Houston's search warrants, the Colombians conducted controlled deliveries, which resulted in three firearms recovered and \$10,000. (b) (7)(C) has been identified as the facilitator for the Urbanos, a paramilitary/drug trafficking organization operating in Colombia.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Laredo Field Office

782080-11-0021 (b) (7)(C) : On March 9, 2011, the Laredo ATF Field Office successfully concluded an extensive undercover home invasion investigation on a home invasion crew that was allegedly operating in the Laredo, Texas area. Laredo ATF agents were assisted in the take down by members of ATF SRT team 3, Laredo Police Department, U. S. Marshal's Service, and ICE Agents. The crew consisted of four members of the Hermanos Pistoleros Latinos Prison Gang (HPL) who are one of the predominant criminal organizations in the area. The subjects were identified as: (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(C). The arrestees arrived at the take down location wearing body armor and were in possession of three firearms, tactical gear, black outfits, masks, gloves, zip ties, and ball caps with Police insignia. The take down was executed without incident and all arrestees requested attorneys upon interview. The Assistant United States Attorney's Office authorized criminal complaints on all arrestees on federal drug and firearm possession charges.

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISIONInvestigations:San Diego Field Office

784045-11-0019 Operation Second Sole: This investigation is being funded with allocated OCDEF funds. Over the last two weeks, three proffer sessions were held with individuals arrested at the San Ysidro Port of Entry, attempting to smuggle cocaine and methamphetamine into the United States from Mexico. All three are believed to be working on behalf of targets of this investigation, which is the result of information received (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) and ICE analysis. The veracity and relevance of the information gathered as a result of the proffer session is still being evaluated. (b) (7)(E) U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(E) Investigation continues.

784045-11-0047 (b) (7)(C) : On March 14, 2011, Special Agent (S/A) (b) (7)(C) responded to a request for assistance from the San Diego Sheriff's Department (SDSD). (b) (7)(C) was stopped by SDPD Deputies for speeding in Poway, CA and detained for driving without a valid driver's license. (b) (7)(C) told the Deputies that he was in the United States illegally. During an inventory of (b) (7)(C) vehicle, the Deputies located and seized one Ruger, Model Mini 14, .223 caliber rifle, multiple rounds of .223 caliber ammunition and .55 grams of cocaine in the backseat. During a post-Miranda interview conducted by S/A (b) (7)(C) admitted that he had purchased the firearm from two individuals he knew as (b) (7)(C). (b) (7)(C) was arrested by SDSD Deputies for cocaine possession and will be arrested by S/A (b) (7)(C) for illegal firearm possession once his state charges are adjudicated. S/A (b) (7)(C) is currently working with California Department of Justice to determine the true identities of (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C)

784045-10-0027 (b) (7)(C) This is a joint investigation between ATF, DEA, and NCIS. (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(E). In March, agents (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E) To date, the investigation has identified 24 potential suspects and seized over 2 kilograms of cocaine and one firearm during “wall stop” contacts, resulting in 6 arrests since (b) (7)(E)

784045-10-0043 (b) (7)(C) In August 2010, (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) was arrested in September 2010 after selling (b) (7)(C) large quantities of methamphetamine and cocaine and a sawed-off shotgun. Prior to his arrest, (b) (7)(C) was negotiating the sale of several firearms to (b) (7)(C) has since stated that his SOS for drugs is in Tijuana, MX, and his SOS for firearms is in the South bay area of San Diego. (b) (7)(C) is facing a 10 year min/man federal sentence and is scheduled to proffer with SA (b) (7)(C) and San Diego Police Department Homicide Detective (b) (7)(C)

PHOENIX FIELD DIVISION**Liaison, Training, Media, and Other SWB Interaction:**

On March 5-6, 2011, ATF Industry Operations from the Albuquerque Area Office represented ATF by operating an information booth at the New Mexico Gun Collectors Association Gun Show in Albuquerque, New Mexico in support of Project Gunrunner and the Southwest Border Initiative. During the two day event, IOIs provided information, publications and responded to questions concerning applications, the National Firearms Act, the Gun Control Act and other topics to more than 500 licensees and the general public.

Investigations:Phoenix VII – Gunrunner

785115-10-0031 Operation El Mirage: This case is a previously approved OCDETF investigation (SWAZP0524). From February 3 to March 3, 2011, ATF special agents from Group VII have seized 15 straw purchased firearms from this organization, 11 AK-47 type rifles and one F.N. 5.7mm pistol. ATF agents found out on March 9, 2011, that five days prior, the main suspect in this investigation, (b) (7)(C), purchased 100 AK-47 type 7.62mm firearm magazines and 62 AR-15 type .223 caliber firearm magazines for approximately \$2,700.00 in cash. No paperwork or reporting is required on the sale of firearms magazines. (b) (7)(C) z has 121 border crossings between the United States and Mexico between April 1, 2010, and January 1, 2011. Group VII now has (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(E) will be submitted to the USAO in Phoenix.

785115-11-0005 (b) (7)(C) Previously in this investigation, ATF special agents from Group VII seized one Barrett, .50 caliber rifle and five F.N. 5.7mm pistols from (b) (7)(C) spent almost \$15,000.00 in cash for this transaction. (b) (7)(C) stated she was purchasing these firearms on behalf of and at the direction of (b) (7)(C), a multi-convicted felon. Based on ongoing investigative techniques on March 11, 2011, ATF became aware that (b) (7)(C) is purchasing and shipping (to his home address) Replica Military Firearms and Inert Explosive Training Products. Specifically, he ordered a Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) Launcher and RPG-7 Inert Replica Rockets. The company’s websites state that, “These training aids are completely inert...and were never at any time real weapons.” This investigation will continue.

Tucson IV -- Gunrunner

785130-11-0017 (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED] A recent delivery of two new rifles to (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) units to follow (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED] where money was suspected of being delivered. A new source of information recently briefed ATF special agents on the unlawful operations occurring at the FFL. It is suspected that AR-15 type rifles, Glock pistols and FN rifles are being converted into machineguns. At ATF direction, (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) [REDACTED] agreed to fill that order. (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED] was recently interviewed by ATF and provided information about the suspect acts at the FFL and (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED] in soliciting illegal buyers out on the street. (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED] has contacted (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) [REDACTED] on several occasions seeking to buy the parts needed to convert AR-15 type rifle into machineguns. A pending meeting for the undercover purchase is expected.

785130-11-0018 (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED] : (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED].

Las Cruces II -- Gunrunner

785120-10-0015 The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED] a
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED].

(b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]
 (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED]

(b) (7)(A)
(b) (7)(A)

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION

Significant Mexican Media Highlights This Period:

Federal Police Arrest Marcos Carmona Hernandez, Zeta Turf Boss in Oaxaca - The Secretariat of Public Security website reported in bulletin 161 on 7 March that the federal police arrested Marcos Carmona Hernandez, a.k.a. El Cabrito, while doing follow-up to investigations into the arrest of Flavio Mendez Santiago, a.k.a. El Amarillo, on 17 January. Carmona, 29 years old, is originally from Piedras Negras, Veracruz, and he joined the Zetas in 2006 as a security guard and spy. In 2009 he was made turf boss in Oaxaca and reported directly to Heriberto Lazcano Lazcano, a.k.a. El Lazca. He told authorities that the Zetas have a collaboration and non-aggression pact with the Beltran Leyva brothers' organization; Vicente Carrillo Fuentes, a.k.a. El Viceroy; and Fernando Sanchez Arellano, a.k.a. El Ingeniero, of the Arellano Felix Cartel. At the time of his arrest, he was in possession of two almost-new vehicles; a fragmentation grenade; an M-16 assault rifle; a small arm; two loaded clips for a long arm; a loaded clip for a small arm; two plastic containers with cocaine; and documents.

Grenade Thrown at PGJE Building in Ciudad Victoria - Monterrey *El Norte* in a late-night update on 7 March reported that a grenade blast at the State Attorney General's Office (PGJE) building late the previous night caused structural damage but no injuries or deaths. The building is located on the city's highway to Matamoros.

Mexico: Security Experts Blame Corruption for Weapons Flow into Mexico - According to Mexico city Reforma.com on March 7, 2011, security specialists considered that while it is true that the United States has failed to prevent indiscriminate arms sales, the Mexican Government must admit that their proliferation in national territory is due to corruption in customs and the lack of surveillance on the border. The experts affirmed that there is an urgent need to take measures to stop the flow of the close to 2,000 weapons that the Brookings Institution has estimated are introduced into the country every day. Otherwise, they say, the violence will increase even further.

Federal Authorities Arrest Acapulco Cartel Leader - The Secretariat of Public Security (SSP) reported in press bulletin 160 on 7 March that federal agents arrested Benjamin Flores Reyes, a.k.a. "El Padrino," one of the leaders of the Independent Cartel of Acapulco (CIDA). Allegedly, "El Padrino" was in charge of controlling drug distribution and managing lookout groups. He is also believed to have ordered and coordinated extortion ops, kidnappings, and hits on the members of rival groups in Acapulco. He reported directly to Moises Montero Alvarez, a.k.a. "El Koreano," one of the cartel's other leaders. Flores Reyes lived in the United States for more than 15 years. While there he studied criminal psychology. Three years ago he returned to Mexico and began working for Edgar Valdez Villarreal, a.k.a. "La Barbie."

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Gunmen Open Fire, Throw Grenade at Police Station in Guadalupe - On 3/9/11, Monterrey *El Norte* reported that a group of gunmen fired several gunshots and threw a grenade early that morning at a local police station located on the corner of Guadalajara Avenue and Helcochos Street in the Fuentes de San Miguel neighborhood on the north side of Guadalupe. No injuries or deaths have been reported. The building sustained damage to the facade and windows.

Shooting in Juarez Sparks Roadblocks in 3 Municipalities - On 3/9/11, Monterrey *El Norte* reported that a gunfight between rival gangs the previous night at the San Roque junction on the highway to Reynosa in the Juarez municipality sparked a series of "narco-roadblocks" in the municipalities of Juarez, Guadalupe, and Apodaca. According to witnesses, at least three grenades were detonated during the 20-minute clash. One person was wounded and kidnapped during the incident. The subsequent roadblocks impeded the response of law enforcement officials to the scene of the shootout.

Underground Border Tunnel Found in Mexicali - On 3/9/11, Mexicali *La Cronica.com* reported that the previous afternoon, Army soldiers found a tunnel about five meters underground and crossing more than 100 meters into U.S. territory from Mexicali. The entrance had been excavated less than two meters from border wall. The tunnel was located near the All-American Canal and used now-confiscated hose to steal water from the canal. Three packets of marijuana and five oxygen tanks were also seized from inside the tunnel.

Federal Police Arrest Zeta Financial Operator, 16 Others, in San Luis Potosi - The Secretariat of Public Security website reports in bulletin 164 on 9 March that intelligence work and citizen reports clued authorities in to a heavily armed group that protected Zeta leaders and extorted, kidnapped, and murdered in San Luis Potosi. Federal police arrested Mario Jimenez Perez, a.k.a. Mayito, who was in charge of payroll for the paid assassins and responsible for handling the financing of drug sales and renting real estate and telephones. Along with Jimenez, authorities arrested 14 suspected Zeta members. During the arrests, authorities seized the following: two 38 Super small arms; a 10-mm small arm; a 9-mm small arm; a 40-caliber small arm; a 45-caliber small arm; 114 plastic bags of cocaine; 15 plastic bags of marijuana; 12 cellular phones; 11 communication radios; two frequency radios; a grey Honda CVR, no plates; a 2008 sand-colored Chevrolet Silverado, no plates; a 2003 yellow Hummer H2, no plates; a 1997 brown Ford Explorer, San Luis Potosi plates VAK5506; and a variety of documents.

Car Bomb in Ciudad Victoria - On March 16, 2011, Mexico City *Cadena 3* reported that a car bomb exploded outside the local Public Security Secretariat (SSP) headquarters in Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas State. Although the explosion damaged homes and cars, no one was injured. The incident caused a massive mobilization of soldiers, Federal Police officers, and state policemen. This is the second attack against these headquarters in less than a week. The last time, armed men wearing ski masks opened fire on the facade of the building.

Six Gunmen Killed During Attempt on State AG's Life in Monterrey - On 3/18/11, Monterrey *El Norte* reported that a group of gunmen allegedly tried to kill State Attorney General Adrian de la Garza Santos at 0130 hours (local time) that morning in the Valle Verde neighborhood on the west side of Monterrey. The official's bodyguards engaged the attackers in a 10-minute shootout on Nogal Street between Abedul and Cervel streets, leaving six of the gunmen dead. One suspect was also arrested. One of the vehicles used by the gunmen was a white Nissan Tiida with plates SGY5965.

Trace Requests for Mexico Recoveries:**FY 11 Trace Requests Thus Far:**

There were (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) trace requests for Mexico that were submitted between October 1, 2010 and March 14, 2011, of (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) are pending completion. These numbers do not (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) duplicate traces.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICECiudad Juarez - Gunrunner**Investigative Assistance:**

From March 4-8, 2011, the ATF Ciudad Juarez office coordinated with the El Paso Field Office on an investigation of a Ciudad Juarez resident who was trying to purchase AR-15 type rifles in El Paso, Texas. On March 7, 2011, the suspect went from Juarez to El Paso and picked up one of the rifles from the gun store and tried to cross back with it into Mexico. The vehicle/suspect was stopped and the rifle seized by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Further investigation revealed that the suspect was acquiring the firearm(s) for three individuals that described themselves as "Zetas." The ATF Ciudad Juarez Field Office coordinated with the Mexican Federal Police (SSP) and provided maps of relevant addresses. The SSP investigated and corroborated some of the information provided. The investigation is ongoing.

On March 7, 2011, personnel from the ATF Ciudad Juarez office were given access to 19 seized firearms at the Chihuahua State Lab in Ciudad Juarez. These firearms were seized in various cases and several were identified as suspected guns involved in two cases in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

During this reporting period, the ATF Ciudad Juarez office worked very closely with the SSP in Chihuahua and gained access to (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) of which have been traced back to a firearms trafficking case out of the Las Cruces Field Office. Personnel from the U.S. Consulate office in Ciudad Juarez have been assisting ATF Las Cruces and the U.S. Attorney's Office in preparing for the indictment of several people by examining and providing photographs of the firearms tied to their investigation. (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), have been traced back to a major firearms trafficking investigation in Phoenix, Arizona, where several suspects have been arrested in the past month. Two other firearms have come up on the suspect gun database and as part of a multiple purchase in Deming, New Mexico. Most of the previously mentioned firearms have been used in various violent crimes such as kidnapping and murder in connection with organized crime in Chihuahua.

On March 10, 2011, ATF reported that ten people were arrested in (b) (7)(A) (b) (7)(A). Over the past 60 days, agents from ATF Ciudad Juarez Field Office have been assisting the Mexican Federal Police (SSP) with surveillance, analyzing tracking data and coordinating operations on the Mexican side of the border between the U.S. and Mexico. The ATF agents have examined and photographed at least 15 Mexico seized firearms connected to the New Mexico firearms

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

trafficking investigation. They also coordinated the exchange of information regarding 10 addresses in Palomas, Chihuahua and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua to ensure that all leads in Mexico are followed by the Mexican Federal Police in Chihuahua. ATF continues to investigate the information provided and will report any findings as they become available.

OFFICE OF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ATF conducted a five-day course in Mexico City from March 14-18, 2011. The course included a day of basic firearms ID training, a day of Explosive ID (Mexico specific) training and three days of E-trace and tracing training. Approximately 30 students participated in this course. The final list of students will be submitted next reporting period.

ATF conducted an International Post Blast course for Mexican officials during March 14-18, 2011, at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL. Approximately 30 Mexican officials received training in conducting bomb scene investigations and gained experience using the latest equipment and following standard safety procedures. This course also provided participants with hands-on training by requiring them to reconstruct components of an explosive device recovered through various investigative techniques. In addition, the course required students to participate in a practical exercise during which instructors guide the students through one of three bombing scenarios. The final practical exercise involved the processing of a crime scene caused by the detonation of a bomb inside a vehicle. The practical exercises are designed to analyze the specific duties of each team member.

Upon completion of the course, participants will have a valid foundation for conducting post blast scene investigation. The course was presented by six instructors from ATF to include, Special Agent CESs and Forensic lab personnel. The trainees attending this course are Government of Mexico law enforcement officers, military grade officers, and lab technicians.

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

From March 14-18, 2011, ATF personnel provided Basic Firearms and Explosives Identification and eTrace training to approximately 30 students from Mexican law enforcement agencies.

From: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:22 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW:
Attachments: Untitled; Detroit Field Division; Untitled; Firearms Trafficking; International Border Questions; Untitled; Answer to questions; Mexico FA Trafficking SPFD

Central's responses. Detroit was yes to the controlled delivery of firearms to Canada. The UI is attached to their response. Also, see Boxler's comment below.

William G. McMahon
Deputy Assistant Director (West)
Office of Field Operations
Office - (202) 648-(b) (7)(C)

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From: Boxler, Michael B.
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:19 AM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject:

Still waiting to hear from Kansas City. Verbally they told the AD no.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 10:35:28 AM
To: Boxler, Michael B.
Subject: Answer to questions

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Mike regarding our conversation yesterday the answer to both of your questions is negative. Also I will be taking a half day of leave today. ASAC Pappas will be in the office and I can be reached by phone. Thanks

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From: Brandon, Thomas E.
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 3:36 PM
To: Boxler, Michael B.
Subject: Detroit Field Division

1. Yes.
2. No.
3. 774010-08-0011

(b) (7)(C)
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Detroit Field Division

(313) 202-**(b) (7)(C)**

From: Durham, Phillip M.
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 5:21 PM
To: Boxler, Michael B.
Subject: Firearms Trafficking

Mike – we have canvassed all of our supervisors, who checked with their agents, and the answer to both of your questions is no. We have back-tracked and made cases on subjects who already took guns outside of the U.S., before we knew about it, that were recovered and traced back here.

Phil

From: Gant, Gregory K.
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 4:52:01 PM
To: Boxler, Michael B.
Subject: International Border Questions

247

Mike,

The answer is "no" to the 2 questions you asked yesterday.

Gregory K Gant
Special Agent in Charge
Atlanta Field Division
Bureau of ATF
Office (404) 417-2600
Direct (b) (7)(C)
Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Zapor, Bernard J.
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 11:00 AM
To: Boxler, Michael B.
Subject: Mexico FA Trafficking SPFD
Attachments: Case Timeline.docx

Mike:

1. We have not had any operations/investigations that allowed any firearms to knowingly enter the Republic of Mexico.
2. We have not had any operations/investigations where we witnessed firearms entering the Republic of Mexico.

Attached for you information is the timeline of Operation Big Musky (FA trafficking to Mexico).

Bernard J. Zapor
Special Agent in Charge
ATF St. Paul Field Division
651-726-(b) (7)(C)

778065-09-0050 OPERATION: BIG MUSKY CASE TIMELINE

January 2009	Mexican Government Officials turns over to ATF firearm data for approximately 11,900 firearms for tracing.
February 13, 2009	Firearm Trace on a Ruger P89 is initiated by ATF. The Ruger is one of the 11,900 firearms submitted for tracing.
February 19, 2009	The Ruger is traced back to (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C) (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117).
February 23, 2009	(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)
February 25, 2009	(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C)
March 2, 2009	SA (b) (7)(C) begins investigation.
March 3, 2009	Case opened in N-Force.
March 3, 2009	USAO briefed.
March 19, 2009	(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)
April 14, 2009	(b) (7)(C) is interviewed by Minnesota State Patrol where he relates he brings items (cars, clothes, and appliances) to Mexico to sell.
May 13, 2009	(b) (7)(E)
June 1, 2009	(b) (7)(E)
June 3, 2009	(b) (7)(E)
June 16, 2009	(b) (7)(E)
July 7, 2009	(b) (7)(E)
July 8, 2009	OCDETF approved.
July 9, 2009	(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)
July 15, 2009	(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

August 14, 2009

(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

August 27- October 19, 2009

(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

October 1, 2009

(b) (7)(E)

October 2, 2009

(b) (7)(E)

October 15, 2009

(b) (7)(E)

October 20, 2009

(b) (7)(E)

October 21, 2009

(b) (7)(E)

November 1-15, 2009

(b) (7)(E)

November 16, 2009

(b) (7)(C) arrested in Laredo, TX with firearms bound for Mexico.

From: Anderson, (Andy) Glenn N.
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 7:45:57 AM
To: Boxler, Michael B.
CC: Cooper, Larry; Gerido, Steven L.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject:

251

Mike the answer to both questions we discussed yesterday is no. ASAC Cooper will forward you a UL number concerning case we discussed.

FYI I am going to be on sick leave today. Wife is sick with flu and kids are home for spring break. Don't want the inmates running the asylum. Call me on cell if needed.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 3:02 PM
To: Boxler, Michael B.
CC: Browning, Robert J.
Subject:

In response to the two questions you asked the SAC, I have queried all of the supervisor's and the answer is "No" to both questions.



From: Traver, Andrew L.
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 10:17:35 AM
To: Boxler, Michael B.
Subject:

253

Mike: Good morning. Regarding yesterday's conversation:

1. NO
2. NO

Thanks.

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From: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:11 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Question 1 and 2 - Charlotte

One extra EAST response.

William G. McMahon
Deputy Assistant Director (West)
Office of Field Operations
Office - (202) 648-(b) (7)(C)

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From: Torres, Julie M
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:03 AM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: Question 1 and 2 - Charlotte

Bill

Below is Charlotte's response:

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From: Graham, Zebedee T.
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 10:13 AM
To: Torres, Julie M
Subject: Follow Up

The CFD response is No to both questions.

zeb

From: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:11 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW:
Attachments: Question; Untitled; Untitled; INTERNATIONAL FIREARMS TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS INQUIRY; Re; Untitled; Update from Boston Field Division; RE:

Here is the EAST's responses.

William G. McMahon
Deputy Assistant Director (West)
Office of Field Operations
Office - (202) 646 (b) (7)(C)

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From: Torres, Julie M
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:00 AM
To: McMahon, William G.
Cc: Torres, Julie M
Subject:

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From: Potter, Mark W.
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 5:07 PM
To: Torres, Julie M
Subject: INTERNATIONAL FIREARMS TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS INQUIRY

Julie,

This serves as the Philadelphia Field Division's response to your Inquiry regarding International Firearms Trafficking investigations for the past 3 years.

WE HAVE NO CASES THAT MET THE REQUIREMENTS!

Respectfully,

Mark

From: Barrera, Hugo J.
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 7:50:33 AM
To: Torres, Julie M
Subject: Question

257

- 1) Negative
- 2) Negative

Hugo J. Barrera
Special Agent in Charge
Miami Field Division

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
(305) 597-4800

(b) (7)(C)

"We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would harm us."
George Orwell

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 2:18 PM
To: Torres, Julie M; (b) (7)(C)
CC: O'Brien, Virginia T.
Subject: Re:

This is to certify that the Tampa Field Division is negative on questions 1 and 2.

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From: Torres, Julie M
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Fri Mar 18 14:14:01 2011
Subject:

Need your response to #1 and 2

JULIE TORRES
DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FIELD OPS - EAST
OFFICE: 202-648-8410
DIRECT: (b) (7)(C)

From: Turk, Ronald B.
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 9:05 AM
To: Torres, Julie M
Subject: RE:
Attachments: FW: NYFD SIR

Negative reply for NY other than what was previously reported. Don't think these apply:

- 1) 2008 "reverse" of NFAs along Canadian border (SIR attached).
- 2) Recent (b) (7)(E) acquisition of 27 handguns in Syracuse, destined potentially for Canada. Source/destination/unidentified suspects currently under investigation. CI took guns and was told to await a phone call for a delivery location. DEA & ATF took custody of the guns and the (b) (7)(E) [REDACTED]
- 3) Current investigation with ICE into (b) (7)(A) involving importation issues (no exportation issues) of (b) (7)(A) magazines.

Pls. advise if you need more details.

Ron

From: Torres, Julie M
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 4:11 PM
To: Turk, Ronald B.
Subject:

Due date tomorrow

From: O'Connor, Rory D.
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 5:18:23 PM
To: Torres, Julie M
CC: Turk, Ronald B.
Subject: FW: NYFD SIR

260

Julie/Ron

See 2008 SIR below in re Canadian border area reverse. (b) (7)(C)
solicited NRA firearms from an ATF RUP agent, he was convicted after trial in 2009 and received a 6 1/2 yrs prison sentence.

Rory O'Connor
Assistant Special Agent in Charge
New York Field Division
(718) 552 (b) (7)(C) Office
(b) (7)(C) Cellular
(b) (7)(C)

Original Message

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2008 3:16 PM
To: (b) (7)(C); O'Connor, Rory D.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: SIR

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES
SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION REPORT

DATE: November 18, 2008
FROM: New York Field Division
FIELD OFFICE: Albany (Firearms/Arson/Explosives) Field Office

CASE INFORMATION

CASE NUMBER: 765010-08-0023
CASE TITLE: (b) (7)(C)
SPECIAL AGENT: (b) (7)(C)
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (b) (7)(C)

SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY:

Arrest of foreign national (b) (7)(C) for GCA and NEA violations

NARRATIVE OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY:

On November 17, 2008, the Albany Field Office along with the assistance of ATF SRT Team 2, three ATF Undercover Agents, the Syracuse Field Office, and the New York State Police conducted a buy/bust reverse operation involving 56 Title II machine guns, silencers and C-4 explosives in the Town of Canastota New York. Arrested at that time were (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C) considered the leader of a criminal organization involved in narcotic trafficking, has associations with the Hells Angels and Italian Mob families in Montreal, Canada. At the present time, (b) (7)(C) is being held pending his initial appearance in the NDNY-Syracuse. (b) (7)(C) is expected to be charged with Title 18 USC 922(g) and Title II weapons violations, being an illegal alien in possession of firearms and explosives. Charges are being discussed with the USAO-Syracuse regarding (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 11:14:52 AM
To: Torres, Julie M; (b) (7)(C)
Subject:

261

Answer for Newark From Yesterday.

Question #1. No

Question #2. No

Does this need to go anywhere else?

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From: Marianos, Richard W.
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 5:34:09 PM
To: Torres, Julie M
Subject:

262

Upon a query of all Washington Field Division Firearms Trafficking Investigation during the past three years the following answers were obtained.

At no time were any firearms transferred, traded or sold across international borders.

At no time were any firearms surveillance conducted which allowed firearms to cross international borders.

Richard Marianos

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From: Sloop, Theresa R.
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 5:57:49 PM
To: Torres, Julie M
CC: (b) (7) [REDACTED]
Subject:

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Regarding today's inquiry. The research reflects:
Question 1: No
Question 2: No

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From: Thomas, Guy N.
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 10:50 PM
To: Torres, Julie M
CC: Thomas, Guy N.
Subject: Update from Boston Field Division

Julie:

I have spoken telephonically with ASAC Eugenio Marquez who has operational awareness of Boston Field Division over the past three years and all Residence Agents in Charge for Boston Field Division Field Office with operational jurisdiction along the United States Northern Border with Canada, Portland Field Office (Maine), Manchester Field Office (New Hampshire), and Burlington Field Office (Vermont).

The answers to the following two questions are NEGATIVE.

1. Within past three (3) years has there been any controlled firearms trafficking investigations involving the firearms crossing an international border?
2. Within the past (3) years has there been any active surveillance involving firearms being trafficked across an international border?

Supplemental Information

Supplemental information reference additional known firearms trafficking investigation within the Boston Field Division in the past three (3) years, I am aware of the (b) (7)(C) Firearms Trafficking Investigation conducted out of our Burlington Field Office, 762050-07-0026 (b) (7)(C). Thru an active investigation it was determined that (b) (7)(C) had purchased up to 8 firearms from a FFL located in Lewiston, VT, approximately 40 miles from the Canadian border. Two firearms recovered by Canadian Authorities at crime scenes had been traced back to (b) (7)(C) as the initial purchaser. The investigation determined that all firearms purchase by (b) (7)(C) using a fictitious VT drivers license. When (b) (7)(C) attempted to purchase his 9th and 10th gun, he was arrested at the FFL in Lewiston, VT. (b) (7)(C) failed to appear for a scheduled court appearance, warrant issued and subsequently located by USMS. At time of this arrest, (b) (7)(C) was found in possession of what turned out to be his 12th firearm.

Be advised, I have a 6:00 a.m. (CST) flight out of Nashville in morning with connection in Chicago. If you need additional information, I will respond upon my landing in Boston at just after noon.

Guy

Guy N. Thomas
Special Agent in Charge
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
Boston Field Division (Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine)
10 Causeway Street
Room 791
Boston, MA 02222

(O) 617.557.1200
(CP) (b) (7)(C)
(F) 617.557.1201

From: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 5:54 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: OCDETF Proposal
Attachments: The Fast and The Furious.doc; The Fast and The Furious narrative.doc

FYI

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From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2011 5:32 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: FW: OCDETF Proposal

Original proposal. Was eventually assigned the following OCDETF #: SWAZP0496

Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
Phoenix Field Division (Arizona and New Mexico)
Office - (602)776-5400

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 11:26 AM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: FW: OCDETF Proposal

Bill --

(b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) OCDETF proposal was unanimously passed today at the USAO. This investigation is currently (b) (7)(E) We need at least another three (3) weeks (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E) We'll coordinate with ATF Counsel and the USAO (b) (7)(E) Purchases have significantly slowed for now as the "straws" are waiting for a significant cash infusion to make some "large" purchases, whatever those might be.

Employee 4
George T. Gillett
Assistant Special Agent in Charge
ATF - Phoenix Field Division
Office: (602) 776-5400

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 5:29 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW:

(b) (7)(C)

Please see the below e-mail chain from (b) (7)(C) in reference to the master ROI list he sent me last week. It looks as though 3 ROI's are not in the list and (b) (7)(C) name should be removed.

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 8:49 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE:

No problem. There was one more thing I noticed about the document that you should delete from the master copy. The first few lines of the document, shown below, are just references point from the query I used to create this document. The person (b) (7)(C) had nothing to do with this effort and his name should be deleted from all your copies to prevent any future questions or confusion about who he is.

SBU
ATF
SEA
NFORCE
20110310

(b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Office
(b) (7)(C) Mobile

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 8:42 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE:

Thanks for the heads up (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 2:22 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW:

One more thing: These are the 3 event narratives that were not reported on in an ROI as of this report.

-Firearm Recovery linked to Purchase by (b) (7)(C)

-Meeting with (b) (7)(C) and Defense Counsel at USAO, Phoenix, AZ

-Arrest and Interview of (b) (7)(C), El Paso, Texas

(b) (7)(C)
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Office
(b) (7)(C) Mobile

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 2:08 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE:

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, NFOCIS
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Office
(b) (7)(C) Mobile
(b) (7)(C)

National Field Office Case Information System
The Home of ATF's Official Case Management System
ATF National Headquarters, Suites 8E352-8E449
99 New York Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20226

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 9:00 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject:

(b) (7)(C)

Can you give me a call in reference to an Nforce query question?

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

SPECIAL AGENT (b) (7)(C)
PROJECT OFFICER
OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS
FIREARMS OPERATIONS DIVISION
CELL (b) (7)(C)
DESK (202) 648(b) (7)(C)

(b) (5)

I see this type of product as being another example of us being the recognized gun police and show that we can put out intelligence products to our partner agencies and even to include the GOM. This would be another example that would address OIG concerns identified as part of the gunrunner program. All information would be open source info but compiled in one monthly document to alert federal, state, local and tribal agencies and the GOM to the upcoming shows in the SWB region. It could be a standard mailing list every month and be a product that we showcase our expertise. It could also say that all actions need to be coordinated thru our border divisions as we have statutory responsibility for the gunshows.

Any thoughts?

(b) (7)(C)

ATF National Coordinator
Southwest Border/Project Gunrunner

(202) 648- (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) cell

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From: Stentz, Matthew L [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 2:54 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) PACHECO, MARK A; PEREZ, EFRAIN S
Cc: Vargas, Jeffrey; Stitzel, James; Benner, Derek N
Subject: Operation Fallen Hero - Stage 2

All,

As follow-up to today's conference call concerning Operation Fallen Hero and the proposed ICE/ATF/CBP operational activities, attached is a draft e-mail which will be sent out to the Southwest Border ICE/ATF SACs and their CBP counterparts. The goal here is to have the field managers decide what they want to do in their AORs instead of a HQ driven operation.

Let me know if you all have any edits by Monday, March 21, 2011, COB and I'll consolidate and re-send back to you all with a goal of sending out the message at the same time to the ICE/ATF/CBP field managers no later than the middle of next week. If you have any questions, let me know. Thanks.

Matt

Matthew L. Stentz
Unit Chief
ICE - Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)
Narcotics and Contraband Smuggling Unit
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536
202-732-3793 phone

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 10:32 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Operation Fallen Hero - Stage 2
Attachments: Operation Fallen Hero Phase 2 031711.doc

(b) (7)(C), I have been involved in meetings and coordination up here in DC as part of the efforts to focus on the Zetas after the murder of ICE Agent Zapata. Operation Fallen Angel.

One of the next courses of action was proposed by me to address gunshows but allow the field to determine any potential courses of action. Part of this would be to identify gunshows and (b) (5)

I see this type of product as being another example of us being the recognized gun police and show that we can put out intelligence products to our partner agencies and even to include the GOM. This would be another example that would address OIG concerns identified as part of the gunrunner program. All information would be open source info but compiled in one monthly document to alert federal, state, local and tribal agencies and the GOM to the upcoming shows in the SWB region. It could be a standard mailing list every month and be a product that we showcase our expertise. It could also say that all actions need to be coordinated thru our border divisions as we have statutory responsibility for the gunshows.

Any thoughts?

(b) (7)(C)
ATF National Coordinator
Southwest Border/Project Gunrunner

(202) 648-(b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C) cell

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From: Stentz, Matthew L [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 2:54 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) PACHECO, MARK A; PEREZ, EFRAIN S

Cc: Vargas, Jeffrey; Stitzel, James; Benner, Derek N

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Matt

Matthew L. Stentz
Unit Chief
ICE - Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)
Narcotics and Contraband Smuggling Unit
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536
202-732-3793 phone
matthew.stentz@dhs.gov

Operation Fallen Hero – Phase 2

Objective:

In an effort to sustain the whole of government pressure on Los Zetas and to increase efforts against the transnational criminal organizations operating in Mexico, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), in partnership with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will continue to investigate the illegal acquisition, staging, and movement of weapons from the United States to Mexico by attacking individuals and organizations engaged in the organized procurement and illicit investments to obtain weapons, explosives, and related components used to perpetuate cross-border criminal activity.

Operational Plan:

Recognizing each region along the Southwest Border is a unique operating environment with regards to the means and methods used by individuals and organizations to procure weapons, explosives, and related components, ICE and ATF Special Agents in Charge (SACs) will collaborate to design investigative operation(s) for their specific area of operation (AOR) to identify, disrupt, and dismantle individuals and organizations operating in their regions. The respective SACs will have the latitude to collaborate and subsequently implement joint operations under existing operational platforms; such as the Border Enforcement Security Task Forces (BESTs), Gun Runner Impact Teams (GRITs), Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Strike Forces, by incorporating the individual agencies expertise in conducting controlled deliveries, undercover operations, tracing, etc. These operations can include, but not be limited to:

- Gun Show Operations
- Gang Surge Operations
- Intelligence Driven Outbound Operations with CBP
- Undercover Buy/Bust Surge Operations
- Immigration / 922(g) Operations to Target Foreign Nationals by leveraging

Cognizant that these operations will result in criminal and administrative arrests, ICE and ATF will advise their local United States Attorney's Office and ICE Chief Counsel (for immigration matters) of their operational activities.

Timeframe for Operation:

By April 1, 2011, the ICE and ATF Southwest Border SACs, in conjunction with their CBP counterparts, will submit an operational plan to the ICE, ATF, and CBP headquarters coordinators listed below and initiate their operations no later than May 1, 2011.

Metrics:

ICE and CBP personnel will report all statistics for this operation using project codes 1AY (Operation Fallen Hero) and 4DA (Firearms/Explosives Smuggling) on reports of investigation, case reports, and search, arrest, and seizure (SAS) reports.

ATF personnel will report all statistics using...

Headquarters Points of Contact:

ICE:	Derek Benner Deputy Assistant Director 202-732-5105 derek.benner@dhs.gov	Matthew Stentz Unit Chief 202-732-3793 matthew.stentz@dhs.gov
	Jeffrey Vargas Operations Chief 202-732-3196 jeffrey.vargas@dhs.gov	James Stitzel Chief of Staff 202-732-3235 james.stitzel@dhs.gov
ATF:	(b) (7)(C) National Coordinator 202-648-(b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C)	
CBP:	Mark Pacheco Director 202-344-1413 Mark.pacheco@dhs.gov	Efrain S. Perez Program Manager 202-344-2657 efrain.s.perez@dhs.gov

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 10:19 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: External GRIT Report
Attachments: Phoenix GRIT External Report.docx

(b) (7)(C) I do not have any experience in what is done with this report. I would think that it would be vetted throughout the building for comments as it is an external report. This would be the exec sec position to do it. Do we do it and to whom should it be sent? If not then what do we do with it, give to PGA?

(b) (7)(C)
ATF National Coordinator
Southwest Border/Project Gunrunner

(202) 648-(b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C) cell

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 9:11 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: External GRIT Report

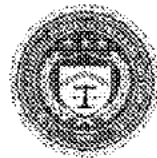
(b) (7)(C)

Our writer/editor has finished with the external GRIT report and I have attached it. Let us know if it is now approved for release and we can put it in pdf format. Thanks.

(b) (7)(C)
Program Analyst
Firearms Operations Division
Office of Field Operations
Bureau of ATF
202-648-(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Office of Field Operations
Firearms Operations Division



ATF
Gun Runner Impact Team Assessment
Phoenix Field Division Deployment
May 1, 2010 – August 6, 2010



BACKGROUND

Firearms and explosives violence has escalated to unprecedented levels in Mexico, particularly along the border with the United States. Recent car bombings, increased grenade attacks, and record highs in cartel related killings have further reinforced that the Mexican drug cartels are a threat to Mexico's national security. Power struggles within and among the cartels and between the cartels and the Mexican police and military continue to fuel the demand for increasingly lethal firepower. Organized crime related murders in Mexico more than doubled from 2007 to 2008, and the decade ended with a record breaking 6,587 murders in 2009. During the first week of November 2010, the number of reported organized crime related murders in Mexico surpassed 10,000.^[1]

Securing the Southwest Border is a top priority of the United States. The 2010 Emergency Border Security Supplemental Appropriations Bill (HR 6080) recently allocated \$600 million for numerous security projects and to bolster the work of Federal law enforcement officials along the border. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) received \$37.5 million of the supplemental funds to expand its personnel and operations dedicated to investigating, disrupting, and dismantling the organizations and networks responsible for trafficking firearms to Mexican cartels and to reduce cartel related border violence.

Since 2006, Project Gunrunner has been ATF's comprehensive strategy to combat firearms related violence by the cartels along the Southwest Border. The strategy aims to reduce firearms and explosives related violent crime associated with Mexican criminal enterprises operating in the U.S. and Mexico by preventing these organizations from acquiring and trafficking firearms and explosives. ATF works toward this goal with an integrated approach that uses all appropriate agency capabilities and by working collaboratively with domestic and international partners.

In April 2009, ATF developed the Gun Runner Impact Team (GRIT) initiative as a supplement to Project Gunrunner to aggressively target and disrupt groups and organizations responsible for the trafficking of firearms to Mexico. The GRIT initiative, designed to be intelligence driven and investigative in nature, focuses on investigating a large number of firearms trafficking leads based on trace information from firearms recovered in Mexico and information obtained from the inspection of Federal firearms licensees (FFLs).

The first GRIT was deployed in ATF's Houston Field Division area, where a majority of firearms recovered in Mexico are sourced. In support of GRIT, ATF deployed an estimated 100 law enforcement, industry operations, intelligence, legal, technical, and administrative support personnel to the Houston Field Division for 120 days. The Houston GRIT was an unprecedented operation that achieved significant success. ATF conducted an extensive post-GRIT assessment to identify lessons learned and applied these lessons in a proposal for a second GRIT operation to be conducted in the Phoenix Field Division.

^[1] According to Grupo Reforma's "ejecutómetro" (execution meter), a running tally of cartel-related killings, in 2010 there were 10,095 such killings as of November 8, 2010.

PHOENIX GRIT

In May 2010, ATF deployed approximately 80 special agents, industry operations investigators (IOIs), intelligence research specialists (IRS), and support personnel to the Phoenix Field Division for a 100-day GRIT operation. The goal of this deployment was to have a focused impact on individuals and groups trafficking firearms from the Phoenix Field Division area into Mexico. The GRIT personnel, combined with Phoenix Field Division personnel, reinforced ATF's unique ability to bring together its firearms trafficking investigative expertise with its regulatory authority and strategic partnerships to combat firearms trafficking to Mexico.

The initiative was conducted under the operational control of the Phoenix Field Division's Special Agent in Charge and received assistance from other ATF components as needed. Special agents and support personnel were detailed to six existing criminal enforcement groups. Two Industry Operations groups consisting of area supervisors, industry operations investigators, and support personnel were created and detailed to Phoenix and Tucson. Additionally, three industry operations investigators were detailed to the Albuquerque II office, and nine special agents, two intelligence research specialists, and one industry operations investigator were detailed to support the Field Intelligence Group.

The Special Agent in Charge, Phoenix Field Division, recommended the specific human resource requirements (number, type, and locations of assignments) needed to support the initiative, and the Assistant Director of Field Operations approved the recommendation. (See the chart below.) Phoenix Field Division leadership, group supervisors, special agents, industry operations investigators, and intelligence and support personnel provided leadership, guidance, and intelligence and administrative support to the GRIT detailees.

GROUP	DETAILED AGENTS	DETAILED IOIs	DETAILED SUPPORT
Albuquerque II (IO)**		3	1 (IOA)
Phoenix I	4		
Phoenix II	6		1 (IA)
Phoenix IV (Field Intelligence Group)	9	1	2 (IRS)
Phoenix VII	10		
Phoenix GRIT(Industry Operations)*		19	1 (IOA)
Tucson I	5		1 IRS (shared by Tucson I & II)
Tucson II	5		
Tucson GRIT (Industry Operations)*		10	1 (IOA)
Division			2 (SOO, ASA)

Key to detailed support position abbreviations:

IOI – Industry Operations Investigator

IOA- Industry Operations Analyst

IA – Investigative Analyst

IRS – Intelligence Research Specialist

SOO – Senior Operations Officer

ASA – Administrative Support Assistant

* GRIT detailees were incorporated into the existing Phoenix Field Division Groups listed above, with the exception of the Phoenix and Tucson GRIT IO groups, which were established separately.

**GRIT detailees remained in their initial locations throughout the deployment, with the exception of an IOA who spent half of the time in Albuquerque and half in Tucson.

GRIT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overarching goal of the GRIT initiative was to aggressively target and disrupt groups and organizations responsible for trafficking firearms to Mexico. The Phoenix GRIT focused its resources on three main components: an Industry Operations Initiative, a Firearms Trafficking Investigation Initiative, and a Home Invasion Initiative.

The goal of the Industry Operations Initiative was to complete as many inspections as possible of identified high risk FFLs, develop firearms trafficking leads for follow up investigative action, educate FFLs regarding straw purchaser indicators, improve licensees' internal controls, and provide FFLs with a point of contact for reporting suspicious activity.

The Firearms Trafficking Investigation Initiative focused on the two largest metropolitan areas in Arizona; Phoenix and Tucson. These two metropolitan areas are the primary sources of firearms purchased in Arizona and recovered in Mexico. Enforcement groups targeted individuals responsible for illicit firearms trafficking to Mexico in these areas, including illegal firearms suppliers of violent gangs and criminal enterprises that have a direct nexus to Mexico.

Another goal of the Firearms Trafficking Investigation Initiative was to assign a backlog of National Instant Check System (NICS) standard denials for investigative follow up action, with special emphasis on foreign born purchasers who were the subject of a NICS denial. A standard denial is one in which a prohibited person attempts to purchase a firearm, but based on a NICS denial, no firearms transfer takes place.

The Home Invasion Initiative focused on dismantling several home invasion crews in the Phoenix and Tucson areas. The Phoenix Field Division has found that these crews often target drug stash houses, have significant connections to the Mexican drug cartels, and are often engaged in trafficking firearms to Mexico.

GRIT SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Criminal Enforcement

As a result of the GRIT initiative, the Phoenix Field Division opened 174 new investigations. A total of 27 cases and 66 defendants were forwarded for prosecution during the GRIT initiative and approximately 70 percent of backlogged NICS referrals in the Phoenix Field Division were successfully completed during the GRIT operational period.

ATF seized 1,285 firearms, 71,774 rounds of ammunition, two blasting caps, 11 silencers, \$7,763 in currency, 676.2 grams of powder or crack cocaine, 457.7 grams of methamphetamine, and 363.2 grams of marijuana during GRIT operations.

Although all participating Phoenix Field Division field offices completed significant criminal enforcement actions that will be highlighted throughout this assessment, some field offices achieved particularly noteworthy accomplishments during the GRIT operational period. The Tucson II Field Office initiated "Operation Vaquero" and uncovered an ammunition smuggling

ring associated with the Sinaloa criminal enterprise in Mexico suspected of trafficking over 300,000 rounds of ammunition across the border. The operation disrupted this ammunition pipeline and seized 30,000 rounds of ammunition. The Tucson I Field Office discovered an emerging trend in which criminal enterprises now use white, employed males with no criminal histories to conduct straw purchases in an attempt to elude law enforcement attention.

The Phoenix I Field Office is actively working an investigation in which members (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

The Phoenix VII Field Office seized over 230 firearms, including a .50 caliber rifle with an obliterated serial number. In addition, this office, working with the Phoenix Police Department on a joint home invasion investigation, identified a 14-member straw purchasing organization and seized 49 AK-47 style rifles, two pistols, hundreds of magazines, and a Barrett .50 caliber rifle. Four illegal aliens who were arrested as result of this investigation admitted that the guns were headed to Mexico.

Additionally, the GRIT initiative contributed to the discovery of a previously unknown firearms trafficking pattern within the United States. Firearms purchased in the Phoenix area are increasingly being recovered in crimes committed in Texas. This pattern is unusual because both Arizona and Texas have an abundance of FFLs and both are considered source States for firearms.

The GRIT initiative has also led to the identification of two previously unknown firearms trafficking patterns from the U.S. into Mexico. Firearms purchased in the Phoenix area and recovered in Mexico typically make their way directly south into the Mexican border States of Sonora and Chihuahua. Firearms purchased in the Phoenix area and recovered in Mexico are now being recovered as far west as Baja California Norte and as far east as Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon.

Industry Operations

ATF Industry Operations was able to inspect virtually every FFL that had not been inspected in Arizona's Maricopa County and the Tucson area within the past 5 years. In addition, Industry Operations inspected a number of FFLs that had not been inspected in Maricopa County within the last 3 to 5 years. During the initiative, Industry Operations completed 806 inspections, reviewed 56,117 ATF Forms 4473 for accuracy and firearms trafficking indicators, and recommended 110 administrative actions (109 warning letters and warning conferences, and one recommendation for revocation). Industry Operations verified the accuracy of FFL records for 43,359 firearms and reduced the number of missing and unaccounted for firearms from 1,703 to 333. Industry Operations also uncovered 146 unreported multiple sales totaling 379 firearms and made 108 referrals for follow up action. A total of 69 FFLs surrendered their license during this period.

industry operations investigators were able to identify a number of record keeping deficiencies and educate the licensees about Federal firearms laws and regulations. Several licensees expressed their gratitude for ATF's effort to help improve their internal controls, review the firearms laws and regulations, and improve the overall efficiency of their operations.

There were a number of significant inspections conducted by Industry Operations that resulted in violations identified and referrals generated for firearms trafficking and unlicensed business activity, such as engaging in the business of dealing in firearms without a license and manufacturing firearms without the proper license. An inspection of an FFL located in Maricopa County resulted in a referral to ATF special agents for an individual who had obtained 34 firearms between September 10, 2009 and May 20, 2010. Of these firearms, 32 involved "assault-type" weapons. Another individual purchased 32 firearms, of which 23 were receivers, during the same approximate period.

During a compliance inspection of another FFL in Maricopa County, four possible firearm traffickers were identified. An e-Trace examination of crime guns from this dealer showed that

(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

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(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

Another inspection of an FFL in Maricopa County revealed that the licensee had failed to file 50 multiple handgun sale reports involving 150 handguns.

A number of licensees in certain outlying areas of New Mexico were found to have significant violations. Additional inspections are planned for these locations.

COLLABORATION

The Phoenix Field Division continued one of ATF's core enforcement philosophies during GRIT by collaborating with numerous Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies. Examples ranged from local police departments providing suspect information to ATF agents, to the Albuquerque Police Department pledging 20 to 30 police officers to supplement ATF's participation in GRIT activities in New Mexico.

Although numerous State and local police departments contributed to the success of the Phoenix GRIT, the Phoenix Police Department, Maricopa County Sheriff's Department, and Tucson Police Department played major roles in GRIT activities. Four of the five enforcement groups participating in GRIT reported significant collaboration with these three departments, including intelligence activities and manpower, tactical, equipment, and logistical support. Through their support, the Phoenix and Tucson police departments and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department directly and positively impacted the GRIT results. Other law enforcement agencies that greatly contributed to the success of the Phoenix Field Division GRIT were the Mesa,

Arizona and Albuquerque, New Mexico Police Departments, the Pinal County, Arizona Sheriff's Office, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, and the Arizona Department of Revenue.

Several Federal agencies contributed to the overall success of the Phoenix Field Division GRIT, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Secret Service, the Internal Revenue Service, and the El Paso Intelligence Center.

Examples of collaboration with other agencies during the GRIT included the following:

- ATF assigned five GRIT detailees to assist the U.S. Border Patrol, ICE, and the DEA in a large Title III interception-based narcotics and human trafficking investigation in an area outside of Tucson, Arizona known as the Vekol Valley. This area is located within the northern confines of the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation and is a well known thoroughfare for trafficking contraband north and south across the U.S./Mexico border.
- ATF, FBI, U.S. Border Patrol, ICE, the Tohono O'odham Indian Police Department, and the Tucson Police Special Investigations Unit worked together to dismantle a narcotics and firearms trafficking ring operating on the reservation. Several individuals have been arrested on narcotics charges and the case is ongoing.
- Operation Vaquero (mentioned earlier) involved multiple agency coordination to investigate a Tucson based criminal conspiracy suspected of trafficking thousands of rounds of ammunition to a Mexican criminal enterprise. ATF has confirmed that three suspects purchased over a quarter million rounds of ammunition from FFLs and online ammunition retailers. The three suspects are unemployed, used multiple prepaid credit cards to order the ammunition, and used unusual methods to receive and transport the ammunition. One of the suspects is connected to the Sinaloa criminal enterprise. On June 3, 2010, ATF Tucson offices I and II, GRIT special agents, FBI, ICE, and Tucson Police Department officers executed three Federal search warrants in furtherance of this investigation. The three suspects were arrested and indicted on June 23, 2010, by a grand jury in the U.S. District Court – District of Arizona for the smuggling of ammunition and other charges. Seven other persons identified through subsequent investigation are suspected of coordinating and facilitating the trafficking of ammunition and narcotics.
- ATF collaborated with the Government of Mexico through a representative of the Procuraduría General de la República (Mexico's attorney general) detailed to work onsite with ATF in Phoenix. The presence of an onsite representative from the Government of Mexico facilitated the sharing of timely information relating to investigations on both sides of the border.
- The ATF Special Agent in Charge of the Phoenix Field Division conducted two training sessions on ATF's Gunrunner Program to a total of 50 Mexican law enforcement officers from the Mexican States of Sinaloa and Baja California Norte. The training focused on

ATF's efforts to combat the trafficking of firearms to Mexico and on assistance that Mexico can provide to ATF in this ongoing effort.

FIREARMS TRAFFICKING METHODS AND EMERGING TRENDS

Information gathered from GRIT after-action interviews with supervisors confirmed the existence of certain firearms trafficking methods and uncovered new trafficking trends. The primary method of transporting firearms across the border is vehicles, including tractor trailers. Firearms are often concealed in hidden compartments, false panels, or the spare tire of a vehicle. Another concealment method seen during GRIT was the secreting of firearms secured by zip ties on the undercarriage of vehicles. Firearms are often stored in stash houses near the border and later transported to Mexico. Firearms cross the border in vehicles via ports of entry and also via Indian reservations. Firearms are also simply carried across the border on foot.

A primary method of communication among firearms traffickers continues to be pre-paid cell phones that are used for only a short period of time before being discarded. Often, cell phone SIM cards are swapped out for calls involving illegal activities.

Most often, cash is used to purchase firearms destined for illegal trafficking. One investigation revealed the use of pre-paid credit cards to purchase ammunition.

GRIT investigations have confirmed that individuals who recruit straw purchasers often attempt to insulate themselves from the purchasers by using them for one firearms purchase and then recruiting the purchasers' family, friends, or associates to make additional purchases.

GRIT investigations found that of the straw purchasers who were identified, approximately 75 percent are on public assistance and are between 18 and 24 years old. However, an emerging trend uncovered was the recruitment of older white males with jobs and no criminal histories to straw purchase firearms. According to a confidential informant, these individuals are being sought out in both the Phoenix and Tucson areas to purchase expensive firearms, particularly .50 caliber and belt-fed World War II replica firearms. These straw purchasers, who are valued for their perceived ability to purchase firearms without raising interest of law enforcement, are paid approximately \$700 to \$800 per firearm purchase.

During GRIT, a new pattern of recoveries in Mexico for Arizona-sourced firearms emerged. Normally, firearms purchases in the Phoenix area are recovered directly south of Arizona in the Mexican States of Sonora and Chihuahua. A new east-west trend has been identified in which firearms purchased in the Phoenix Field Division area are now being recovered as far west as Baja California Norte and as far east as Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon.

Upon detection of the firearms recoveries in Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon, the Phoenix Field Division Field Intelligence Group began researching trace data for further analysis. Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas represent territory of the Los Zetas and Gulf cartels, both of which appear to

obtain the majority of their firearms from Texas, according to recent firearms trace data.¹ The Field Intelligence Group will report its analytical findings in an intelligence assessment.

A previously uncommon intra-U.S. firearm trafficking pattern was discovered, originating in the Phoenix area. Firearms purchased there are now being recovered in Texas. This pattern is unusual because both States have an abundance of FFLs and generally less restrictive State firearms laws and are recognized as “source” States.

OUTREACH

The Phoenix GRIT outreach campaign consisted of providing training for a number of large corporate Federal firearms license holders, including Dick’s Sporting Goods, Inc. on July 8, 2010. The training at Dick’s Sporting Goods, a national sporting goods chain, focused on Federal firearms laws and regulations. The training was prompted by inspections of two stores in the Phoenix area and recent high turnover of employees in local stores. Sixteen managerial employees from different Dick’s stores in Arizona attended the training. Training emphasized proper execution of ATF Forms 4473 and the maintenance of acquisition and disposition records.

As part of the inspection process, industry operations investigators provided FFLs with handout materials that discuss safety and security measures to help prevent the theft or loss of firearms, and information on firearms trafficking indicators that could prevent the FFL from becoming an unwitting participant in illegal firearms transactions. Handout material included ATF Publication 3317.2, “Safety and Security Information for Federal Firearms Licensees,” ATF Publication 3317.6, “Project Gunrunner: The Southwest Border Initiative,” ATF Publication 5300.18, “Nonimmigrant Aliens Purchasing Firearms and Ammunition in the US,” and “Don’t Lie for the Other Guy” posters and flyers.

Industry operations investigators reviewed Federal firearms laws and regulations with FFLs and made recommendations for improving internal controls, which in some cases also helped to streamline the licensees’ operations. A list of contact numbers for the ATF in Arizona and New Mexico was provided to the licensees to report suspicious activity.

During the Houston GRIT in 2009, there was some concern that the extensive media coverage at the inception of the GRIT may have served as a forewarning to offenders, who may have then temporarily suspended their criminal activities or moved to other areas to commit them. As a result of those concerns, no preliminary press conference was held for the Phoenix GRIT. However, at the conclusion of the operation, ATF Deputy Director Kenneth E. Melson and the United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Dennis K. Burke announced the successes of the operation at a press conference.

¹ According to ATF’s 2009 Project Gunrunner Assessment, of the 517 firearms recovered and traced in Mexico in 2009 and matched with open source seizure events associated with the Gulf cartel/Los Zetas, 80 percent were purchased in Texas.

CONCLUSION

Through a combination of flexible and experienced management; motivated and focused employees; support from outside law enforcement agencies; and large scale Industry Operations, Firearms Trafficking, and Home Invasion Initiatives, GRIT had a positive and lasting impact on violent crime and illegal firearms trafficking in the Phoenix Field Division area.

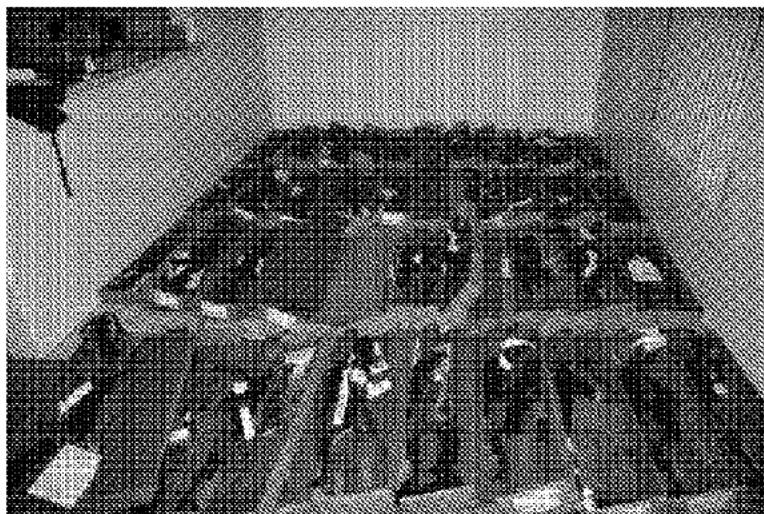
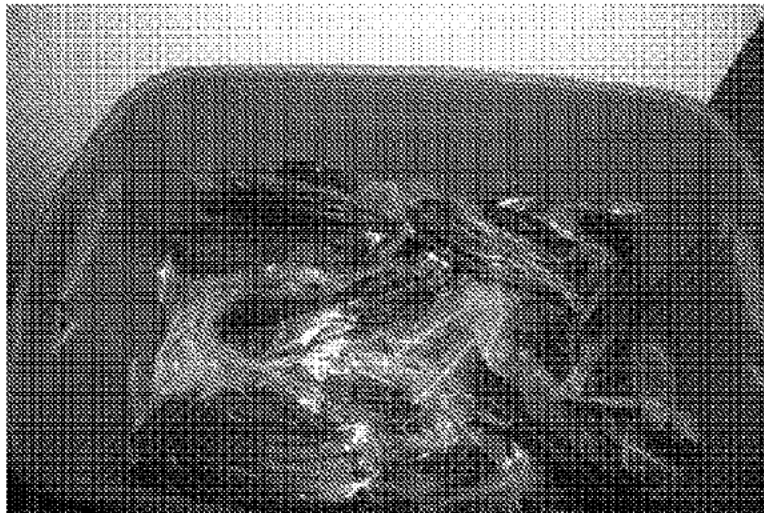
The combination of these elements and initiatives, along with the force multiplier of over 80 additional ATF personnel, led to more than 800 FFLs – one-third of all FFLs in Arizona and New Mexico combined – being inspected, 70 percent of Phoenix Field Division's backlogged NICS referrals being addressed, over 1,200 firearms and 71,000 rounds of ammunition seized from the criminal element, 66 defendants being recommended for prosecution, and 174 investigations being initiated. These statistics will increase in future weeks, months, and years, which is often the case with large scale criminal investigative initiatives. The full success and impact of the Phoenix Field Division GRIT will not be realized for some time, because pending investigations, spin-off investigations, new intelligence, ongoing trials, and additional circumstances inherent in large-scale operations often delay the true impact of an initiative.

Additional GRIT successes were achieved, including the identification of a new east-west firearms trafficking trend from Arizona into Mexico, the identification of a previously unknown firearms trafficking pattern from Arizona into Texas, the discovery of criminal enterprises employing a new type of straw purchaser in the Tucson and Phoenix area, and the identification and break-up of multiple home invasion crews connected to Mexican drug cartels. Expanded outreach to FFLs has improved their relationship with ATF and raised their awareness of what constitutes illegal firearms activity and how to deter would-be offenders. Additionally, GRIT has helped to bring into compliance FFLs that had not been inspected by ATF in a number of years.

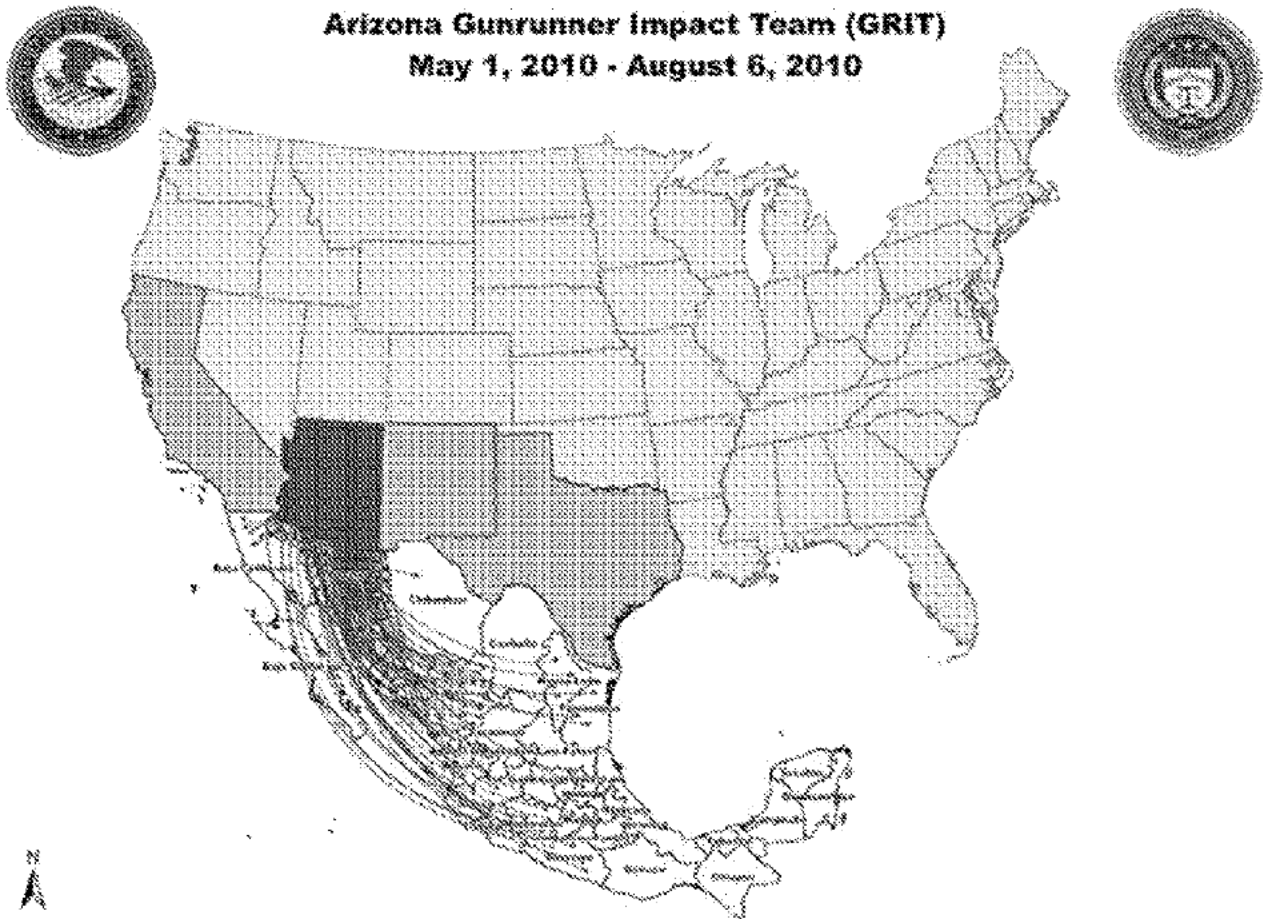
Finally, GRIT has raised awareness along the Southwest Border region in Arizona that ATF and its Federal, State, and local counterparts are committed, focused, and determined to address violent firearms trafficking crimes along the border.



This TNW .50 caliber rifle was seized the day of the GRIT press conference as part of a continuing GRIT investigation.



A bin full of magazines (top) and 49 AK variants (bottom) were recovered in a joint home invasion investigation by the Phoenix Police Department and ATF. The four illegal aliens who were arrested admitted that the guns were headed to Mexico. The guns were brand new in their original boxes. Traces showed that all were purchased in the previous 7 to 10 days.



The above map depicts Arizona-sourced firearms recovered in Mexico during the GRIT period. The map reflects recoveries of Arizona-sourced firearms directly south of Arizona, as well as to areas east and west. The east-west recoveries are an emerging trend that was identified during the GRIT operation.

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 8:03 PM

To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Last one...

Attachments: (b) (7)(E) Affidavit.pdf

(b) (7)(C)

Group Supervisor

Phoenix Group VII

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 6:53 PM

To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)

Subject: one more, I hope this is working

Attachments: (b) (7)(E) pdf

(b) (7)(C)

Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 6:11 PM

To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)

Subject: This one is larger in size since it is (b) (7)(E) on the same set of documents

Attachments: (b) (7)(E) Application and Order (Both on same document).pdf

(b) (7)(C)

Group Supervisor

Phoenix Group VII

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 6:00 PM

To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)

Subject: (b) (7)(E) sorry they are out of order the scanner is giving me problems. More on the way.

Attachments: (b) (7)(E) (signed).pdf

(b) (7)(C)

Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
602-541- (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 5:48 PM
To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Sorry for delay but here they come...
Attachments: (b) (7)(E) (signed).pdf

(b) (7)(C)
Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 7:45 PM
To: Needles, James R. (b) (7)(C)
CC: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Subject: Fast & Furious Firearms Summary - Updated
Attachments: F&F Summary.xlsx

Per your request the attached spreadsheet has been updated to include the following additional information.

- Number of firearms recovered in Mexico after the target had been entered into N-Force (identified)
- Number of firearms recovered in the US by ATF after the target had been entered into N-Force (identified)

This information was obtained from the firearms spreadsheet maintained by the two case agents.

Should you have any questions or require additional information please advise.

(b) (7)(C) - Senior IRS
Acting Intel Group Supervisor
(602) 776-(b) (7)(C) - Direct
(b) (7)(C) Mobile
(602) 776-5519 - Fax

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785115-10-0004

2/26/2013

Indicted targets (Purchasers)	Firearms purchased before target was identified in investigation	Firearms purchased after target was identified in investigation	TOTALS	Firearms recovered in U.S. after target was identified in investigation	Firearms returned to U.S. after target was identified and seized by ATF	Firearms recovered in Mexico after target was identified in investigation
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(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

(b) (7)(C)
A/GS Phoenix FIG

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 7:38 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Read: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Your message

To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)

Subject: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Sent: 3/25/2011 5:40 PM

was read on 3/25/2011 6:38 PM

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Employee 4 March 25, 2011 7:15:54 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Disabled guns?

870

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202 648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Employee 4 March 25, 2011 6:25:22 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: (b) (7)(C)

871

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 8:13 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: (b) (7)(C)

Video and roi comps

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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1. How many weapons have been allowed to pass to Mexico under the program known as "Fast and Furious"? Is the program still active?

Moreover, the allegation that the "Fast and Furious" investigation somehow caused a "large flow of weapons across the border to Mexico," is mistaken. "Fast and Furious" did not involve agents watching as guns crossed into Mexico. This investigation did not include any planned or attempted controlled delivery of firearms to Mexico. It was not part of the investigation to permit guns to pass through any Port of Entry into Mexico. Indeed, this investigative team was keenly aware of the difficulty in gathering evidence that is located or recovered in Mexico and the difficulty in conducting coordinated interdiction efforts south of the border. Simply put, illegal arms traffickers delivered those weapons to Mexico -- despite efforts by U.S. law enforcement to stop them.

Of the XXXX guns involved in F&F

Xxx before suspects identified

Xxx recovered by LE/ATF

Xxx recovered by Mexico

Of the xxx remaining, the sale of xxx guns occurred prior to ATF having knowledge of the sale

We continue to work on discerning the number of guns we had under surveillance at the time of purchase and did not interdict.

2. Who at ATF Headquarters approved the program?
3. Who in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona approved the program? On what authority did the Office approve the program?

Defer to the District of Arizona for this response.

4. Did ATF or the U.S. Attorney's Office in Phoenix coordinate the "Fast and Furious" program with the Department? Did the Department approve the strategy?
5. What changes or improvements has ATF made to its eTrace program and its ability to use intelligence to target gun trafficking organizations in general?

You have also asked for information about eTrace, an important tool in ATF's work to dismantle gun trafficking. eTrace is an Internet-based system that allows participating law enforcement agencies to submit firearm traces to the ATF National Tracing Center. Authorized users can receive firearm trace results electronically, search a database of all firearm traces submitted by their individual agency, and perform analytical functions. In the last year, eTrace has gained strong new features. eTrace now accommodates data in Spanish, gives translations, and allows users to better sort and search additional data elements and images to improve weapons tracing. In the next 24 months, planned enhancements

to eTrace will improve ATF's ability to monitor and map gun tracing data in real time and to share information with other federal agencies, as well as with state and local law enforcement.

6. Does ATF view the "Fast and Furious" program as a success?

The Fast and Furious investigation meets and exceeds the objectives of the US government strategies

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 1:08 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Mexican Trace Data Q&As
Attachments: QAMexicanTraceDatamaw (3)(2).docx

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) told me to share the Mexican Trace Date Q&As with you. Once you approve could you please put a date by your name at the bottom and e-mail back to me.

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)
Public Affairs Division
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
99 New York Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20226

(b) (7)(C)
(202) 648-(b) (7)(C) Office
(b) (7)(C) BlackBerry

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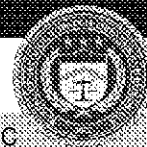
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

ATF
At The Frontline Against Violent Crime

Q&A: Mexican Trace Data

Not for Public Dissemination/For Internal Use Only

Public Affairs Division - Washington, DC



Mexican Trace Data

(March 15, 2011)

Q. In October 2010 the Washington Post reported “the Mexican government often says that 90 percent of the weapons it confiscates come from the United States. In 2009 testimony before Congress, the ATF director Kenneth Melson gave that same figure. Can you account for the drastic decline?”

A. When initially reported, the percentages (90 percent) were accurate. Though now the percentages may be lower, perhaps due to a lack of critical firearms indicators on the trace requests, the sheer number US-sourced guns in Mexico is a problem.

Q. According to the Center for Public Integrity during an ATF operation called “Fast and Furious” in Arizona ATF agents may have let as in excess of 2000 firearms “walk” across the border into Mexico, does the 2010 trace data take those firearms into account?

A. Once recovered in Mexico and submitted to ATF, the ATF National Tracing Center, would have been asked to run a trace on all the firearms once the agents had a list or got a list from the FFL’s records of all associated with the straw purchaser/firearms trafficker.

Fast and Furious is still an ongoing prosecution so I cannot talk specifically. However, I do know that of the guns associated with it, 797 of the guns were eventually recovered and traced 160 of those were recovered in Mexico and are included in the 2010 totals. It is important to note, the reporting requirement ATF proposed is proactive and can point to traffickers before a gun is used in a crime.

Q. How do you justify 160 guns involved in an ATF investigation crossing the border into Mexico?

A. If one gun gets away on our watch and ends up in the hands of someone who harms an innocent person it is too many. But the sheer number of firearms recovered in Mexico and traced back to a United States source is evidence there is a problem and we are doing everything we can within the law to stop firearms trafficking across the border.

Q. In September 2010 a report by Mayors Against Illegal Guns titled *Issue Brief: The Movement of Illegal Guns Across the U.S.-Mexico Border* stated that the time-to-crime statistic for U.S. guns recovered in Mexico, had decreased dramatically to less than less than 3 years in 2009. Is this still the issue for U.S. gun recovered in Mexico?

A. ATF cannot comment on the Mayors Against Illegal Guns report. However, in 2010 the average time-to-crime for U.S. guns recovered in Mexico was 11.3 years. Of the guns with a

time-to-crime of three years or less, the vast majority are the highly sought 7.62 and .223 caliber firearms, the guns of choice by Mexico's drug trafficking organizations.

Q. In November 2010 an OIG review of ATF's Project Gunrunner cited a June 2009 Government Accountability Office report which estimated that trace data was submitted to ATF on less than a quarter of the guns seized in Mexico. In addition, the report said most trace requests that are submitted to ATF from Mexico are considered "unsuccessful" because of missing or improperly entered gun data. Has this problem been corrected so Mexico can get more accurate trace results?

A. ATF has provided Mexican law enforcement with training in firearms identification and the use of a Spanish language version of eTrace. Overtime, the Mexican officials began to see the importance of tracing as an investigative tool.

Q. What about the disk ATF received from Mexico with serial numbers of firearms they needed traced?

A. In September 2009, the government of Mexico provided ATF with electronic files containing firearms identifiers and recovery data. The electronic files contain information that initiated over 43,000 firearm traces, excluding duplicates, with most having recovery years ranging from calendar year 2007 to 2009. Once each trace was initiated, it was organized by year of recovery. With the influx of trace data from these electronic files, the number of firearms listed as recovered in 2009 and traced has increased from earlier releases of information.

Q. What is involved in a firearms trace?

A. When a firearm is recovered at a crime scene, law enforcement officers contact the National Tracing Center with information about the firearm (make, model, caliber, serial number, and importer (if necessary)). The National Tracing Center then contacts the manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer to ascertain the purchaser. At minimum, NTC can determine whether or not the firearm is sourced from the United States, meaning manufactured or imported here legally for sale.

Q. What are the firearms of choice by drug trafficking organizations in Mexico?

A. Based on the trace data of firearms recovered at crime scenes in Mexico we see more high caliber, semi-automatic firearms like the .223 and 7.62 caliber used and recovered in crimes in Mexico.

Q. Director Melson has been quoted in the past saying ATF would not release Mexican trace stats anymore because people on both sides of the gun rights issue use the data for their own gain. Why did ATF have a change of heart?

A. ATF is not reporting just the percentages – but the actual number of firearms recovered, traced and sourced from the United States. By reporting the actual numbers, a true picture

develops of the number of U.S. sourced crime guns are being recovered in Mexico – thus showing the public the gravity of the problem.

Q. What does ATF mean by the phrase “Time-to-Crime?”

A. Time-to-Crime refers to the length of time from the initial purchase date of the firearm to the date the firearm is recovered at a crime scene. It can be a valuable piece of information for investigators, especially when looking at firearms trafficking schemes.

Q. Which U.S. state is has the largest number of firearms recovered in Mexico?

A. Since 2007 trace data has shown Texas as the number one source state for firearms recovered in Mexico, followed by Arizona.

Q. Why are the number of guns traced back to the states such a small number?

A. Traces included in the Mexican trace data are those which NTC is able to identify a purchaser and the dealer where the firearm was purchased. If can't trace the firearm back to initial purchaser then we can't determine the state of origin.

Q. What is a successful trace?

A. A successful trace is one in which the firearm can be traced back to its manufacturer or importer in the U.S.

Q. What factors could contribute to an unsuccessful trace result with a firearm recovered in Mexico?

A. Some reasons for traces not identifying an individual purchaser include incomplete data on trace request, the firearms was too old to trace, the firearm serial number was invalid, incomplete out-of-business records and altered or obliterated serial numbers.

Q. Why have the statistics dropped so dramatically between 2008 and 2010?

A. While the overall number of traces has dropped between 2008 and 2010, there were 4506 rifles recovered in Mexico that ATF was able to trace back to a U.S. source. The sheer number of traces and the continued violence cannot be ignored.

Q. Are US efforts working?

A. U.S. efforts along the Southwest Border are working but we believe more can be done to stop the flow of firearms from the U.S. into Mexico. Multiple sales reporting of long guns along the Southwest Border would provide ATF with another law enforcement tool to stop the violence along the Mexico-U.S. border.

Q. Why do you need multiple sales reporting for long guns if the numbers are dropping? Do 549 .223s and 7.62s justify multiple sales reporting?

A. The Mexican trace data shows that the firearms of choice for Mexican drug trafficking organizations are long guns.

Q. Did ATF have reason to believe that suspects under investigation were trafficking guns to Mexico?

A. The number one concern for ATF is interdicting guns that are unlawfully transferred to persons in the U.S. and in Mexico who will then commit crimes with those guns. The purpose of any trafficking investigation is to locate those guns, interdict those guns and bring those responsible for their unlawful purchase, transfer, finance and use to justice.

Q. Did ATF knowingly allow guns to travel from the United States to Mexico because investigators believed suspects would traffic guns there?

A. ATF did not engage in an effort to allow guns to travel from the U.S. to Mexico. In short, the law does not permit agents to take guns away from anyone who buys 10 AKs at a time solely because they bought multiple guns. In these investigations, there may come a point over the course of an investigation where ATF believes, though it is well short of proof beyond a reasonable doubt require in criminal cases, that they can prove that a particular person only buys guns for the purpose of illegal trafficking. However, seizure of the guns at that point may not be legal because purchasing multiple long guns in Arizona is lawful, transferring them to another is lawful and even sale or barter of the guns to another is lawful unless the United States can prove by clear and convincing evidence that the firearm is intended to be used to commit a crime.

Q. Did ATF knowingly allow guns to travel from the United States to Mexico because investigators watched suspects trafficking guns there?

A. ATF did not knowingly allow guns to travel from the U.S. to Mexico. The number one concern for ATF is interdicting guns that are unlawfully transferred to persons in the U.S. and in Mexico who will then commit crimes with those guns. The purpose of any trafficking investigation is to locate those guns, interdict those guns and bring those responsible for their unlawful purchase, transfer, finance and use to justice.

Approved by:

AD McDermond

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) FO

(b) (7)(C) 3/15/2011

From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:54 PM
To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C) McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Sen. Grassley letter to USCBP

Jim,

Can we get answers to the questions asked re our knowledge of these events?

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) 202-648-8710

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From: Needles, James R.
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:34 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) Hoover, William J.; McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Sen. Grassley letter to USCBP

Sen. Grassley letter dated March 16 to US Customs and Border Patrol.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 1:10 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Gunrunner Memo - Revised 03/21/11
Attachments: Gunrunner Guidance Memo - March2011 (DRAFT).docx; Gunrunner Memo - Attachment A.docx

Latest revisions per (b) (7)(C) last edits. Also made some minor wording changes in Attachments A and B. Hopefully this clarifies the intent further. If you think the memo is too "busy", I can probably divide it into two separate memos so the issues aren't overlapping or confusing. Not sure that would make things easier or not, but it's always an option. Let me know what you think...

Thanks!

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)
Supervisory Special Agent
Firearms Operations Division
ATF Headquarters
Washington, DC
Desk: 202-648-(b) (7)(C)
Cell: (b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C)

"Virtus Junxit Mors Non Separabit"

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701800:ARP
3317

MEMORANDUM TO: All Special Agents in Charge

FROM: Assistant Director (Field Operations)

SUBJECT: Project Gunrunner / Cartel Focused Strategy Implementation Plan

This memorandum will serve two related purposes: 1) to transmit conceptual changes to Project Gunrunner, and 2) in conjunction with the objectives of Project Gunrunner, to provide guidance regarding the submission of Cartel Focused Strategy implementation plans.

ATF initiated Project Gunrunner in 2006 to address the escalating violence and firearms trafficking associated with criminal enterprises in Mexico and along the Southwest Border (SWB) of the United States. As part of Project Gunrunner's evolution, a renewed focus on higher-level or organizational targets resulted in the development of ATF's Cartel Focused Strategy, which was released in September 2010. It is important to note that this strategy does not replace Project Gunrunner but merely augments it, providing the direction by which ATF resources can be more effectively utilized in identifying targets of higher value, and further disrupting efforts by transnational groups or individuals to obtain firearms for trafficking and other unlawful purposes.

In practical terms, Project Gunrunner is a component of the Bureau's National Firearms Enforcement Program, and a subset of ATF's comprehensive Southwest Border Initiative (SBI). Since ATF receives appropriated funds specifically designated for Project Gunrunner, it is necessary to clearly define and distinguish Project Gunrunner apart from other southwest border related firearms trafficking investigations. From this point forward, "Project Gunrunner" activity shall be defined as follows:

"Any investigative or regulatory action expended on matters pertaining to the cross-border, Mexico-bound trafficking of firearms or explosives, or the criminal use/violent crime related activity resulting from, or related to, the cross-border, Mexico-bound trafficking of firearms or explosives, of which the investigative

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All Special Agents in Charge

and/or regulatory activity originates in an ATF office *specifically designated and funded* under Project Gunrunner.”

Re-defining Project Gunrunner in this way is necessary for improved accountability regarding the implementation and performance of Project Gunrunner and the Cartel Focused Strategy, thereby allowing for program-specific adjustments to the strategy as evolving conditions may dictate. In no way is this intended to discourage non-Project Gunrunner offices from initiating investigations regarding Mexico-bound, or southwest border related weapons trafficking and related violent crime as these cases are instrumental to the overall success of ATF’s Southwest Border Initiative.

Investigative and/or regulatory matters originating in designated and funded Project Gunrunner offices that are not directly related to achieving the objectives of Project Gunrunner and the Cartel Focused Strategy should be referred to a non-Gunrunner group or office. It is understood that there will be events, for example an explosives incident or IED recovery near a remote field office (such as the newly created Sierra Vista office) that will require a local ATF response, but which fall outside the scope of the Project Gunrunner mission. In these cases the Project Gunrunner field office may handle the initial scene response, but should defer the lead role in the investigation to the office specified by the division SAC or ASAC.

Designated Project Gunrunner Locations

Currently funded Project Gunrunner offices are El Centro (Los Angeles FD), Phoenix VII, Tucson IV, Roswell (satellite), Las Cruces II, and Sierra Vista (Phoenix FD), El Paso III (Dallas FD), Houston IX, Brownsville, and McAllen III (Houston FD). International offices currently funded under Project Gunrunner are Tijuana, Ciudad Juarez, Guadalajara, and Merida. These are the only offices that ATF recognizes as Project Gunrunner field offices for statistical and funding purposes. All other ATF groups/offices actively working SWB-related investigations are recognized as contributing to ATF’s overall Southwest Border Initiative. These investigations will be tracked separately from Project Gunrunner. Instructions for proper coding in NFORCE, NSPECT, and WebTA are provided in Attachment A of this memorandum.

Cartel Focused Strategy Implementation Plan

The Cartel Focused Strategy outlines in broad terms the Bureau’s strategic objectives in addressing cartel-related firearms trafficking and violent crime suppression. However, the SAC’s, DIO’s, and ASAC’s have a greater understanding of the unique cartel-related crime problems within their respective field divisions, and are therefore better equipped to develop an actionable plan towards achieving the objectives of Project Gunrunner. The resilience of the Mexican cartels in adapting their activities to counter those of law enforcement makes a “one

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All Special Agents in Charge

size fits all” strategy both impractical and unrealistic. It is essential that our strategies and tactics are capable of evolving just as quickly as those of our criminal adversaries.

Therefore, as part of ATF’s efforts to refine Project Gunrunner, capture all relevant statistics and performance-related data, and to more effectively coordinate ATF’s ongoing efforts related to violent crime suppression along the Southwest Border, each SAC will prepare and provide to this office a strategy document that identifies how the Cartel Focused Strategy will be implemented in their respective field division. Guidelines for preparing the implementation plans are provided in Attachment B of this memorandum. Implementation plans will be updated no less than annually, but especially when evolving threats or emerging trends in cartel-related firearms activity necessitate a change in ATF’s response in a given Project Gunrunner area.

Special agents in charge are to provide their written strategies with relevant attachments to Project Gunrunner/Southwest Border National Coordinator (b) (7)(C) no later than May 16, 2011.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information concerning this matter, please contact Project Gunrunner National Coordinator (b) (7)(C) at (202) 648-(b) (7)(C)

Mark R. Chait

Attachments

ATTACHMENT A

Coding Project Gunrunner Activity

Proper coding of Project Gunrunner activity in NFORCE, NSPECT, and WebTA is essential for accurate tracking and reporting. Therefore, ALL personnel assigned to specifically designated and funded Project Gunrunner offices listed in the transmittal memo should ***only*** expend investigative and/or regulatory activity on firearms/explosives trafficking directly related to Project Gunrunner and the Cartel Focused Strategy. This activity should be properly coded/documentated in NFORCE and NSPECT as shown below. The Project Gunrunner/SWB profile ***must*** be utilized by all special agents and industry operations investigators assigned to Project Gunrunner funded offices. Non-Project Gunrunner offices should continue to use the Project Gunrunner profile code in NFORCE for all investigations or inspections having a Southwest Border firearms or explosives nexus.

The image shows a screenshot of a software window titled "Investigative Profile Selection Window". It contains a list of profiles with a scroll bar on the right. The profiles listed are:

- NORTHERN OHIO VIOLENT CRIME GUN CONSORTIUM
- OAKLAND GUN INITIATIVE
- OCDETF
- Phoenix StrikeForce
- PROJECT EXILE (RICHMOND, VA)
- PROJECT GUNRUNNER (SWB- Southwest Border Proj)**
- ~~PROJECT GUNRUNNER NEIGHBORHOODS~~
- REFERRAL FROM BOSTON CRIME GUN CENTER
- REFERRAL FROM CHARLOTTE CRIME GUN CENTER
- REFERRAL FROM CHICAGO CRIME GUN CENTER
- REFERRAL FROM COLUMBUS CRIME GUN CENTER
- REFERRAL FROM EPIC
- REFERRAL FROM FEDERAL AGENCY
- REFERRAL FROM INDUSTRY OPERATIONS
- REFERRAL FROM INTELLIGENCE

For tracking performance of Project Gunrunner funded offices separately from that of other offices' SWB-related investigative or regulatory activity, the Office of Field Operations will periodically query Project Gunrunner/SWB cases in NFORCE or NSPECT. To guarantee data integrity, all supervisors should ensure that Project Gunrunner cases are properly coded in NFORCE and NSPECT upon the initiation of the case.

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Attachment A

WebTA

Accurate data is essential for improving program performance and accountability. Therefore, personnel should document their activity in WebTA as follows:

Personnel assigned to Project Gunrunner funded offices should expend 100% of their investigative or regulatory activity on furthering the objectives of Project Gunrunner and the Cartel Focused Strategy. Project Gunrunner personnel must document investigative or regulatory activity in WebTA by using project code **G1G** for Gunrunner (Firearms), and **A2R** for Gunrunner (Explosives). Based on the specifically funded missions and objectives of the designated Project Gunrunner offices, personnel in these offices should set G1G and A2R as default project codes in WebTA.

Personnel in non-Gunrunner funded offices should, when performing investigative or regulatory activity related to SWB firearms or explosives issues, always use the above project codes in WebTA.

ATTACHMENT B

Cartel Focused Strategy Implementation Plans

When preparing division Cartel Focused Strategy implementation plans your responses should, at a minimum include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Group/office name and Org Code (e.g. Phoenix VII Field Office – 785115)
2. Location (onsite, offsite, co-located [with whom])
3. Geographic service area
4. Date operational
5. Staffing scheme/distribution (Special Agents, IOI's, IRS, IA, GS/RAC, TFO's, Border Liaison Officers)
6. Outside agency participation (agency name, how many from that agency, their roles)
7. Assessment/description of primary cartel-related threats/trends regarding firearms acquisition schemes and/or cartel-related violence within the respective Gunrunner service areas (provide supporting local statistics/data).
8. Details regarding how you intend to deploy Project Gunrunner resources to achieve the priority objectives of the Cartel Focused Strategy. Your responses should include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - A. Prioritizing FFL/FEL Inspections.
 - B. Utilizing intelligence resources to enhance investigative effectiveness (FIG's, EPIC, etc) under the concept of intelligence-led investigations.
 - C. Targeting specific cartel-related criminal activity and associated persons.
 - D. Coordination with non-ATF agencies.
 - E. Communication and coordination between ATF field offices, as well as intelligence sharing between FIG's and field divisions.
9. Each SWB firearms trafficking group (to include Gunrunner funded offices) must collaborate directly with its FIG to develop, document, and regularly update (no less than annually) the group's intelligence requirements, which are guidelines/criteria specified for the FIG to prioritize, establishing the most useful types of investigative leads for intelligence referral purposes. This collaboration would support efforts in 8B (above). A copy of each Gunrunner group's intelligence requirements will be made an attachment to the requested implementation plan.

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Attachment B

10. Any other tools and/or methods you believe to be pertinent, and which you intend to apply towards successfully implementing the Cartel Focused Strategy.
11. Recommendations from the field division perspective as to the need for any new Project Gunrunner Offices, with supporting justification.

Mexican cartels are present to varying degrees in nearly every ATF field division area of responsibility. Although the immediate requirement of developing the implementation plan as specified above applies only to field divisions currently managing Project Gunrunner offices, all SACs should consider proactively developing a contingent strategy should cartel violence have an increased impact on your division's priorities, or should Project Gunrunner expand into your divisions. As new Project Gunrunner offices are opened, similar strategies will be required as these sites become operational.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 2:57 PM
To: McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: Operation Fallen Hero - Stage 2
Attachments: Operation Fallen Hero Phase 2 031711.doc

Bill as we discussed.

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From: Stentz, Matthew L
To: (b) (7)(C); PACHECO, MARK A ; PEREZ, EFRAIN S
Cc: Vargas, Jeffrey ; Stitzel, James ; Benner, Derek N
Sent: Thu Mar 17 14:54:24 2011
Subject: Operation Fallen Hero - Stage 2

All,

As follow-up to today's conference call concerning Operation Fallen Hero and the proposed ICE/ATF/CBP operational activities, attached is a draft e-mail which will be sent out to the Southwest Border ICE/ATF SACs and their CBP counterparts. The goal here is to have the field managers decide what they want to do in their AORs instead of a HQ driven operation.

Let me know if you all have any edits by Monday, March 21, 2011, COB and I'll consolidate and re-send back to you all with a goal of sending out the message at the same time to the ICE/ATF/CBP field managers no later than the middle of next week. If you have any questions, let me know. Thanks.

Matt

Matthew L. Stentz
Unit Chief
ICE - Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)
Narcotics and Contraband Smuggling Unit
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536
202-732-3793 phone
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Operation Fallen Hero – Phase 2

Objective:

In an effort to sustain the whole of government pressure on Los Zetas and to increase efforts against the transnational criminal organizations operating in Mexico, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), in partnership with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will continue to investigate the illegal acquisition, staging, and movement of weapons from the United States to Mexico by attacking individuals and organizations engaged in the organized procurement and illicit investments to obtain weapons, explosives, and related components used to perpetuate cross-border criminal activity.

Operational Plan:

Recognizing each region along the Southwest Border is a unique operating environment with regards to the means and methods used by individuals and organizations to procure weapons, explosives, and related components, ICE and ATF Special Agents in Charge (SACs) will collaborate to design investigative operation(s) for their specific area of operation (AOR) to identify, disrupt, and dismantle individuals and organizations operating in their regions. The respective SACs will have the latitude to collaborate and subsequently implement joint operations under existing operational platforms; such as the Border Enforcement Security Task Forces (BESTs), Gun Runner Impact Teams (GRITs), Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Strike Forces, by incorporating the individual agencies expertise in conducting controlled deliveries, undercover operations, tracing, etc. These operations can include, but not be limited to:

- Gun Show Operations
- Gang Surge Operations
- Intelligence Driven Outbound Operations with CBP
- Undercover Buy/Bust Surge Operations
- Immigration / 922(g) Operations to Target Foreign Nationals by leveraging

Cognizant that these operations will result in criminal and administrative arrests, ICE and ATF will advise their local United States Attorney's Office and ICE Chief Counsel (for immigration matters) of their operational activities.

Timeframe for Operation:

By April 1, 2011, the ICE and ATF Southwest Border SACs, in conjunction with their CBP counterparts, will submit an operational plan to the ICE, ATF, and CBP headquarters coordinators listed below and initiate their operations no later than May 1, 2011.

Metrics:

ICE and CBP personnel will report all statistics for this operation using project codes 1AY (Operation Fallen Hero) and 4DA (Firearms/Explosives Smuggling) on reports of investigation, case reports, and search, arrest, and seizure (SAS) reports.

ATF personnel will report all statistics using...

Headquarters Points of Contact:

ICE:	Derek Benner Deputy Assistant Director 202-732-5105 derek.benner@dhs.gov	Matthew Stentz Unit Chief 202-732-3793 matthew.stentz@dhs.gov
	Jeffrey Vargas Operations Chief 202-732-3196 jeffrey.vargas@dhs.gov	James Stitzel Chief of Staff 202-732-3235 james.stitzel@dhs.gov
ATF:	(b) (7)(C) National Coordinator 202-648 ^{(b) (7)(C)} (b) (7)(C)	
CBP:	Mark Pacheco Director 202-344-1413 Mark.pacheco@dhs.gov	Efrain S. Perez Program Manager 202-344-2657 efrain.s.perez@dhs.gov

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 11:10 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Martin, Steve K.
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Project Gunrunner Guidance Memo
Attachments: Gunrunner Strategy Memo - March2011.docx

All-

Attached is a draft memorandum for AD(FO) signature regarding the implementation of Project Gunrunner. There are provisions within the memo that cross division and directorate lines, therefore, I would like to solicit your input on the document in the areas that affect your respective offices and missions. Again, this is a draft memo of proposed changes and clarifications to Project Gunrunner that are designed and intended to improve both performance and accountability. If you have any questions regarding the contents, feel free to contact me or (b) (7) anytime.

If possible, please review and provide comments by Thursday, March 24, 2011.

Thanks!

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)
Supervisory Special Agent
Firearms Operations Division
ATF Headquarters
Washington, DC
Desk: 202-648-(b) (7)(C)
Cell: (b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C)

"Virtus Junxit Mars Non Separabit"

701800:ARP
3317

MEMORANDUM TO: All Special Agents in Charge

FROM: Assistant Director (Field Operations)

SUBJECT: Project Gunrunner / Cartel Focused Strategy

As you are all aware, ATF initiated Project Gunrunner in 2006 to address the escalating violence and firearms trafficking associated with criminal enterprises in Mexico and along the Southwest Border of the United States. As part of Project Gunrunner, and in response to continual efforts by criminal elements to unlawfully obtain firearms in the U.S., a renewed focus on higher-level or organizational targets resulted in the development of ATF's Cartel Focused Strategy, which was released in September 2010. It is important to note that this strategy does not replace Project Gunrunner but merely augments it, providing the direction by which ATF resources can be more effectively utilized in identifying targets of higher value, and further disrupting efforts by transnational groups or individuals to obtain firearms for trafficking and other unlawful purposes.

The Cartel Focused Strategy outlines in broad terms the Bureau's strategic objectives in addressing cartel-related firearms trafficking and violent crime suppression. However, we feel that the SAC's and ASAC's with responsibility for Project Gunrunner offices have a greater understanding of the unique cartel-related crime problems within their respective field divisions, and are therefore better equipped to provide an actionable plan towards achieving the objectives of Project Gunrunner. The resilience of the Mexican cartels in adapting their activities to counter those of law enforcement makes a "one size fits all" strategy both impractical and unrealistic. It is essential that our strategies and tactics are capable of evolving just as quickly as those of our criminal adversaries.

Therefore, as part of ATF's efforts to refine Project Gunrunner, capture all relevant statistics and performance-related data, and to more effectively coordinate ATF's ongoing efforts related to

-2-

All Special Agents in Charge

violent crime suppression along the Southwest Border, each SAC with oversight of a Project Gunrunner site will prepare and provide to this office a strategy document that identifies how the Cartel Focused Strategy will be implemented in the respective Project Gunrunner offices. This will be a living document that should be updated no less than annually, but especially when evolving threats/trends in cartel-related firearms activity necessitate a change in ATF's response in a given Project Gunrunner city. Your responses should include, but are not limited to:

1. Group/office name and Org Code (e.g. Phoenix VII Field Office – 785115)
2. Location (onsite, offsite, co-located [with whom])
3. Geographic service area
4. Date operational
5. Staffing scheme/distribution (Special Agents, IOI's, IRS, IA, GS/RAC, TFO's, Border Liaison Officers)
6. Outside agency participation (agency name, how many from that agency)
7. Assessment/description of primary cartel-related threats/trends regarding firearms acquisition schemes and/or cartel-related violence within the respective Gunrunner service areas (provide supporting local statistics/data).
8. Details regarding how you intend to deploy Project Gunrunner resources to achieve priority objectives. At a minimum your responses should include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - A. Prioritizing FFL/FEL Inspections.
 - B. Utilizing intelligence resources to enhance investigative effectiveness (FIG's, EPIC, etc) under the concept of intelligence-led investigations.
 - C. Targeting specific cartel-related criminal activity and associated persons.
 - D. Coordination with non-ATF agencies.
 - E. Communication and coordination between ATF field offices, as well as intelligence sharing between FIG's and field divisions.

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All Special Agents in Charge

9. Each SWB firearms trafficking group (to include Gunrunner funded offices) must collaborate directly with its FIG to develop, document, and regularly update (no less than annually) the group's intelligence requirements, which are guidelines/criteria specified for the FIG to prioritize, establishing the most useful types of investigative leads for intelligence referral purposes. This collaboration would support efforts in 8B (below). A copy of each Gunrunner group's intelligence requirements will be made an attachment to the requested implementation plan.
10. Any other tools and/or methods you believe to be pertinent, and which you intend to apply towards successfully implementing the Cartel Focused Strategy.
11. Recommendations from the field division perspective as to the need for any new Project Gunrunner Offices, with supporting justification.

Although the immediate requirement of developing an implementation plan as specified above only applies to field divisions currently managing Project Gunrunner offices, all SACs should be aware of the potential for expansion of Project Gunrunner, and should therefore plan ahead accordingly. As new Project Gunrunner offices are opened, similar strategies will be requested as these sites become operational.

Special agents in charge of field divisions having Project Gunrunner offices are to provide their written strategies with attachments as described above to Project Gunrunner/Southwest Border National Coordinator (b) (7)(C) no later than May 16, 2011.

Re-defining Project Gunrunner

In practical terms, Project Gunrunner is a component of the Bureau's National Firearms Enforcement Program, and a subset of ATF's comprehensive Southwest Border Initiative (SBI). Since ATF receives appropriated funds specifically designated for Project Gunrunner, it is necessary to define and distinguish what constitutes Project Gunrunner investigative and/or regulatory activity separate and distinct from similar activity previously captured under the NFORCE profile code "SWB."

From this point forward, "Project Gunrunner" activity shall be defined as follows:

"Any investigative or regulatory action expended on matters pertaining to the southbound, cross-border trafficking of firearms or explosives, or the criminal use/violent crime related activity resulting from, or related to, the southbound, cross-border trafficking of firearms or explosives, of which the investigative and/or regulatory activity originates in an ATF office *specifically designated and funded* under Project Gunrunner."

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All Special Agents in Charge

All other investigative and regulatory activity regarding Mexico-bound firearms or explosives trafficking originating in ATF offices not designated or funded under Project Gunrunner will be tracked and coded under the “SWB” project code.

Re-defining Project Gunrunner in this way is necessary for improved accountability regarding the implementation and performance of Project Gunrunner and the Cartel Focused Strategy, thereby allowing for program-specific adjustments to the strategy as evolving conditions may dictate. To reiterate, in no way is this intended to discourage non-Project Gunrunner offices from initiating investigations regarding Mexico-bound, or southwest border related weapons trafficking and related violent crime as these cases are instrumental to the overall success of ATF’s Southwest Border Initiative.

Coding Project Gunrunner Activity

Proper coding of Project Gunrunner activity in NFORCE, NSPECT, UFMS, and WebTA is essential for accurate tracking and reporting. Therefore, ALL personnel assigned to specifically designated and funded Project Gunrunner offices – including personnel assigned to the Mexico Country Office (MCO) - should ***only*** expend investigative and/or regulatory activity on firearms/explosives trafficking directly related to Project Gunrunner and the Cartel Focused Strategy. This activity should be properly coded/documentated in NFORCE and NSPECT as well as WebTA. The Project Gunrunner/SWB profile code is available in NFORCE and NSPECT, and ***must*** be utilized by all special agents and industry operations investigators assigned to Project Gunrunner funded offices. For tracking performance of Project Gunrunner funded offices separately from that of other offices’ SWB-related investigative or regulatory activity, the Office of Field Operations will periodically query Project Gunrunner/SWB cases by field office Org Code, in NFORCE or NSPECT. To guarantee data integrity, however, supervisors should ensure that Project Gunrunner cases are properly coded in NFORCE and NSPECT upon the initiation of the case.

Investigative and/or regulatory matters originating in designated and funded Project Gunrunner offices that are not directly related to achieving the objectives of Project Gunrunner and the Cartel Focused Strategy should be referred to a non-Gunrunner group or office. It is understood that there will be events, for example a post-blast incident or IED recovery, which may occur near remote field offices (such as the newly created Sierra Vista office) that will require a local ATF response, but which fall outside the scope of the Project Gunrunner mission. In these cases, the Project Gunrunner field office should handle the initial scene response but will defer the lead role in the investigation, to the appropriate office specified by the SAC or ASAC within the field division.

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All Special Agents in Charge

Designated Project Gunrunner Locations

As a reminder, currently funded Project Gunrunner offices are El Centro (Los Angeles FD), Phoenix VII, Tucson IV, Roswell (satellite), Las Cruces II, and Sierra Vista (Phoenix FD), El Paso III (Dallas FD), Houston IX, Brownsville, and McAllen III (Houston FD). These are the only offices that ATF recognizes as Project Gunrunner field offices for statistical and reporting purposes. All other ATF groups/offices actively working SWB-related investigations are recognized as contributing to ATF's overall Southwest Border Initiative. These investigations should be actively cultivated and pursued but, as previously indicated, these cases will be tracked separately from Project Gunrunner.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information concerning this matter, please contact Project Gunrunner National Coordinator (b) (7)(C) at (202) 648-(b) (7)(C)

Mark R. Chait

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 8:41 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Gunrunner Memo
Attachments: Gunrunner Strategy Memo - March2011.docx

Revised memo for future discussion.

(b) (7)(C)
Supervisory Special Agent
Firearms Operations Division
ATF Headquarters
Washington, DC
Desk: 202-648-(b) (7)(C)
Cell: (b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C)

"Virtus Junxit Mors Non Separabit"

701800:ARP
3317

TO: All Special Agents in Charge

FROM: Assistant Director (Field Operations)

SUBJECT: Project Gunrunner / Cartel Focused Strategy

As you are all aware, ATF initiated Project Gunrunner in 2006 to address the escalating violence and firearms trafficking associated with criminal enterprises in Mexico and along the Southwest Border of the United States. As part of Project Gunrunner, and in response to continual efforts by criminal elements to unlawfully obtain firearms in the U.S., a renewed focus on higher-level or organizational targets resulted in the development of ATF's Cartel Focused Strategy which was released in September 2010. It is important to note that this strategy does not replace Project Gunrunner but merely augments it, providing the direction by which ATF resources can be more effectively utilized in identifying targets of higher value, and further disrupting efforts by transnational groups or individuals to obtain firearms for trafficking and other unlawful purposes.

The Cartel Focused Strategy outlines in broad terms the Bureau's strategic objectives in addressing cartel-related firearms trafficking and violent crime suppression. However, we feel that the SAC's and ASAC's with responsibility for Project Gunrunner offices have a greater understanding of the unique cartel-related crime problems within their respective field divisions, and are therefore better equipped to provide an actionable plan towards achieving the objectives of Project Gunrunner. The resilience of the Mexican cartels in adapting their activities to counter those of law enforcement makes a "one size fits all" strategy both impractical and unrealistic. It is therefore essential that our strategies and tactics are capable of evolving just as quickly as those of our criminal adversaries.

Therefore, as part of ATF's efforts to refine Project Gunrunner, capture all relevant statistics and performance-related data, and to more effectively coordinate ATF's ongoing efforts related to

-2-

All Special Agents in Charge

violent crime suppression along the Southwest Border, each SAC with oversight of a Project Gunrunner site will prepare and provide to this office a strategy document that identifies how the Cartel Focused Strategy will be implemented in your respective Project Gunrunner offices. This will be a living document that should be updated no less than annually, but especially when evolving threats/trends in cartel-related firearms activity necessitate a change in ATF's response in each respective Project Gunrunner city. Your responses should include, but are not limited to:

1. Group/office name and Org Code (e.g. Phoenix VII Field Office – 785115)
2. Location (onsite, offsite, co-located [with whom])
3. Geographic service area
4. Date operational
5. Staffing scheme/distribution (Agents, IOI's, IRS, IA, GS/RAC, TFO's)
6. Outside agency participation
7. Assessment/description of primary cartel-related threats/trends regarding firearms acquisition schemes and/or cartel-related violence within your respective Gunrunner service areas (provide supporting local statistics/data)
8. Details regarding how you intend to deploy Project Gunrunner resources to address the following objectives to maximum effect:
 - A. Prioritizing FFL/FEL Inspections
 - B. Utilizing intelligence resources to enhance investigative effectiveness (FIG's, EPIC, etc) under the concept of intelligence-led investigations.
 - C. Targeting specific cartel-related criminal activity and associated persons.
 - D. Coordination with other non-ATF agencies
 - E. Communication and coordination between ATF field divisions.
9. Any other plans you believe to be pertinent to successfully implementing the Cartel Focused Strategy.
10. Recommendations from the field division perspective as to the need for any new Project Gunrunner Offices, with supporting justification.

-2-

All Special Agents in Charge

Although the immediate requirement of developing an implementation plan as specified above only applies to field divisions currently managing Project Gunrunner offices, all SACs should be aware of the potential for expansion of Project Gunrunner, and should therefore plan ahead accordingly. As new Project Gunrunner offices are opened, similar strategies will be requested as these sites become operational.

Special Agents in Charge of field divisions having Project Gunrunner offices are to provide their written strategies as described above to Project Gunrunner/Southwest Border National Coordinator (b) (7)(C) no later than March 11, 2011.

Re-defining Project Gunrunner

In practical terms, Project Gunrunner is a component of the Bureau's National Firearms Trafficking Enforcement Strategy (June 2009), and a further subset of ATF's comprehensive Southwest Border Initiative (SBI). Since ATF receives appropriated funds specifically designated for Project Gunrunner, it is necessary to track the program results in detail, distinguishing these activities from the balance of ATF's other firearms trafficking-related activities. In order to accurately capture the efforts of Project Gunrunner, it is necessary to define and emphasize what constitutes Project Gunrunner investigative and/or regulatory activity separate and distinct from similar activity previously captured under the umbrella code as "SWB".

From this point forward it is ATF's position that "Project Gunrunner" activity shall be defined as follows:

"Any investigative or regulatory action expended on matters pertaining to the southbound, cross-border trafficking of firearms or explosives, or the criminal use/violent crime related activity resulting from, or related to, the southbound, cross-border trafficking of firearms or explosives, of which the investigative and/or regulatory activity originates in an ATF office *specifically designated and funded* under Project Gunrunner."

All other investigative and regulatory activity regarding southbound firearms or explosives trafficking originating in ATF offices not designated or funded under Project Gunrunner will be tracked and coded under the "SWB" project code.

Re-defining Project Gunrunner in this way is necessary in order to allow for improved tracking regarding the implementation of Project Gunrunner and the Cartel Focused Strategy, thereby allowing for program-specific adjustments to the strategy as evolving conditions may dictate. To reiterate, in no way is this intended to discourage non-Project Gunrunner offices from initiating investigations regarding southbound weapons trafficking and related violent crime as these cases are instrumental to the overall success of ATF's Southwest Border Initiative.

-3-

All Special Agents in Charge

Coding Project Gunrunner Activity

Proper coding of Project Gunrunner activity in NFORCE, NSPECT, and WebTA is essential for accurate tracking and reporting. Therefore, ALL personnel assigned to specifically designated Project Gunrunner offices should ***only*** expend investigative and/or regulatory activity on firearms/explosives trafficking directly related to Project Gunrunner and the Cartel Focused Strategy. This activity should be properly coded/documented in NFORCE and NSPECT as well as WebTA. Project Gunrunner activity associated with firearms investigations and regulatory activity will be coded as **G1G** in WebTA. Project Gunrunner explosives related activity will be coded **A2R** in WebTA. A Project Gunrunner-specific profile code is now available in NFORCE and NSPECT, and ***must*** be utilized by all special agents and industry operations investigators assigned to Project Gunrunner offices. All other investigative/regulatory matters originating in designated Project Gunrunner offices that are not directly related to achieving the objectives of Project Gunrunner and the Cartel Focused Strategy should be referred to a non-Gunrunner group or office without exception.

Designated Project Gunrunner Locations

As a reminder, currently funded Project Gunrunner offices are El Centro (Los Angeles FD), Phoenix VII, Tucson IV, Roswell, (satellite), Las Cruces II, Sierra Vista (Phoenix FD), El Paso III (Dallas FD), Houston IX, Brownsville, and McAllen III (Houston FD). These are the only offices that ATF recognizes as Project Gunrunner field offices for statistical and reporting purposes. All other ATF groups/offices actively working SWB-related investigations are recognized as contributing to ATF's overall Southwest Border initiative. These investigations should be actively cultivated and pursued but, as previously indicated, these cases will be tracked separately from Project Gunrunner.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information concerning this matter, please contact Project Gunrunner National Coordinator (b) (7)(C) at (202) 648-(b) (7)(C).

Mark R. Chait

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 6:24 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: ATF/Texas DPS firearms trafficking initiative
Attachments: Doc1.docx

Here is something that I had sent to (b) (7)(C). It lays it out for the most part. I have a meeting this Friday with the Regional Commander of DPS as well as the Chief of Police for McAllen. I am hoping to secure a commitment to collaborate together to go after a lot of the straws and if they can "break" them then refer it back up to be put into the federal system. My thoughts are that we will be able to partner the State or local investigator with one of my guys and write the blue cover to capture the statistics and secure the intel related to their cases. I am still feeling my way through this one, so if you have any ideas I am open to suggestions.

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2011 2:41 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: ATF/Texas DPS firearms trafficking initiative

I forgot to tell you...we should call this "Operation Hans Brinker" (The legend of the Dutch boy who put his finger in the leaking dyke to prevent a flood.)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2011 2:36 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: ATF/Texas DPS firearms trafficking initiative

(b) (7)(C)

Sorry for the delay on this. I still have not finalized it, but I thought the meat of the issue was in here. I just wanted to get the broad strokes to you before too much longer.

In essence we have too many leads and not enough manpower. By working collectively with DPS we hope to start placing some of the cases into the State system for prosecution thereby preventing those straws from repeating their crime. The State also has a much broader seizure authority and it will help to get the assets out of the hands of the FTOs. Currently, we have the commitment of the Regional DPS Commander and they have assigned one DPS investigator to work with us part time. I feel that as we show good results the commitment will become multiple investigators on a full time basis. Also, a couple of the local jurisdictions have expressed interest in joining ATF/DPS in this venture. The more the merrier!

Let me know if you want/need something more complete or formalized and I will work on it as time permits. It is very very busy down here. Three ops this week with the hopes of us ripping about 100k from one of the cartels. Good times!

Take care,

(b) (7)(C)

SYNOPSIS:

Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives – McAllen Group III met with officials from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to discuss the possibilities to conduct cooperative investigations into Firearms Trafficking occurring in the Southern District of Texas.

BACKGROUND:

Firearms' trafficking in the Southern District of Texas is pervasive and there continues to be a high number of Firearms Trafficking Organizations (FTO) operating in the areas of Cameron, Hidalgo and Starr Counties. Currently, the United States Attorney's Office in McAllen and Brownsville are inundated with a high number of cases involving FTOs and DTOs, as are those law enforcement agencies responsible for their investigation are also struggling for manpower and resources.

OBJECTIVES:

In order to better utilize Federal resources, and provide relief from the numerous simplistic straw purchasing cases, a discussion was initiated with DPS and the Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office. As part of this discussion, ATF explained; the anatomy of a straw purchase, the intelligence which ATF accumulates on a daily basis and the current Texas State Statutes dealing with firearms trafficking. The desired outcome of this project will be the creation of cooperative intelligence and investigative groups who will assist with the prosecution of FTOs will all available Federal, State and local resources.

By working cooperatively with our Federal State and Local partners we will be able to share intelligence in a real time manner which will result in the initiation of cases that ATF would not otherwise have the resource to investigate. For those cases which are simple, by number of defendants or number of firearms, a referral for prosecution will be submitted to the Hidalgo County State's Attorney's Office. If, as these cases are investigated, it becomes apparent that they are a part of a large organized FTO they criminal organization may be referred to ATF to assist in the completion of the complex case investigation, and prepare them for referral to the United States Attorney's Office.

All cases will be worked in a cooperative manner and intelligence derived from both Federal and State investigations will be shared with all members of the Firearms Trafficking Work Group.

The following is an excerpt from Texas State Statute dealing firearms trafficking:

Sec. 46.14. FIREARM SMUGGLING.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly engages in the business of transporting or transferring a firearm that the person knows was acquired in violation of the laws of any state or of the United States. For purposes of this subsection, a person is considered to engage in the business of transporting or transferring a firearm if the person engages in that conduct:

- (1) on more than one occasion; or
- (2) for profit or any other form of remuneration.

(b) An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree, unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the offense was committed with respect to three or more firearms in a single criminal episode, in which event the offense is a felony of the second degree.

An additional benefit to utilizing the Texas State Statute for firearms smuggling is the seizure authority which is granted to State and local law enforcement. The seizure authority is much broader than that given to ATF and will allow for the seizure of money and motor vehicles on a much larger scale, therefore depriving the FTO of the assets they need to operate.

CONCLUSION:

Typically “straw purchasing” cases are relatively easy to prove in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) area of Texas. These suspects, evident by their selection as a “straw purchaser”, have no criminal history and often have never had encounters with law enforcement. Physiologically, these suspects are caught off guard when approached by law enforcement and often admit to all violations surrounding the “straw purchase” of the firearms.

On occasion the “Straw Purchaser” will be able to provide additional information about others involved in the FTO. In these instances, ATF has had success in reconstructing the organizational structure of the FTO and has been able to discover those involved with straw purchasing, recruiting, transporters, bulk cash smuggling, and other links to DTOs and Mexican Drug Cartels.

In instances where the “straw purchaser” has limited to no knowledge of the structure of the FTO the case can be prosecuted at the State level.

This will accomplish several things:

1. Reduce the amount of intelligence which ATF would need to review before determining the merit for Federal prosecution.
2. Reduce the amount of simplistic straw purchasing cases in Federal Court.
3. Increase the number of complex investigations managed by ATF.
4. Reduce the number of suspects that are not able to be investigated.
5. Place more “straw purchasers” into the judicial system, therefore prohibiting them from repeating their crimes.
6. There will be an integration of Federal, State and local law enforcement partners working in concert to stop firearms trafficking. (The State and local partners will start to have a vested interest in the successful investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking. Thus, leading to additional manpower available to ATF to investigate firearms trafficking.)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 9:31:36 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FYI ONLY / INs-SIRs Assoc w/ATF Investigations - SA/ICE Zapata

INS ASSOCIATED TO DATE WITH INCIDENT

(b) (7)(C) 781015-11-0030
 (b) (7)(C) 782080-11-0011 ((b) (7)(C) Trafficking Organization) /
 781015-11-0009 (Laredo Zetas)
 (b) (7)(C) 782080-11-0011 ((b) (7)(C) Trafficking Organization) /
 781015-11-0009 (Laredo Zetas) / 781016-10-0021 ((b) (7)(C) et al)

SIRs – 02.28 ARRESTS OF NOTED SUBJECTS

CASE NUMBER: 781015-11-0030

CASE TITLE: (b) (7)(C)

FIELD OFFICE: DALLAS / Dallas III (Firearms Trafficking) Field Office

DATE: 02/28/2011

SYNOPSIS: Arrest of Firearms Trafficker (b) (7)(C) for violations of 18 USC 922(a)(6)

NARRATIVE: On February 28, 2011, agents from ATF Dallas Group III arrested (b) (7)(C) pursuant a criminal complaint for violations of 18 USC 922(a)(6).

(b) (7)(C) was being investigated for his involvement with (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) firearms traffickers who were currently being investigated

by ATF Laredo and ATF Group III, Dallas. (b) (7)(C) surfaced as a straw purchaser when he appeared in a 40 gun transaction with the (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) investigative activity further documented 24 other assault weapon purchases.

On February 23, 2011, agents went to the residence of (b) (7)(C) to interview him regarding the purchases. Upon arrival, agents

saw (b) (7)(C) talking

with two (2) hispanic males in the back yard. These hispanic males were later identified as (b) (7)(C) This relationship solidified the

connection between (b) (7)(C)

Please see SIR dated 2/28/2011 ref: UI 781015-11-0009

reporting the arrest and warrant execution (b) (7)(C) Morrison appeared before US Magistrate Judge Paul D. Stickney, Northern District of Texas where he was ordered detained pursuant detention hearing on 3/1/2011. This investigation will continue with the indictment of 3 additional straw purchasers.

CASE NUMBER: 781015-11-0009

CASE TITLE: Laredo Zetas

FIELD OFFICE: DALLAS /Dallas III (Firearms Trafficking) Field Office

DATE: 02/28/2011

SYNOPSIS: Execution of Federal Search and Arrest Warrant(s) for Ranferi and Otilio Osorio.

NARRATIVE: On February 28, 2011, SRT Team 3 and Dallas Group III executed a federal search warrant at the residence of (b) (7)(C) in Lancaster, TX. A federal warrant for arrest was also executed for violations of 18 USC 922(K), possession of firearms with obliterated serial numbers. Both suspects were arrested without incident. Evidence located at the residence were multiple firearms, ammunition, documents, and indicia of firearms trafficking. The grinding wheel, sander, and black spray paint were also recovered in the rear work area where the suspects were obliterating the serial numbers. These warrants were the culmination of intense investigative activity conducted after trace information was received indicating a firearm purchased in the Dallas area was used in the shooting and subsequent death of ICE Special Agent Jaime Zapata. Specifically, three (3) firearms with obliterated serial numbers were recovered by Mexican authorities. The serial numbers were raised and the firearms were subsequently traced. Of the three, one (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C) This investigation continues in conjunction with the FBI, ICE, and Texas DPS.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 10:14:28 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: FFL CI

924

Attachments: 20110311131911017.pdf

Jan 2011

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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-----Original Message-----

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 4:31 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: (b) (7)(D)

Found the most recent one in the "To File" folder. Still trying to locate the July, 2010 memo. No change though in terms of monies paid. As you can see the only cases (b) (7)(D) is assisting with are those related to "Wide Receiver" which are pending final adjudication.



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

Tucson Group IV

Tucson, AZ 85701

www.atf.gov

January 5, 2011

785130:RMM
3252

MEMORANDUM TO: Special Agent in Charge
Phoenix Field Division *676
1-19-11*

THRU: Resident Agent in Charge
Tucson IV Field Office *RS
1-5-11*

FROM: Special Agent (b) (7)(C)
Tucson IV Field Office

SUBJECT: Semi-Annual Informant Status

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Semi-Annual Informant Status Report for (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)

SYNOPSIS:

Semi-Annually, the status of each informant currently identified by Special Agent (b) (7)(C) and approved for use by the field division must be updated.

NARRATIVE:

- The informant identified as (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) should be continued for the following reason: This CI has provided valuable information on numerous occasions which (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) All investigations related to (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) remain open. One defendant is listed as a fugitive and is believed to be in Mexico.
- Total money paid from 07/01/2010 to 12/31/2010: 0.00

Special Agent in Charge
Phoenix Field Division

3. Total money paid for 785000-1095: \$17,400.00

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 10:13 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Per your request
Attachments: ASAC Gillett.pdf

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell: (b) (7)(C)

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From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 6:58 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Needles, James R.; Newell, William D.
Subject: Fw: Per your request

July 2010 CI memo.

George T. Gillett
ASAC - Phoenix Field Division
Cell: (b) (7)(C)

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From: Nallin, Michael T.
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Mon Mar 14 18:56:46 2011
Subject: Per your request
Per your request



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

Tucson Group II

Tucson, AZ 85701

www.atf.gov

July 8, 2010

785085:RMM
3252

MEMORANDUM TO: Special Agent in Charge
Phoenix Field Division

THRU: Resident Agent in Charge
Tucson II Field Office

FROM: SA Rob Maynard
Tucson II Field Office

SUBJECT: Semi-Annual Informant Status

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Semi-Annual Informant Status Report for 785000-(b)

SYNOPSIS:

Semi-Annually, the status of each informant currently identified by Special Agent Rob Maynard and approved for use by the field division must be updated.

NARRATIVE:

1. The informant identified as 785000- [REDACTED] should be continued for the following reason: This CI has provided valuable information on numerous occasions which includes, recorded telephone conversations and recorded face to face contacts with suspects purchasing and illegally transporting firearms to Mexico in several investigations to include (b) (7)(D) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] All cases associated with the CI are ongoing.
2. Total money paid from 01/01/2010 to 06/30/2010: \$0.00
3. Total money paid for [REDACTED] \$17,400.00


Rob Maynard

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 10:12 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: transcripts

Stand by.

(b) (7)(C)
 Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.5.129
 202.648 (b) (7)(C), Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 10:11 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: transcripts

(b) (7)(C)

Thanks. Can I get another copy on the CI doc we discussed. You had provided a copy to me of the one missing report but there was a report missing in between. If I've totally confused you we can discuss but I am looking for the two reports that were missing from the initial package.

(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thu Mar 24 10:03:48 2011
Subject: transcripts

Jim Needles advised that you contacted him on this yesterday afternoon as well and that he later emailed these directly to Melson.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

202.648. (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 4:57 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: Needles, James R.
Subject: FW: Partial response to your email of 3/21, Q#1
Attachments: August 11, 2010 letter on my door

Partial response -- Your 3/21 email, Q#1, "Any emails advising management of concerns over the investigative techniques...":

SAC Newell previously forwarded me the attached email and sarcastic "faux" document, "New Phoenix VII Office Procedures" which RAC (b) (7)(C) reported was on his office door on August 11, 2010.

ASAC Needles mentioned this today. Not sure that this constitutes "advising management of concerns over investigative techniques" but am providing it for your consideration.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
 202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 11:15 AM
To: Chait, Mark R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: August 11, 2010 letter on my door.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Professional

Was on GS's door. Put there by SA (b) (7)(C).

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thu Mar 03 11:12:38 2011
Subject: August 11, 2010 letter on my door.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Professional

NEW PHOENIX VII OFFICE PROCEDURES:

- ANY INVESTIGATION INVOLVING AN FFL MUST BE CLEARED WITH SA (b) (7)(C) PRIOR TO ANY INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY.
- PRIOR TO HAVING ANY CONVERSATION WITH AN FFL OR ANY EMPLOYEE OF AN FFL, CONFER WITH SA (b) (7)(C) AND OBTAIN A PRE-AUTHORIZED SCRIPT FOR THE SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION (IF AUTHORIZED).
- IF ANY AGENT OBTAINS INFORMATION REGARDING THE RECOVERY OF ANY GUN, REFER SAID INFORMATION TO SA (b) (7)(C) PRIOR TO SUBMITTING A TRACE REQUEST OR TAKING ANY OTHER INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY.
- PRIOR TO OPENING A CASE IN NFORCE, QUERY NFORCE TO ENSURE THAT THE SUBJECT OF YOUR CASE IS NOT CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION BY SA (b) (7)(C). WHILE SA (b) (7)(C) IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN A MAJOR COMPLEX TIII CASE, SHE RETAINS THE RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL TO ANY ADDITIONAL TRAFFICKING CASES.
- IF SA (b) (7)(C) ACTUALLY GRANTS YOU THE AUTHORITY TO DO YOUR JOB, YOU SHALL REVIEW ALL SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION WITH SA (b) (7)(C) AS SHE RETAINS RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL TO ANY SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION. (PLEASE NOTE THAT SA (b) (7)(C) IN THE ABSENCE OF BEING INFORMED BY YOU, WILL CONDUCT A PARALLEL INVESTIGATION OF YOUR INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES).
- ANY INVESTIGATION THAT ULTIMATELY RELATES TO THE SINALOAN CARTEL OR CHAPO GUZMAN, MUST BE COORDINATED WITH SA (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C)
- PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROCEDURES ARE UNILATERAL AND NOT RECIPROCAL TO SA (b) (7)(C)
- ANY AGENT HAVING CONCERNS ABOUT THE ABOVE LISTED PROCEDURES, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR GROUP SUPERVISOR, (b) (7)(C). HE WILL FORWARD YOUR CONCERNS TO SA (b) (7)(C) AND ADVISE IF SHE WILL AUTHORIZE ANY AMENDMENT OF DEVIATION TO SAID PROCEDURES.

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 4:46:49 PM

933

To: Needles, James R.

Subject: FW: Phoenix "Fast and Furious" OCDETF Strike Force F/As Traff - (b) (7)(C) Memo

Attachments: 20100205134642944.pdf

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

202.648 (b) (7)(C), Cell (b) (7)(C)

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-----Original Message-----

From: Newell, William D.

Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 4:31 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: FW: Phoenix "Fast and Furious" OCDETF Strike Force F/As Traff - (b) (7)(E) Memo

FYI. A copy should technically go through FMS so this is a "heads up" that McMahon will have this early next week.

Bill Newell

Special Agent in Charge

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Phoenix Field Division (Arizona and New Mexico) Office (602)776-5400

-----Original Message-----

From: Newell, William D.

Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 1:59 PM

To: McMahon, William S.

Cc: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Phoenix "Fast and Furious" OCDETF Strike Force F/As Traff - (b) (7)(E) Memo

Attached is the cover memo requesting authorization to conduct a (b) (7)(E) on the main suspect in our on-going OCDETF Strike Force firearms trafficking case out of Phoenix entitled "The Fast and Furious", OCDETF SWB# SWAZP0496. I could not scan the actual affidavit due to its size so I am FedExing that to you along with the original memo.

Bill Newell

Special Agent in Charge

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Phoenix Field Division (Arizona and New Mexico) Office - (602)776-5400



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

201 E Washington St., Suite 940, Phoenix, AZ

February 5, 2010

www.atf.gov

785115: DJV

3264

MEMORANDUM TO: Deputy Assistant Director - West
Field Operations

THRU: Special Agent in Charge
Phoenix Field Division

APPROVED
EST 2/5/10

FROM: Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII

SUBJECT: Request for authorization to seek (b) (7)(E)
(b) (7)(E)

This memorandum serves to request authorization to initiate a (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E) The case involved is ATF investigation 785115-10-0004 which is a Southwest Border Firearms Trafficking Investigation providing firearms to Mexican Drug Cartels. This is an approved Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation; OCDETF # SWAZP0496.

The attached affidavit is being prepared in cooperation with the United States Attorney's Office, who will vet this version through the DOJ Office of Enforcement Operations (OEO). Once the affidavit has been approved by Justice they will seek the ATF Agency approval memorandum to complete the approval process.

BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

The states of Texas, California, Arizona and New Mexico supply 75% of all firearms illegally trafficked into the Republic of Mexico. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has identified the Phoenix, Arizona area as being one of the top five metropolitan areas where firearms and ammunition are obtained for this purpose. The drug violence in Mexico has escalated with the expansion of the cartels' arsenals.

In October 2009, ATF Phoenix Field Division (PFD) Phoenix Group VII Strike Force initiated investigations involving approximately five possible straw purchasers of firearms pursuant to ATF's Southwest Border/Operation Gunrunner Initiative. ATF Special Agents (Agents) received information

(b) (7)(C)

, and

(b) (7)(C) had purchased numerous AK-47 style rifles from the same Glendale, AZ Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) during the same approximate time period. ATF agents also received information that a subject identified as (b) (7)(C) had purchased numerous AK-47 style rifles and pistols during a short time frame from two FFL's including the FFL utilized by the above mentioned purchasers.

In November 2009, ATF agents identified additional straw purchasers (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C), through (b) (7)(C), FFL record checks, and surveillance operations. During the surveillance operations, ATF agents identified a Glendale, AZ, residence owned by a member of the (b) (7)(C) and a Phoenix automotive business that are being utilized as firearm drop locations. On November 20, 2009, some of the firearms purchased by the identified straw purchasers were recovered in a Naco, Sonora, Mexico seizure including firearms with a short time to crime. (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) were identified as additional straw purchasers from the Naco, Sonora, Mexico firearms seizure.

In December 2009, (b) (7)(C) were also identified as straw purchasers in December. (b) (7)(C) received a telephone call from a telephone number identified from Caller ID as belonging (b) (7)(C) inquiring about AK-47 style firearms. On the same date, ATF agents identified additional straw purchaser (b) (7)(C). During the subsequent surveillance operation, a traffic stop was initiated on a vehicle occupied by (b) (7)(C). The occupants of the vehicle were identified as (b) (7)(C). On December 9, 2009, nine firearms purchased by (b) (7)(C) on December 8, 2009, were recovered by Douglas, Arizona PD. The firearms were traced by an ICE SAC Phoenix agent on December 10, 2009. ATF agents contacted the Phoenix ICE agents in reference to the seizure.

During a Deconfliction meeting with DEA on December 15, 2009, the (b) (7)(C) FEO case agents advised that numerous telephone calls had been intercepted involving FNU LNU aka (b) (7)(C) and the Phoenix DEA/GPD Operation FLACO FEO targets. (b) (7)(C) is believed to be in Agua Prieta, Mexico, and has been intercepted orchestrating different amounts of US currency being illegally brought into the US for the purpose of purchasing firearms via the Phoenix DEA/GPD (b) (7)(C) FEO targets. Those targets were intercepted making arrangements with telephone numbers utilized by (b) (7)(C) to obtain the firearms for (b) (7)(C). On December 21, 2009, an intercepted telephone call between (b) (7)(C) and an (b) (7)(C) FEO target revealed that firearms recently purchased in Phoenix were going to be driven to El Paso, TX and trafficked into Mexico.

ATF agents believe that a Phoenix-based firearm trafficking group is actively purchasing firearms through straw purchasers using bulk narcotics proceeds. The firearms are then being trafficked into Mexico using non-factory compartments in various vehicles through various Ports of Entry (POE's) in Arizona and Texas.

Since the ATF case was initiated, ATF agents have identified approximately seventeen straw purchasers who have purchased a large amount of AK-47 style rifles and pistols from various FFL's in the Phoenix Metropolitan area and Prescott, AZ, since September 2009. There have been four firearms seizures in Arizona that were purchased by the identified straw purchasers including the above mentioned Douglas, AZ seizure. There have been two firearms seizures in El Paso, Texas, on January 13, 2010, involving firearms purchased by (b) (7)(C). There have been five firearms seizures in Mexico involving firearms purchased by identified straw purchasers including the above mentioned Naco Seizure; a November 25, 2009, Agua Prieta, Sonora, seizure; a December 9, 2009, Mexicali, Baja California,

seizure that yielded a seizure of over \$2 million dollars in US Currency, firearms, cocaine and methamphetamine from inside a warehouse; a December 18, 2009, seizure in Tijuana, Baja California; and a January 8, 2010, Tijuana, Baja California, seizure.

NAMES AND BACKGROUND OF PROSPECTIVE SUBJECTS

1. (b) (7)(C)

2. (b) (7)(C)

3. (b) (7)(C)

4. (b) (7)(C)

5. (b) (7)(C)

6. (b) (7)(C)

7. (b) (7)(C)

1. Assistant United States Attorney (b) (7)(C)
2. ATF Special Agent (b) (7)(C)
3. ATF Special Agent (b) (7)(C)

CERTIFICATION

The normal investigative procedures characteristic of those utilized in this type of criminal case and outlined in this section have proven insufficient to develop evidence that all parties associated with the target organization along with the scope of their involvement have been identified. These procedures have been tried and failed, appear unlikely to succeed if tried, and in certain circumstances are too dangerous to employ. They have failed to identify all significant members of the organization all of the co-conspirators transporting the firearms, and all of the co-conspirators distributing the firearms once in Mexico. (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

The following investigative techniques, including the use of physical surveillance, pen analysis, and interviewing, have all provided valuable information to the investigators. They however have not provided investigators information relating to the organization as a whole and as such have hindered the investigators ability to successfully ascertain each of the participant's level of involvement within the conspiracy.

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

LOCATIONS

Residence of (b) (7)(C)

DURATION

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(C)

Attachment: Affidavit of ATF Special Agent (b) (7)(C) seeking (b) (7)(E)
(b) (7)(E)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 1:29:36 PM
To: (b) (7)(C); Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Meet Now in Needles" office?

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.5.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 12:02 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Last one... FF
Attachments: (b) (7)(E) Affidavit.pdf

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C), Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 8:03 PM
To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Last one...

(b) (7)(C)
Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
(b) (7)(C)

Subject: Accepted: Discuss the Fast and Furious Briefing
Location: Director's Conference Room

1031

Start: 3/21/2011 2:00 PM
End: 3/21/2011 3:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)

Required Attendees: (b) (7)(C)
Resources: Director's Conference Room

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 12:01 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: one more, I hope this is working
Attachments: (b) (7)(E).pdf

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 6:54 PM
To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: one more, I hope this is working

(b) (7)(C)
Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 6:13 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: This one is larger in size since it is (b) (7)(E) on the same set of documents
Attachments: (b) (7)(E) .pdf

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.5.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 6:11 PM
To: Needles, James R. (b) (7)(C)
Subject: This one is larger in size since it is (b) (7)(E) on the same set of documents

(b) (7)(C)

Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 6:02 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: (b) (7)(E) sorry they are out of order the scanner is giving me problems. More on the way.

OK

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.5.129
202.648. (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 6:00 PM
To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: (b) (7)(E) sorry they are out of order the scanner is giving me problems. More on the way.

(b) (7)(C)

Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 6:02 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: (b) (7)(E) sorry they are out of order the scanner is giving me problems. More on the way.
Attachments: (b) (7)(E) (signed).pdf

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 6:00 PM
To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: (b) (7)(E) sorry they are out of order the scanner is giving me problems. More on the way.

(b) (7)(C)

Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 5:51 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: FF (b) (7)(E)
Attachments: (b) (7)(E) (signed).pdf

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 5:48 PM
To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Sorry for delay but here they come...

(b) (7)(C)
Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 5:50 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Sorry for delay but here they come...

Thanks

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C), Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 5:48 PM
To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Sorry for delay but here they come...

(b) (7)(C)
Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 3:20 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: DOJ Briefing (PHX FD)
Attachments: Firearm purchases - per date w recover.pdf; Gun Runner Study.docx

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
 202.648 (b) (7)(C), Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Needles, James R.
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 2:18 PM
To: Chait, Mark R.; (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Newell, William D.
Subject: DOJ Briefing (PHX FD)

Mark (b) (7)(C)

- The map of firearm recoveries includes only recovered firearms purchased by a specified (b) (7)(C) targets reference the Fast & Furious investigation and entered into the Suspect Gun Program database. Of the 372 US seized firearms 37 of them (Tohono O’Odom Indian Reservation recovery) were ripped. The total number of firearms recovered in the US – 372. The total number of firearms recovered in Mexico – 195.
- In addition to the firearms represented on the map 230 were recovered on street stops (rip).
- We brought in numerous agents from out-of-town (and out-of-state) to assist in surveillance during this case prior the arrival of the GRIT detail, approximately March 14, 2010 – May 3, 2010. **These agents worked exclusive surveillance for 7 weeks, 7 days a week, totaling over 3,920 “man hours” of surveillance.** This does not include the surveillance worked by Group VII prior to their arrival or surveillance worked after their departure when the GRIT detail was in town. During these literally thousands of hours of surveillance, never in one instance did we “walk” guns to Mexico. These 7 weeks of surveillance cost the ATF over \$100,000.00 in travel funds (which we secured in advance through OCDETF funding.)
- We made numerous efforts to minimize potential future actions by the end user of these firearms (b) (7)(C) by the end user.
- We spent (unknown but conservatively in excess of \$100,000.00) in SLOT to reimburse the Phoenix

Police Department for their assistance in this investigation. We utilized the Phoenix Police Department Air Wing on numerous occasions to aid us in conducting aerial surveillance. They never conducted surveillance of any person, vehicle or guns to Mexico. Frankly they never had the need to leave Maricopa County.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 12:15 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: FF
Attachments: ATF_NFORCE_201103_1.docx

(b) (7)(C)
 Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 202-648-(b) (7)(C), Cel (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Fri Mar 18 11:17:59 2011
Subject: FW:

see attachment ...

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 2:08 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE:

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)
 Chief, NFOCIS
 202.648.(b) (7)(C) office
 (b) (7)(C) mobile
 (b) (7)(C)

National Field Office Case Information System
 The Home of ATF's Official Case Management System
 ATF National Headquarters, Suites 8E352-8E449
 99 New York Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20226

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 9:00 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject:

(b) (7)(C)

Can you give me a call in reference to an Nforce query question?



Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

SPECIAL AGENT (b) (7)(C)
PROJECT OFFICER
OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS
FIREARMS OPERATIONS DIVISION
CELL (b) (7)(C)
DESK (202) 648(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 11:52:25 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Requested Docs

Attachments: FF MgtLog Pg4 (121709).pdf; FF FFL MediaRels SKMBT_C25311021008250 (2).pdf; FF Memo DKB (b) (7)(C) Purchases.wpd

		
FF MgtLog Pg4 (121709).pdf (99 kB)	FF FFL MediaRels SKMBT_C25311021008250 (2).pdf (139 kB)	FF Memo DKB (b) (7)(C) Purchases.wpd (47 kB)

As requested:

- FF Management Log, Page 4 (12/17/09)
- (2) FFL media releases (01/26/11, 02/01/11)
- AUSA (b) (7)(C) memo 01/28/2011

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 1:18:27 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: FF

1952

Can you handle this one??? Thanks

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ALF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

-----Original Message-----

From: Chail, Mark R.
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 12:47 PM
To: McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FF

Can you look at an roi on July 8 did we or PD take the guns.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:40 PM
To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)
Subject: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

ALL -- PLEASE NOTE THAT MY EMAILING OF THIS INFORMATION TO YOU WAS APPARENTLY PREMATURE. THE MATERIAL THAT I FORWARDED TO YOU IS BEING REVIEWED/REVISED AT THIS TIME AND **MUST NOT BE DISSEMINATED** IN THIS FORM. PLEASE DO NOT DISSEMINATE THIS DATA. TO AVOID ANY MISUSE OF THE DATA, PLEASE DELETE THE ORIGINAL EMAIL AND ATTACHMENTS.

ONCE IT HAS BEEN AMENDED AND APPROVED FOR USE, I WILL PROVIDE YOU THE CORRECTED VERSION. SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE. PLEASE ADVISE ME IF YOU HAVE FURTHER DISSEMINATED THE MATERIAL SO WE CAN ENSURE PROPER GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED TO ANY RECIPIENTS. THANK YOU.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
 202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 11:54 AM
To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)
Subject: FW: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

FYI

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
 202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: Martin, Steve K.
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 11:21 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

This is the data that will be published on the ATF website for public consumption.
 Steve

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 3:51 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Ford, Larry W.; Martin, Steve K.; (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Deputy Division Chief (b) (7)(C)

Please find attached statistical studies for firearms recovered and traced in Mexico during Calendar Years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. The statistics are based on a query of the Firearms Tracing System on March 1, 2011 and exclude duplicate traces. The studies are intended for use on the ATF public website. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Please complete the attached OSII Customer Satisfaction Survey form. Click on the "Mail" box located at the bottom of the form and then click on "Send".

Please be advised that the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010, Public L. 111-117, which became effective on December 16, 2009, restricts the disclosure of any part of the contents of the Firearms Tracing System or any information required to be kept by Federal Firearms Licensees pursuant to 18 USC 923(g), or required to be reported pursuant to 18 USC 923(g)(3) and 923(g)(7).

The information, which is being provided per your request, is for official law enforcement use only and may only be disseminated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to a Federal, State, local, or tribal law enforcement agency, or a Federal, State, or local prosecutor; or a foreign law enforcement agency solely in connection with and for use in a criminal investigation or prosecution; or a Federal agency for a national security or intelligence purpose. This disclosure restriction shall not be construed to prevent the sharing or exchange of such information among and between Federal, State, local, or foreign law enforcement agencies, Federal, State, or local prosecutors, and Federal national security, intelligence, or counterterrorism officials. Congress has prohibited the public release of any data by the recipient law enforcement agency. The publication of statistical aggregate data regarding firearms traffickers and trafficking channels, firearms misuse, felons, and trafficking investigations is exempt from the restriction. If you have questions regarding these restrictions please contact ATF legal counsel prior to disclosing any of the information provided in this correspondence outside of ATF.

Thank you,

(b) (7)(C)

Supervisory Intelligence Program Specialist
Violent Crime Analysis Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
304 (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:25:22 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: (b) (7)(C)

1955

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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Original Message

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 8:13 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: (b) (7)(C)

Video and roi comps

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:23:46 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: SIR : SWB Firearms Trafficking

1956

Dallas SWB rips.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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Original Message

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:29 PM
To: SAR/SIR Message Delivery
Subject: SIR : SWB Firearms Trafficking

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES
SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION REPORT

DATE: March 22, 2011
FROM: Dallas Field Division
FIELD OFFICE: Fort Worth Field Office

CASE INFORMATION

CASE NUMBER: 781040 11 0015
CASE TITLE: (b) (7)(C)
SPECIAL AGENT: (b) (7)(C)
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (b) (7)(C)

SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY:

Arrest & Search Warrants for (b) (7)(C) Firearms Trafficking Group (SWB)

NARRATIVE OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY:

DATE: 23 March 2011
DIVISION: Dallas Field Division
FIELD/AREA OFFICE: Fort Worth Field Office

CASE/INSPECTION TITLE: (b) (7)(C)
SPECIAL AGENT/INSPECTOR: (b) (7)(C)
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (b) (7)(C)

SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY/INSPECTION:

Arrest & Search Warrants for (b) (7)(C) Firearms Trafficking Group (SWB)

This serves to summarize recent events involving the straw purchasing and suspected smuggling .223 & 7.62x39mm styled assault rifles to Mexico from the Fort Worth, TX Tarrant County area.

Toward the end of October, 2010, Agents with the Fort Worth Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) received information from an FFL that a group of individuals were suspiciously purchasing .223 & 7.62x39mm caliber assault styled rifles. The individuals primarily used cash currency, particularly \$20.00 denominations, for the purchased firearms.

This group was identified through information revealed by ATF 4473's as the following individuals: (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) The group continued purchasing 1 to 2 firearms each on different dates from this FFL. By the end of January 2011, through the review of FFL'S extensive ATF 4473's, Agents learned that 36 firearms had been purchased by individuals in this group. During this time, Agents attempted to infiltrate the group via undercover operations with negative results.

On January 25, 2011, ATF Fort Worth Field Office was contacted by the corporate headquarters of (b) (7)(D) in Houston, TX regarding suspicious firearms purchases by the aforementioned individuals. Agents were advised that the group was responsible for the purchase of 40 firearms within the same 3 month time span as listed above. Agents were advised that the group utilized the same Modus Operandi as above.

During the course of this investigation, Agents utilized investigative techniques such as

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

Intelligence was steadily gathered through the middle of February 2011, whereupon, firearms purchasing activity by the group ceased. (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Prior to March 1, 2011, there was no intelligence indicating that any of the purchased firearms had been recovered domestically or internationally. In the initial stages of the investigation, all purchased firearms were entered in the ATF Suspect Gun database as well as the suspects being flagged by FBI NICs for future firearms purchases. These databases were continually monitored throughout the course of the investigation.

On March 17, 2011 Agents with ATF received information that on or about March 2, 2011, Mexican Naval Infantry personnel were involved in a confrontation against an unidentified armed group leaving eight (8) gunmen, none of which were law enforcement personnel, dead in Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas, MX. Authorities seized 8 AK-47 type rifles, 4 AR-15 type rifles, 1 grenade launcher, 55 magazines, 2,073 rounds of assorted ammunition, and several uniforms. One of the recovered rifles was traced back (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C) Agents have remained in constant contact with ATF Mexico Attachés in order to gather additional intelligence on the weapon recovered and any other intelligence that could be used to strengthen our ongoing investigation.

Based upon the recovery of the aforementioned firearm, criminal complaints were immediately requested from the Northern District of Texas United States Attorney's Office, Fort Worth, Texas, charging (b) (7)(C) with Conspiracy to Engage in the Business of Dealing in Firearms without a License in violation of 18 USC 922(a)(1)(A). On March 21, 2011, 3 Federal search warrants and 4 Federal arrest warrants were obtained.

On March 23, 2011, the aforementioned warrants were executed as a result of the culmination of the investigation perfected by ATF, ICE, and the Fort Worth Police Department. The joint Federal and State operation resulted in the arrest of (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) in charges of 18 USC 922(a)(1)(A).

Subjects (b) (7)(C) were arrested in Brownsville, TX by McAllen Field

Office ATF and ICE Agents as the two re-entered the United States from Mexico without incident. Subjects (b) (7)(C) were arrested by Fort Worth, TX ATF 1958 ICE Agents with assistance from the Fort Worth Police Department without incident.

During the execution of the three (3) Federal search warrants, the following items were found in the support of the future prosecution of this case:

- . \$800.00 US Currency.
- . One (1) Firearm.
- . Seven (7) new hard firearms cases.
- . Numerous rounds of 9mm & .38 caliber ammunition.
- . Approximately twenty seven (27) 7.62x39mm & .223 caliber high capacity magazines.
- . Numerous receipts of firearms purchases from various FFL'S.
- . One (1) Dewalt hand grinder with metal cutting blade for use in obliteration of serial numbers.

Suspects (b) (7)(C) were transported to ATF Fort Worth Field Office for further questioning. Both (b) (7)(C) admitted to the illegal purchasing and trafficking of firearms to Mexico. Upon completion of the questioning, the arrested persons were transported to the Tarrant County Jail in Fort Worth, TX. The subjects were transferred to the custody of the United States Marshals Service for their initial appearance on 03/24/2011.

Suspects (b) (7)(C) were subsequently questioned by ATF and ICE Agents from McAllen, TX. Both (b) (7)(C) admitted to the illegal trafficking of firearms. Upon completion of the questioning, the arrested persons were transported to the Cameron County Jail in Brownsville, TX. The subjects were transferred to the custody of the United States Marshals Service for their initial appearance on 03/24/2011.

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:22:38 PM

1959

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: FW: SIR-Phoenix Field Division, Las Cruces FO (Operation Line Breaker)

The New Mex reverse rip.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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Original Message

From: Significant Activity Report

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:18 PM

To: SAR/SIR Message Delivery

Subject: FW: SIR Phoenix Field Division, Las Cruces FO (Operation Line Breaker)

From: Altheberry, Thomas G.

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:18:22 PM

To: Significant Activity Report

Cc: McMahon, William G.; Newell, William D.; Gillett, George T. Jr.;

Needles, James R.; Quinn, Brent

Subject: SIR Phoenix Field Division, Las Cruces FO (Operation Line Breaker)

Auto forwarded by a Rule

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES
SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION REPORT

DATE: March 25, 2011
FROM: Phoenix Field Division
FIELD OFFICE: Las Cruces -- Field Office

CASE INFORMATION

CASE NUMBER: 785120 11 0013
CASE TITLE: OPERATION LINE BREAKER (OCDETF)
SPECIAL AGENT: (b) (7)(C)
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (b) (7)(C)

SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY:

On 03/25/2011 at approximately 12:30 PM, a multi-agency task force conducted a buy/bust operation in Las Cruces, NM 1960

NARRATIVE OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY:

On 03/25/2011, at approximately 12:30 PM, a multi-agency task force conducted a buy/bust operation near Las Cruces New Mexico as the culmination of the firearms trafficking side of Operation Line Breaker, an OGDTEF investigation led by the FBI's Cross Border Violence Squad.

Today's operation involved two ATF U/C Agents meeting with (b) (7)(C) to deliver a truck loaded with 20 fully automatic AK-47 rifles, 10 .308 caliber rifles, and 10 Berretta 9mm pistols (All fully functioning ATF Prop Firearms). This truck was to be taken to a stash house in El Paso and the firearms later trafficked into Mexico. (b) (7)(C) had already paid \$73,000.00 (US) in cash for these firearms.

The driver, a Hispanic male, further identified as (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

is an illegal alien. He was arrested by FBI SWAT shortly after departing the meet location with the firearms. The arrest occurred without incident or injuries.

Simultaneous to this activity in the Las Cruces, NM area, a team of FBI Agents and DEA Agents arrested (b) (7)(C) in El Paso, Texas and executed a federal search warrant on (b) (7)(C) apartment, also in El Paso.

Today's operation is preceded by an original "Surprise Flash" operation utilizing (b) (7)(E)

FBI will affiant one criminal complaint to cover all of today's arrests and ATF will perfect the case reports on the firearms charges to present to the AUSA at a later date.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 4:36 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: ASSIGNMENT DUE by 10am today: Answers
Attachments: FF.docx

(b) (7)(C) - I'm still waiting for any update from Needles/PFD. This document we have had was an IRS document. Attachment relies on that spreadsheet. Also includes some other narratives for you.

(b) (7)(C)
 Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
 202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 8:19 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: ASSIGNMENT DUE by 10am today: Answers

I may have the answers to #1 and #2 already. I'll draft quick responses, and see if I can get Newell or Needles to review/confirm what I write if that's ok? They would have to provide me info for #3...

(b) (7)(C)
 Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
 202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 7:38 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: ASSIGNMENT DUE by 10am today: Answers
Importance: High

(b) (7)(C)

Please get with (b) (7)(C) this morning to get answers to these questions. Even general answers could be helpful. I'm available to explain the need if necessary.

(b) (7)(C)

1.) What is the total number of weapons ATF permitted be purchased by suspected straw buyers during operation Fast and Furious between October 2009 and February 2011? A March 2010 case file notations identifies 1,500. We have an interview that the number reached

more than 2,400 by last October and are hearing the final number was around 3,000. Can you get us an exact number?

2.) How many of the weapons came back after their straw purchase in e-traces from Mexico? How many were seized by U.S. authorities on this side of the border? (We're hearing the latter number is 190.)

3.) Were Mexican authorities apprised of the Fast and Furious operation? Who? Did they express concerns?

(b) (7)(C)

Deputy Chief
ATE - Public Affairs Division

(b) (7)(C)

Direct) 202-648-(b) (7)(C)

Mobile) (b) (7)(C)

Main) 202-648-8500

1. What is the total number of weapons ATF permitted be purchased by suspected straw buyers during operation Fast and Furious between October 2009 and February 2011? A March 2010 case file notations identifies 1,500. We have an interview that the number reached more than 2,400 by last October and are hearing the final number was around 3,000. Can you get us an exact number?

Comment: We need to correct this question if he says “ATF permitted” purchases. See background information below. The identified straw purchasers were **non-prohibited persons** who went to gun stores and **completed the federally required forms, went through NICS checks, etc.** **Some of these people had purchased a number of guns before we ever identified them,** much less suspect them as a straw purchaser/trafficker, and even longer before we had sufficient evidence to more than simply contact them for an interview. As the investigation progressed, due to the number of suspects, the number of other similar investigations, and our limited resources, these persons were able to make purchases at times/locations that we could not get to real time to initiate surveillances and/or stops.

The opening report states that the agents began their case on or about November 10 – there were 233 guns purchases by subsequently identified suspects prior to November 10, 2009 (11.6% of the total 1,998 attributed to this gang). Fifteen (15) additional guns were purchased on November 10, 2009.

Background: ATF has an open criminal investigation involving a large, illegal firearms trafficking organization associated with Mexican based drug traffickers. As part of the investigative process, ATF identified numerous purchasers and other persons potentially and/or suspected of being engaged in the criminal activity. During the course of the investigation, non-prohibited individuals being investigated as suspected straw purchasers continued to periodically purchase firearms from federally licensed firearms dealers. Some of these purchases became known to ATF through reported multiple sales, information from licensed dealers, information from cooperating individuals, surveillances conducted by ATF, interdictions and/or gun traces by other US law enforcement agencies, and in some cases, gun recoveries and/or traces in Mexico.

ATF makes every effort to interdict weapons that have been purchased illegally and prevent their transportation to Mexico. All of these purchases involve non-prohibited persons following the federal firearms procedures. The fact that such persons may make numerous purchases, including purchases of firearms identifiable as “weapons of choice” in Mexico or purchases involving multiple firearms, does not in itself establish a federal violation. Even if the individuals subsequently sold these firearms to another person, or if some of the firearms were recovered in crimes in the US or Mexico, additional evidence would be required to establish a violation. ATF used every available tool and every effort was made to interdict firearms in this case going south to Mexico. The number of seizures made by ATF and other US law enforcement officials reflect that.

ATF in Phoenix, prior to, during and after the GRIT operation that initiated in May 2010, conducted extensive surveillance on source FFL locations, suspect purchasers and other

trafficking suspects. ATF detailed numerous agents from out-of-town and out-of-state to assist in surveillances during this case prior to the arrival of the GRIT participants, from approximately March 14 to May 3, 2010. These detailed agents worked exclusive surveillance for 7 weeks, 7 days a week, for nearly 4,000 hours of surveillance. In addition, the Phoenix Group VII personnel also conducted numerous surveillance operations prior to the arrival and after the departure of these detailees, including during the GRIT operations. ATF Phoenix developed and maintained a detailed surveillance assignment list. In addition to physical, mobile surveillance, ATF utilized a variety of electronic surveillance methods, including but not limited to pole cameras and Title III interceptions. Also, the Phoenix Police Department Air Wing was utilized on numerous occasions to conduct aerial surveillance. During all of these surveillance operations, at no time did ATF knowingly conduct surveillance of any person or vehicles in which firearms "walked" into Mexico. Also, referrals were made to other US law enforcement agencies operating along the border and in Mexico.

As should be noted, even with the detailees and the additional manpower derived from the GRIT operation, ATF Phoenix could not surveil every "suspected" residence, purchaser and dealer premises on a non-stop, 24/7 basis. This was not, and is not today, the only firearms trafficking case we are working in the Phoenix area. We utilized personnel and other tools as much as possible, but when a "suspected straw purchaser" goes into their home with firearms and nothing happens for days, we must make judgments as to how to best proceed with the investigation. In this case, we were dealing with in excess of 40 "suspected straw" purchasers and other suspects. This ATF office has at least that many (40 or so) active cases. In addition, even if we were to approach a suspected straw purchaser, we have no ability to force the person to tell us where or to whom the guns may be going. If such interviews are conducted and lead to legally acceptable responses, we must continue our investigative efforts, despite having alerted the suspect to our efforts.

2. How many of the weapons came back after their straw purchase in e-traces from Mexico? How many were seized by U.S. authorities on this side of the border? (We're hearing the latter number is 190.)

A total of 372 firearms (including 37 recovered in the Tohono O'odam Indian Reservation) entered into the suspect gun database were recovered/seized in the US.

A total of 195 firearms were recovered in Mexico.

In addition, through ATF surveillances and enforcement operations, another 230 firearms were recovered prior to being entered into the database.

Therefore, 602 firearms were recovered/interdicted in the US, and 195 were recovered in Mexico, for a total of 797 firearms recovered.

3. Were Mexican authorities apprised of the Fast and Furious operation? Who? Did they express concerns?

A representative of the PGR CENAPI (Intelligence) has been working within our Phoenix office for over 2 years. This Mexican official was briefed on the Fast & Furious investigation at its beginning and periodically throughout its course, along with numerous other US/Mexico firearms trafficking investigations, by the ATF managers, including SAC Newell. We all share concerns regarding trafficking of firearms from the US to Mexico.

(DON'T DISCUSS/CHARACTERIZE – But no concerns were expressed about our tactics.)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 4:02 PM
To: Needles, James R.
Subject: FW: DOJ Briefing (PHX FD)
Attachments: Firearm purchases - per date w recover.pdf; Gun Runner Study.docx

Sent to me 2/9/11.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Needles, James R.
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 2:18 PM
To: Chait, Mark R.; (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Newell, William D.
Subject: DOJ Briefing (PHX FD)

Mark (b) (7)(C)

- The map of firearm recoveries includes only recovered firearms purchased by a specified (b) (7)(C) targets reference the Fast & Furious investigation and entered into the Suspect Gun Program database. Of the 372 US seized firearms 37 of them (Tohono O'odam Indian Reservation recovery) were ripped. The total number of firearms recovered in the US – 372. The total number of firearms recovered in Mexico – 195.
- In addition to the firearms represented on the map 230 were recovered on street stops (rip).
- We brought in numerous agents from out-of-town (and out-of-state) to assist in surveillance during this case prior the arrival of the GRIT detail, approximately March 14, 2010 – May 3, 2010. **These agents worked exclusive surveillance for 7 weeks, 7 days a week, totaling over 3,920 “man hours” of surveillance.** This does not include the surveillance worked by Group VII prior to their arrival or surveillance worked after their departure when the GRIT detail was in town. During these literally thousands of hours of surveillance, never in one instance did we “walk” guns to Mexico. These 7 weeks of surveillance cost the ATF over \$100,000.00 in travel funds (which we secured in advance through OCDETF funding.)
- We made numerous efforts to minimize potential future actions by the end user of these firearms by altering the internal firing components at the FFL level so as to make the firearm ultimately inoperable by the end user.
- We spent (*unknown but conservatively in excess of \$100,000.00*) in SLOT to reimburse the Phoenix

Police Department for their assistance in this investigation. We utilized the Phoenix Police Department Air Wing on numerous occasions to aid us in conducting aerial surveillance. They never conducted surveillance of any person, vehicle or guns to Mexico. Frankly they never had the need to leave Maricopa County.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 1:49 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: Needles, James R.
Subject: RE: Does anyone recall this

I do not have any background or knowledge of this.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 1:47 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) Needles, James R.
Subject: Does anyone recall this

I know this dates back almost 6 years but as I recall this case involved our letting guns go into Mexico or our providing info to Mexico so the guns could be recovered there – I may be mixing things up due to the passage of time and my advanced age. This is the only reference to the case I can find.

- Douglas, Arizona November 2005: In just the past few weeks ATF has been involved in the arrest of seven individuals suspected of trafficking firearms from Arizona into Mexico, where they were sold for twice their market value here in the United States. ATF has documented that at least 84 firearms, including AK-47 rifles were purchased and smuggled into Mexico. The investigation began when Mexican law enforcement officials arrested two Mexican citizens for firearms trafficking in the State of Sonora, which is contiguous with Douglas, Arizona. This case is demonstrative of the cooperative effort between ATF and Mexican law enforcement authorities.

(b) (7)(C)
Senior Special Agent
Firearms Operations Division
202.648 (b) (7)(C) office)
(b) (7)(C) (cell)

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without express authorization is strictly prohibited.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Employee 4, March 24, 2011 6:10:23 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Mexico stats.

2006

The calls have been made regarding non release. I'll be back down with you in a minute. PelleLLiere was in the room when this was first discussed.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 6:02 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Mexico stats.

(b) (7)(C)

Did you stop it?? If those stats get out before we are ready to release them and prior to the Dir. approving the release it is going to be really ugly.

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Chief
ATF Public Affairs Division

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Employee 4, March 24, 2011 1:40:46 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: SIR : SWB Firearms Trafficking

2012

Excellent

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

Original Message

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: SAR/SIR Message Delivery
Sent: Thu Mar 24 13:29:24 2011
Subject: SIR : SWB Firearms Trafficking

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES
SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION REPORT

DATE: March 22, 2011
FROM: Dallas Field Division
FIELD OFFICE: Fort Worth Field Office

CASE INFORMATION

CASE NUMBER: 781040-11-0015
CASE TITLE: (b) (7)(C)
SPECIAL AGENT: (b) (7)(C)
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (b) (7)(C)

SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY:

Arrest & Search Warrants for (b) (7)(C) Firearms Trafficking Group (SWB)

NARRATIVE OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY:

DATE: 23 March 2011
DIVISION: Dallas Field Division
FIELD/AREA OFFICE: Fort Worth Field Office
CASE/UT NUMBER: 781040-11-0015
CASE/INSPECTION TITLE: (b) (7)(C)
SPECIAL AGENT/INSPECTOR: (b) (7)(C)
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (b) (7)(C)
SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY/INSPECTION:
Arrest & Search Warrants for BAZAN Firearms Trafficking Group (SWB)

This serves to summarize recent events involving the straw purchasing and suspected smuggling .223 & 7.62x39mm styled assault rifles to Mexico from the Fort Worth, TX Tarrant County area.

Toward the end of October, 2010, Agents with the Fort Worth Field Office of the Bureau of

Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) received information from an FFL that a group of individuals were suspiciously purchasing .223 & 7.62x39mm caliber assault rifles. The individuals primarily used cash currency, particularly \$20.00 denominations, for the purchased firearms.

This group was identified through information revealed by ATF 4473's as the following individuals: (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) The group continued purchasing 1 to 2 firearms each on different dates from this FFL. By the end of January 2011, through the review of FFL'S extensive ATF 4473's, Agents learned that 38 firearms had been purchased by individuals in this group. During this time, Agents attempted to infiltrate the group via undercover operations with negative results.

On January 25, 2011, ATF Fort Worth Field Office was contacted by the corporate headquarters of (b) (7)(D) in Houston, TX regarding suspicious firearms purchases by the aforementioned individuals. Agents were advised that the group was responsible for the purchase of 40 firearms within the same 3 month time span as listed above. Agents were advised that the group utilized the same Modus Operandi as above.

During the course of this investigation, Agents utilized investigative techniques such as

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

Intelligence was steadily gathered through the middle of February 2011, whereupon, firearms purchasing activity by the group ceased. (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Prior to March 1, 2011, there was no intelligence indicating that any of the purchased firearms had been recovered domestically or internationally. In the initial stages of the investigation, all purchased firearms were entered in the ATF Suspect Gun database as well as the suspects being flagged by FBI NICs for future firearms purchases. These databases were continually monitored throughout the course of the investigation.

On March 17, 2011 Agents with ATF received information that on or about March 2, 2011, Mexican Naval Infantry personnel were involved in a confrontation against an unidentified armed group leaving eight (8) gunmen, none of which were law enforcement personnel, dead in Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas, MX. Authorities seized 8 AK-47 type rifles, 4 AR-15 type rifles, 1 grenade launcher, 55 magazines, 2,073 rounds of assorted ammunition, and several uniforms. One of the recovered rifles was traced (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C)

Agents have remained in constant contact with ATF Mexico Attachés in order to gather additional intelligence on the weapon recovered and any other intelligence that could be used to strengthen our ongoing investigation.

Based upon the recovery of the aforementioned firearm, criminal complaints were immediately requested from the Northern District of Texas United States Attorney's Office, Fort Worth, Texas, charging (b) (7)(C) with Conspiracy to Engage in the Business of Dealing in Firearms without a License in violation of 18 USC 922(a)(1)(A). On March 21, 2011, 3 Federal search warrants and 4 Federal arrest warrants were obtained.

On March 23, 2011, the aforementioned warrants were executed as a result of the culmination of the investigation perfected by ATF, ICE, and the Fort Worth Police Department. The joint Federal and State operation resulted in the arrest of (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

on charges of 18 USC 922(a)(1)(A).

Subjects (b) (7)(C) were arrested in Brownsville, TX by McAllen Field Office ATF and ICE Agents as the two re-entered the United States from Mexico without incident. Subjects (b) (7)(C) were arrested by Fort Worth, TX ATF and ICE Agents with assistance from the Fort Worth Police Department without incident.

During the execution of the three (3) Federal search warrants, the following items were found in the support of the future prosecution of this case:

- . \$800.00 US Currency.
- . One (1) Firearm.
- . Seven (7) new hard firearms cases.
- . Numerous rounds of 9mm & .38 caliber ammunition.
- . Approximately twenty seven (27) 7.62x39mm & .223 caliber high capacity magazines.
- . Numerous receipts of firearms purchases from various FFL'S.

. One (1) Dewalt hand grinder with metal cutting blade for use in obliteration of
serial numbers. Employee 4 2014

Suspects (b) (7)(C) were transported to ATF Fort Worth Field Office for further questioning. Both (b) (7)(C) admitted to the illegal purchasing and trafficking of firearms to Mexico. Upon completion of the questioning, the arrested persons were transported to the Tarrant County Jail in Fort Worth, TX. The subjects were transferred to the custody of the United States Marshals Service for their initial appearance on 03/24/2011.

Suspects (b) (7)(C) were subsequently questioned by ATF and ICE Agents from McAllen, TX. Both (b) (7)(C) admitted to the illegal trafficking of firearms. Upon completion of the questioning, the arrested persons were transported to the Cameron County Jail in Brownsville, TX. The subjects were transferred to the custody of the United States Marshals Service for their initial appearance on 03/24/2011.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Employee 4, March 24, 2011 1:40:19 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: SIR : SWB Firearms Trafficking

2015

Well written Dallas SIR that outlines the SWB FT investigation and actions triggered by a MX recovery.

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: SAR/SIR Message Delivery
Sent: Thu Mar 24 13:29:24 2011
Subject: SIR : SWB Firearms Trafficking

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES
SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION REPORT

DATE: March 22, 2011
FROM: Dallas Field Division
FIELD OFFICE: Fort Worth Field Office

CASE INFORMATION

CASE NUMBER: 781040-11-0015
CASE TITLE: (b) (7)(C)
SPECIAL AGENT: (b) (7)(C)
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (b) (7)(C)

SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY:

Arrest & Search Warrants for (b) (7)(C) Firearms Trafficking Group (SWB)

NARRATIVE OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY:

DATE: 23 March 2011
DIVISION: Dallas Field Division
FIELD/AREA OFFICE: Fort Worth Field Office
CASE/UL NUMBER: 781040-11-0015
CASE/INSPECTION TITLE: (b) (7)(C)
SPECIAL AGENT/INSPECTOR: (b) (7)(C)
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (b) (7)(C)

SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY/INSPECTION:

Arrest & Search Warrants for (b) (7)(C) Firearms Trafficking Group (SWB)

This serves to summarize recent events involving the straw purchasing and suspected smuggling .223 & 7.62x39mm styled assault rifles to Mexico from the Fort Worth, TX Tarrant County area.

Toward the end of October, 2010, Agents with the Fort Worth Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) received information from an ATF ²⁰¹⁶ Employee that a group of individuals were suspiciously purchasing .223 & 7.62x39mm caliber assault styled rifles. The individuals primarily used cash currency, particularly \$20.00 denominations, for the purchased firearms.

This group was identified through information revealed by ATF 4473's as the following individuals: (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) The group continued purchasing 1 to 2 firearms each on different dates from Lh's FFI. By the end of January 2011, through the review of FFI'S extensive ATF 4473's, Agents learned that 38 firearms had been purchased by individuals in this group. During this time, Agents attempted to infiltrate the group via undercover operations with negative results.

On January 25, 2011, ATF Fort Worth Field Office was contacted by the corporate headquarters of (b) (7)(D) in Houston, TX regarding suspicious firearms purchases by the aforementioned individuals. Agents were advised that the group was responsible for the purchase of 40 firearms within the same 3 month time span as listed above. Agents were advised that the group utilized the same Modus Operandi as above.

During the course of this investigation, Agents utilized investigative techniques such as

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E) intelligence was steadily gathered through the middle of February 2011, whereupon, firearms purchasing activity by the group ceased. (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Prior to March 1, 2011, there was no intelligence indicating that any of the purchased firearms had been recovered domestically or internationally. In the initial stages of the investigation, all purchased firearms were entered in the ATF Suspect Gun database as well as the suspects being flagged by FBI NICs for future firearms purchases. These databases were continually monitored throughout the course of the investigation.

On March 17, 2011 Agents with ATF received information that on or about March 2, 2011, Mexican Naval Infantry personnel were involved in a confrontation against an unidentified armed group leaving eight (8) gunmen, none of which were law enforcement personnel, dead in Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas, MX. Authorities seized 8 AK 47 type rifles, 4 AR 15 type rifles, 1 grenade launcher, 55 magazines, 2,073 rounds of assorted ammunition, and several uniforms. One of the recovered rifles was traced (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C) Agents have remained in constant contact with ATF Mexico Attachés in order to gather additional intelligence on the weapon recovered and any other intelligence that could be used to strengthen our ongoing investigation.

Based upon the recovery of the aforementioned firearm, criminal complaints were immediately requested from the Northern District of Texas United States Attorney's Office, Fort Worth, Texas, charging (b) (7)(C) with Conspiracy to Engage in the Business of Dealing in Firearms without a License in violation of 18 USC 922(a)(1)(A). On March 21, 2011, 3 Federal search warrants and 4 Federal arrest warrants were obtained.

On March 23, 2011, the aforementioned warrants were executed as a result of the culmination of the investigation perfected by ATF, ICE, and the Fort Worth Police Department. The joint Federal and State operation resulted in the arrest of (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) on charges of 18 USC 922(a)(1)(A).

Subjects (b) (7)(C) were arrested in Brownsville, TX by McAllen Field Office ATF and ICE Agents as the two re-entered the United States from Mexico without incident. Subjects (b) (7)(C) were arrested by Fort Worth, TX ATF and ICE Agents with assistance from the Fort Worth Police Department without incident.

During the execution of the three (3) Federal search warrants, the following items were found in the support of the future prosecution of this case:

- . \$800.00 US Currency.
- . One (1) Firearm.
- . Seven (7) new hard firearms cases.
- . Numerous rounds of 9mm & .38 caliber ammunition.
- . Approximately twenty seven (27) 7.62x39mm & .223 caliber high capacity magazines.

Numerous receipts of firearms purchases from various FFL'S.

Employee #1) Dewalt hand grinder with metal cutting blade for use in obliterating serial numbers. 2017

Suspects (b) (7)(C) were transported to ATF Fort Worth Field Office for further questioning. Both (b) (7)(C) admitted to the illegal purchasing and trafficking of firearms to Mexico. Upon completion of the questioning, the arrested persons were transported to the Tarrant County Jail in Fort Worth, TX. The subjects were transferred to the custody of the United States Marshals Service for their initial appearance on 03/24/2011.

Suspects (b) (7)(C) were subsequently questioned by ATF and ICE Agents from McAllen, TX. Both (b) (7)(C) admitted to the illegal trafficking of firearms. Upon completion of the questioning, the arrested persons were transported to the Cameron County Jail in Brownsville, TX. The subjects were transferred to the custody of the United States Marshals Service for their initial appearance on 03/24/2011.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 10:28 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE:

Are you in? Come over in about 10 minutes to Jim's office...

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.5.129
202.648-^{(b) (7)(C)}, Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 10:18 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject:

In case you have not seen yet.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-31727_162-20046151-10391695.html

SPECIAL AGENT (b) (7)(C)
PROJECT OFFICER
OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS
FIREARMS OPERATIONS DIVISION
CELL (b) (7)(C)
DESK (202) 648-(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 6:27 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: LE Opt-Out Resources
Attachments: 785115-10-0004 Shared File Screen Shots.pdf

I just printed you 2 color copies of attachments. On way back down.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2011 2:45 PM
To: Boxler, Michael B.; Chait, Mark R.
Subject: FW: LE Opt-Out Resources

fyi

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2011 2:18 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: LE Opt-Out Resources

These are "screen shots" of the shared drive.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Sat Mar 05 13:29:50 2011
Subject: RE: LE Opt-Out Resources
The only folder I did not screen shot all sub folders was the Photos folder.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

(b) (7)(C) Senior IRS
Acting Intel Group Supervisor
(602) 776-(b) (7)(C) Direct
(b) (7)(C) Mobile
(602) 776-5519 - Fax

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2011 11:07 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: LE Opt-Out Resources

Thank you. Also, George advised that the FBI tracked the e-mail message to St. Petersburg, Florida. They will get a subpoena and see who it comes back to.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Sat Mar 05 12:42:17 2011
Subject: RE: LE Opt-Out Resources
I will forward the screen shots to you soon.

(b) (7)(C) Senior IRS
Acting Intel Group Supervisor
(602) 776-(b) (7)(C) Direct
(b) (7)(C) Mobile
(602) 776-5519 - Fax

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2011 9:51 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: LE Opt-Out Resources

Thanks. Is there a way to do a "screen shot" of the Group VII shared drive? There's no way I'm taking everything in there with me as Mark requested. But if I can have a way to show what's in there, that's what I need.

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From: (b) (7)(C)

To: (b) (7)(C)

Cc: Newell, William D.; Gillett, George T. Jr.; Needles, James R.

Sent: Sat Mar 05 11:42:21 2011

Subject: LE Opt-Out Resources

The attached file provides guidance for law enforcement personnel to block access to their personal information typically retrievable via the internet and internet services (Accurint, Lexis-Nexis, etc).

I will continue to research resource files to obtain any additional 'opt-out' guides for law enforcement personnel.

I have reviewed the ATF OPRSO section of our intranet, however, I have not identified any pertinent information related to this issue.

(b) (7)(C) if there is anything I can do, please let me know. I would be happy to help you and your family in any way.

(b) (7)(C) Senior IRS
Acting Intel Group Supervisor
(602) 776-(b) (7)(C) Direct
(b) (7)(C) Mobile
(602) 776-5519 - Fax

785115-10-0004

Back [Navigation icons]

S:\Phoenix VII\785115-10-0004

- Phoenix VII
- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

AGENT CASHIER	File Folder		10/20/2010 5:53 PM
AUTOTRACK	File Folder		6/17/2010 8:27 PM
CELLPHONE SW DOCS	File Folder		2/11/2010 9:20 PM
CHARTS	File Folder		11/23/2010 7:16 AM
IN-QUIRE	File Folder		12/17/2010 11:28 AM
OCDETF	File Folder		2/28/2011 8:57 AM
(b) (7)(E)	File Folder		5/13/2010 11:13 AM
(b) (7)(E)	File Folder		1/13/2011 4:56 PM
PHOTOS	File Folder		3/29/2010 2:47 PM
Power Points	File Folder		1/24/2011 7:00 AM
RECEIPTS	File Folder		2/19/2010 6:52 PM
Sources of Info (SIs)	File Folder		2/14/2011 9:56 AM
(b) (7)(E)	File Folder		1/20/2011 10:41 AM
152050310-0001 - Case Listing.xls	Microsoft Office Excel 97-2003 Worksheet	3 KB	4/19/2010 1:56 PM
(b) (7)(E)	Adobe Acrobat Document	2,191 KB	2/26/2010 12:10 PM
(b) (7)(E)	Microsoft Office Excel 97-2003 Worksheet	856 KB	2/26/2010 12:08 PM
Checklist.docx	Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	12/17/2009 5:34 PM
(b) (7)(C)	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	999 KB	2/25/2010 8:59 AM
FIREARM PURCHASES - FINANCIAL.xls	Microsoft Office Excel 97-2003 Worksheet	972 KB	4/19/2010 11:52 AM
FIREARM SPREADSHEET.xls	Microsoft Office Excel 97-2003 Worksheet	2,479 KB	2/22/2011 9:59 AM
(b) (7)(C)	Microsoft Office Excel 97-2003 Worksheet	936 KB	9/20/2010 7:17 AM
(b) (7)(C)	Adobe Acrobat Document	388 KB	2/25/2010 9:02 AM
(b) (7)(C)	Microsoft Office Excel 97-2003 Worksheet	6 KB	4/19/2010 10:28 AM
(b) (7)(C)	Microsoft Office Excel 97-2003 Worksheet	4 KB	5/25/2010 3:25 PM
PHONE LIST.xls	Microsoft Office Excel 97-2003 Worksheet	27 KB	3/16/2010 3:16 PM
Phone Number Log.xls	Microsoft Office Excel 97-2003 Worksheet	36 KB	12/2/2009 8:51 PM
(b) (7)(E)	Microsoft Office Excel 97-2003 Worksheet	37 KB	4/22/2010 7:36 PM
(b) (7)(E)	Microsoft Office Excel 97-2003 Worksheet	63 KB	12/9/2010 8:10 AM
(b) (7)(E)	Adobe Acrobat Document	48 KB	11/27/2009 9:31 PM
(b) (7)(E)	Outlook Item	89 KB	2/16/2010 9:39 AM

AGENT CASHIER

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785115-10-0004	Report of Expenditure - 7-22-2010.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	30 KB	7/29/2010 3:33 PM
My Documents	AC Spreadsheet.xlsx	Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	11 KB	7/29/2010 3:25 PM
My Computer	Report of Expenditure - 7-1-2010.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	44 KB	7/1/2010 4:29 PM
My Network Places	Report of Expenditure 04-19-10 (b) (7)(E)	Adobe Acrobat Document	30 KB	4/19/2010 10:30 AM
	AC request 04-16-2010 (b) (7)(E)	Adobe Acrobat Document	87 KB	4/19/2010 10:20 AM
	Report of Expenditure 03-29-10 (b) (7)(E)	Adobe Acrobat Document	30 KB	3/31/2010 10:06 AM
	AC request (b) (7)(E)	Adobe Acrobat Document	81 KB	3/30/2010 7:25 PM
	AC request (b) (7)(E)	Adobe Acrobat Document	79 KB	3/19/2010 8:22 AM
	Report of Expenditure 03-04-10 (b) (7)(E)	Adobe Acrobat Document	30 KB	3/4/2010 11:08 AM
	AC request 03-03-2010 (b) (7)(E)	Adobe Acrobat Document	81 KB	3/3/2010 7:38 PM
	expenditures01092010.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	34 KB	1/9/2010 12:17 PM
	funds request 01072010.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	81 KB	1/9/2010 12:02 PM

AUTOTRACK

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	(b) (7)(C)	Adobe Acrobat Document	206 KB	6/17/2010 8:27 PM
		Adobe Acrobat Document	51 KB	12/3/2009 3:32 PM
		Adobe Acrobat Document	52 KB	12/3/2009 3:20 PM
		Adobe Acrobat Document	44 KB	12/3/2009 3:20 PM
		Adobe Acrobat Document	108 KB	12/3/2009 3:18 PM
		Adobe Acrobat Document	111 KB	12/3/2009 3:17 PM
		Adobe Acrobat Document	89 KB	12/3/2009 3:10 PM
		Adobe Acrobat Document	111 KB	12/3/2009 3:09 PM
		Adobe Acrobat Document	93 KB	12/3/2009 3:05 PM

CELLPHONE SW DOCS

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785115-10-0004	Preservation Letters	File Folder	3/29/2010 10:34 AM
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- 785115-10-0004
- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

Preservation Letters

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S:\Phoenix VII\785115-10-0004\CELLPHONE SW DOCS\Preservation Letters

(b) (7)(C)	Preservation Letter 0450 03-29-2010.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	26 KB	3/29/2010 10:28 AM
(b) (7)(C)	Preservation Letter 03-29-2010.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	27 KB	3/29/2010 10:27 AM
(b) (7)(C)	Preservation Letter 0450 03-23-2010.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	26 KB	3/23/2010 1:34 PM
(b) (7)(C)	Preservation Letter 03-23-2010.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	27 KB	3/23/2010 1:23 PM
(b) (7)(C)	Preservation Letter 0450 03-17-2010.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	26 KB	3/17/2010 12:05 PM
(b) (7)(C)	Preservation Letter 03-17-2010.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	27 KB	3/17/2010 12:01 PM
(b) (7)(C)	Preservation Letter 0450.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	26 KB	2/11/2010 9:30 PM
(b) (7)(C)	Preservation Letter.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	26 KB	2/11/2010 9:28 PM
(b) (7)(C)	Preservation letter II.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	26 KB	2/11/2010 9:27 PM
(b) (7)(C)	Preservation Letter.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	26 KB	2/11/2010 9:25 PM
(b) (7)(C)	Preservation Letter 0467.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	27 KB	2/11/2010 9:21 PM
(b) (7)(C)	Preservation Letter.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	26 KB	2/11/2010 9:20 PM

CELLPHONE SW DOCS

My Documents

My Computer

My Network Places

CHARTS



S:\Phoenix VII\785115-10-0004\CHARTS

- 785115-10-0004
- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

Name	Type	Size	Modified
i2	File Folder		5/18/2010 2:10 PM
(b) (7)(C) .pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	337 KB	1/27/2010 11:50 AM
(b) (7)(C) Chart 1.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	39 KB	1/27/2010 9:45 AM
(b) (7)(C) chart 1.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	80 KB	12/17/2009 1:56 PM
(b) (7)(C) chart 2.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	222 KB	1/25/2010 4:31 PM
LA 2.anb	i2 Analyst's Notebook Chart	681 KB	7/29/2010 8:25 PM
lsprst7.dll	Application Extension	1 KB	11/23/2010 7:16 AM
lsprst7.tgz	WinZip File	1 KB	11/23/2010 7:16 AM
(b) (7)(C) 3162010.anb	i2 Analyst's Notebook Chart	3,050 KB	8/17/2010 5:01 AM
sysprs7.dll	Application Extension	2 KB	11/23/2010 7:16 AM
sysprs7.tgz	WinZip File	2 KB	11/23/2010 7:16 AM

i2

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(b) (7)(E)	Chart 1.anb	i2 Analyst's Notebook Chart	1,435 KB	1/27/2010 11:23 AM
(b) (7)(C)	Chart 2.anb	i2 Analyst's Notebook Chart	3,064 KB	1/27/2010 9:50 AM
(b) (7)(C)	Chart 1.anb	i2 Analyst's Notebook Chart	925 KB	12/17/2009 2:58 PM
(b) (7)(C)	enb	i2 Analyst's Notebook Chart	8,306 KB	12/3/2009 3:18 PM

- CHARTS
- My Documents
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- My Network Places

N-QUIRE

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S:\Phoenix VII\785115-10-0004\N-QUIRE

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- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

Firearm Recoveries.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	24 KB	12/17/2010 11:28 AM
Time line.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	151 KB	7/21/2010 10:44 AM
Border Crossing Persons Report.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	87 KB	6/11/2010 4:31 PM
Border Crossings .pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	64 KB	6/9/2010 3:58 PM

OCDETF

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OCDETF SWAZP-0496 Addtl. Funding Memo II.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	35 KB	2/28/2011 8:55 AM
Fast and Furious Interim Report 02-16-11 OCDETF Form S-3.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	75 KB	2/16/2011 10:45 PM
Fast and Furious Interim Report 02-16-11 Draft.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	789 KB	2/16/2011 10:44 PM
The Fast and The Furious (SW-AZ-0496) Interim Report Narrative 02-16-11.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	63 KB	2/16/2011 10:42 PM
Fast and Furious Interim Report 02-16-11.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	3,900 KB	2/16/2011 10:42 PM
OCDETF SWAZP-0496 Addtl. Funding Memo.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	34 KB	10/12/2010 5:07 PM
The Fast and The Furious (SW-AZ-0496) Interim Report Narrative.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	57 KB	8/23/2010 11:13 PM
Fast and Furious Interim Report 08-23-10.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	861 KB	8/23/2010 11:07 PM
Fast and Furious Interim Report 08-16-10 V2.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	872 KB	8/17/2010 11:01 AM
Fast and Furious Interim Report 08-16-10 V2.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	192 KB	8/16/2010 6:21 PM
Fast and Furious Interim Report 08-16-10.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	856 KB	8/16/2010 6:04 PM
Fast and Furious Interim Report 08-16.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	192 KB	8/16/2010 6:02 PM
OCDETF SWAZP-0496 Funding Memo.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	35 KB	2/24/2010 6:49 PM
The Fast and The Furious.ppt	Microsoft Office PowerPoint 97-2003 Presentation	1,519 KB	1/26/2010 9:06 AM
785115-10-0004 -OCDETF_Narrative - The Fast and The Furious.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	62 KB	1/22/2010 4:21 PM
OCDETF_Invest_Initiation-The Fast and The Furious.doc	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	553 KB	1/22/2010 7:23 AM
OFC Request-785115-10-0004.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	1,029 KB	1/13/2010 9:29 AM
OFC Request Form #7.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	485 KB	1/13/2010 9:22 AM
SOD QC Request-785115-10-0004.DOC	Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	38 KB	1/13/2010 9:11 AM
Addtl fusion center names.docx	Microsoft Office Word Document	13 KB	1/12/2010 7:02 PM
OFC Request Form #6.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	486 KB	1/12/2010 7:02 PM
OFC Request Form #5.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	486 KB	1/12/2010 6:51 PM
OFC Request Form #4.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	486 KB	1/12/2010 6:51 PM
OFC Request Form #2.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	486 KB	1/12/2010 6:47 PM
OFC Request Form #3.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	486 KB	1/12/2010 6:46 PM
OFC Request Form #1.pdf	Adobe Acrobat Document	486 KB	1/12/2010 6:43 PM
OCDETF form.docx	Microsoft Office Word Document	126 KB	12/12/2009 7:09 PM

(b) (7)(E)

← Back → ↻ ↺ ↻

S:\Phoenix VII\785115-10-0004 (b) (7)(E)

- 785115-10-0004
- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

(b) (7)(E)

WordPerfect X3 Document	55 KB	5/13/2010 11:13 AM
WordPerfect X3 Document	56 KB	5/11/2010 12:48 PM
WordPerfect X3 Document	58 KB	5/11/2010 12:48 PM
WordPerfect X3 Document	56 KB	5/11/2010 12:48 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	324 KB	3/21/2010 9:49 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	520 KB	3/21/2010 9:38 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	322 KB	3/15/2010 9:35 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	315 KB	3/15/2010 9:25 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	313 KB	3/15/2010 9:19 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	315 KB	3/15/2010 9:12 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	295 KB	3/15/2010 9:07 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	30 KB	3/12/2010 11:08 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	28 KB	3/12/2010 11:07 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	28 KB	3/12/2010 11:06 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	28 KB	3/12/2010 11:05 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	29 KB	3/12/2010 11:04 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	306 KB	1/13/2010 6:08 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	335 KB	1/13/2010 6:04 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	310 KB	1/13/2010 6:01 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	329 KB	1/13/2010 5:55 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	327 KB	1/13/2010 5:44 PM
WordPerfect X3 Document	53 KB	1/13/2010 2:03 PM
WordPerfect X3 Document	53 KB	1/13/2010 2:03 PM
WordPerfect X3 Document	53 KB	1/13/2010 2:03 PM
WordPerfect X3 Document	54 KB	1/13/2010 2:03 PM
WordPerfect X3 Document	52 KB	1/13/2010 2:03 PM

(b) (7)(E)



S:\Phoenix VII\785115-10-00 (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(C) docs

(b) (7)(E)

- ARCHIVES
- Charts
- COURT ORDERS
- (b) (7)(E)
- NEEDS TO BE PRINTED
- REPORTS
- SUBPOENA REQUEST FORMS
- SUBPOENA SENT

(b) (7)(E)

- 10-02-09 4753.csv
- 10-02-09 4753.xlsx
- (b) (7)(E)
- 2009-272294-0001.RTF
- 2009-272294-0002.RTF
- 2009-272294-0002.tif
- ACOSTA calls 2-21-10 - 3-7-10.CSV
- ACOSTA historical calls review.xlsx
- DEA Do Not Contact List.xlsx

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

File Folder		3/19/2010 12:28 PM
File Folder		6/23/2010 10:51 AM
File Folder		8/17/2010 11:19 AM
File Folder		7/23/2010 4:12 PM
File Folder		3/4/2011 6:06 PM
File Folder		2/10/2011 4:33 PM
File Folder		1/13/2010 2:02 PM
File Folder		2/10/2011 4:50 PM
File Folder		1/13/2011 4:41 PM
File Folder		1/13/2011 4:57 PM
File Folder		8/17/2010 10:51 AM
File Folder		7/8/2010 11:25 AM
File Folder		7/21/2010 10:03 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	46,063 KB	2/8/2010 4:39 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	19 KB	2/10/2010 4:08 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	10 KB	4/24/2010 12:05 PM
Rich Text Format	17 KB	12/17/2009 2:40 PM
Rich Text Format	99 KB	12/17/2009 2:40 PM
Microsoft Office Document Imaging File	44 KB	12/17/2009 2:40 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	9 KB	3/9/2010 11:56 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	12 KB	2/1/2010 4:59 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	119 KB	2/11/2010 11:26 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	63 KB	2/23/2010 2:35 PM
Microsoft Office Excel 97-2003 worksheet	17 KB	3/21/2010 4:12 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	15 KB	3/21/2010 4:33 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	11 KB	2/9/2010 7:10 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	35 KB	2/11/2010 1:11 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	355 KB	4/30/2010 4:39 PM

(b) (7)(C) NEW PHONE DOCS

← Back →

S:\Phoenix VII\785115-10-0004\PENLINK (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(E)				
My Documents	2010-072483-0001.RTF	Rich Text Format	47 KB	3/19/2010 12:24 PM
My Computer	2010-072483-0001.xls	Microsoft Office Excel 97-2003 Worksheet	94 KB	3/19/2010 12:27 PM
My Network Places	2010-072483-0002.xls	Microsoft Office Excel 97-2003 Worksheet	71 KB	3/19/2010 12:28 PM

ARCHIVES



S:\Phoenix VII\795115-10-000 (b) (7)(E)

- (b) (7)(E)
- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

(b) (7)(E)

WinZip File	284 KB	6/23/2010 10:51 AM
WinZip File	30,062 KB	6/23/2010 10:51 AM
WinZip File	28,832 KB	6/11/2010 8:32 AM
WinZip File	271 KB	6/11/2010 8:27 AM
WinZip File	234 KB	5/14/2010 3:49 PM
WinZip File	20,723 KB	4/13/2010 11:03 AM
WinZip File	167 KB	3/30/2010 12:15 PM
WinZip File	18,843 KB	3/29/2010 11:44 AM
WinZip File	161 KB	3/26/2010 2:46 PM
WinZip File	18,363 KB	3/26/2010 2:43 PM
WinZip File	410 KB	3/24/2010 8:08 AM
WinZip File	18,038 KB	3/23/2010 3:00 PM
WinZip File	148 KB	3/23/2010 12:33 AM
WinZip File	17,349 KB	3/21/2010 3:16 PM
WinZip File	16,862 KB	3/19/2010 10:34 AM
WinZip File	145 KB	3/17/2010 1:07 AM
WinZip File	15,435 KB	3/9/2010 11:08 PM
WinZip File	141 KB	3/8/2010 10:10 PM
WinZip File	14,300 KB	3/8/2010 7:44 PM
WinZip File	13,815 KB	3/3/2010 3:30 PM
WinZip File	11,809 KB	2/24/2010 10:49 AM
WinZip File	130 KB	2/23/2010 12:05 PM
WinZip File	11,491 KB	2/23/2010 11:54 AM
WinZip File	130 KB	2/22/2010 5:06 PM
WinZip File	11,200 KB	2/22/2010 5:05 PM
WinZip File	9,649 KB	2/18/2010 3:33 PM
WinZip File	124 KB	2/16/2010 1:02 PM
WinZip File	9,361 KB	2/16/2010 1:01 PM
WinZip File	119 KB	2/5/2010 5:14 PM
WinZip File	7,292 KB	2/5/2010 5:13 PM
WinZip File	65 KB	1/20/2010 10:38 PM
WinZip File	3,703 KB	1/20/2010 10:37 PM
WinZip File	3,348 KB	1/20/2010 12:55 PM
WinZip File	58 KB	1/7/2010 4:43 PM
WinZip File	47 KB	1/5/2010 11:26 AM
WinZip File	1,286 KB	1/5/2010 11:27 AM

(b) (7)(E)

S:\Phoenix VQ\785115-10-0004 (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

- (b) (7)(E)
- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

Adobe Acrobat Document	60 KB	8/17/2010 11:19 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	46 KB	7/23/2010 10:34 AM
Microsoft Office Word Docu...	64 KB	7/1/2010 8:18 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	20 KB	7/1/2010 8:18 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	60 KB	7/1/2010 4:17 PM
Microsoft Office Word 97 - ...	75 KB	7/1/2010 3:58 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	20 KB	6/25/2010 4:47 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	28 KB	6/25/2010 4:08 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	59 KB	6/24/2010 4:49 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	47 KB	5/20/2010 1:38 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	60 KB	5/13/2010 3:45 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	60 KB	5/13/2010 3:44 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	46 KB	5/13/2010 3:43 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	47 KB	5/13/2010 3:41 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	51 KB	5/13/2010 3:37 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	51 KB	4/22/2010 2:54 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	59 KB	3/12/2010 4:29 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	47 KB	3/12/2010 4:28 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	46 KB	3/12/2010 4:27 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	47 KB	3/12/2010 4:24 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	59 KB	1/14/2010 1:15 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	47 KB	1/14/2010 12:57 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	48 KB	1/14/2010 12:56 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	60 KB	1/14/2010 12:54 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	63 KB	1/14/2010 12:52 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	23 KB	1/14/2010 12:30 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	23 KB	1/14/2010 11:20 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	16 KB	1/14/2010 11:00 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	21 KB	1/14/2010 10:56 AM

Charts

S:\Phoenix V01\785115-10-000 (b) (7)(E)

Picture Tasks

- Get pictures from camera or scanner
- View as a slide show
- Print pictures
- Copy all items to CD

(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

BMP File	3,407 KB	12/30/2009 11:34 AM
EMF Image	53 KB	1/21/2010 11:29 AM
PLC File	20 KB	1/21/2010 11:33 AM
PLC File	8 KB	1/21/2010 3:43 PM
i2 Analyst's Notebook Chart	220 KB	3/9/2010 5:12 PM
i2 Analyst's Notebook Chart	230 KB	4/23/2010 5:06 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	11 KB	5/17/2010 9:28 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	117 KB	5/21/2010 3:57 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	79 KB	5/21/2010 5:56 PM
PLC File	23 KB	6/17/2010 4:41 PM
PLC File	8 KB	6/18/2010 3:53 PM
PLC File	25 KB	6/18/2010 4:23 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	6 KB	6/23/2010 2:30 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	8 KB	6/23/2010 2:31 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	11 KB	6/23/2010 4:32 PM
PLC File	6 KB	6/23/2010 4:34 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	11 KB	7/5/2010 9:59 AM
PLC File	8 KB	7/15/2010 5:47 PM
PLC File	16 KB	7/15/2010 5:47 PM
PLC File	22 KB	7/21/2010 5:03 PM
PLC File	17 KB	7/23/2010 4:12 PM

(b) (7)(E)

- My Pictures
- My Computer
- My Network Places

COURT ORDERS

S:\Phoenix VII\705115-10-0004 (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

Adobe Acrobat Document	197 KB	8/17/2010 2:02 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	209 KB	8/17/2010 1:22 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	347 KB	7/23/2010 10:18 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	209 KB	7/21/2010 9:59 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	204 KB	7/21/2010 9:58 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	11 KB	7/7/2010 4:55 PM
Outlook Item	3,793 KB	7/6/2010 10:24 PM
Outlook Item	272 KB	7/6/2010 10:22 PM
Outlook Item	269 KB	7/6/2010 10:13 PM
Outlook Item	3,538 KB	7/6/2010 10:12 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	209 KB	7/2/2010 4:43 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	3,452 KB	7/1/2010 8:18 PM
Outlook Item	230 KB	6/28/2010 12:08 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	3,565 KB	6/24/2010 4:50 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	152 KB	6/23/2010 11:47 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	330 KB	5/20/2010 1:29 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	329 KB	5/20/2010 1:27 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	330 KB	5/20/2010 1:23 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	329 KB	5/20/2010 11:14 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	710 KB	4/19/2010 6:04 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	179 KB	3/19/2010 4:43 PM

DATA RECEIVED



S:\Phoenix V\1785115-10-000 (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

(b) (7)(E)

Outlook Item	63 KB	2/10/2011 4:33 PM
Outlook Item	60 KB	2/10/2011 4:33 PM
Outlook Item	70 KB	2/10/2011 4:33 PM
Outlook Item	33 KB	2/10/2011 4:32 PM
Outlook Item	807 KB	2/10/2011 4:30 PM
Outlook Item	1,659 KB	2/10/2011 4:19 PM
Outlook Item	660 KB	1/13/2011 10:29 PM
Outlook Item	949 KB	1/13/2011 10:29 PM
Outlook Item	136 KB	5/22/2010 6:17 PM
Outlook Item	64 KB	5/22/2010 6:16 PM
WinZip File	110 KB	4/26/2010 3:09 PM
Outlook Item	161 KB	4/2/2010 9:11 PM
Text Document	36 KB	4/2/2010 2:06 PM
Text Document	183 KB	4/1/2010 5:31 PM
Text Document	71 KB	4/1/2010 4:20 PM
Text Document	318 KB	4/1/2010 4:18 PM
Outlook Item	120 KB	3/26/2010 11:17 AM
Outlook Item	90 KB	3/26/2010 11:17 AM
Outlook Item	5,263 KB	3/26/2010 11:17 AM
Outlook Item	4,098 KB	3/26/2010 11:18 AM
Outlook Item	41 KB	3/26/2010 11:18 AM
Outlook Item	33 KB	3/26/2010 11:18 AM
Outlook Item	341 KB	3/26/2010 11:12 AM
Outlook Item	29 KB	3/26/2010 11:12 AM
Outlook Item	299 KB	3/26/2010 9:54 AM
Outlook Item	298 KB	3/26/2010 9:54 AM
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Outlook Item	279 KB	3/26/2010 9:53 AM
Outlook Item	78 KB	3/26/2010 9:53 AM
Outlook Item	77 KB	3/26/2010 9:52 AM
Outlook Item	76 KB	3/26/2010 9:52 AM
Outlook Item	77 KB	3/26/2010 9:52 AM
Outlook Item	78 KB	3/26/2010 9:52 AM
Outlook Item	80 KB	3/26/2010 9:52 AM
Outlook Item	297 KB	3/26/2010 9:52 AM
Outlook Item	294 KB	3/26/2010 9:48 AM
Outlook Item	298 KB	3/26/2010 9:47 AM
Outlook Item	294 KB	3/26/2010 9:47 AM

NEEDS TO BE PRINTED



S:\Phoenix VII\785115-10-000 (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

Adobe Acrobat Document	68 KB	1/11/2010 2:00 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	69 KB	1/11/2010 1:59 PM

(b) (7)(E)

- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

REPORTS

S:\Phoenix VII\785115-10-001 (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

My Documents
My Computer
My Network Places

Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	11 KB	2/10/2011 4:50 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	11 KB	1/18/2011 5:13 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	15 KB	1/18/2011 5:11 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	74 KB	1/18/2011 2:58 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	11 KB	1/18/2011 2:57 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	76 KB	1/14/2011 4:02 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	1 KB	11/17/2010 11:12 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	1 KB	11/17/2010 11:02 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	12 KB	6/21/2010 3:51 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	11 KB	6/21/2010 10:02 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	16 KB	6/21/2010 10:01 AM
Adobe Acrobat Document	12 KB	6/11/2010 4:16 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	47 KB	6/9/2010 2:38 PM
Outlook Item	506 KB	4/2/2010 3:10 PM
Outlook Item	98 KB	4/2/2010 3:09 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	165 KB	3/26/2010 5:30 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	5 KB	3/26/2010 3:25 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	50 KB	3/23/2010 6:18 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated values File	130 KB	3/23/2010 6:16 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	11 KB	3/23/2010 12:00 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	35 KB	3/11/2010 10:57 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	262 KB	3/11/2010 9:33 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	107 KB	2/23/2010 10:37 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	6,264 KB	12/30/2009 10:42 AM

SUBPOENA REQUEST FORMS



S:\Phoenix MIL\785115-10-0004 (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	5/12/2010 12:23 PM
Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	5/12/2010 12:17 PM
Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	5/12/2010 10:59 AM
Outlook Item	41 KB	4/2/2010 3:13 PM
Outlook Item	52 KB	4/2/2010 3:11 PM
Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	3/23/2010 5:26 PM
Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	3/23/2010 4:59 PM
Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	3/19/2010 1:17 PM
Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	3/8/2010 11:42 AM
Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	3/8/2010 11:41 AM
Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	1/13/2010 1:40 PM
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Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	1/11/2010 2:27 PM
Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	1/11/2010 2:24 PM
Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	1/7/2010 4:19 PM
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Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	12/23/2009 3:05 PM
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Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	12/4/2009 2:06 PM
Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	12/4/2009 12:35 PM
Microsoft Office Word Document	14 KB	12/4/2009 12:19 PM
Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	12/3/2009 7:29 AM
Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	12/3/2009 7:28 AM
Microsoft Office Word Document	14 KB	12/3/2009 7:27 AM
Microsoft Office Word Document	15 KB	12/3/2009 7:26 AM

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S:\Phoenix VII\7E5115-10-000 (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

My Documents
My Computer
My Network Places

Microsoft Office Word Document	14 KB	11/23/2009 2:51 PM
Outlook Item	210 KB	11/23/2009 3:41 PM
Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	27 KB	11/23/2009 4:36 PM
Microsoft Office Word Document	14 KB	11/23/2009 4:39 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	1 KB	12/2/2009 7:25 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	66 KB	12/2/2009 7:33 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	66 KB	12/2/2009 7:33 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	66 KB	12/2/2009 7:35 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	66 KB	12/2/2009 7:35 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	66 KB	12/2/2009 7:37 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	66 KB	12/2/2009 11:40 PM
Outlook Item	233 KB	12/3/2009 12:02 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	31 KB	3/13/2010 7:33 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	24 KB	3/13/2010 7:38 PM

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S:\Phoenix\11\785115-10-0004 (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	8 KB	3/10/2010 5:59 PM
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Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	1 KB	5/25/2010 2:07 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	9 KB	5/25/2010 1:46 PM
Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	130 KB	3/19/2010 9:57 AM
Rich Text Format	115 KB	5/27/2010 4:40 PM
Microsoft Office Word Document	11 KB	5/25/2010 12:50 PM
Adobe Acrobat Document	26 KB	8/17/2010 10:51 AM

(b) (7)(E)

- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

(b) (7)(E)

S:\Phoenix\011705115-10-00 (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	16 KB	7/8/2010 11:25 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	22 KB	7/8/2010 11:00 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	43 KB	4/9/2010 1:09 PM
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Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	104 KB	3/8/2010 9:17 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	9 KB	3/8/2010 9:05 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	52 KB	3/8/2010 9:01 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	5 KB	2/23/2010 11:53 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	2 KB	2/23/2010 11:11 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	4 KB	2/23/2010 9:56 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	7 KB	2/22/2010 10:57 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	12 KB	2/16/2010 12:40 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	24 KB	2/16/2010 12:25 PM
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Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	14 KB	2/16/2010 12:14 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	5 KB	2/5/2010 2:52 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	44 KB	2/4/2010 4:32 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	94 KB	2/4/2010 10:02 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	10 KB	2/4/2010 9:49 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	55 KB	2/4/2010 9:28 AM
PLC File	29 KB	1/29/2010 4:46 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	71 KB	1/29/2010 12:11 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	135 KB	1/29/2010 10:23 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	14 KB	1/29/2010 10:14 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	73 KB	1/29/2010 10:07 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	137 KB	1/20/2010 7:04 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	209 KB	1/20/2010 3:30 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	12 KB	1/20/2010 3:25 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	16 KB	1/20/2010 1:35 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	2 KB	1/20/2010 1:36 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	20 KB	1/20/2010 1:14 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	27 KB	1/7/2010 4:38 PM
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Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	41 KB	1/5/2010 11:32 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	95 KB	12/29/2009 5:05 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	158 KB	12/29/2009 11:05 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	13 KB	12/29/2009 10:29 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	2 KB	12/3/2009 12:29 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	1 KB	12/3/2009 12:22 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	9 KB	12/3/2009 12:19 AM

(b) (7)(E)

S:\Phoenix VII\785115-10-00 (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

(b) (7)(E) (7)(E)

Outbok Item	188 KB	7/21/2010 10:03 AM
Outbok Item	190 KB	7/19/2010 8:33 AM
Outbok Item	190 KB	7/19/2010 8:33 AM
Outbok Item	361 KB	6/10/2010 10:09 PM
Outbok Item	166 KB	6/3/2010 12:14 PM
Outbok Item	168 KB	5/22/2010 6:17 PM
Outbok Item	188 KB	5/16/2010 8:40 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	224 KB	4/9/2010 4:16 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	4 KB	4/9/2010 1:01 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	22 KB	4/9/2010 12:44 PM
Outbok Item	166 KB	3/24/2010 8:09 AM
Outbok Item	166 KB	3/24/2010 8:08 AM
Outbok Item	648 KB	3/24/2010 7:57 AM
Outbok Item	166 KB	3/17/2010 12:56 AM
Outbok Item	2,29...	3/13/2010 8:36 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Worksheet	150 KB	3/13/2010 8:34 PM
Microsoft Office Word Document	12 KB	3/13/2010 4:56 PM
Outbok Item	168 KB	3/13/2010 4:34 PM
Outbok Item	168 KB	3/13/2010 4:34 PM
Outbok Item	166 KB	3/13/2010 4:34 PM
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Adobe Acrobat Document	182 KB	3/11/2010 6:22 PM
Outbok Item	52 KB	3/10/2010 9:54 PM
Outbok Item	870 KB	3/10/2010 9:48 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	22 KB	3/10/2010 9:40 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	6 KB	3/10/2010 9:21 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	48 KB	3/10/2010 9:00 PM
Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	130 KB	3/9/2010 11:40 AM
Outbok Item	220 KB	2/5/2010 11:45 AM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	1 KB	2/4/2010 10:28 AM
Microsoft Office Word Document	67 KB	2/3/2010 10:08 AM
Outbok Item	188 KB	2/1/2010 10:27 AM
Outbok Item	166 KB	2/1/2010 10:27 AM
Outbok Item	184 KB	1/13/2010 3:21 PM
Outbok Item	188 KB	1/3/2010 7:09 PM
Microsoft Office Excel Comma Separated Values File	1 KB	12/30/2009 11:17 AM
Outbok Item	166 KB	12/23/2009 3:00 PM
Outbok Item	188 KB	12/4/2009 1:05 PM
Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Document	198 KB	12/3/2009 12:01 AM

PHOTOS

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785115-10-0004
My Documents
My Computer
My Network Places



(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

File Folder		3/20/2010 1:21 PM
File Folder		3/20/2010 4:28 PM
File Folder		3/29/2010 2:38 PM
File Folder		3/29/2010 2:43 PM
File Folder		3/29/2010 2:45 PM
File Folder		12/30/2009 2:36 PM
File Folder		11/27/2009 3:20 PM
File Folder		11/28/2009 12:07 AM
File Folder		12/7/2009 10:42 AM
File Folder		2/24/2010 11:53 AM
File Folder		12/9/2009 10:52 AM
File Folder		12/9/2009 10:30 AM
File Folder		1/15/2011 11:25 AM
File Folder		12/10/2009 1:43 PM
File Folder		12/10/2009 1:52 PM
File Folder		12/17/2009 5:12 PM
File Folder		12/7/2009 10:59 AM
File Folder		12/7/2009 10:51 AM
File Folder		12/7/2009 10:55 AM
File Folder		1/26/2010 1:42 PM
File Folder		1/5/2010 7:44 PM
File Folder		12/14/2009 9:26 AM
File Folder		12/12/2009 9:19 PM
Video Clip	135,118 KB	11/19/2009 1:08 PM
WinZip File	335 KB	3/26/2010 11:10 AM

Mexicali Firearms Recovery Pics
 Mexicali Pics
 Nogales Firearms Recovery on 12-3-09, Atf custody 12-11-09 (b) (7)(C)
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Power Points

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 round-up brief.pptx	Microsoft Office Po...	12,305 KB	1/21/2011 3:44 PM
 Fast & Furious.pptx	Microsoft Office Po...	6,716 KB	1/21/2011 3:41 PM

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My Documents
My Computer
My Network Places

RECEIPTS



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- 785115-10-0004
- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

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File Folder	2/19/2010 6:53 PM
File Folder	12/14/2009 10:04 AM
File Folder	1/9/2010 5:24 PM
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File Folder	12/12/2009 9:04 PM
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- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

Sources of Info (SIs)

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	Sources of Information.docx	Microsoft Office Word Document	11 KB	2/14/2011 9:56 AM
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- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

Surveillance - Suspect PPT

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Surveillance - Suspect Info.pptx	Microsoft Office PowerPoint Presentation	1,329 KB	2/24/2010 2:06 PM
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- 785115-10-0004
- My Documents
- My Computer
- My Network Places

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 1:34 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Mexican Trace Data Q&As
Attachments: QAMexicanTraceDatamaw (3)(2).docx

FYI – I'm reviewing this right now...

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell: (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 1:08 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Mexican Trace Data Q&As

(b) (7)(C)

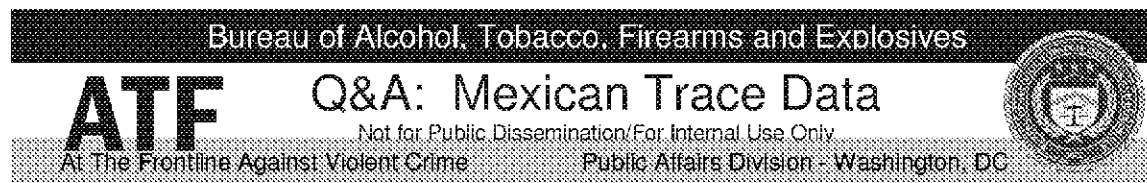
(b) (7)(C) told me to share the Mexican Trace Data Q&As with you. Once you approve could you please put a date by your name at the bottom and e-mail back to me.

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)
Public Affairs Division
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
99 New York Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20226
(b) (7)(C)
(202) 648.(b) (7)(C) Office
(b) (7)(C) BlackBerry

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Mexican Trace Data (March 15, 2011)

Q. In October 2010 the Washington Post reported “the Mexican government often says that 90 percent of the weapons it confiscates come from the United States. In 2009 testimony before Congress, the ATF director Kenneth Melson gave that same figure. Can you account for the drastic decline?”

A. When initially reported, the percentages (90 percent) were accurate. Though now the percentages may be lower, perhaps due to a lack of critical firearms indicators on the trace requests, the sheer number US-sourced guns in Mexico is a problem.

Q. According to the Center for Public Integrity during an ATF operation called “Fast and Furious” in Arizona ATF agents may have let as in excess of 2000 firearms “walk” across the border into Mexico, does the 2010 trace data take those firearms into account?

A. Once recovered in Mexico and submitted to ATF, the ATF National Tracing Center, would have been asked to run a trace on all the firearms once the agents had a list or got a list from the FFL’s records of all associated with the straw purchaser/firearms trafficker.

Fast and Furious is still an ongoing prosecution so I cannot talk specifically. However, I do know that of the guns associated with it, 797 of the guns were eventually recovered and traced 160 of those were recovered in Mexico and are included in the 2010 totals. It is important to note, the reporting requirement ATF proposed is proactive and can point to traffickers before a gun is used in a crime.

Q. How do you justify 160 guns involved in an ATF investigation crossing the border into Mexico?

A. If one gun gets away on our watch and ends up in the hands of someone who harms an innocent person it is too many. But the sheer number of firearms recovered in Mexico and traced back to a United States source is evidence there is a problem and we are doing everything we can within the law to stop firearms trafficking across the border.

Q. In September 2010 a report by Mayors Against Illegal Guns titled *Issue Brief: The Movement of Illegal Guns Across the U.S.-Mexico Border* stated that the time-to-crime statistic for U.S. guns recovered in Mexico, had decreased dramatically to less than less than 3 years in 2009. Is this still the issue for U.S. gun recovered in Mexico?

A. ATF cannot comment on the Mayors Against Illegal Guns report. However, in 2010 the average time-to-crime for U.S. guns recovered in Mexico was 11.3 years. Of the guns with a

time-to-crime of three years or less, the vast majority are the highly sought 7.62 and .223 caliber firearms, the guns of choice by Mexico's drug trafficking organizations.

Q. In November 2010 an OIG review of ATF's Project Gunrunner cited a June 2009 Government Accountability Office report which estimated that trace data was submitted to ATF on less than a quarter of the guns seized in Mexico. In addition, the report said most trace requests that are submitted to ATF from Mexico are considered "unsuccessful" because of missing or improperly entered gun data. Has this problem been corrected so Mexico can get more accurate trace results?

A. ATF has provided Mexican law enforcement with training in firearms identification and the use of a Spanish language version of eTrace. Overtime, the Mexican officials began to see the importance of tracing as an investigative tool.

Q. What about the disk ATF received from Mexico with serial numbers of firearms they needed traced?

A. In September 2009, the government of Mexico provided ATF with electronic files containing firearms identifiers and recovery data. The electronic files contain information that initiated over 43,000 firearm traces, excluding duplicates, with most having recovery years ranging from calendar year 2007 to 2009. Once each trace was initiated, it was organized by year of recovery. With the influx of trace data from these electronic files, the number of firearms listed as recovered in 2009 and traced has increased from earlier releases of information.

Q. What is involved in a firearms trace?

A. When a firearm is recovered at a crime scene, law enforcement officers contact the National Tracing Center with information about the firearm (make, model, caliber, serial number, and importer (if necessary)). The National Tracing Center then contacts the manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer to ascertain the purchaser. At minimum, NTC can determine whether or not the firearm is sourced from the United States, meaning manufactured or imported here legally for sale.

Q. What are the firearms of choice by drug trafficking organizations in Mexico?

A. Based on the trace data of firearms recovered at crime scenes in Mexico we see more high caliber, semi-automatic firearms like the .223 and 7.62 caliber used and recovered in crimes in Mexico.

Q. Director Melson has been quoted in the past saying ATF would not release Mexican trace stats anymore because people on both sides of the gun rights issue use the data for their own gain. Why did ATF have a change of heart?

A. ATF is not reporting just the percentages – but the actual number of firearms recovered, traced and sourced from the United States. By reporting the actual numbers, a true picture

develops of the number of U.S. sourced crime guns are being recovered in Mexico – thus showing the public the gravity of the problem.

Q. What does ATF mean by the phrase “Time-to-Crime?”

A. Time-to-Crime refers to the length of time from the initial purchase date of the firearm to the date the firearm is recovered at a crime scene. It can be a valuable piece of information for investigators, especially when looking at firearms trafficking schemes.

Q. Which U.S. state is has the largest number of firearms recovered in Mexico?

A. Since 2007 trace data has shown Texas as the number one source state for firearms recovered in Mexico, followed by Arizona.

Q. Why are the number of guns traced back to the states such a small number?

A. Traces included in the Mexican trace data are those which NTC is able to identify a purchaser and the dealer where the firearm was purchased. If can't trace the firearm back to initial purchaser then we can't determine the state of origin.

Q. What is a successful trace?

A. A successful trace is one in which the firearm can be traced back to its manufacturer or importer in the U.S.

Q. What factors could contribute to an unsuccessful trace result with a firearm recovered in Mexico?

A. Some reasons for traces not identifying an individual purchaser include incomplete data on trace request, the firearms was too old to trace, the firearm serial number was invalid, incomplete out-of-business records and altered or obliterated serial numbers.

Q. Why have the statistics dropped so dramatically between 2008 and 2010?

A. While the overall number of traces has dropped between 2008 and 2010, there were 4506 rifles recovered in Mexico that ATF was able to trace back to a U.S. source. The sheer number of traces and the continued violence cannot be ignored.

Q. Are US efforts working?

A. U.S. efforts along the Southwest Border are working but we believe more can be done to stop the flow of firearms from the U.S. into Mexico. Multiple sales reporting of long guns along the Southwest Border would provide ATF with another law enforcement tool to stop the violence along the Mexico-U.S. border.

Q. Why do you need multiple sales reporting for long guns if the numbers are dropping? Do 549 .223s and 7.62s justify multiple sales reporting?

A. The Mexican trace data shows that the firearms of choice for Mexican drug trafficking organizations are long guns.

Q. Did ATF have reason to believe that suspects under investigation were trafficking guns to Mexico?

A. The number one concern for ATF is interdicting guns that are unlawfully transferred to persons in the U.S. and in Mexico who will then commit crimes with those guns. The purpose of any trafficking investigation is to locate those guns, interdict those guns and bring those responsible for their unlawful purchase, transfer, finance and use to justice.

Q. Did ATF knowingly allow guns to travel from the United States to Mexico because investigators believed suspects would traffic guns there?

A. ATF did not engage in an effort to allow guns to travel from the U.S. to Mexico. In short, the law does not permit agents to take guns away from anyone who buys 10 AKs at a time solely because they bought multiple guns. In these investigations, there may come a point over the course of an investigation where ATF believes, though it is well short of proof beyond a reasonable doubt require in criminal cases, that they can prove that a particular person only buys guns for the purpose of illegal trafficking. However, seizure of the guns at that point may not be legal because purchasing multiple long guns in Arizona is lawful, transferring them to another is lawful and even sale or barter of the guns to another is lawful unless the United States can prove by clear and convincing evidence that the firearm is intended to be used to commit a crime.

Q. Did ATF knowingly allow guns to travel from the United States to Mexico because investigators watched suspects trafficking guns there?

A. ATF did not knowingly allow guns to travel from the U.S. to Mexico. The number one concern for ATF is interdicting guns that are unlawfully transferred to persons in the U.S. and in Mexico who will then commit crimes with those guns. The purpose of any trafficking investigation is to locate those guns, interdict those guns and bring those responsible for their unlawful purchase, transfer, finance and use to justice.

Approved by:

AD McDermond

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) FO

(b) (7)(C) 3/15/2011

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:59 AM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: FW:

Attachments: Untitled; Detroit Field Division; Untitled; Firearms Trafficking; International Border Questions; Untitled; Answer to questions; Mexico FA Trafficking SPFD

I do not see Detroit ROI but will get it.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.5.129

202.648-(b) (7)(C), cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: McMahon, William G.

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:23 AM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: FW:

Central's responses. Detroit was yes to the controlled delivery of firearms to Canada. The UI is attached to their response. Also, see Boxler's comment below.

William G. McMahon
Deputy Assistant Director (West)
Office of Field Operations
Office - (202) 648-(b) (7)(C)

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From: Boxler, Michael B.

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:19 AM

To: McMahon, William G.

Subject:

Still waiting to hear from Kansas City. Verbally they told the AD no.

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From: Vido, Paul J.
Sent: ~~Employee 4~~ March 18, 2011 10:35:28 AM
To: Boxler, Michael B.
Subject: Answer to questions

2077

Mike regarding our conversation yeaterday the answer to both of your questions is negative. Also I will be taking a half day of leave today. ASAC Pappas will be in the office and I can be reached by phone. Thanks

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From: Brandon, Thomas E.
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 3:36 PM
To: Boxler, Michael B.
Subject: Detroit Field Division

1. Yes.
2. No.
3. 774010-08-0011

Thomas E. Brandon
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Detroit Field Division

(b) (7)(C)

From: Durham, Phillip M.
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 5:21 PM
To: Boxler, Michael B.
Subject: Firearms Trafficking

Mike – we have canvassed all of our supervisors, who checked with their agents, and the answer to both of your questions is no. We have back-tracked and made cases on subjects who already took guns outside of the U.S., before we knew about it, that were recovered and traced back here.

Phil

From: Gant, Gregory K.
Sent: ~~Employee 4~~ March 18, 2011 4:52:01 PM
To: Boxler, Michael B.
Subject: International Border Questions

2080

Mike,

The answer is "no" to the 2 questions you asked yesterday.

Gregory K Gant
Special Agent in Charge
Atlanta Field Division
Bureau of ATF
Office (404) 417-2600
Direct (404) 417-(b) (7)(C)
Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Zapor, Bernard J.
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 11:00 AM
To: Boxler, Michael B.
Subject: Mexico FA Trafficking SPFD
Attachments: Case Timeline.docx

Mike:

1. We have not had any operations/investigations that allowed any firearms to knowingly enter the Republic of Mexico.
2. We have not had any operations/investigations where we witnessed firearms entering the Republic of Mexico.

Attached for you information is the timeline of Operation Big Musky (FA trafficking to Mexico).

(b) (7)(C)

Special Agent in Charge
ATF St. Paul Field Division
651-726 (b) (7)(C)

778065-09-0050 OPERATION: BIG MUSKY CASE TIMELINE

January 2009	Mexican Government Officials turns over to ATF firearm data for approximately 11,900 firearms for tracing.
February 13, 2009	Firearm Trace on a Ruger P89 is initiated by ATF. The Ruger is one of the 11,900 firearms submitted for tracing.
February 19, 2009	The Ruger is traced back to (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C) (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)
February 23, 2009	(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)
February 25, 2009	(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C)
March 2, 2009	SA (b) (7)(C) ins investigation.
March 3, 2009	Case opened in N-Force.
March 3, 2009	USAO briefed.
March 19, 2009	(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)
April 14, 2009	(b) (7)(C) is interviewed by Minnesota State Patrol where he relates he brings items (cars, clothes, and appliances) to Mexico to sell.
May 13, 2009	(b) (7)(E)
June 1, 2009	(b) (7)(E)
June 3, 2009	(b) (7)(E)
June 16, 2009	(b) (7)(E)
July 7, 2009	(b) (7)(E)
July 8, 2009	OCDETF approved.
July 9, 2009	(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)
July 15, 2009	(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

August 14, 2009 (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

August 27- October 19, 2009 (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

October 1, 2009 (b) (7)(E)

October 2, 2009 (b) (7)(E)

October 15, 2009 (b) (7)(E)

October 20, 2009 (b) (7)(E)

October 21, 2009 (b) (7)(E)

November 1-15, 2009 (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

November 16, 2009 (b) (7)(C) rrested in Laredo, TX with firearms bound for Mexico.

From: Anderson, (Andy) Glenn N.
Sent: ~~Employee 4~~ March 18, 2011 7:45:57 AM

2084

To: Boxler, Michael B.
CC: Cooper, Larry; Gerido, Steven L.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject:

Mike the answer to both questions we discussed yesterday is no. ASAC Cooper will forward you a UL number concerning case we discussed.

FYI I am going to be on sick leave today. Wife is sick with flu and kids are home for spring break. Don't want the inmates running the asylum. Call me on cell if needed.

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From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 3:02 PM

To: Boxler, Michael B.

CC: Browning, Robert J.

Subject:

In response to the two questions you asked the SAC, I have queried all of the supervisor's and the answer is "No" to both questions.



From: Traver, Andrew L.
Sent: ~~Employee 4~~ March 18, 2011 10:17:35 AM
To: Boxler, Michael B.
Subject:

2086

Mike: Good morning. Regarding yesterday's conversation:

1. NO
2. NO

Thanks.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:05 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: CBP Agents Find Grenade Launcher, Assault Rifles Near Border - Rio Grande City, TX
--MMC IOI #1542-11

ok

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:02 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: CBP Agents Find Grenade Launcher, Assault Rifles Near Border - Rio Grande City, TX --MMC IOI #1542-11

Yes. This was initiated by DEA. (b) (7)(E). They in turn called us and we (ATF, DEA, BP) all went out on it. I would not put too much faith in the statement by BP spokesperson though. If you need further explanation please give me a call.

(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:24 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: CBP Agents Find Grenade Launcher, Assault Rifles Near Border - Rio Grande City, TX --MMC IOI #1542-11

FYI - Is your group the ones handling this?

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.548. (b) (7)(C) Ce (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 10:14 AM
To: (b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: CBP Agents Find Grenade Launcher, Assault Rifles Near Border - Rio Grande City, TX --MMC IOI #1542-11

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From: NOC Media Monitoring
To: Undisclosed recipients
Sent: Thu Mar 17 18:44:38 2011
Subject: CBP Agents Find Grenade Launcher, Assault Rifles Near Border - Rio Grande City, TX --MMC IOI #1542-11
NOC Media Monitoring Capability - Traditional Media
Title: Grenade launcher, assault rifles found near Rio Grande
Location: Texas
NOC MMC CIR #3: Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

Excerpt from News Article:

U.S. Border Patrol agents seized a grenade launcher, assault rifles and hundreds of rounds of ammunition near the Rio Grande.

Agents stationed in Rio Grande City confiscated the arsenal Wednesday in Fronton after spotting a pickup near the river and then drive away.

According to a news release, the agents discovered footprints and found a large duffel bag hidden in the

brush.

Inside the bag agents found eight AK-47 assault rifles, two AR-15 assault rifles, two grenades, nearly 350 rounds of ammunition of varying calibers, several 30-round magazines and a 40 mm grenade launcher.

The McAllen Police Department's Bomb Squad was called to detonate the grenades.

"The seizure of these weapons near the river indicates that weapons smugglers are having a hard time getting their contraband into Mexico via the normal points of entry," a border patrol spokesman said. "Therefore, they are taking more desperate measures and trying to get them across the river through various other methods."

The weapons and ammunition were turned over to the ATF.

Sources (some page content may change or not be available over time):

- **The Brownsville Herald**

-- <http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/news/grande-124039-rio-assault.html>

(b) (7)(C)

Operations Analyst

DHS NOC Media Monitoring

Phone: 202-895-7620 ext. (b) (7)(C)

Cell: (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:23 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: CBP Agents Find Grenade Launcher, Assault Rifles Near Border - Rio Grande City, TX
--MMC IOI #1542-11

FYI - Is your group the ones handling this?

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Tel (b) (7)(C)

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To: Undisclosed recipients
Sent: Thu Mar 17 18:44:38 2011
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Location: Texas
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The weapons and ammunition were turned over to the ATF.

Sources (some page content may change or not be available over time):

- **The Brownsville Herald**

-- <http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/news/grande-124039-rio-assault.html>

(b) (7)(C)

Operations Analyst

DHS NOC Media Monitoring

Phone: 202-895-7620 ext (b) (7)(C)

Cell: (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 6:02 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: OCDETF Proposal (FF)
Attachments: The Fast and The Furious.doc; The Fast and The Furious narrative.doc

FYI

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 6:01 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) Needles, James R.
Subject: FW: OCDETF Proposal (FF)

Attached is electronic "clean" copy as well as the supporting narrative document.

According to email below, it was approved 1/26/10. OCDETF #: SWAZP0496

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 5:55 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: OCDETF Proposal

FYI

NOTICE: THIS E-MAIL MESSAGE AND ANY ATTACHED FILES ARE INTENDED SOLELY FOR THE USE OF THE ADDRESSEE(S) NAMED ABOVE IN CONNECTION WITH OFFICIAL BUSINESS. THIS COMMUNICATION MAY CONTAIN SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION THAT MAY BE STATUTORILY OR

OTHERWISE PROHIBITED FROM BEING RELEASED WITHOUT APPROPRIATE APPROVAL. ANY REVIEW, USE, OR DISSEMINATION OF THIS E-MAIL MESSAGE AND ANY ATTACHED FILE(S) IN ANY FORM OUTSIDE OF THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS & EXPLOSIVES OR THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WITHOUT EXPRESS AUTHORIZATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2011 5:32 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: FW: OCDETF Proposal

Original proposal. Was eventually assigned the following OCDETF #: SWAZP0496

Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
Phoenix Field Division (Arizona and New Mexico)
Office - (602)776-5400

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 11:26 AM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: FW: OCDETF Proposal

Bill --

(b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) OCDETF proposal was unanimously passed today at the USAO. This investigation is currently (b) (7)(E)
(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)
(b) (7)(E) Purchases have significantly slowed for now as the "straws" are waiting for a significant cash infusion to make some "large" purchases, whatever those might be.

George T. Gillett
Assistant Special Agent in Charge
ATF - Phoenix Field Division
Office: (602) 776-5400

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 6:00 PM
To: (b) (7)(C); Needles, James R.
Subject: FW: OCDETF Proposal (FF)
Attachments: The Fast and The Furious.doc; The Fast and The Furious narrative.doc

Attached is electronic "clean" copy as well as the supporting narrative document.

According to email below, it was approved 1/26/10. OCDETF #: SWAZP0496

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
292.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 5:55 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: OCDETF Proposal

FYI

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Sent: Friday, January 28, 2011 5:32 PM
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Original proposal. Was eventually assigned the following OCDETF #: SWAZP0496

Bill Newell
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Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
Phoenix Field Division (Arizona and New Mexico)
Office - (602)776-5400

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(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E) Purchases have significantly slowed for now as the “straws” are waiting for a significant cash infusion to make some “large” purchases, whatever those might be.

George T. Gillett
Assistant Special Agent in Charge
ATF - Phoenix Field Division
Office (602) 776-5400

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 5:45 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: FF nforce narrative

fyi

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.548 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 5:29 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW:

(b) (7)(C)

Please see the below e-mail chain from (b) (7)(C) in reference to the master ROI list he sent me last week. It looks as though 3 ROI's are not in the list and (b) (7)(C) name should be removed.

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 8:49 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE:

No problem. There was one more thing I noticed about the document that you should delete from the master copy. The first few lines of the document, shown below, are just references point from the query I used to create this document. The person, (b) (7)(C) had nothing to do with this effort and his name should be deleted from all your copies to prevent any future questions or confusion about who he is.

SBU
ATF
SEA
NFORCE
20110310

(b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Office
(b) (7)(C) Mobile

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 8:42 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE:

Thanks for the heads up (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 2:22 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW:

One more thing: These are the 3 event narratives that were not reported on in an ROI as of this report.

- Firearm Recovery linked to Purchase by (b) (7)(C)
- Meeting with (b) (7)(C) Defense Counsel at USAO, Phoenix, AZ
- Arrest and Interview of (b) (7)(C) on 2/2/2011, El Paso, Texas

(b) (7)(C)
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Office
(b) (7)(C) Mobile

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 2:08 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE:

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, NFOCIS
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Office

(b) (7)(C) Mobile

(b) (7)(C)

National Field Office Case Information System
The Home of ATF's Official Case Management System
ATF National Headquarters, Suites 8E352-8E449
99 New York Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20226

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 9:00 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject:

(b) (7)(C)

Can you give me a call in reference to an Nforce query question?

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

SPECIAL AGENT (b) (7)(C)
PROJECT OFFICER
OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS
FIREARMS OPERATIONS DIVISION
CELL (b) (7)(C)
DESK (202) 648- (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Employee 4 March 21, 2011 12:48:20 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject:

2144

In
Rol
Date
Oc Op (yes/no
Surv of person(s)
Pre-identified as suspect(s)
Prohibited?
Initiated at FFL
Initiated at other location
Suspect(s) in possession of guns
Observe meet with other person(s)
Other person(s) ID?
Other person(s) a suspect?
Surv to a residence
Suspect(s)/car/guns entered residence?
Surv ended with stop/interview?
Surv ended with stop/seizure?
Surv ended without stop?
Reason lost target
Reason - suspicious driving
Reason - no violation/no activity
Surveillance to border FOE area?
Border crossing/no stop planned?
Border crossing/stop planned but unsuccessful?
Border crossing/stop planned and successful?
Controlled border crossing with interdiction planned?
Controlled border crossing with interdiction successful?
Controlled border crossing with interdiction unsuccessful?

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Employee 4 March 21, 2011 8:23:36 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Staff today sounds good. Do u have anything for me to report?

2145

No. I'll follow up with Vcvt team. I have your swb memo

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

Original Message

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Mon Mar 21 08:16:28 2011
Subject: Re: Staff today sounds good. Do u have anything for me to report?

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Mon Mar 21 08:10:44 2011
Subject: Staff today

My train is significantly delayed. I'm meeting with FF team at 10am. Your call as to whether to have "staff" this morning with others.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Employee 4 March 21, 2011 8:10:44 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Staff Today

2146

My train is significantly delayed. I'm meeting with FF team at 10am. Your call as to whether to have "staff" this morning with others.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202 648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Employee 4 March 21, 2011 8:09:16 AM
To: Needles, James R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Train delay

2147

I'm hitting several big delays on inbound train. Should be in by 830 or so.

Jim and (b) (7)(C) can give (b) (7)(C) an overview of assignment if he arrives and I'm not in yet.

I have 1 hour portion of annual physical when I arrive. Let's plan on a 10AM meeting to discuss plans, office space, etc.

(b) (7)(C) I'll get you the FF reports back when I arrive.

Jim you can get copy(s) from (b) (7)(C) cabinet.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 1:56 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Subject: FW: Guidance on Firearms Trafficking Investigations

Attachments: Guidance on FT Inv..jpg

All - attached is a memo from the ADFO to the field reinforcing ATF policy regarding firearms trafficking investigations and communicating recent DOJ guidance.

Please contact me with any questions. Thank you.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 4:57 PM

To: Priority Items - Field Operations Public Folders; All Special Agents in Charge

Subject: Guidance on Firearms Trafficking Investigations

THIS E-MAIL IS APPROVED AND AT THE DIRECTION OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – FIELD OPERATIONS

Attached you will find a memorandum reinforcing ATF's policy regarding firearms trafficking investigations. Please review this document and ensure that it is provided to all special agents in your respective field divisions.

If you have any questions, please contact the AD/FO's office.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief of Staff

Field Management Staff

Desk: 202-648.(b) (7)(C) Cellular: (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 1:13 PM
To: Needles, James R.
Subject: RE: Operation Wide Receiver - Firearms Summary

Can (as they requested in other case) the recoveries be broken down as ATF, rest of US LE, and MX?

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.548 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: Needles, James R.
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 1:11 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Operation Wide Receiver - Firearms Summary

FYI

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 1:21:43 PM
To: (b) (7)(C); McMahon, William G.
Subject: AD/DOJ FT Guidance memo 031711

Attachments: FT AD-DOJ Trafficking Guidance 031711.docx



FT AD-DOJ
Trafficking
Guidance
031711.docx
(17 kB)

Bill – I'm headed down with the original/yellow for signature.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C)Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Employee 4, March 15, 2011 7:11:55 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW:

2240

Attachments: 20110311120836094.pdf

This is a little vague... if we took off these, will (b) (7)(C) to pick up others?

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

-----Original Message-----
From: Significant Activity Report
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 1:23 PM
To: SAR/SIR Message Delivery
Subject: FW:

From: Smith, Charles E.
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 1:23:01 PM
To: Significant Activity Report
Cc: Champion, Robert R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW:
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Reviewed and approved.

Charlie Smith
ASAC
Dallas Field Division
469-227-4300 Office
469 227 (b) (7)(C) Direct
(b) (7)(C) Cell

Original Message
From: ATF@atf.gov [mailto:ATF@atf.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 11:09 AM
To: Smith, Charles E.
Subject:

This E mail was sent from "RNPEF9D20" (Aficio MP 5000).

Scan Date: 03.11.2011 12:08:35 (-0500)
Queries to: ATF@atf.gov

DATE: 03/11/2011

FROM: Dallas Field Division

FIELD OFFICE: Dallas III (Firearms Trafficking) Field Office

CASE INFORMATION

CASE NUMBER: 781015-11-0044

CASE TITLE: Southbound Guns

SPECIAL AGENT:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY

Interception of 2 Barrett .50 caliber rifles destined for Reynosa, Mexico and the Gulf Cartel (DTO)

NARRATIVE OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY

On March 9, 2011, ATF Dallas Group III received information from McAllen HIDTA that (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) had been contacted about picking up 2 rifles in Dallas and returning them to Reynosa, Mexico for the Gulf Cartel. (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)

On March 10, 2011, two McAllen HIDTA Task Force Officers met with Group III agents (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D). Numerous telephone calls were made between (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) until a meeting location and time was established with the Dallas suspect.

At approximately 4:45, ATF SA (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) in Irving, TX. (b) (7)(C) went inside an auto mechanic shop and produced two pelican cases and gave them to SA (b) (7)(C). Once the delivery was made, (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D) left the area. Inside the pelican cases were Barrett .50 caliber rifles, one which was fitted with a computerized scope.

During the multiple conversations between (b) (7)(C), it was learned that there were two additional rifles that needed to be picked up in the Dallas area and that there were also AK47 rifles that needed transportation to Reynosa from Ohio and Indianapolis.

The investigation continues with efforts to obtain the two additional rifles in Dallas and to possibly work SA (b) (7)(C) into the organization.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 6:20 PM
To: Chait, Mark R.; (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C); Rubenstein, Steve R.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Draft Firearms Trafficking Statement
Attachments: Firearms Trafficking Advisory.docx

I think this reads very well and is consistent with previous ATF and recent DOJ guidance.

Other than brevity, any reason not to include references to ATF Order 3310.4B, para 148 "Weapons Transfers", which includes description of various courses of action, or the Firearms Trafficking Investigation Guide, such as Section V - Firearms Trafficking Indicators, and Section X - Ready Reference Investigative Checklists and Sample Interviews (checklists for investigations of FFLs, Unlicensed Firearms Dealing, International Traffic in Arms, and Straw Purchases)?

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 4:35 PM
To: Chait, Mark R.
Cc: Rubenstein, Steve R.; Serres, Greg; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Draft Firearms Trafficking Statement

Per your request, attached is a draft document regarding firearms trafficking. We weren't sure how you wanted to disseminate it (memo, e-mail, etc.)

(b) (7)(C)

Associate Chief Counsel (Field Operations and Information)
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
U.S. Department of Justice
99 New York Ave. NE
Rm. 6E-441
Washington, DC 20226
202-648-(b) (7)(C) desk
(b) (7)(C) cell
202-648-9620-fax

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ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT PRIVILEGED DOCUMENT
ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION

This is to reiterate the Attorney General's recent statement with respect to firearms trafficking. It is the position of the Department of Justice that Federal law enforcement agencies "should not design or conduct undercover operations which include guns crossing the border. If we have any knowledge that guns are about to cross the border, we must take immediate action to stop the firearms from crossing the border, even if that prematurely terminates or otherwise jeopardizes an investigation."

As a reminder, in September 2010, ATF disseminated to all field divisions a policy document entitled "Project Gunrunner – A Cartel Focused Strategy." As noted therein, there are practical considerations that may require bringing investigations to a conclusion or dictate a change in investigative tactics prior to the identification of persons directly affiliated with Drug Trafficking Organizations. Examples include high volume trafficking investigations in which numerous diverted firearms identifiable with one or more purchasers are being used in violent crimes and recovered by law enforcement, and high volume trafficking investigations in which over an extended period ATF cannot reasonably determine where or to whom such firearms are being trafficked. You are reminded that SACs must closely monitor and approve such investigations, assessing the risks associated with prolonged investigation with limited or delayed interdiction. In some instances, the best answer may be to provide actionable intelligence to other law enforcement agencies and/or the Government of Mexico.

Field divisions should continue to coordinate with the U.S. Attorney's Offices for the districts in which they conduct operations to ensure a mutual understanding of the criteria for both prosecutions and seizures.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 5:56 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: F&F Fact Sheets

thanks

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 5:56 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Newell, William D.
Subject: Re: F&F Fact Sheets

(b) (5)
(b) (7)(C)
Chief
ATF Public Affairs Division

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Newell, William D.
Sent: Tue Mar 15 17:49:43 2011
Subject: RE: F&F Fact Sheets

(b) (7)(C) (b) (5)
[Redacted]

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 5:29 PM
To: Newell, William D.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: F&F Fact Sheets

(b) (5)
[Redacted]

(b) (7)(C)

Chief

ATF Public Affairs Division

Washington, DC

Desk 202-648-(b) (7)(C)

Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Newell, William D.

Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 4:36 PM

To: (b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Fw: F&F Fact Sheets

Importance: High

Do we have anything we can fwd to the Ambassador?

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From: (b) (7)(C) (Mexico City)

To: Newell, William D.

Cc: (b) (7)(C) (Mexico City)

Sent: Tue Mar 15 16:13:12 2011

Subject: F&F Fact Sheets

Hi Bill,

Sorry to interrupt what I'm sure is an incredibly busy schedule. The Ambassador is wondering (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5).

(b) (5)

Hope all is well

(b) (7)(C)

Employee 4

2246

(b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]

Staff Aide to the Ambassador

U.S. Embassy Mexico City

(b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]

office: 5080-2000 ext. (b) (7)(C)

cell (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]

cell from the US: (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 5:49 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: Newell, William D.
Subject: RE: F&F Fact Sheets

(b) (7)(C) - Could the material (talking points) developed for AD Chait prior to his Center for Public Integrity interview be revised for use as background material for this purpose?

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C), Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 5:29 PM
To: Newell, William D.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: F&F Fact Sheets

We don't have any fact sheet on this case as all media was handled by the division and USAO

(b) (7)(C)
Chief
ATF Public Affairs Division
Washington, DC
Desk 202-648 (b) (7)(C)
Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 4:36 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: F&F Fact Sheets
Importance: High

Do we have anything we can fwd to the Ambassador?

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in connection with official business. This communication may contain Sensitive But Unclassified information that may be statutorily or otherwise prohibited from being released without appropriate approval. Any review, use, or dissemination of this e-mail message and any attached file(s) in any form outside of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives or the Department of Justice without express authorization is strictly prohibited.

From: (b) (7)(C) Mexico City)
To: Newell, William D.
Cc: (b) (7)(C) (Mexico City)
Sent: Tue Mar 15 16:13:12 2011
Subject: F&F Fact Sheets
Hi Bill,

Sorry to interrupt what I'm sure is an incredibly busy schedule. The Ambassador is wondering if you know of any previously created Fact Sheets (by ATF or the state of AZ) that helped describe the F&F operation to the public.

Perhaps, something was created around the time of the Jan. press releases.

Could you let me know if they exist and, if they do, how I might get a copy?

Hope all is well

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)
Staff Aide to the Ambassador
U.S. Embassy Mexico City

(b) (7)(C)
office: 5080-2000 ext. (b) (7)(C)

cell: (b) (7)(C)
cell from the US: (b) (7)(C)

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Employee 4 March 14, 2011 3:54:43 PM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: FW: AZ CI (LES)

2249

Did you locate a July 2010 semi annual CI report?

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 3:46 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: AZ CI

Is there a July 2010 report?

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

(b) (7)(C)

Special Assistant to the Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 4:57 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: AZ CI

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

Original Message

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 4:31 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW:

Found the most recent one in the "To File" folder. Still trying to locate the July, 2010

memo. No change though in terms of monies paid. As you can see the only cases this CI is
assisted by are those related (b) [REDACTED] which are pending final adjudication. 2250.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 2:41 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Gun Show Initiative

Looks ok.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.5.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 12:13 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Gun Show Initiative

(b) (7)(C) as we discussed the other day, the gun show initiative might be a good manner in which to effect the Zetas and other cartels as a component of an inter-agency approach to deal with the tragic murder of ICE Agent Zapata.

(b) (5)
After looking into the shows we found that there are numerous shows in the SWB region just about every weekend. As you and I discussed the other day, it is better for the SWB SAC's to discuss options at the field level and to not have our respective HQ's try and dictate operations related to potentially working the shows. Some shows can be more problematic than others and have greater chance of encountering illegal weapons purchases. I do not have the needed knowledge to pick which shows would be best and therefore would recommend we rely on the (4) ATF SAC'S in Houston, Dallas, Phoenix and LA to plan any operations. I would propose that we recognize this operational element from the HQ level and then ask the respective Field Supervisors to work together to plan for any operations as they see fit. That would include coordinating with CBP so they are aware of the shows and any operations that may be planned in the short time. ATF routinely works the shows as part of our overall gun trafficking efforts and I do not want to get in the middle of any plans they have from here in HQ. Lets agree to alert our respective SAC's to discuss and plan as they see fit and we recognize it as one of the ongoing efforts as an inter-agency in dealing with the cartels.

(b) (7)(C)
ATF National Coordinator
Southwest Border/Project Gunrunner

(202) 648 (b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C) cell

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: ~~Employee 4~~ March 11, 2011 4:56:46 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: AZ CI

2252

Attachments: 20110311131911017.pdf

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

Original Message

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 4:31 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW:

Found the most recent one in the "To File" folder. Still trying to locate the July, 2010 memo. No change though in terms of monies paid. As you can see the only cases this CI is assisting with are those related to (b) (7)(D) which are pending final adjudication.



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

Tucson Group IV

Tucson, AZ 85701

www.atf.gov

January 5, 2011

785130:RMM
3252

MEMORANDUM TO: Special Agent in Charge
Phoenix Field Division

THRU: Resident Agent in Charge
Tucson IV Field Office

FROM: Special Agent (b) (7)(C)
Tucson IV Field Office

SUBJECT: Semi-Annual Informant Status

*GPL
1-19-11*

*RS
1-5-11*

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Semi-Annual Informant Status Report for (b) (7)(D)

SYNOPSIS:

Semi-Annually, the status of each informant currently identified by Special Agent (b) (7)(C) and approved for use by the field division must be updated.

NARRATIVE:

1. (b) (7)(D), (b) (7)(E)

2. (b) (7)(D)

Special Agent in Charge
Phoenix Field Division

3. (b) (7)(D)

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 4:39 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: what do you think?

I came down -- I'll be here for a while...

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 2:19 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: what do you think?

ATF did not authorize the transfer of firearms from Arizona to Mexico in the fast and Furious investigation and sought to identify, disrupt and dismantle a very active firearms trafficking cell of a violent cartel while being ever cognizant of US citizens second amendment right.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief
ATF Public Affairs Division
Washington, DC
Desk 202-648 (b) (7)(C)
Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 11:53 AM
To: Firearms Operations Division (FOD)
Subject: FW: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10
Attachments: #113555 - Mexico CY 2007.pdf; #113557 - Mexico CY 2008.pdf; #113556 - Mexico CY 2009.pdf; #113558 - Mexico CY 2010.pdf; FY10 FIREARMS DATA RESTRICTIONS.pdf; OSII-Survey Form.pdf

FYI

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648. (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: Martin, Steve K.
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 11:21 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

This is the data that will be published on the ATF website for public consumption.

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 3:51 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Ford, Larry W.; Martin, Steve K.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Deputy Division Chief (b) (7)(C)

Please find attached statistical studies for firearms recovered and traced in Mexico during Calendar Years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. The statistics are based on a query of the Firearms Tracing System on March 1, 2011 and exclude duplicate traces. The studies are intended for use on the ATF public website. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Please complete the attached OSII Customer Satisfaction Survey form. Click on the "Mail" box located at the bottom of the form and then click on "Send".

Please be advised that the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010, Public L. 111-117, which became effective on December 16, 2009, restricts the disclosure of any part of the contents of the Firearms Tracing System or any information required to be kept by Federal Firearms Licensees pursuant to 18 USC 923(g), or required to be reported pursuant to 18 USC 923(g)(3) and 923(g)(7).

The information, which is being provided per your request, is for official law enforcement use only and may only be disseminated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to a Federal, State, local, or tribal law enforcement agency, or a Federal, State, or local prosecutor; or a foreign law enforcement agency solely in connection with and for use in a criminal investigation or prosecution; or a

Federal agency for a national security or intelligence purpose. This disclosure restriction shall not be construed to prevent the sharing or exchange of such information among and between Federal, State, local, or foreign law enforcement agencies, Federal, State, or local prosecutors, and Federal national security, intelligence, or counterterrorism officials. Congress has prohibited the public release of any data by the recipient law enforcement agency. The publication of statistical aggregate data regarding firearms traffickers and trafficking channels, firearms misuse, felons, and trafficking investigations is exempt from the restriction. If you have questions regarding these restrictions please contact ATF legal counsel prior to disclosing any of the information provided in this correspondence outside of ATF.

Thank you,

(b) (7)(C)

*Supervisory Intelligence Program Specialist
Violent Crime Analysis Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives*

(b) (7)(C)

VIOLENT CRIME ANALYSIS BRANCH
FIREARMS DATA DISCLOSURE RESTRICTIONS

Please be advised that the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010, Public L. 111-117, which became effective on December 16, 2009, restricts the disclosure of any part of the contents of the Firearms Tracing System or any information required to be kept by Federal Firearms Licensees pursuant to 18 USC 923(g), or required to be reported pursuant to 18 USC 923(g)(3) and 923(g)(7).

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The Act, in pertinent part, provides that:

{N}o funds appropriated under this or any other Act may be used to disclose part or all of the contents of the Firearms Trace System database maintained by the National Trace Center of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives or any information required to be kept by licensees pursuant to section 923(g) of title 18, United States Code, or required to be reported pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (7) of such section 923(g), except to: (1) a Federal, State, local, or tribal law enforcement agency, or a Federal, State, or local prosecutor; or (2) a foreign law enforcement agency solely in connection with or for use in a criminal investigation or prosecution; or (3) a Federal agency for a national security or intelligence purpose; unless such disclosure of such data to any of the entities described in (1), (2) or (3) of this proviso would compromise the identity of any undercover law enforcement officer or confidential informant, or interfere with any case under investigation; and no person or entity described in (1), (2) or (3) shall knowingly and publicly disclose such data; and all such data shall be immune from legal process, shall not be subject to subpoena or other discovery, shall be inadmissible in evidence, and shall not be used, relied on, or disclosed in any manner, nor shall testimony or other evidence be permitted based on the data, in a civil action in any State (including the District of Columbia) or Federal court or in an administrative proceeding other than a proceeding commenced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to enforce the provisions of chapter 44 of such title, or a review of such an action or proceeding; except that this proviso shall not be construed to prevent: (A) the disclosure of statistical information concerning total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as defined in section 921(a)(9) of such title) and licensed manufacturer (as defined in section 921(a)(10) of such title); (B) the sharing or exchange of such information among and between Federal, State, local, or foreign law enforcement agencies, Federal, State, or local prosecutors, and Federal national security, intelligence, or counterterrorism officials; or (C) the publication of annual statistical reports on products regulated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, including total production, importation, and exportation by each licensed importer (as so defined) and licensed manufacturer (as so defined), or statistical aggregate data regarding firearms traffickers and trafficking channels, or firearms misuse, felons, and trafficking investigations.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 11:33 AM
To: Martin, Steve K.
Subject: RE: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Thanks

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.548. (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: Martin, Steve K.
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 11:21 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

**This is the data that will be published on the ATF website for public consumption.
Steve**

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 3:51 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Ford, Larry W.; Martin, Steve K.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Firearms Recovered and Traced in Mexico CYs 07 - 10

Deputy Division Chief (b) (7)(C)

Please find attached statistical studies for firearms recovered and traced in Mexico during Calendar Years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. The statistics are based on a query of the Firearms Tracing System on March 1, 2011 and exclude duplicate traces. The studies are intended for use on the ATF public website. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Please complete the attached OSII Customer Satisfaction Survey form. Click on the "Mail" box located at the bottom of the form and then click on "Send".

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intelligence, or counterterrorism officials. Congress has prohibited the public release of any data by the recipient law enforcement agency. The publication of statistical aggregate data regarding firearms traffickers and trafficking channels, firearms misuse, felons, and trafficking investigations is exempt from the restriction. If you have questions regarding these restrictions please contact ATF legal counsel prior to disclosing any of the information provided in this correspondence outside of ATF.

Thank you,

(b) (7)(C)

*Supervisory Intelligence Program Specialist
Violent Crime Analysis Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives*

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 4:04 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Gun Shows

It's fine.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648-(b) (7)(C) ell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 3:29 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Gun Shows

I quit.

(b) (7)(C)
ATF National Coordinator
Southwest Border/Project Gunrunner

(202) 648-(b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C) b:#

From: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 2:21 PM
To: Webb, J. Dewey; (b) (7)(C) Champion, Robert R.
Cc: McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C) Newell, William D.; Torres, John A.; (b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Gun Shows

(b) (7)(C) we need to discuss this first. Thx

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From: Webb, J. Dewey
To: (b) (7)(C) Champion, Robert R.
Cc: Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C) Newell, William D.; Torres, John A.;
(b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thu Mar 10 14:08:17 2011
Subject: RE: Gun Shows
(b) (7)(C)

WE ARE ALREADY WORKING THE NECESSARY GUN SHOWS WITH ICE. BEFORE THESE TYPE OF IDEAS ARE PUT OUT

TO OTHER AGENCIES THEY SHOULD BE BOUNCED OFF THE FIELD SACS FIRST. THE GUN SHOWS WE HAVE WORKED IN THE PAST HERE IN HOUSTON HAVE YIELDED VERY LITTLE AND ARE VERY LABOR INTENSIVE (50+ FROM ATF/ICE /HPD). WE HAVE HAD BETTER LUCK IN SAN ANTONIO AND AUSTIN. MY SUGGESTION IS LEAVE IT UP TO THE SACS TO WORK THEIR DIVISIONS WITH ICE AND CBP. OUR INVESTIGATIONS SHOW THE MAJORITY OF THESE WEAPONS ARE BEING PURCHASED AT STORES.

I HAVE ALREADY SPOKE TO AD CHAIT CONCERNING THIS MATTER. I DO NOT KNOW IF WE ARE PAST THE POINT OF NO RETURN WITH THE OTHER AGENCIES,(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

THANKS,

J. DEWEY WEBB
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
ATF, HOUSTON FIELD DIVISION
OFFICE (281)372-2900
FAX (281)372-2919

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 12:37 PM
To: Webb, J. Dewey; Champion, Robert R.
Subject: FW: Gun Shows

Dewey/Champ, can you help me out with a list of gun shows based on my email below. I am not looking to gin up more work for you guys but this is a component of the national/international effort against the Zetas based on the ICE agent murder. Would you guys have a list of shows that could be worked and at a minimum (b) (5)

Thanks for the help,

(b) (7)(C)

ATF National Coordinator
 Southwest Border/Project Gunrunner

(202) 648-(b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(C) cell

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 11:25 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Chait, Mark R.; (b) (7)(C) McMahon, William (LEO); Newell, William D.
Subject: RE: Gun Shows

(b) (7)(C) as part of the ongoing efforts to coordinate investigative agencies actions along the border to focus on the Zeta's organization, on today's inter-agency conference call, I proposed compiling a list of gun shows along the southwest border and possibly coordinate ICE/CBP and ATF to look for cartel related action at these shows. In addition, utilize the specific gun shows list for tactical intelligence to (b) (5)

(b) (5) Is there a more comprehensive list or should we submit this for action by the inter-agency?

I discussed that the divisions should be working together to coordinate their efforts with their partner agencies based upon this list and their investigative priorities and that HQ should not be dictating actions. I would like to submit the list to CBP/ICE no later than tomorrow and then we will work together on plans to implement this short

term surge (1 month or less) and present during the next inter-agency conference call next Thursday (3/17).

Can you help me out?

(b) (7)(C)

ATF National Coordinator
Southwest Border/Project Gunrunner

(202) 648-(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) cell

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 6:02 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: FW: Gun Shows

(b) (7)(C) EPIC happens to have pulled this list earlier this week. Below are the biggest gun shows in the Southwest (I've hi-lighted the major ones in the biggest venues). Texas literally has dozens of gun shows across the state all the time. Houston Field Division would be the best to contact for details. We have truthfully left Gun Show ops to the field divisions.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Criminal Intel Div
202-648-(b) (7)(C)

MAR	<p>Las Vegas, NV (Date Change) <u><i>Buy Tickets! Ticket Policy</i></u></p> <p>5th - 6th <u>The Cashman Center</u></p> <p>Tucson, AZ (Date Change) <u><i>Buy Tickets! Ticket Policy</i></u></p> <p>12th - 13th <u>Pima County Fairgrounds</u></p> <p>Glendale, AZ</p> <p>19th - 20th <u>University of Phoenix Stadium</u></p> <p>Costa Mesa, CA <u><i>Buy Tickets! Ticket Policy</i></u></p> <p>26th - 27th <u>Orange County Fairgrounds</u></p>
APR	<p>Phoenix, AZ <u><i>Buy Tickets! Ticket Policy</i></u></p> <p>2nd - 3rd <u>Arizona State Fairgrounds</u></p> <p>Salt Lake City, UT <u><i>Buy Tickets! Ticket Policy</i></u></p> <p>9th - 10th <u>South Towne Expo Center</u></p> <p>Mesa, AZ <u><i>Buy Tickets! Ticket Policy</i></u></p> <p>9th - 10th <u>Centennial Hall</u></p> <p>St. George, UT</p> <p>16th - 17th <u>Dixie Center</u></p> <p>San Francisco, CA</p>

	<p>16th - 17th <u>The Cow Palace</u></p> <p>Ventura, CA (New Show!) <u>Buy Tickets! Ticket Policy</u></p> <p>30th - 1st <u>Ventura Co. Fairgrounds</u></p>
MAY	<p>Ontario, CA <u>Buy Tickets! Ticket Policy</u></p> <p>14th - 15th <u>Ontario Convention Center</u></p> <p>Del Mar, CA <u>Buy Tickets! Ticket Policy</u></p> <p>21st - 22nd <u>Del Mar Fairgrounds</u></p> <p>Reno, NV <u>Buy Tickets! Ticket Policy</u></p> <p>21st - 22nd <u>Reno Convention Center</u></p>
JUN	<p>Costa Mesa, CA</p> <p>4th - 5th <u>Orange County Fairgrounds</u></p> <p>Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>11th - 12th <u>The Cashman Center</u></p> <p>Mesa, AZ</p> <p>25th - 26th <u>Centennial Hall</u></p>
JUL	<p>Del Mar, CA</p> <p>16th - 17th <u>Del Mar Fairgrounds</u></p> <p>Phoenix, AZ</p> <p>23rd - 24th <u>Arizona State Fairgrounds</u></p> <p>Ontario, CA</p> <p>30th - 31st <u>Ontario Convention Center</u></p> <p>Reno, NV</p> <p>30th - 31st <u>Reno Convention Center</u></p>
AUG	<p>Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>6th - 7th <u>The Cashman Center</u></p> <p>Costa Mesa, CA</p> <p>20th - 21st <u>Orange County Fairgrounds</u></p>
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	<p>St. George, UT 17th - 18th Dixie Center</p> <p>Tucson, AZ 17th - 18th Pima County Fairgrounds</p> <p>Mesa, AZ 24th - 25th Centennial Hall</p> <p>Salt Lake City, UT 24th - 25th South Towne Expo Center</p>
OCT	<p>Del Mar, CA 1st - 2nd Del Mar Fairgrounds</p> <p>Ontario, CA 8th - 9th Ontario Convention Center</p> <p>Las Vegas, NV 15th - 16th The Cashman Center</p> <p>Glendale, AZ 22nd - 23rd University of Phoenix Stadium</p> <p>Reno, NV 29th - 30th Reno Convention Center</p>
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DEC	<p>Phoenix, AZ (Three Day Event!!) Show and Dealer Setup Info: Click Here</p> <p>2nd, 3rd, 4th Arizona State Fairgrounds</p> <p>Las Vegas, NV 10th - 11th The Cashman Center</p>

Del Mar, CA

17th - 18th Del Mar Fairgrounds

Reno, NV

17th - 18th Reno Convention Center



(b) (7)(C)

BECC

(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2011 3:59 PM**To:** Webb, J. Dewey; (b) (7)(C) Champion, Robert R.**CC:** Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C) Newell, William D.; Torres, John A.; (b) (7)(C)**(b) (7)(C)****Subject:** RE: Gun Shows

All -- I talked with SAC Webb. As he indicated, and as was noted in (b) (7)(C) email below, the local investigative priorities and tactics are just that, and are being determined by our SACs and coordinated with their peers in the other USG components. The meeting referenced below is part of the current collaboration and surge activities reference the Zetas. I acknowledge SAC Webb's advice that (b) (5)

We will continue to communicate regularly with our SWB SACs as to interagency trends and issues, which can be echoed on your behalf in joint meetings in DC.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cel (b) (7)(C)

From: Webb, J. Dewey**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2011 2:08 PM**To:** (b) (7)(C) B.; Champion, Robert R.**Cc:** Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; (b) (7)(C) Newell, William D.; Torres, John A.;**(b) (7)(C)****Subject:** RE: Gun Shows**(b) (7)(C)**

WE ARE ALREADY WORKING THE NECESSARY GUN SHOWS WITH ICE. BEFORE THESE TYPE OF IDEAS ARE PUT OUT TO OTHER AGENCIES THEY SHOULD BE BOUNCED OFF THE FIELD SACS FIRST. THE GUN SHOWS WE HAVE WORKED IN THE PAST HERE IN HOUSTON HAVE YIELDED VERY LITTLE AND ARE VERY LABOR INTENSIVE (50+ FROM ATF/ICE /HPD). WE HAVE HAD BETTER LUCK IN SAN ANTONIO AND AUSTIN. MY SUGGESTION IS LEAVE IT UP TO THE SACS TO WORK THEIR DIVISIONS WITH ICE AND CBP. OUR INVESTIGATIONS SHOW THE MAJORITY OF THESE WEAPONS ARE BEING PURCHASED AT STORES.

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THANKS,

J. DEWEY WEBB**SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE****ATF, HOUSTON FIELD DIVISION****OFFICE (281)372-2900****FAX (281)372-2919****From:** (b) (7)(C)**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2011 12:37 PM

To: Webb, J. Dewey; Champion, Robert R.
Subject: FW: Gun Shows

Dewey/Champ, can you help me out with a list of gun shows based on my email below. I am not looking to gin up more work for you guys but this is a component of the national/international effort against the Zetas based on the ICE agent murder. Would you guys have a list of shows that could be worked and at a minimum (b) (5) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]?

Thanks for the help,

(b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]

ATF National Coordinator
 Southwest Border/Project Gunrunner

(202) 648-(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) [REDACTED] cell

From: (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 11:25 AM

To: (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]

Cc: Chait, Mark R. (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED] McMahon, William (LEO); Newell, William D.

Subject: RE: Gun Shows

(b) (7)(C) as part of the ongoing efforts to coordinate investigative agencies actions along the border to focus on the Zeta's organization, on today's inter-agency conference call, I proposed compiling a list of gun shows along the southwest border and possibly coordinate ICE/CBP and ATF to look for cartel related action at these shows. In addition, utilize the specific gun shows list for tactical intelligence to (b) (5) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Is there a more comprehensive list or should we submit this for action by the inter-agency?

I discussed that the divisions should be working together to coordinate their efforts with their partner agencies based upon this list and their investigative priorities and that HQ should not be dictating actions. I would like to submit the list to CBP/ICE no later than tomorrow and then we will work together on plans to implement this short term surge (1 month or less) and present during the next inter-agency conference call next Thursday (3/17).

Can you help me out?

(b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]

ATF National Coordinator
 Southwest Border/Project Gunrunner

(202) 648-(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) [REDACTED] cell

From: (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 6:02 PM

To: (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Gun Shows

(b) (7)(C) EPIC happens to have pulled this list earlier this week. Below are the biggest gun shows in the Southwest (I've hi-lighted the major ones in the biggest venues). Texas literally has dozens of gun shows across the state all the time. Houston Field Division would be the best to contact for details. We have truthfully left Gun Show ops to the field divisions.

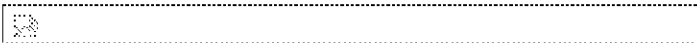
(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Criminal Intel Div
202-648 (b) (7)(C)

MAR	<p>Las Vegas, NV (Date Change) <u>Buy Tickets! Ticket Policy</u></p> <p>5th - 6th <u>The Cashman Center</u></p> <p>Tucson, AZ (Date Change) <u>Buy Tickets! Ticket Policy</u></p> <p>12th - 13th <u>Pima County Fairgrounds</u></p> <p>Glendale, AZ</p> <p>19th - 20th <u>University of Phoenix Stadium</u></p> <p>Costa Mesa, CA <u>Buy Tickets! Ticket Policy</u></p> <p>26th - 27th <u>Orange County Fairgrounds</u></p>
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(b) (7)(C)

BECC

(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 10:23 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re:

I'll come by in a few.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thu Mar 10 10:20:51 2011
Subject:

FYI,

I started reviewing ROI's from the beginning of the case and I am currently on January 1, 2010. If you are going to begin reviewing also, please start with the most recent ROI's and we can meet in the middle.

SPECIAL AGENT (b) (7)(C)
PROJECT OFFICER
OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS
FIREARMS OPERATIONS DIVISION
CELL (b) (7)(C)
DESK (202) 648-(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:43:45 AM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: RE: Question

2320

thanks

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
A/F HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

-----Original Message-----

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:34 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Question

Missed second part of this message, sorry. I'm not sure what stop he's referring too. I recall a stop in the E/F with two females in Naco (other side of Douglas, Arizona), maybe that's it? But that was not a controlled delivery attempt, that was a Mexican Customs seizure I believe.

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thu Mar 10 08:12:18 2011
Subject: RE: Question

OK. So the 2nd one in the BP did not "occur" as a crossing and rip, the Mexicans were burned and the suspects turned around. I'll check file, but did we stop them after they turned around?

Below, I think "van" is a typo - I think he meant "Can" you make sure... Not sure if that's supposed to have been a controlled crossing/stop...

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
A/F HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

-----Original Message-----

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:09 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Question

Not sure what "van" he's talking about with two women but I'll check into it. In X-Caliber we tried twice, the first one is referenced in the BP. The second one never went because when we again coordinated with the MCO, the GOM, etc they showed up at the POE (Mexican

side) with so many folks they spocked our suspects. After that we never tried again.

2321

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thu Mar 10 07:57:48 2011
Subject: FW: Question

Bill - Are the events referenced in first message below in various cases? (I have not seen or read all ROIs yet in any of these...)

Also, I read the BP (Xcaliber, (b) (7)(C) you sent and will go into case to see what the outcome(s) were after the first attempt to do a coordinated controlled crossing and Mexico stop/arrest was unsuccessful on other side.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

-----Original Message-----

From: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 9:25 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw:

This is what I mentioned earlier. LUs meet in am.

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----- Original Message -----

From: Melson, Kenneth E.
To: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Wed Mar 09 21:17:58 2011
Subject:

Can you make sure we find out about the case where two women were stopped in Mexico with guns. (b) (7)(C) will know. Also, let's find the attempts to do a controlled crossing. Ken

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:29:36 AM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: RE: Question

2323

thanks

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

-----Original Message-----

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:28 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Question

I recall our guys following them into a neighborhood but don't recall what happened after that. Hope would know, I'll call her asap.

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thu Mar 10 08:25:07 2011
Subject: RE: Question

ok

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

Original Message

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:20 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Question

I don't recall, I'll have to check the file.

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thu Mar 10 08:12:18 2011
Subject: RE: Question

OK. So the 2nd one in the BP did not "occur" as a crossing and rip, the Mexicans were burned and the suspects turned around. I'll check file, but did we stop them after they turned around?

Below, I think "van" is a typo - I think he meant "Can" you make sure... Not sure if that's supposed to have been a controlled crossing/stop...

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
AIF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

-----Original Message-----

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:09 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Question

Not sure what "van" he's talking about with two women but I'll check into it. In X Caliber we tried twice, the first one is referenced in the BP. The second one never went because when we again coordinated with the MCO, the COM, etc they showed up at the POE (Mexican side) with so many folks they spooked our suspects. After that we never tried again.

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thu Mar 10 07:57:48 2011
Subject: FW: Question

Bill - Are the events referenced in first message below in various cases? (I have not seen or read all ROIs yet in any of these...)

Also, I read the BP (Xcaliber, (b) (7)(C) you sent and will go into case to see what the outcome(s) were after the first attempt to do a coordinated controlled crossing and Mexico stop/arrest was unsuccessful on other side.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
AIF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

-----Original Message-----

From: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 9:25 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw:

This is what I mentioned earlier. LUs meet in am.

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----- Original Message -----

From: Melson, Kenneth E.
To: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Wed Mar 09 21:17:58 2011
Subject:

Can you make sure we find out about the case where two women were stopped in Mexico with guns. (b) (7)(C) will know. Also, let's find the attempts to do a controlled crossing. Ken

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:25:07 AM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: RE: Question

2326

ok

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
AIF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

-----Original Message-----

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:20 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Question

I don't recall, I'll have to check the file.

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thu Mar 10 08:12:18 2011
Subject: RE: Question

OK. So the 2nd one in the BP did not "occur" as a crossing and zip, the Mexicans were burned and the suspects turned around. I'll check file, but did we stop them after they turned around?

Below, I think "van" is a typo - I think he meant "Can" you make sure... Not sure if that's supposed to have been a controlled crossing/stop...

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
AIF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

-----Original Message-----

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:09 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Question

Not sure what "van" he's talking about with two women but I'll check into it. In X-Caliber we tried twice, the first one is referenced in the BP. The second one never went because when we again coordinated with the MCO, the GOM, etc they showed up at the POE (Mexican side) with so many folks they spooked our suspects. After that we never tried again.

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thu Mar 10 07:57:48 2011
Subject: FW: Question

Bill - Are the events referenced in first message below in various cases? (I have not seen or read all ROIs yet in any of these...)

Also, I read the BP (Xcaliber, (b) (7)(C)) you sent and will go into case to see what the outcome(s) were after the first attempt to do a coordinated controlled crossing and Mexico stop/arrest was unsuccessful on other side.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

-----Original Message-----

From: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 9:25 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw:

This is what I mentioned earlier. Lts meet in am.

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----- Original Message -----

From: Melson, Kenneth E.
To: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Wed Mar 09 21:17:58 2011
Subject:

Can you make sure we find out about the case where two women were stopped in Mexico with guns. (b) (7)(C) will know. Also, let's find the attempts to do a controlled crossing. Ken

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express authorization is strictly prohibited.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:12:18 AM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: RE: Question

2329

OK. So the 2nd one in the BP did not "occur" as a crossing and zip, the Mexicans were burned and the suspects turned around. I'll check file, but did we stop them after they turned around?

Below, I think "van" is a typo - I think he meant "Can" you make sure... Not sure if that's supposed to have been a controlled crossing/stop...

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

Original Message

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:09 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Question

Not sure what "van" he's talking about with two women but I'll check into it. In X-Caliber we tried twice, the first one is referenced in the BP. The second one never went because when we again coordinated with the MCO, the COM, etc they showed up at the POE (Mexican side) with so many folks they spoked our suspects. After that we never tried again.

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Original Message

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thu Mar 10 07:57:48 2011
Subject: FW: Question

Bill Are the events referenced in first message below in various cases? (I have not seen or read all ROIs yet in any of these...)

Also, I read the BP (Xcaliber, (b) (7)(C) you sent and will go into case to see what the outcome(s) were after the first attempt to do a coordinated controlled crossing and Mexico stop/arrest was unsuccessful on other side.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

Original Message

From: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 9:25 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Fw:

2330

This is what I mentioned earlier. Lts meet in am.

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----- Original Message -----

From: Melson, Kenneth E.

To: Chait, Mark R.

Sent: Wed Mar 09 21:17:58 2011

Subject:

Can you make sure we find out about the case where two women were stopped in Mexico with guns. (b) (7)(C) will know. Also, let's find the attempts to do a controlled crossing. Ken

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 7:57:48 AM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: FW: Question

2331

Bill Are the events referenced in first message below in various cases? (I have not seen or read all ROIs yet in any of these...)

Also, I read the BP (Xcaliber, (b) (7)(C) you sent and will go into case to see what the outcome(s) were after the first attempt to do a coordinated controlled crossing and Mexico stop/arrest was unsuccessful on other side.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

Original Message

From: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 9:25 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw:

This is what I mentioned earlier. Lets meet in am.

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Original Message

From: Melson, Kenneth E.
To: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Wed Mar 09 21:17:58 2011
Subject:

Van you make sure we find out about the case where two women were stopped in Mexico with guns. (b) (7)(C) will know. Also, let's find the attempts to do a controlled crossing. Ken

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 9:26:09 PM
To: Chait, Mark R.
Subject: Re:

2332

Ok

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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Original Message

From: Chait, Mark R.
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wed Mar 09 21:24:55 2011
Subject: Fw:

This is what I mentioned earlier. Lts meet in am.

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Original Message

From: Melson, Kenneth E.
To: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Wed Mar 09 21:17:58 2011
Subject:

Van you make sure we find out about the case where two women were stopped in Mexico with guns. (b) (7)(C) will know. Also, let's find the attempts to do a controlled crossing. Ken

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 9:25:11 PM
To: Chait, Mark R.
Subject: Re: (b) (7)(C)

2333

I can have (b) (7)(C) help print.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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Original Message

From: Chait, Mark R.
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wed Mar 09 21:23:38 2011
Subject: Fw: (b) (7)(C)

For tomorrow. Can someone assist you.

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Original Message

From: Melson, Kenneth E.
To: Chait, Mark R.
Cc: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Wed Mar 09 21:22:04 2011
Subject: (b) (7)(C)

Also, I would still like to see the (b) (7)(C) ROIs.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 6:25 PM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: Fw: Tucson Cases "Wide Receiver"

(b) (7)(C)
 Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Tue Mar 08 16:01:50 2011
Subject: FW: Tucson Cases "Wide Receiver"

This is "6(e)" right now.

(b) (7)(C)
 Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
 202.648.7212, Cell 202.391.6872

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 3:16 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Tucson Cases

(b) (7)(C)

I found one. I will be right over about the (b) (7)(C) one.

Tucson II

785085-06-0051 OPERATION WIDE RECEIVER: The ATF Tucson II Field Office has been conducting an investigation of a suspected firearm trafficking organization based in Tucson, Arizona. Currently 10 defendants have been identified and indicted for being involved in trafficking firearms believed to be for Mexican DTOs. ATF confirmed the suspects purchased over 300 firearms (predominately 7.62mm, .223, 5.7mm, and .38 Super). This far reaching investigation began in 2006 and has tied this firearms trafficking organization to the Arellano-Felix/ Tijuana Cartel and the (b) (7)(E) crime family near Caborca, Mexico. (b) (7)(E)
 Approximately 50 firearms have been seized.

Following indictments on November 9, 2010, special agents from the Tucson field offices, along with the Tucson

Police Department, arrested (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) was arrested on the same date at the San Ysidro Port of Entry by Customs and Border Protection.

The defendants have been booked into local facilities and are awaiting Initial Appearances. Several other defendants have already been arrested and agreed to plead guilty to charges. Violations include 18 U.S.C. § 371 Conspiracy; 18 U.S.C. § 922(d)(5)(A) Transfer Firearm to an Illegal Alien; 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(5)(A) Alien in Possession of a Firearm; 18 U.S.C. § 924(a)(1)(A) False Statement in Acquisition of a Firearm; 18 U.S.C. § 2 Aiding and Abetting; 22 U.S.C. § 401 Exportation Violations; 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c) Civil Forfeiture. (See 11/9/10 SIR.)

(b) (7)(C)

Program Analyst

Firearms Operations Division

Office of Field Operations

Bureau of ATF

202-648-(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 4:01 PM
To: Chait, Mark R.
Subject: FW: Tucson Cases "Wide Receiver"

This is "6(e)" right now.

(b) (7)(C)
 Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
 202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 3:16 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Tucson Cases

(b) (7)(C)

I found one. I will be right over about the (b) (7)(C) one.

Tucson II

785085-06-0051 OPERATION WIDE RECEIVER: The ATF Tucson II Field Office has been conducting an investigation of a suspected firearm trafficking organization based in Tucson, Arizona. Currently 10 defendants have been identified and indicted for being involved in trafficking firearms believed to be for Mexican DTOs. ATF confirmed the suspects purchased over 300 firearms (predominately 7.62mm, .223, 5.7mm, and .38 Super). This far reaching investigation began in 2006 and has tied this firearms trafficking organization to the Arellano-Felix/ Tijuana Cartel and the (b) (7)(E) crime family near Caborca, Mexico. (b) (7)(E)
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(b) (7)(C)
 Program Analyst
 Firearms Operations Division
 Office of Field Operations
 Bureau of ATF
 202-648 (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 2:31 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Fast & Furious 781115 10 0004

fyi

(b) (7)(C)
 Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
 202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C) (USAAZ) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 1:38 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Fast & Furious 781115 10 0004

My assistant is working on the documents.

From: (b) (7)(C) (ATF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 11:12 AM
To: (b) (7)(C) (USAAZ)
Cc: Serres, Greg (ATF); Chait, Mark R. (ATF); (b) (7)(C) (ATF); (b) (7)(C) (ATF); Newell, William D. (ATF)
Subject: Fast & Furious 781115 10 0004

Good morning AUSA (b) (7)(C)

Last week, ATF acting deputy Chief Counsel Greg Serres (202 648 (b) (7)(C)) contacted you requesting that DAD Michael Boxler, DAD Julie Torres, and myself, (b) (7)(C) be added to the Fast & Furious 6(c) list.

At this time, ATF requests that SA (b) (7)(C) and SA (b) (7)(C) (Headquarters) also be added to this 6(c) list.

Please forward me a confirmation of the additions of Boxler, Torres, (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C)

ATF Phoenix SAC William Newell is aware of these requests. Questions may be directed to SAC Newell, ADCC Serres or me. Thank you.

Respectfully,

(b) (7)(C)
 Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 2:30 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) (USAAZ)
Subject: RE: Fast & Furious 781115 10 0004

Thank you, Sir.

(b) (7)(C)
 Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
 202.648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C) (USAAZ) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 1:38 PM
To: Lowrey, Stuart L.
Subject: RE: Fast & Furious 781115 10 0004

My assistant is working on the documents.

From: (b) (7)(C) (ATF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 11:12 AM
To: (b) (7)(C) (USAAZ)
Cc: Serres, Greg (ATF); Chait, Mark R. (ATF); (b) (7)(C) (ATF); (b) (7)(C) (ATF); Newell, William D. (ATF)
Subject: Fast & Furious 781115 10 0004

Good morning AUSA (b) (7)(C)

Last week, ATF acting deputy Chief Counsel Greg Serres (202 648 7836) contacted you requesting that DAD Michael Boxler, DAD Julie Torres, and myself, (b) (7)(C) be added to the Fast & Furious 6(c) list.

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Please forward me a confirmation of the additions of Boxler, Torres, (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C)

ATF Phoenix SAC William Newell is aware of these requests. Questions may be directed to SAC Newell, ADCC Serres or me. Thank you.

Respectfully,

(b) (7)(C)
 Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 1:12:03 PM

2342

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: FF info

Talked with ADCC Greg Serres again today reference GJ 6(e) list. He indicated he had requested our addition (Boxler, Torres and (b) (7)(C) to AUSA (b) (7)(C) last Friday, 3/4/11, had not heard back, but did not expect letters to be sent. Serres clarified that access to our file, which may include GJ material did not require "prior approval" by USAO, but rather that once access to covered material was provided or accessed (disclosure), a request to the USAO to be added should be made. Again, he clarified that advance notice/approval was not required. I advised that based on his advice, I planned to contact the Division to arrange my on-line access to the case, which Serres confirmed was appropriate. Serres said he would re-contact AUSA (b) (7)(C) to confirm our addition to list. Both DD COS and Exec Asst asked for copies of all (b) (7)(C) related reports today. Discussed with AD Chait (in person and by cell) who concurred and directed that reports be provided to DD office as directed. Printed non-form narrative copies this evening, confirmed through COS that DD was authorized and released non form versions to COS. Will have COS and EA added to list through another CC request to AUSA.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 1:12:01 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) (USAAZ)
CC: Serres, Greg; Chait, Mark R.; (b) (7)(C)
Newell, William D.
Subject: Fast & Furious 781115 10 0004

2343

Good morning AUSA (b) (7)(C)

Last week, ATF acting deputy Chief Counsel Greg Serres (202 648 (b) (7)(C)) contacted you requesting that DAD Michael Boxler, DAD Julie Torres, and myself, (b) (7)(C) be added to the Fast & Furious 6(e) list.

At this time, ATF requests that SA (b) (7)(C) and SA (b) (7)(C) (Headquarters) also be added to this 6(e) list.

Please forward me a confirmation of the additions of Boxler, Torres, (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C)

ATF Phoenix SAC William Newell is aware of these requests. Questions may be directed to SAC Newell, ADCC Serres or me. Thank you.

Respectfully,

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202 648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 6:11:19 PM
To: Boxler, Michael B.; Torres, Julie M
Subject: Fw: F&F 6e - COMPLETED

2351

Fyi

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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Original Message

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C); Newell, William D.
Sent: Mon Mar 07 18:08:55 2011
Subject: RE: F&F 6e - COMPLETED

Both DAD Torres and DAD Boxler have been granted N Force case access to 785115 10 0004.

(b) (7)(C)

Senior IRS
Acting Intel Group Supervisor
(602) 776-(b) (7)(C) Direct
(b) (7)(C) Mobile
(602) 776 5519 Fax

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 4:01 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C); Newell, William D.
Subject: F&F 6e

Please add me, DAD Julie Torres and DAD Michael Boxler to the case users (read access) for 781115 10 0004. A request for these names to be added to 6e list was sent to AUSA (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) last Friday by acting Dep Chief Counsel Greg Serres. This has been discussed with SAC Newell and GS (b) (7)(C). Please contact them with any questions. Thank you.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 6:09:26 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: F&F 6e - COMPLETED

2352

And Me?

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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Original Message
From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C); Newell, William D.
Sent: Mon Mar 07 18:08:55 2011
Subject: RE: F&F 6e - COMPLETED

Both DAD Torres and DAD Boxler have been granted N Force case access to 785115 10 0004.

(b) (7)(C) - Senior IRS
Acting Intel Group Supervisor
(602) 776-(b) (7)(C) - Direct
(b) (7)(C) - Mobile
(602) 776 5519 Fax

-----Original Message-----
From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 4:01 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C); Newell, William D.
Subject: F&F 6e

Please add me, DAD Julie Torres and DAD Michael Boxler to the case users (read access) for 781115 10 0004. A request for these names to be added to 6e list was sent to AUSA (b) (7)(C) last Friday by acting Dep Chief Counsel Greg Serres. This has been discussed with SAC Newell and GS (b) (7)(C). Please contact them with any questions. Thank you.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 6:00:55 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C); Newell, William D.
Subject: F&F 6e

2353

Please add me, DAD Julie Torres and DAD Michael Boxler to the case users (read access) for 781115 10 0004. A request for these names to be added to 6e list was sent to AUSA (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) last Friday by acting Dep Chief Counsel Greg Serres. This has been discussed with SAC Newell and GS (b) (7)(C). Please contact them with any questions. Thank you.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
202 648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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U.S. Push Not Halting Guns to Mexico

Published March 05, 2011

| Associated Press

ROWNSVILLE, Texas -- Federal agents are barely able to slow the river of American guns flowing into Mexico. In two years, a new effort to increase inspections of travelers crossing the border has netted just 386 guns -- an almost infinitesimal amount given that an estimated 2,000 slip across each day.

The problem came into sharp focus again last month when a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent was killed on a northern Mexican highway with a gun that was purchased in a town outside Fort Worth, Texas. Stopping the flow of American guns, bullets and cash has long bedeviled authorities on both sides of the border. At a [White House news conference](#) in March 2009, [Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano](#) joined President [Barack Obama](#) in announcing plans to better help Mexico cope with a brutal drug war that has now killed more than 34,000 people since 2006.

"You've got to interdict the arms. You've got to stop them from going into Mexico," Napolitano said at the time. Since then, Customs and Border Protection officers -- who usually spend their days checking people and cars coming into the U.S. -- have teamed up with Border Patrol agents and, sometimes, sheriff's deputies in border communities to scrutinize travelers leaving American soil.

They have made little progress.

In fiscal year 2009, Customs and Border Protection agents at all border crossings separating the 2,000-mile border, from Brownsville on Texas' Gulf Coast to San Diego, seized 107 guns.

The next fiscal year, ending Sept. 30, they seized 279. Those are the most-recent, border-wide figures available. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives reported seizing 2,633 guns in 2009 at its [offices](#) in the four southwestern border states, the most recent figures available, but those were captured before making it into border traffic -- and even if they had, they would have amounted to a little more than a day's worth that get through.

A November 2008 study by The Brookings Institution, a Washington-based think tank, stated that 2,000 American guns are smuggled into Mexico each day. Compiled by a commission including ex-Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo and [Thomas Pickering](#), a former U.S. ambassador to Russia and a senior [State Department](#) official during the administration of President [Bill Clinton](#), the report was the last comprehensive estimate on the subject, though it did not include [information](#) on how that figure was reached.

Efforts to halt ammunition have been more successful. Outbound border inspections seized 93,141 rounds in the last fiscal year, more than four times the amount seized during the previous year.

Seizures of cash headed into Mexico fell from more than \$37 million in fiscal year 2009 to about \$27.4 million last year.

The ATF is now facing criticism after both CBS News and the non-profit Center for Public Integrity reported that federal agents investigating gun-running by drug cartels allowed hundreds of guns purchased in the U.S. to go into Mexico.

The agency and prosecutors let the guns cross the border as they were building cases against traffickers, the

center reported.

The ATF's work on the border highlights the tension between short-term operations aimed at arresting low-level straw buyers -- legal U.S. residents with clean records who buy weapons -- and long-term ones designed to identify who is directing the gun buys.

From September 2009 to July 31 of last year alone, the Mexican government seized more than 32,000 illegal weapons, even though purchasing guns in Mexico requires permission from the country's defense department, and even then buyers are limited to pistols of .38-caliber or less.

Not all those guns came from the United States -- Mexican authorities have investigated reports that some were supplied by arms dealers in Israel and Belgium.

Many guns used to kill in Mexico never have their origins traced. Still, ATF has long estimated that of the weapons discovered at Mexican crime scenes which authorities do choose to trace, nearly 90 percent are eventually found to have been purchased in the U.S.

That was the case with the handgun found at the scene of the Feb. 15 drug cartel ambush that killed ICE Special Agent Jaime Zapata on a highway in Mexico's San Luis Potosi state. His partner was shot twice in the leg.

Authorities say the 7.62 mm pistol was purchased in Joshua, Texas. Three Dallas-area men -- one accused of buying the gun, his brother and their neighbor -- are facing federal weapons charges, although none related to Zapata's death. Investigators believe the trio on another occasion tried to sell dozens of weapons to the violent Zetas drug cartel, which recently saw one of its alleged bosses arrested in connection with Zapata's death.

"When a U.S. agent is killed by an illegally obtained U.S. gun, it really underscores the irony of our current policy," said David Shirk, director of the University of San Diego's Trans-Border Institute.

"We're not trying hard enough to stop the bad guys from using our weapons against us," he said.

Just how much money and manpower has been spent to detect so few southbound guns, bullets and bundles of U.S. dollars is difficult to pinpoint since the Department of Homeland Security doesn't comment on the number, location and frequency of its efforts.

However, Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Alan Bersin promised last April that at least \$72.6 million would be allocated in fiscal year 2010 to hire 115 additional Customs officers and 144 new Border Patrol agents to bolster outbound operations.

The money would also have gone to improving southbound license plate-reading equipment and inspection technology.

Agency spokeswoman Kelly Ivahnenko said there were no figures on whether those staffing additions had been made, however, due in part to normal employment turnover. She said seizure numbers give only part of the picture and that stepped-up inspections have forced "smugglers to change their tactics, sometimes exposing them to other law enforcement agencies."

Complicating agents' hunt at the border is that most weapons and bullets are smuggled using "hormiga" or "ant" techniques, in which items are carried across in smaller amounts. Larger caches, stashed in 18-wheelers, are easier to find with X-ray equipment or sniffer dogs.

A recent visit to the Gateway Bridge border crossing in palm tree-lined Brownsville, the nation's top spot for

smuggling ammunition into Mexico, showed the daunting task facing agents: Thousands of cars and trucks and countless places to stash items.

Officers rummaged through bags of groceries and boxes of auto parts, felt around children's seats and behind glove compartments, and poked flashlights into air conditioning vents, engine blocks and wheel-wells.

A fiber-optic scope let them peer inside gas tanks, and they checked that door handles had not been tampered with.

U.S. authorities screen certain types of Mexico-bound vehicles more than others, but won't say which ones. Two teenagers in matching Ferrari leather jackets had their white pickup poked and prodded for nearly 10 minutes to no avail, while a woman in a Lexus sedan breezed through without looking up from texting.

At one point, a black GMC pickup on its way to Mexico attracted the attention of a federal agent.

A locked silver metal box the size of a small microwave was tucked discreetly between a cooler and a roller-suitcase in the bed. It looked like a gun case, but when opened, there were no weapons or bullets to be found. Inside? Just an accordion.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 11:01 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: do you guys have a minute?

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 2:27 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: when you have a moment would you stop by, thanks

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:24 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Status

Thanks. We held (b) (7)(C) hostage most of the morning.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 10:15 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Status

(b) (7)(C) - I am waiting for (b) (7)(C) to call me back. Meanwhile, I have three people in Field Ops staff who believe they recall/may have "pre-Gunrunner" guidance memo(s) about the SWB Initiative from the 05-06 period. They are looking right now in their file systems.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:21 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C) (CRM); (b) (7)(C) (CIV)
Subject: Status

Good Morning (b) (7)(C)

Where do we stand with recovering 2005-06 Gunrunner documents?

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:21 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C) (CRM); (b) (7)(C) (CIV)
Subject: Status

Good Morning (b) (7)(C)

Where do we stand with recovering 2005-06 Gunrunner documents?

Thanks,
(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 10:24:14 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: Folders

2363

FYI

(b) (7)(C)

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----- Original Message -----

From: Holgate, Rick
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tue Apr 26 21:25:47 2011
Subject: Re: Folders

(b) (7)(C) sat with the DOJ attorneys this afternoon and went through this with them...the documents should be located on the R: drive per the instructions (b) (7) had sent out. I'll resend.

Rick

Rick Holgate
ATF AD for Science & Technology / CIO
o 202.628.(b) (7)(C)
c (b) (7)(C)

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Original Message

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C) Holgate, Rick
Sent: Tue Apr 26 19:45:53 2011
Subject: Folders

(b) (7)(C) may have contacted you by now but we are trying to locate the folders where employees dropped documents in response to the production requests. Can you provide instruction as to where it is and how to access? Thank you

(b) (7)(C)

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express authorization is strictly prohibited.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 9:52:02 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Call me?

(b) (7)(C)

Sorry, just reading emails. Had a community board meeting tonite.

All these types of files should have been placed on the OIG and Congress network share by (b) (7)(C) If they are not there, please let me know and we will try to search them out.

Thanks

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Deputy Chief
IT Systems Management Division
Office of Science and Technology
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
Room 6N553
99 New York Ave, NE
Washington, DC 20226
202-648-(b) (7)(C) office)
(b) (7)(C) (cell)

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How am I doing? We'd appreciate your feedback. Please send an email to ISD...Support with comments or suggestions.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 7:43 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Call me?

Looking for the folder where (b) (7)(C) copied all the "Bureau" documents. Cannot seem to locate... thanks

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Hoover, William J.

Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 6:49:55 PM

2367

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Out of Office AutoReply: (Axelrod) Start of Fast and Furious

I will be out of the office Friday, April 22nd. I will be checking my email periodically. Please contact (b) (7)(C) @ 202-648-(b) (7)(C) if you need assistance.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 6:14:45 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW:

2368

FYI,

waiting on (b) to respond for suspect gun info.

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 2:19 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE:

(b) (7)(C) where did the converted Suspect Guns files get sent?

(b) (7)(C)

Special Agent
Chief, Law Enforcement Support Branch
National Tracing Center
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
244 Noody Road
Martinsburg, WV 25405
(304) 260-(b) (7)(C)

Don't embrace mediocrity!
Quid Opus, Opus Bene.

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Original Message

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 2:10 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject:

(b) (7)(C)

Which drive are you referring to the fast and furious drive?

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From: Serres, Greg
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 3:55:04 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Email review - status

2369

I am checking on it now and will get back to you.

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Serres, Greg
Sent: Tue Apr 26 15:42:07 2011
Subject: Email review status

The doj attys were asking. I understand you're out of the building. Thanks

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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Subject: Document Production in re: Congressionals and FOIA

Location: DCR 5S-105

Start: 4/25/2011 3:30 PM

End: 4/25/2011 4:30 PM

Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Required Attendees: Serres, Greg; (b) (7)(C)
(b) (7)(C)

Optional Attendees: Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; Stinnett, Melanie S.

Resources: DCR 5S-105

When: Monday, April 25, 2011 3:30 PM-4:30 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: DCR 5S-105

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

From: (b) (7)(C) (USAAZ) (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 1:36:51 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Out of Office AutoReply: Fast/Furious 6(e) list

2371

I will be out of the office on Friday April 22, 2011. If you need assistance please call (b) (7)(C) at (b) (7)(C) or (b) (7)(C) at (b) (7)(C). Thank you.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2011 1:05 PM
To: Newell, William D.
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject:

Bill and (b) (7)(C)

Can we find some time on Monday or Tuesday to sit down so I can update you on the Phoenix trip – what was accomplished and what is currently being done. Just want to keep everyone informed. Enjoy your holiday weekend and see you both Monday.

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

SPECIAL AGENT (b) (7)(C)
PROJECT OFFICER
OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS
FIREARMS OPERATIONS DIVISION
CELL (b) (7)(C)
DESK (202) 648 (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 2:04 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Can either of you answer this?

(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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From: Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 12:18 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

What universe of former employees are we contacting? Just those who retired on or after the start of gunrunner?

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without express authorization is strictly prohibited.

From: (b) (7)(C)

To: Serres, Greg; McDermond, James E.; Chait, Mark R.; Newell, William D.; McMahon, William G.; Stinnett, Melanie S.; Holgate, Rick

Cc: (b) (7)(C)

Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.

Sent: Fri Apr 22 08:15:42 2011

Subject: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Please take a look at the attached draft, and indicate your concurrence or corrections by 3 pm. Today.

Rick and/or Melanie with respect to the question in the comment box it my understanding is that ATF does not routinely permit contractors, sub-contractors, or consultants access to the responsive docs, but will utilize the services of a third party contractor to assist in the organization and querying of the documents. Is that correct?

(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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From: Gaston, Molly (SMO) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]

Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 7:11 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Cc: Hoover, William J.; (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Issa Doc Preservation Letter

(b) (7)(C)

Attached please find the current version of the response to House Oversight's request about ATF preservation of documents. (b) (5)

? I understand from Billy that you're the lucky one to whom I should direct this draft.

Thanks so much,
Molly

Molly Gaston

Office of Legislative Affairs

U.S. Department of Justice

Office: (202) 305-^{(b) (7)(C)} Cell: (b) (7)(C)

<<issa preservation response 421.docx>>

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 8:52:17 AM
To: Holgate, Rick; Serres, Greg; McDermond, James E.; Chait, Mark R.; Newell, William D.; McMahon, William G.; Stinnett, Melanie S.
CC: (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(C) Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Thank you Rick this is very helpful.

(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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From: Holgate, Rick
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 8:44 AM
To: (b) (7)(C) Serres, Greg; McDermond, James E.; Chait, Mark R.; Newell, William D.; McMahon, William G.; Stinnett, Melanie S.
Cc: (b) (7)(C) Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

(b) (7)(C)

There are two different aspects to the contractor question.

1. The statement in the letter is correct: we do not allow contractors, consultants, etc. to keep, store, or retain ATF documents outside of the ATF network or premises (which is what I believe the letter intended to state; we should probably clarify). This is for security purposes, obviously, but it also means that we do not need to reach outside of the ATF network and premises for discovery purposes. (We can declare our search for responsive documents complete without querying contractors and consultants separately.)
2. Your question about access to the responsive documents is different. HP has been intimately involved in the discovery process and, as systems administrators, definitively have access to the responsive documents -- within the ATF network. Specifically, they helped establish the file structure for the collected documentation, they operate the eVault archiving capability, and they stood up the search software for the collected documents. In addition, outside of the specific repository of responsive documents we've created, you should assume that various contractors would have likely had access to (and potentially created) responsive documents: ballistic intelligence analysts, NTC contractors, asset forfeiture support contractors, among others. However, any/all access to responsive documents should have occurred only within the ATF network and premises, and therefore a search of our network and premises should have revealed any such documentation. You are also correct that in order to process the responsive documents for production to Congress, we will need to use the services of a support contractor.

Hope this helps,
Rick

Rick Hoigate
Assistant Director for Science & Technology / CIO
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF)

o 202.648 (b) (7)(C)
c (b) (7)(C)

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Justice without express authorization is strictly prohibited.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 8:16 AM
To: Serres, Greg; McDermond, James E.; Chait, Mark R.; Newell, William D.; McMahon, William G.; Stinnett, Melanie S.; Holgate, Rick
Cc: (b) (7)(C) Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Subject: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Please take a look at the attached draft, and indicate your concurrence or corrections by 3 pm. Today.

Rick and/or Melanie with respect to the question in the comment box it my understanding is that ATF does not routinely permit contractors, sub-contractors, or consultants access to the responsive docs, but will utilize the services of a third party contractor to assist in the organization and querying of the documents. Is that correct?

(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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From: Gaston, Molly (SMO) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 7:11 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Hoover, William J.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Issa Doc Preservation Letter

(b) (7)(C)

Attached please find the current version of the response to House Oversight's request about ATF preservation of documents. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5) I understand from Billy that you're the lucky one to whom I should direct this draft.

Thanks so much,
Molly

Molly Gaston
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
Office: (202) 305-(b) (7)(C) Cell: (b) (7)(C)

<< File: issa preservation response 421.docx >>

From: Gaston, Molly (SMO) (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 4:28:24 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: I am at my desk

In case I missed ATF's call. Thank you.

Molly Gaston
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
Office: (202) 305- (b) (7)(C) Cell: (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 12:40 PM
To: Kumor, Daniel J.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: danger pay question for ATF

Importance: High

I saw that bill was out...do one of you all have a quick citation that references atf's ability to conduct investigations in mexico? -see USMS example below....

I know we can say something like:

ATF works in Mexico to aggressively combat the illegal international trafficking of US sources firearms and explosives through liaison with Mexico and by providing technical assistance and responding to requests for collateral assistance. All ATF activities are coordinated through the ATF office in Mexico City....

DANGER PAY FOR MEXICO

Question. Violence in Mexico, particularly towards law enforcement personnel, has steadily intensified over the past several years. The very real and present danger faced by U.S. personnel working in Mexico is evident in light of the recent deaths of U.S. consulate employees and ICE agent in Mexico. While the DEA and FBI receive danger pay for their personnel in Mexico due to prior authorizations passed in 1990 and 2002, the Marshals Service and ATF do not have this same authorization language. USMS and ATF personnel face the same risks as their DEA and FBI counterparts in Mexico and should be equally compensated.

Why does the President's budget not provide for danger pay increases to U.S. Marshals Service and ATF law enforcement personnel working in Mexico?

1. Why does the President's budget not provide for danger pay increases to U.S. Marshals and ATF personnel working in Mexico?

The Drug Enforcement Administration is authorized to receive danger pay in Mexico pursuant to Section 151 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (P.L. 101-246). Absent specific legislation to support danger pay for ATF and Marshals Service personnel assigned to Mexico, the agencies must utilize the danger pay rates as authorized by the U.S. Department of State. Presently, the U.S. Department of State only authorizes danger pay for Ciudad Juarez (20%), Monterrey (20%), and Tijuana (15%). Other cities where ATF and the Marshals Service have a presence in Mexico, such as Mexico City and Guadalajara, are not authorized for danger pay. Although ATF and Marshals Service criminal investigators are stationed in Mexico City, they very often must travel throughout Mexico for criminal investigations and to further investigate and assist the Government of Mexico in the location and apprehension of dangerous fugitives. The present missions of the ATF and Marshals Service in Mexico require criminal investigators to experience the same dangerous environments and these law enforcement personnel deserve the same danger pay that our Department of Justice partners currently receive.

Given the rise in violence generally, the targeted attacks against U.S. law enforcement officers, and

the fact the FBI and DEA already provide danger pay for their employees in Mexico, that the Marshals Service and ATF should receive the same sort of compensation. When can we expect to see a proposed legislative to remedy this issue from the Department?

- 2. Given the rise in violence due to the Mexican drug wars, targeted attacks against U.S. law enforcement, and the fact FBI and DEA have danger pay in Mexico, shouldn't the Marshals and ATF should receive the same sort of compensation?**

The Marshals Service has authority to conduct investigations for DEA fugitives referred for apprehension and both agencies often work side by side in Mexico and along the Southwest Border to develop critical information related to high value targets. As such, it would be inconsistent to continue to deny danger pay to Marshals Service personnel stationed in Mexico. Also, enactment of legislation that would authorize danger pay for Marshals Service personnel permanently assigned in Mexico is critical to the future recruitment of criminal investigators to serve in these very dangerous areas.

ATF....

- 3. When can we expect to see a proposed legislative to remedy this issue from the Department?**

On April 13, 2011, the Border Security Enforcement Act of 2011 (S. 803) was introduced and contains a provision authorizing danger pay for the Marshals Service and ATF law enforcement personnel working in Mexico. This legislation would remedy the issue. Should this bill stall, ATF and the Marshals Service will continue to work with the DOJ to propose and draft the necessary legislation to support danger pay for criminal investigators assigned to Mexico.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 10:57 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: danger pay question for ATF
Importance: High

(b) (7)(C)

Do you have a quick citation that describes ATF's authority to conduct investigation in MX? Trying to answer a QFR today....

- 4. Given the rise in violence due to the Mexican drug wars, targeted attacks against U.S. law enforcement, and the fact FBI and DEA have danger pay in Mexico, shouldn't the Marshals and ATF should receive the same sort of compensation?**

Yes, based on XXX ATF has authority in Mexcio to

and the Marshals Service have authority to conduct investigations for DEA fugitives referred for apprehension and both agencies often work side by side in Mexico and along the Southwest Border to develop critical information related to high value targets. As such, it would be inconsistent to continue to deny danger pay to Marshals Service personnel stationed in Mexico. Also, enactment of legislation that would authorize danger pay for Marshals Service personnel permanently assigned in Mexico is critical to the future recruitment of criminal investigators to serve in these very dangerous areas.

(b) (7)(C) Congressional Liaison Specialist | Office of Legislative Affairs | Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives | p 202*648 | (b) (7)(C) c | (b) (7)(C) | f 202*648*9708 | (b) (7)(C)

Subject: OLA/ATF Discussion about Document Production

Location: Call-in below

Start: 4/29/2011 3:00 PM

End: 4/29/2011 4:00 PM

Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Required Attendees: Burton, Faith (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); Colborn, Paul P (SMO);
(b) (7)(C) (ATF); (b) (7)(C) (ATF); (b) (7)(C)
(USADC)

Resources: Call-in below

When: Friday, April 29, 2011 3:00 PM-4:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Call-in below

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Call 202.353.0877

Code (b) (7)(E)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 11:07 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Production Comments

(b) (7)(C)

The department would like to have a conference call at 2:00 today to address any concerns that ATF has about the production planned for Monday. Does that work for you? Also, we have a few more documents that have been submitted for production that you have not yet reviewed.

(b) (7)(C)

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Subject: OLA/ATF Discussion about Document Production
Location: Call-in below

2386

Start: 4/29/2011 3:00 PM
End: 4/29/2011 4:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Required Attendees: Burton, Faith (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); Colborn,
Paul P (SMO); (b) (7)(C) (USADC)

When: Friday, April 29, 2011 3:00 PM 4:00 PM (UTC 05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Call-in below

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Call 202.353.0877
Code (b) (7)(E)

Subject: OLA/ATF Discussion about Document Production

Location: Call-in below

Start: 2/26/2013 5:57 PM

End: 2/26/2013 5:57 PM

Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Required Attendees: Burton, Faith (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); Colborn, Paul P (SMO);
(b) (7)(C) L. (ATF); (b) (7)(C) (ATF); (b) (7)(C)
(USADC)

Resources: Call-in below

Call 202.353.0877

Code (b) (7)(E)

Subject: OLA/ATF Discussion about Document Production

Location: Call-in below

Start: 4/29/2011 3:00 PM

End: 4/29/2011 4:00 PM

Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Required Attendees: Burton, Faith (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); Colborn, Paul P (SMO);
(b) (7)(C) (ATF); (b) (7)(C) (ATF); (b) (7)(C)
(USADC)

Resources: Call-in below

Call 202.353.0877

Code (b) (7)(E)

Subject: Document Production in re: Congressionals and FOIA
Location: DCR 5S-105

2389

Start: 4/25/2011 3:30 PM
End: 4/25/2011 4:30 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Required Attendees: Serres, Greg; (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Optional Attendees: Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; Slinnett, Melanie S.

When: Monday, April 25, 2011 3:30 PM-4:30 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: DCR 5S-105

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

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Subject: OLA/ATF Discussion about Document Production

Location: Call-in below

Start: 2/26/2013 5:58 PM

End: 2/26/2013 5:58 PM

Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Required Attendees: Burton, Faith (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); Colborn, Paul P (SMO);
(b) (7)(C) (ATF); (b) (7)(C) (ATF); (b) (7)(C)
(USADC)

Resources: Call-in below

Call 202.353.0877

Code (b) (7)(E)

Subject: Document Production in re: Congressionals and FOIA
Location: DCR 5S-105

2391

Start: 2/26/2013 5:58 PM
End: 2/26/2013 5:58 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Required Attendees: Serres, Greg; (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Optional Attendees: Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R.; Slinnett, Melanie S.

When: Monday, April 25, 2011 3:30 PM-4:30 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: DCR 5S-105

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Subject: Fast & Furious Meeting

Location: 2.S-100

Start: 2/26/2013 5:58 PM

End: 2/26/2013 5:58 PM

Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Required Attendees: Hoover, William J.; (b) (7)(C); Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; Newell, William D.; (b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C); Holgate, Rick; (b) (7)(C); Rubenstein, Steve R.; Stinnett, Melanie S.; (b) (7)(C); Ford, Larry W.; Serres, Greg

Optional Attendees: (b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C)

Resources: 2.S-100

From:
To: Needles, James R.
Subject: FW: Request for ROI
Attachments: FF 785115-10-0004 ROI 482.dot

Jim - Just for clarification – are there any other post-arrest interviews of (b) (7)(C) conducted that would be in other ROIs (or other reports) not yet completed?

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
 202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 10:40 AM
To: Stinnett, Melanie S.
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Request for ROI

Attached is the requested ROI# 482. This ROI was completed in NFORCE on 03/21/11.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
 202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Stinnett, Melanie S.
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:57 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Request for ROI

Do we have the data requested – and if so, where can I find it?

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without express authorization is strictly prohibited.

From: [REDACTED] (OIG) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:51 AM
To: Stinnett, Melanie S. [REDACTED] (OIG); [REDACTED] (OIG); [REDACTED] (OIG)
Cc: [REDACTED] (OIG)
Subject: Request for ROI

Melanie,

It does not appear that any post-arrest interviews of (b) (7)(C) were in the NFORCE data that ATF provided to the OIG.

Could you please provide those ROIs to us?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Senior Special Agent
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General
1425 New York Ave. NW Suite 13100
Washington, DC 20530
Desk: (202) 353-[REDACTED] (b) (7)(C)
Cell: (b) (7)(C)

From:**To:** Stinnett, Melanie S.; (b) (7)(C)**Subject:** RE: Request for ROI**Attachments:** FF 785115-10-0004 ROI 482.dot

Attached is the requested ROI# 482.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

202.648. (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Stinnett, Melanie S.**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:57 AM**To:** (b) (7)(C)**Subject:** FW: Request for ROI

Do we have the data requested – and if so, where can I find it?

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From: (b) (7)(C) (OIG) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:51 AM**To:** Stinnett, Melanie S.; (b) (7)(C) (OIG); (b) (7)(C) (OIG); (b) (7)(C) (OIG)**Cc:** (b) (7)(C) (OIG)**Subject:** Request for ROI

Melanie,

It does not appear that any post-arrest interviews of (b) (7)(C) were in the NFORCE data that ATF provided to the OIG.

Could you please provide those ROIs to us?

Thank you,

(b) (7)(C)

[REDACTED]
Senior Special Agent
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General
1425 New York Ave. NW Suite 13100

Washington, DC 20530

Desk: (202) 353-[REDACTED] (b) (7)(C)

Cell: (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 9:55 AM
To: Holgate, Rick
CC: Serres, Greg; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Computer Issues

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Has anything been done on this, this morning?

(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

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From: Holgate, Rick
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 9:20 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Serres, Greg; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Computer Issues

Why are we alerted to "serious computer problems" at 7:30 pm? In my opinion, there are process issues here as much as (if not more so than) IT issues. We need to include in the discussion tomorrow our own attorneys reviewing emails, as there seem to be disconnects regarding what we're doing vice what the DOJ attorneys are/should be doing.

My \$0.02.

Thanks,
Rick

Rick Holgate
ATF AD for Science & Technology / CIO
o 202.648. (b) (7)(C)
c (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C) (USADC)
Cc: Serres, Greg; Holgate, Rick; (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thu Apr 28 19:29:51 2011
Subject: Re: Computer Issues

(b) (7)(C) will get with you in the morning. In the meantime I'm cc'ing those that need to know. We will get this right.

(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C) (USADC)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thu Apr 28 19:21:54 2011
Subject: Computer Issues

(b) (7)(C)

We're having serious computer problems that are severely hampering our ability to review documents, in particular e-mails. Accordingly, could we meet late tomorrow morning with all the relevant people, you,

Rick, (b) (7)(C) Greg, etc., to resolve these issues. To date we've tried incremental solutions which have been ineffective and led to us spending lots of time spinning wheels.

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

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Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 9:20 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: Serres, Greg; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Computer Issues

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Thanks,
Rick

Rick Holgate
ATF AD for Science & Technology / CIO
o 202.648 (b) (7)(C)
c (b) (7)(C)

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To: (b) (7)(C) (USADC)
Cc: Serres, Greg; Holgate, Rick; (b) (7)(C)
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Subject: Re: Computer Issues

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From: (b) (7)(C) (USADC)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thu Apr 28 19:21:54 2011
Subject: Computer Issues

(b) (7)(C)

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Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C) USADC [(b) (7)(C)]
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 7:36 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: Serres, Greg; Holgate, Rick; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Computer Issues

I'll be at the department first thing then at your place around 10:00. Thanks a lot.

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C) ATF
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 7:30 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) USADC
Cc: Serres, Greg (ATF); Holgate, Rick (ATF); (b) (7)(C) (ATF); (b) (7)(C) (ATF); (b) (7)(C) (ATF)
Subject: Re: Computer Issues

(b) (7)(C) I'll get with you in the morning. In the meantime I'm cc'ing those that need to know. We will get this right.

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C) USADC
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thu Apr 28 19:21:54 2011
Subject: Computer Issues

(b) (7)(C)

We're having serious computer problems that are severely hampering our ability to review documents, in particular e-mails. Accordingly, could we meet late tomorrow morning with all the relevant people, you, Rick, (b) (7)(C), Greg, etc., to resolve these issues. To date we've tried incremental solutions which have been ineffective and led to us spending lots of time spinning wheels.

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 7:29 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) USADC
CC: Serres, Greg; Holgate, Rick; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Computer Issues

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From: (b) (7)(C) USADC
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thu Apr 28 19:21:54 2011
Subject: Computer Issues

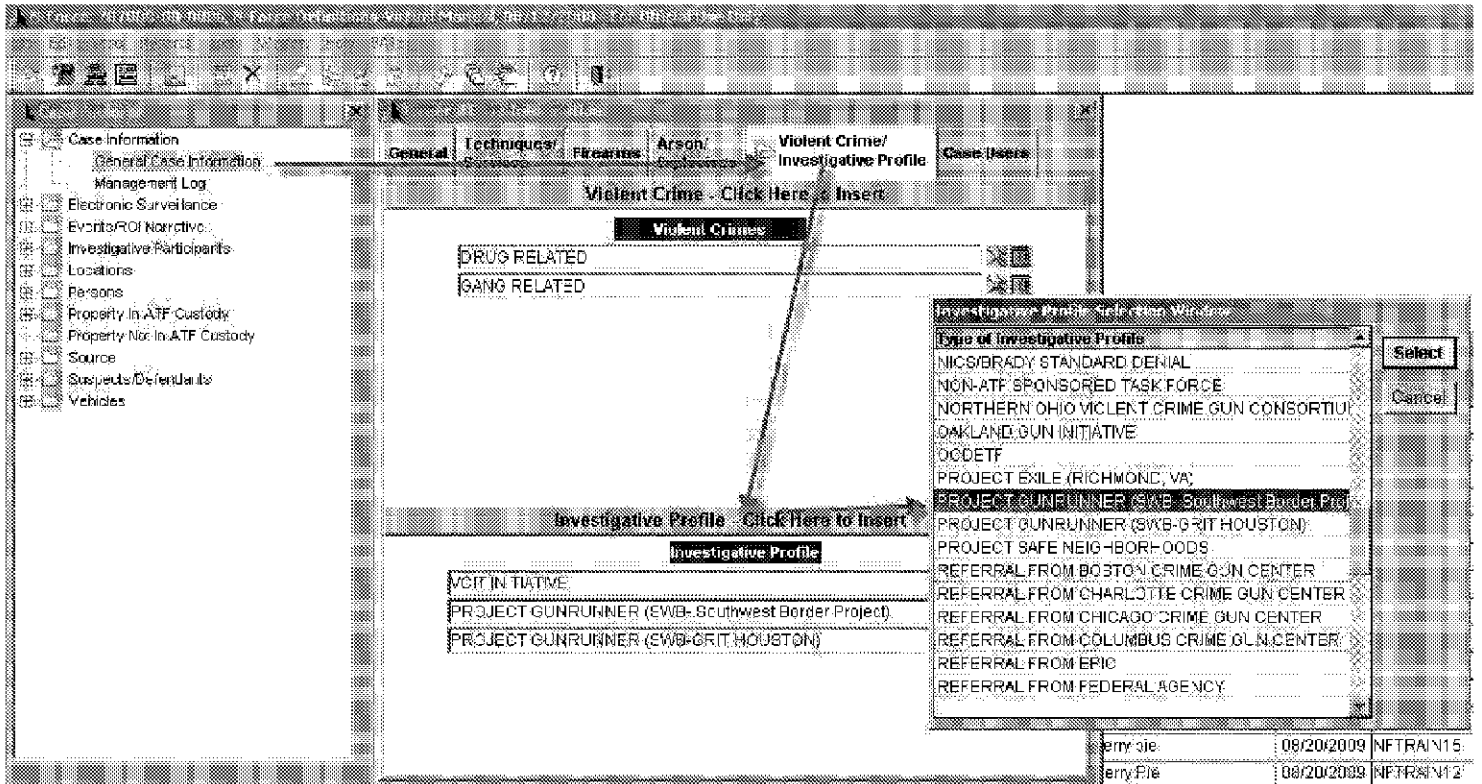
(b) (7)(C)

We're having serious computer problems that are severely hampering our ability to review documents, in particular e-mails. Accordingly, could we meet late tomorrow morning with all the relevant people, you, Rick, (b) (7)(C) Greg, etc., to resolve these issues. To date we've tried incremental solutions which have been ineffective and led to us spending lots of time spinning wheels.

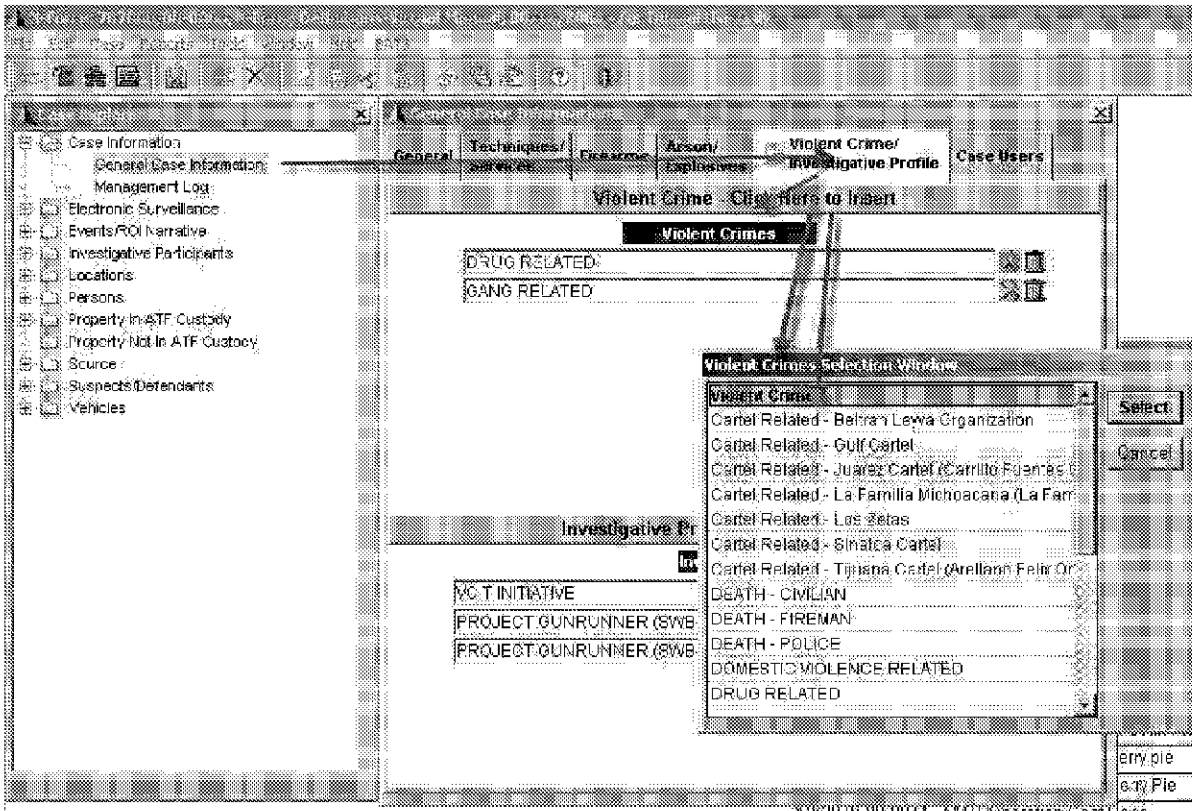
Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

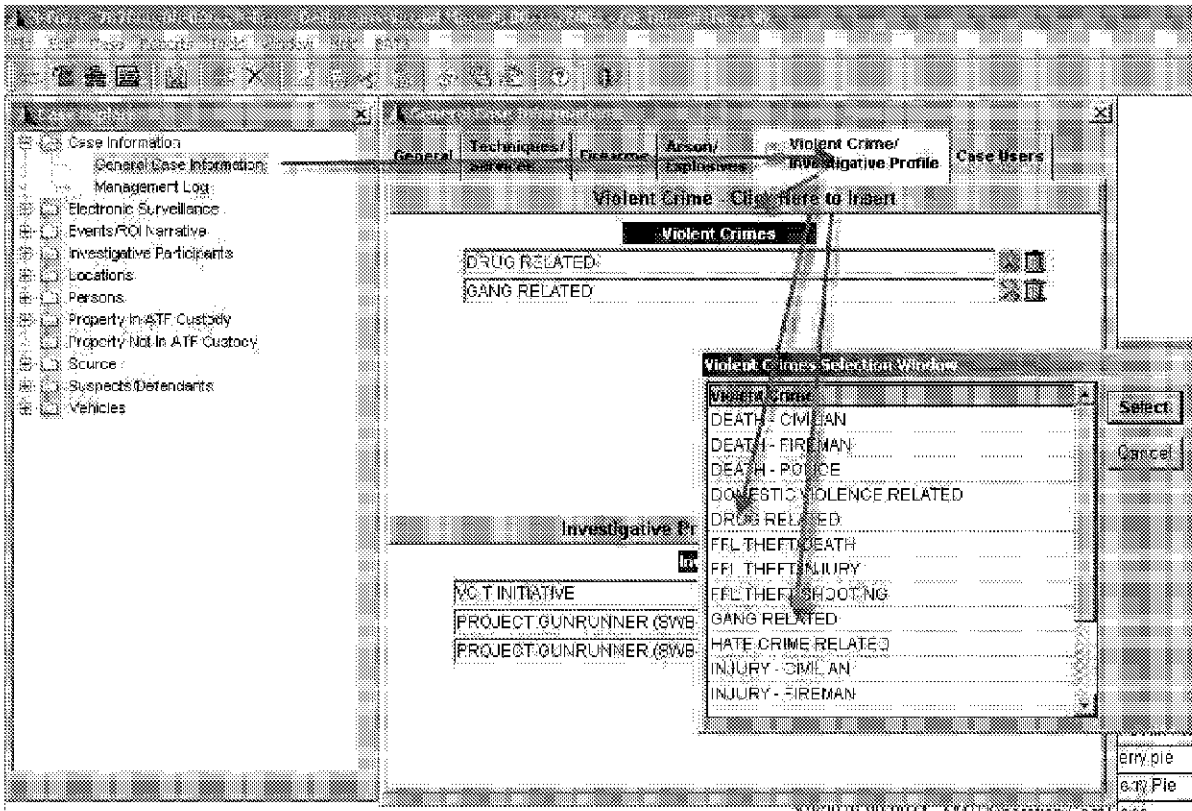
Users must select the “Project Gunrunner (SWB-Southwest Border Project)” profile on the Investigative Profile Section in the Violent Crime / Investigative Profile tab in the General Case Information Folder. This case level profile should be used by all field offices where a link to the Southwest border has been established.



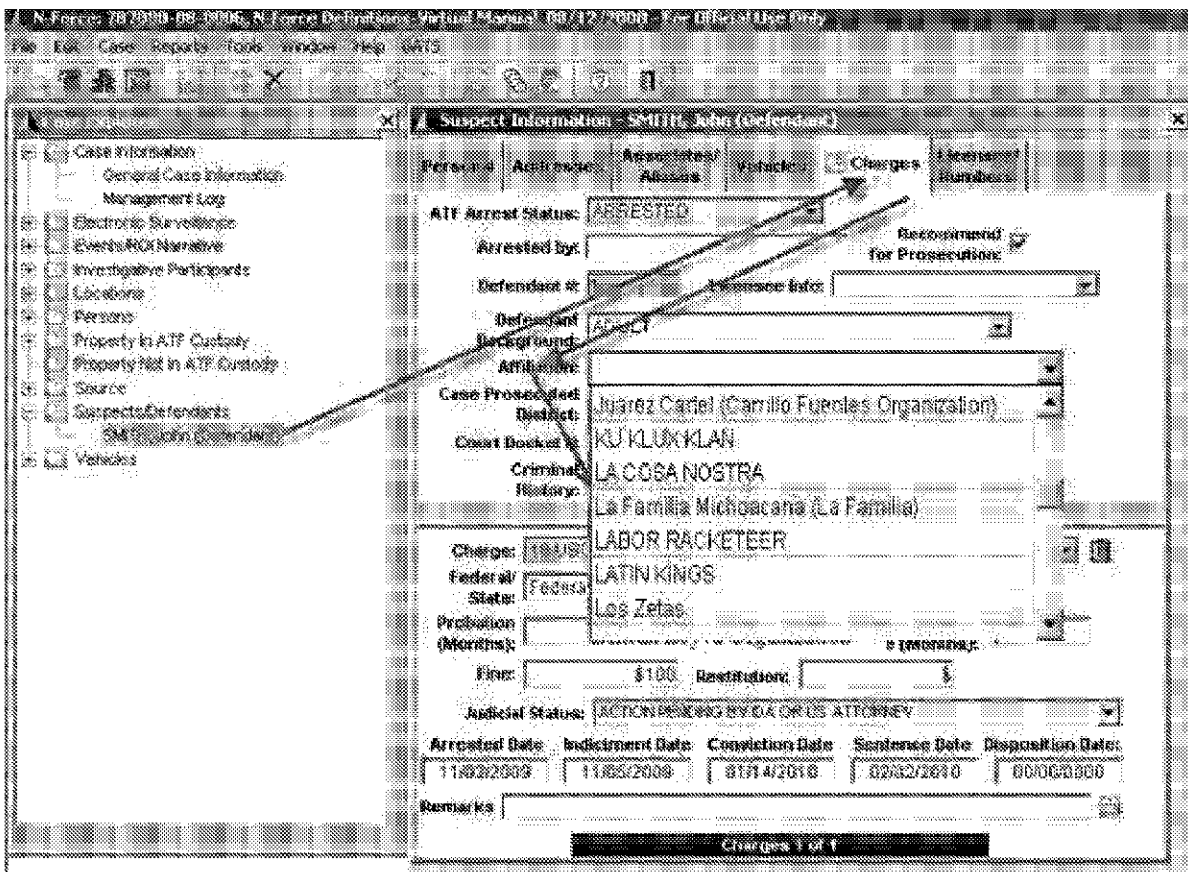
If the case has established a nexus to a Mexican Cartel, the appropriate cartel should be selected in the Violent Crimes section. This information should be updated during the course of the investigation.



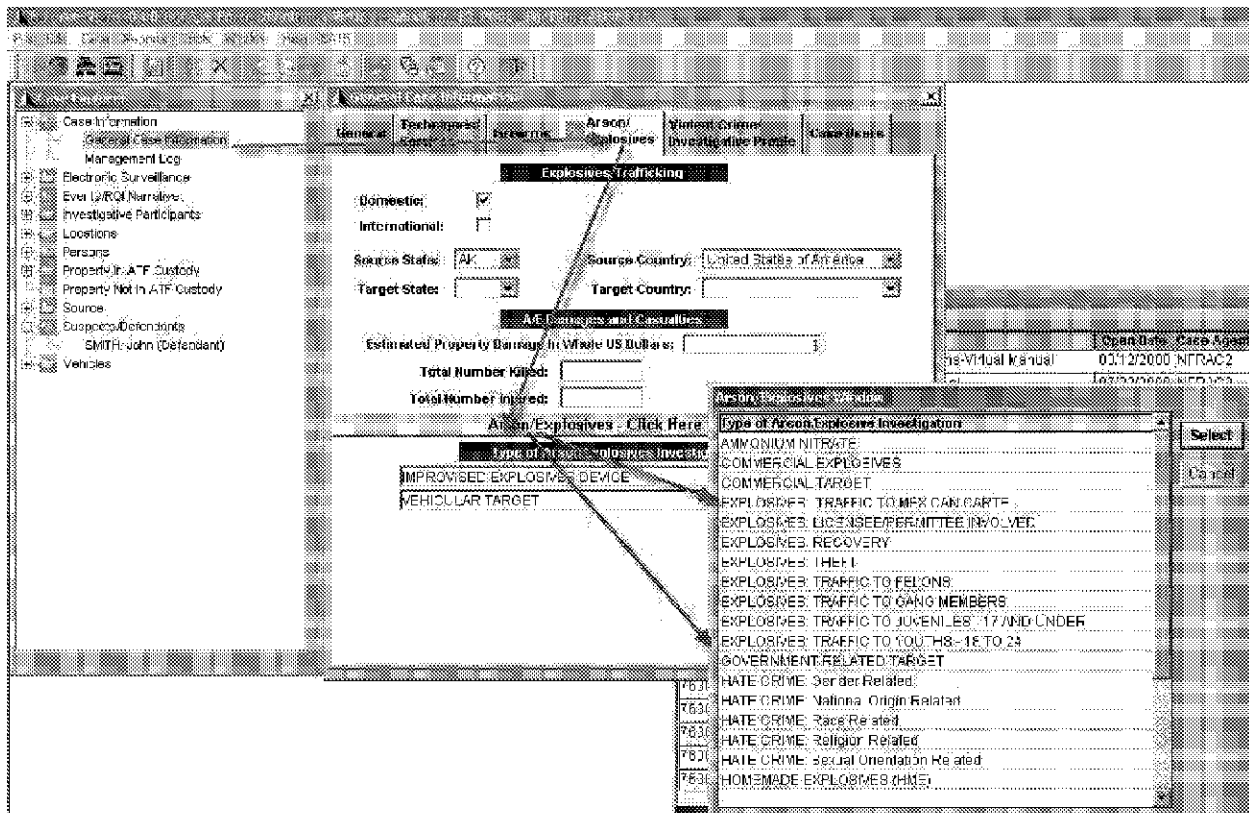
If the case also has a nexus to criminal activity in furtherance of a U.S. based street gang or drug activity, the "Gang Related" and/or "Drug Related" profiles should be selected in the Violent Crime Section on the same tab.



If specific information linking a suspect or defendant to a cartel is established, the cartel affiliation should be reported on the Charges tab in the Suspects / Defendants section in the Affiliation Field.



If the case involves explosive trafficking to a cartel, "Explosives: Traffic to Mexican Cartel" should be selected on the Arson/Explosive Tab/Section. Accurate reporting on source and target state and country is essential.



From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 9:18 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: Indicted Purchasers
Attachments: Book2.xlsx

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From: Needles, James R.
To: Newell, William D.; McMahon, William G.
Sent: Wed Apr 27 18:56:05 2011
Subject: Indicted Purchasers

Updated as of 04-26-11.

Information regarding additional suspects identified for indictment is currently being updated. When completed the individuals will be added to the list.

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Indicted targets (Purchasers)	<i>Data identified (entered) in investigation</i>	<i>Firearms purchased before target was identified (entered) in investigation</i>	<i>Firearms purchased after target was identified (entered) in investigation</i>	<i>TOTALS</i>	<i>Firearms recovered (NON ATF) in U.S. after target was identified (entered) in investigation</i>	<i>Firearms recovered in U.S. by ATF after target was identified in investigation</i>	<i>Firearms recovered in Mexico after target was identified (entered) in investigation</i>	<i>Firearms recovered not in identification of target in investigation</i>
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(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 2:27 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: SW Border/Project Gunrunner
Attachments: 2009 Gunrunner Assessment-final releasable.docx; Southwest Border FIST Team FIG Conference 2009.ppt; Project Gunrunner 041207.doc; CONOPS SWB final (3).doc

(b) (7)(C) attached is what (b) (7)(C) found. Let us know if you need anything further.

(b) (7)(C)
 Chief, Policy Development and Evaluation Branch
 Off. 202-648-(b) (7)(C) Fax. 202-648-9611

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:25 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Memos or Policies Relating to SW Border

(b) (7)(C)

The below message was used to send the attached word document Project Gunrunner 041207.doc.

This message is authorized by FMS Chief (b) (7)

Please see the attached memorandum updating the project code for Project Gunrunner, ATF's violent crime initiative relating to investigations with a US-Mexico border nexus. The memo contains guidelines on which cases should be placed under the new project code, as well as instructions on navigating N-Force to ensure proper code selection.

You will also find in the memo a hyperlink to an OSII webpage that contains detailed instructions on properly coding these investigations, as well as incorporating other "Project Gunrunner" references in N-Force. This memorandum was signed by AD(FO) Hoover on April 18, 2007. Questions regarding this email and the attached memo should be direct to (b) (7)(C) Chief, Case Management Branch via email or by telephone at 202-927-(b) (7)(C)

*Thanks,
 Program Analyst (b) (7)(C)
 Bureau of ATF
 Field Management Staff/PD&E Branch*

*99 New York Avenue NE, 6S-215
Washington, DC 20226
Phone# 202-648-(b)(7)(C)Fax# 202-648-9611*

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U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information



ATF
(U) 2009 Project Gunrunner Assessment
ATF Intelligence Assessment



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(U) 2009 Project Gunrunner Assessment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(U//LES) This report is an assessment of armaments illegally acquired and trafficked to Mexico in 2009, focusing on the drug trafficking organizations (DTOs), through the examination of the illegal acquisition, transportation, distribution, and recovery of these arms. The primary objective of this assessment is to provide information in support of Southwest border trafficking investigations and/or to assist operational planning and support initiatives. It was developed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Southwest Border-Field Intelligence Support Team, El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), International Affairs Office (IAO), and the Violent Crime Analysis Branch, with assistance from the Field Operations Division and the National Tracing Center.

(U//LES) The Cartel Controlled Landscape and Firearms Trafficking portion section in this report provides an overview of the DTOs' ongoing confrontations for control of territory in Mexico throughout 2009. The turf wars are still active as of the writing of this report, with ongoing violence especially in the Mexican border cities of Reynosa, Nuevo Laredo, Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana. There are drastic changes in DTO alliances in 2010. The Gulf and the Sinaloa cartels have aligned themselves with La Familia Michoacána to form the New Federation to fight Los Zetas.

(U//LES) ATF's Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information will be compiling a 2010 Executive Summary of the changes to the DTOs' structure and firearms trafficking methodology to immediately follow this report.

MEXICAN ORGANIZED CRIME – FIREARMS TRAFFICKING METHODOLOGY

(U) The Mexican cartels are multifaceted criminal enterprises that are engaged in narcotics trafficking, firearms trafficking, money laundering and various other types of criminal activity. The Mexican cartels operate worldwide as transnational criminal enterprises. There are scores of Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs), all of which have various degrees of affiliation to a cartel. The U.S.-Mexico transportation methodology utilized by the cartels is the result of decades of countering enforcement operations through effective intelligence collection. As a result, they have established systems of layered compartmentalized organizations with limited operational knowledge to form acquisition, supply and transportation networks. These networks are highly successful and extremely resilient. The identification, interdiction and prosecution of these networks are extremely arduous.

(U) The cartels maintain a supply of firearms through a process similar to the practice known as the Pull System. Under this process the financing, acquisition, storage and transportation (supply chain) are performed by compartmentalized components in line with one another to minimize detection, disruption and prosecution. This is a demand-based process wherein ranking DTO leaders in Mexico acquire the needed firearms, explosives and other equipment by controlling

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(U) 2009 Project Gunrunner Assessment

the entire process through strict orders and oversight of the supply chain. The communications throughout the supply chain are of vital importance in maintaining control and give the leadership the ability to protect their interest and deflect or minimize any risks. In the event that one of the components (links) of the supply chain is compromised, that component can be replaced with minimal disruption to the rest of the chain because of the component's limited operational knowledge.

(U) The firearms supply chain contains two distinct component types that are tactically used in varying degrees. The first component type is directly managed and operated by DTO members. This type is mainly utilized in the financing, transportation, storage and distribution of firearms components in Mexico. The second component type is the outsourcing of services by the DTOs to independent operators. The straw purchaser component in any supply chain is comprised almost entirely by independent operators. The DTOs utilize independent operators within the United States to avoid risk to DTO members or when their resources are limited.

(U) The DTOs' demand for firearms soars when they encounter heavy military and law enforcement offensives against them and/or a spike in internal and territorial conflicts. In the quest to identify and dismantle the supply chain components, it is essential to know the cartel landscape, the territorial conflicts and the operational environment in Mexico. The assessment of the acquisition and trafficking of firearms by the Mexican DTOs is a very challenging task due to the ever changing alliances that make up the structure of each drug cartel.

(b) (7)(E)

A large rectangular area of the document is redacted with black bars, obscuring several paragraphs of text.

(U) The average penalty for firearms trafficking ranges from approximately 12 to 30 months. A person that confines their criminal activities to being a low-volume straw purchaser would have a good chance of receiving probation. There is a willing pool of firearms traffickers and straw purchasers because there is minimal risk of lengthy incarceration.

(U//LES) In examining just the magnitude of the weapons being recovered in Mexico, it gives the impression that identifying and stemming the flow would be easy. The volume of weapons does not equate to large shipments of weapons crossing the border. With all of the advanced detection equipment and highly trained personnel, we have not produced a pattern of massive seizures that the volume suggests, to substantiate this methodology. Furthermore, the vast majority of the seized weapons in Mexico do not come from seizures at the border. They are recovered when confronting DTOs and by raiding DTO hideouts and stash houses. Illicit weapons are confiscated at other crime scenes and checkpoints where the possessors are not

related to a DTO. Based on this, it appears that the “ant trafficking” methodology is more likely the cross-border firearms transportation scenario.

(b) (7) (E)

DTO SUPPLY CHAIN MODEL:

(U//LES) Beginning in September 2009, Arizona emerged as the source State for what appears to be DTO managed and operated supply chains affiliated with the Sinaloa cartel. The DTO solicited several straw purchasers in the Phoenix, Arizona, area. They began purchasing firearms in large quantities, several times in a month for DTOs. These independent operators would

(b) (7) (A)

(U//LES) (b) (7) (A)
(b) (7) (A)
(b) (7) (A)

Some of the firearms, along with magazines and ammunition, were recovered while in transit or in stash houses along the border in Arizona and in El Paso, Texas. The location of these seizures is compatible with the Sinaloa’s territorial control along the border in Mexico. The rest of the firearms were recovered in the Mexican States of Baja California Norte and Sur, Sonora, Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Guerrero and Durango. A full range of investigative avenues, techniques and resources have been implemented in order to identify the DTO operatives throughout the supply chain(s). Valuable information has been ascertained from this investigation. From the base storage locations in Phoenix, several border stash houses and multiple supply routes were identified.

(b) (7) (A)

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DTO OUT-SOURCING MODEL:

(U//LES) In November 2009, a significant firearms trafficking target was arrested following a 1,400-mile mobile surveillance by ATF from Minnesota to a Laredo, Texas, border crossing. Seized from his vehicle were nine FN 5.7mm rifles and pistols, and five Ruger and Berreta .380 caliber pistols. The target's criminal activity came to light in February 2009 while the SWB-FIST team was matching Mexican seizure events in 2008 to the corresponding firearms traces from NTC. The target purchased a single Ruger pistol that was recovered in southern Mexico in January 2008. Further research on the National Tracing Center records (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

(U//LES) The target pleaded guilty and provided information as to his illegal firearms trafficking activities. He admitted that he was an independent operator that solicited the services of other straw purchasers, transported the firearms to southern Mexico and delivered them to the Mexican buyer. The buyer and two additional recipients of the firearms were identified. Based on information provided by ATF, the Mexican Secretariat of Public Safety (SSP) executed a search warrant and arrest warrant for the Mexican buyer that resulted in the recovery of 12 additional firearms. This case highlights the outsourcing firearms supply chain model.

MEXICO FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES SEIZURE EVENTS

(U//LES) The U.S. Government's ability to inspect the firearms and explosives seized throughout Mexico is limited. ATF and the Mexican military created the Combined Explosives Investigative Team (CEIT) to respond to major explosives seizure locations throughout Mexico. One of the main CEIT functions is to collect evidence for laboratory examinations. Currently there is not a similar joint unit to respond and collect evidence and conduct firearms examinations. In Mexico, all seized firearms must be turned over to the military within the short time period mandated by law. A formal request must be submitted to inspect the firearms once in military storage. All explosives are turned over to the military. There is a very limited amount of U.S. personnel available to respond to the location of the evidence. As a result, U.S. authorities must rely on Mexican authorities for this information.

(U//LES) The Government of Mexico (GOM) does not have a system in place to provide the United States Government with real-time official Government **seizure event information** that provides the **recovery of all** firearms and explosives in Mexico, the **affiliation to organized crime groups** and **all the markings** needed to trace these weapons. In the regularly scheduled

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(U) 2009 Project Gunrunner Assessment

GC Armas meetings in Mexico City, Mexican authorities provide U.S. authorities with a hard copy list of some of these seizure events. In most firearms and explosives seizures events, the Mexican authorities provide written press releases to media outlets throughout Mexico. In the larger seizure events, the authorities hold live press conferences and display the seized items and the people detained.

(U//LES) Since the inception of Project Gunrunner, ATF has compensated for the lack of official GOM seizure event information by collecting Mexican Government press releases and the open source reporting of firearms and explosive seizure events throughout Mexico. The information is collected and disseminated daily to our U.S. and Mexican law enforcement and military partners. It is essential to determine the identity of the DTO for each reported seizure event. Armed with this information, ATF would be able to effectively trace the weapons, analyze the data, and provide effective tactical and strategic intelligence that would severely disrupt U.S. commercial-sourced firearms trafficking to Mexico.

SOUTHWEST BORDER (SWB) FIREARMS TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS

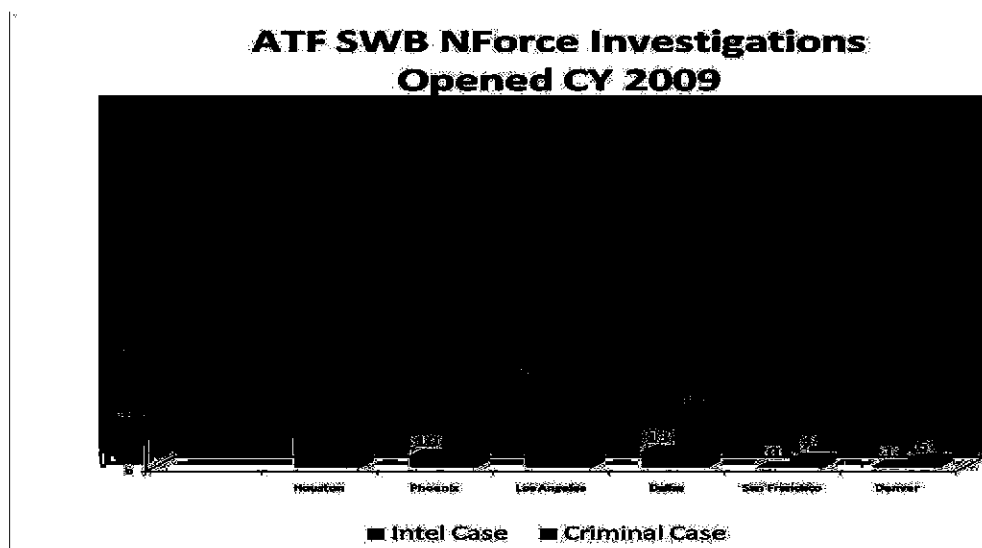
(U//LES) There were 2,410 intelligence and criminal cases opened in N-Force in CY 2009 with the investigative profile, Project Gunrunner (SWB-Southwest Border Project). The field divisions and the Mexico Country Office (MCO) opened 517 criminal cases. There are several SWB Gunrunner investigations that were opened as Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) cases in 2009, and others were carried over from previous years.

(U//LES) The Houston Gun Runner Impact Team (GRIT) generated a significant number of cases in 2009. The MCO and the New Orleans Field Division each opened three SWB criminal cases. The Atlanta, Detroit, Kansas City, Nashville, Seattle and St. Paul Field Divisions all opened one SWB criminal case. The Detroit Field Division was the only one to open a SWB intelligence case.

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(U//LES) The below chart is a listing of the criminal and intelligence SWB files opened by the top 6 field divisions in CY 2009



(U//LES) ATF OSII, along with the IAO Mexico Country Office (MCO) and border liaison agents, opened 1,508 criminal intelligence cases relating to the firearms and explosives seizures events in Mexico in 2009. The seizure events were collected, entered, and maintained under the N-Force Southwest Border (SWB) case numbers 164020-09-0001 and 162080-09 or 10-0001. Each N-Force seizure event contains the following information: all open source information pertaining to the event to include the weapons seized and persons detained; official Mexican and U.S. Government agency reports; information about the weapons seized; the firearms trace information; and any supporting documentation in connection with the seizure event.

(U//LES) In the majority of the SWB investigations, the identification, arrest and indictments were limited to the perpetrators, within the United States, that were part of the purchase and/or transportation components of the supply chains. There is valuable intelligence derived during the course of these investigations. The DTO intelligence and information are usually retained at the agent, field office or divisional level.

(U//LES) Firearms trafficking investigations should encompass the full scope of criminal activities associated with DTO weapons, especially acts of violence and intimidation. All parties in a firearms trafficking organization (supply chain) are supplying firearms that are used in furtherance of the organization's violent criminal activities in both the United States and Mexico. Under Project Gunrunner, OSII and the MCO have been collecting information from the violent events occurring in Mexico, the perpetrators, the firearms recovered and the affiliation to a criminal organization. This is challenging because the DTOs are constantly changing alliances. If the information is fully developed, the end user's violent actions and their affiliation to a DTO would provide essential evidence to broaden the scope of the prosecution against firearms

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traffickers. By merging this evidence into the prosecution of a DTO firearms supply chain, the parties could be exposed to Federal organized crime charges (RICO, CCE, VICAR) and the maximum penalties allowable by law.

(U//LES) ATF OSII is monitoring and collecting information from the major ATF SWB investigations. OSII has established points of contacts and has personnel supporting Project Gunrunner investigations that are assigned to other U.S. Federal agencies at their headquarters level. OSII is merging case information with all available unclassified and classified information from all our U.S. and international partners.

(U//LES) ANALYTICAL CRITERIA USED TO COMPILE THE STATISTICS
CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

Please be advised that a significant number of Mexico traces are currently being entered into the Firearms Tracing System (FTS); therefore, the Mexico recovered and traced data (especially CY 2009) will continue to change.

All of the following statistics have the following selection criteria in common:

- Traces with a recovery country of Mexico were included.
- Traces with a recovery date between January 1, 2009, and December 31, 2009, were selected; the statistics are based on a query of the FTS on June 15, 2010.
- Traces with a recovery date between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2009, were selected; the statistics are based on a query of the FTS on March 9, 2010.
- Duplicate, Gun Buyback, Firearm Turned-in, and Firearm Not Recovered traces were not included.

MEXICO FIREARMS TRACING

(U//LES) It has been the stance of the GOM that the United States is solely responsible for the weapons being trafficked into Mexico. The Mexican media has fueled discussions that Mexico has a shared responsibility to confront the weapons trafficking into Mexico as well. The GOM rarely submits consistent requests for traces to ATF's National Tracing Center for the firearms recovered in Mexico. In the past several years, Mexican authorities have submitted requests, through eTrace, for less than 10 percent of all firearms recovered in Mexico. Furthermore, Mexican authorities do not provide ATF with the firearms data from those recoveries in a timely manner. In order for ATF to facilitate the tracing of these firearms, ATF obtains the firearms data from the Mexican authorities, other U.S. authorities or personally inspects the weapons.

(U//LES) Each year, ATF receives trace data from GC Armas reports, urgent requests for tracing, and CD(s) with data from thousands of recovered firearms. ATF started receiving a CD with several thousand firearms, and over the last few years the data on the CDs grew to more than 10,000 firearms. Finally, in August 2009, the Mexican military provided a CD containing an inventory of 64,227 entries for seized firearms, grenade launchers and ammunition being stored from recoveries from CY 2005 to August 2009. There were more than 62,000 firearms data entries, of which almost 18,500 or 30 percent were found to have been previously traced.

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The additional firearms data substantially changed the statistical information for that time period and the analysis of the 2008 Project Gunrunner Assessment.

(U//LES) The PGR's Center of Information, Analysis, and Planning to Fight Crime (CENAPI) was provided 10 computers and additional eTrace accounts in October 2009. They were given additional accounts, boosting them to 10. In March 2010, the Mexican Attorney General announced that he wanted all Mexican State law enforcement agencies to have eTrace access. The Mexican Federal Police (SSP) and some State governments have requested hundreds of accounts. The PGR has severely limited the dissemination of the accounts. The PGR/CENAPI maintains that they are capable of tracing all firearms seized in Mexico and therefore must assert its control of the eTrace system. The PGR reports that the GOM confiscated more than 83,000 weapons since December 2006. As previously stated, the PGR has an extremely poor record of tracing those weapons in eTrace during this time period. The PGR's current personnel levels and structure make it very highly unlikely to fulfill the task. It is imperative that to effectively stem the flow of firearms, eTrace must be utilized in a timely and efficient manner by entering the firearms data at the crime scene or shortly thereafter. The GOM should ensure that the proper personnel are dedicated to collecting the firearms data and submitting the traces in eTrace.

(U//LES) From CY 2007 to CY 2009, almost (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) firearms were recovered in Mexico and submitted to ATF's National Tracing Center for tracing. Of those, almost (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) were traced to the first retail purchaser. The top 5 acquisition States (source States) were Texas (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) and (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117). The "source States" are basically consistent each calendar year. The percentages of firearm recoveries per State for each of the calendar years (CY 2007 – CY 2009) are within a half percent. The total number of firearms traced to the first retail purchaser is consistently (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) of the total number of firearms recovered and traced in each of the calendar years (CY 2007 – CY 2009).

(U//LES) It is important to note that when analyzed by date of purchase in relation to date of recovery (i.e. "time to crime"), the data yields a different picture of significant "source States." For example, overall California was the second highest "source State" for firearms recovered in Mexico in CY 2009. However, there were only (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) of the total firearms recovered in Mexico in CY 2009, purchased in California, that had a time-to-crime (TTC) of 1 year or less. Furthermore, there were (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) recovered in Mexico in CY 2009 and traced to California with a TTC of 5 years or less. This data highlights that California's significance as a "source State" to Mexico is most likely dated and will likely diminish as the existing, dated source pool of firearms runs out. The California firearms registration and gun show laws, along with their strict enforcement, appear to have a severe impact on the straw purchasing of firearms.

(U//LES) Additionally, the type of firearm and the intended user are important to determine in order to differentiate between firearms trafficking to a DTO or other users. Of the (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) traces (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

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(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117). The rifles were en route to the rural areas of Oaxaca, Mexico. Investigation revealed that the rifles were not being sent to a DTO. Under Mexican law, a .22 caliber rifle can be legally possessed in Mexico if it is registered. Only the remaining (b) (3) firearms with a TTC of 1 year or less and the (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) firearms, for a total (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), with a TTC of 5 years or less were potential DTO crime guns.

(U) It is important to adopt these principles to determine the current DTO firearms trafficking trends and patterns.

2009 Mexico Firearms Tracing

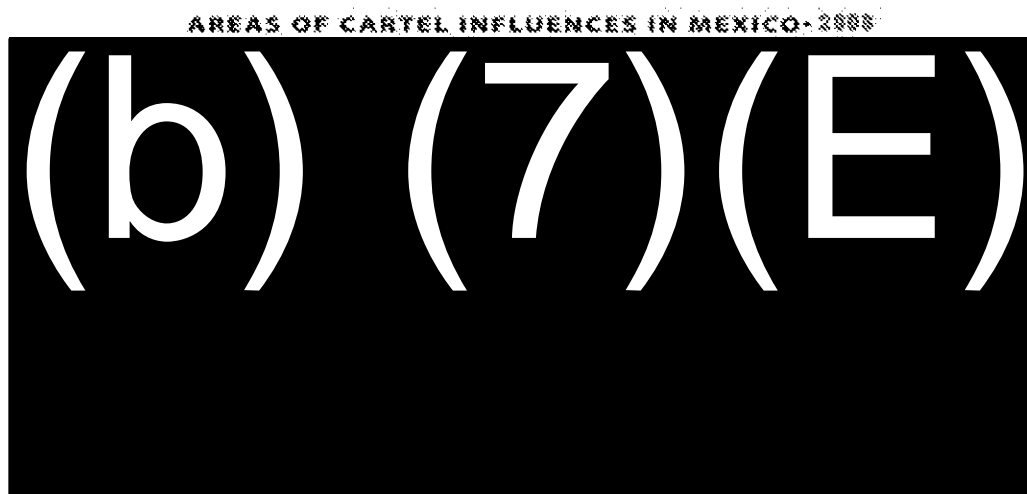
(U//LES) As of June 25, 2010, the National Tracing Center processed (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) firearms submitted for tracing that were recovered in Mexico during calendar year 2009. This is down (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) from the approximately (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) firearms recovered and traced in 2008. Using open source reporting as an indicator, there were most likely several thousand more firearms recovered in Mexico in 2009. It should be noted that the CD tendered in August 2009 only had information of firearms seized until July 2009. Since then, the Mexican authorities have gone back to their practice of not providing ATF with all their recovered firearms data in a timely manner.

(U//LES) Of the (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) were traced to the first retail purchaser. Of those, the top 5 acquisition States (source States) were (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117). The other top source States were States surrounding the (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) and States surrounding the (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117). Within the continental United States, only (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) did not have any firearms traced back to individual purchasers. The average TTC for 2009 (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) years.

(U//LES) A total (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) firearms recovered in Mexico were identified as having been sold from an FFL at a gun show. This represents (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) percent of all firearms recovered and traced from transactions by FFLs at gun shows nationwide in CY 2009. This percentage is slightly higher in (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) respectively. (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) firearms recovered in Mexico were identified as having been stolen from an FFL; this number, while minimal, is still slightly higher than the previous 2 years. *(It is important to note that these statistics only deal with FFL transactions at gun shows; private sales at gun shows are unregulated at the Federal level and no comprehensive data set exists for private firearms sales.)*

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CARTEL-CONTROLLED LANDSCAPE AND FIREARMS TRAFFICKING

(U) The above map fairly depicts the majority command and control by the Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO)/Cartels in areas throughout Mexico at the end of 2008.

(U//LES) Entering 2009, the DTO supply chains were faced with additional demands for firearms and ammunition in three areas. The Sinaloa cartel exerted their power in the State of Baja California against the Tijuana cartel and in the State of Chihuahua against the Juarez cartel, in a bid to gain control of these crucial cross-border transportation territories. This aggression, along with the military and law enforcement response, fueled additional demands for firearms, ammunition, explosives and other equipment. Their supply chains had to adapt to the increased demands and the transportation routes to the battleground areas. A major contributing factor for their success is that they meet the demand for manpower and firepower to overpower their rivals.

(U//LES) In 2006, La Familia Michoacána severed their alliance with the Gulf, Los Zetas and Beltran-Leyva cartels. They established their own firearms supply chains to gain power and facilitate the needs for their expansion. In 2009, they gained the majority control in their home State of Michoacán.

(U//LES) The Gulf cartel and Los Zetas suffered the loss of hundreds of firearms and explosives as a result of Mexican Government operations targeting them in mid 2008 and throughout 2009. Los Zetas suffered additional losses in Guatemala and Honduras.

(U//LES) By mid 2008, the Beltran-Leyva Organization's (BLO) battles with the Sinaloa cartel began to subside, and they secured their own areas of control in the coastal areas of southern Mexico and made inroads into the State of Sonora. La Familia had launched a campaign to take control of the State of Michoacán.

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2009 Mexican Organized Crime Related Gun Seizure Events

(U//LES) The Southwest Border Field Intelligence Support Team and EPIC have identified 329 Mexican seizure events in 2009 that were linked to specific DTOs based upon the reporting from open source and Mexican Governmental agencies. From the DTO-related seizure events, 126 events were matched to (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) recovered and submitted for tracing. Of the (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) firearms, (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) was the top acquisition State in 2009 with the purchase of (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

AREAS OF CARTEL INFLUENCES IN MEXICO- 2009



(U) The above map fairly depicts the majority command and control by the Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO)/Cartels in areas throughout Mexico at the end of 2009.

GULF CARTEL/LOS ZETAS

(U//LES) Throughout 2009, Los Zetas and the Gulf cartel faced mounting opposition from the Mexican military and law enforcement authorities. Their rivals, the Sinaloa cartel and La Familia Michoacána, escalated the attacks against them. Their organizational tensions began to threaten their longstanding relationship. In spite of the enormous amount of aggression from every entity around them, they maintained control of all of their previous areas and expanded their control into portions of the State of Chiapas, Mexico, and the bordering nation of Guatemala. The U.S. Department of Justice and several Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies are vigorously pursuing arrest and prosecution of the Gulf cartel and Los Zetas hierarchy and key operatives.

(U//LES) From April 29, 2009, to August 28, 2009, ATF's Gun Runner Impact Team (GRIT) in the Houston Field Division conducted a successful firearms trafficking offensive in the south

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Texas area. The Houston GRIT was a supplemental initiative to ATF's Project Gunrunner. Extensive community outreach was conducted in conjunction with the Houston GRIT, including press releases, press conferences, and interviews with national or international news media. This intelligence-driven initiative focused on investigating a large number of firearms trafficking leads based on trace information from firearms recovered in Mexico. They aggressively targeted firearms traffickers supplying criminal organizations in Mexico. The GRIT identified several firearms supply chain components, the majority of which were linked to the Gulf cartel and Los Zetas.

(U//LES) The most significant impact was on the acquisition (straw purchasing) component of these firearms supply chains. ATF industry operations investigators completed nearly 1,100 inspections of Federal firearms licensees (FFL), issued more than 440 violations, and recommended 78 adverse actions. These regulatory actions helped to identify and correct the neglectful compliance by the FFLs that straw purchasers had been exploiting. ATF partnered with the FFLs and provided training in identifying and dealing with illegal purchasers (straw) and firearms traffickers. The Houston GRIT successfully investigated more than 700 existing leads and more than 400 new leads that were developed during the operation. There were 276 new criminal and intelligence cases opened involving 189 suspects, and 644 firearms were identified as being trafficked to Mexico. The Houston GRIT seized 443 firearms, 141,442 rounds of ammunition and 3 blasting caps. They provided information to Federal, State, and local law enforcement partners that resulted in the seizure of an additional 171 firearms, bringing the total to 614 seized firearms.

(U//LES) The Houston GRIT's preventative tactics, criminal investigations and firearms seizures definitely affected the Gulf cartel and Los Zetas' ability to acquire firearms in a "business as usual approach." These efforts also effectively brought law enforcement's attention, at all levels, on the FFLs that were regularly utilized by the straw purchasing rings on behalf of the DTOs. All of these factors had an impact on the Gulf cartel and Los Zetas at a time when they were facing major offensives from the Mexican authorities and their rivals, as well as while experiencing internal turmoil.

Los Zetas/Gulf Cartel – 2009 Firearms Data:

(U//LES) During CY 2009, OSII's collection of open source reporting identified involvement of the Gulf cartel and Los Zetas in 117 Mexican seizure events in which they were named separately (Zetas 70%, Gulf 30%) and together. The top seizure event States in Mexico are: 24 (21%) in Nuevo Leon; 16 (14%) in Tamaulipas; 15 (13%) in Jalisco; 9 (8%) in Chiapas; and 8 (7%) in Veracruz. According to the open source reporting, there were 892 firearms and 782 grenades recovered in 21 Mexican States, with 19 or 20 percent occurring in the State of Nuevo Leon.

(U//LES) The analysis of the data from all firearms recovered and traced in Mexico in 2009 was compared to the open source seizure events in order to match the firearms trace data to the

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events. From the matching trace data the Gulf cartel/Los Zetas had recoveries in 16 different States in Mexico. There (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) firearms reported) firearms recovered and traced that matched the open source seizure events. Of the (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) recovered and traced, (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) of these purchases occurred in (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117). The average TTC (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117).

Significant Investigation:

(U//LES) In 2007, an investigation involving an FFL was opened in Houston, Texas, that led to the identification of a large-scale firearms trafficking organization. The investigation uncovered more than 23 participants involved in illegally acquiring and trafficking firearms. After numerous interviews with straw purchasers, three individuals residing in the Houston area were ultimately identified as the leaders of this trafficking ring. The investigation revealed that a high-ranking member of the Los Zetas organization provided the financing to one of the leaders for the firearms.

(U//LES) Throughout 2009, 16 individuals have been charged with firearms trafficking violations in the case. Several individuals have cooperated in this investigation and provided intelligence as to the workings of this trafficking organization. Approximately 336 various firearms, to include Bushmaster AR-15 rifles, Beretta 9mm pistols and FN 5.7 pistols, were purchased by this firearms trafficking organization. To date, 88 of these firearms have been recovered in Mexico, and 4 have been recovered in Guatemala. The firearms have been traced to 51 separate incidents in Mexico, in which 18 law enforcement officers and civilians have died, along with 37 DTO gunmen.

SINALOA CARTEL

(U//LES) Continuing throughout 2009, the aggressive actions of the Sinaloa cartel raged fiercely in and around the areas of Tijuana, Baja California, and Juarez, Chihuahua. The Beltran-Leyva expanded their presence in the State of Sinaloa and established a greater presence along the coast of the State of Sonora. The Sinaloa cartel gained the majority control in the State of Chihuahua and the eastern portion of the State of Sonora. They provided the additional manpower and resources to focus on the remaining forces of the Juarez cartel and gang associates. Also, they prepared for a confrontation with Beltran-Leyva in Sonora. All of these factors led to an extremely high demand to quickly obtain firearms, ammunition and equipment. This tasked the rival cartel members in charge of the firearm supply chains to obtain and transport record numbers of firearms to these hotspots.

Sinaloa Cartel – 2009 Firearms Data:

(U//LES) During CY 2009, OSII's collection of open source reporting identified the Sinaloa cartel's involvement in 45 seizure events in Mexico. The top seizure event States in Mexico are: 20 (44%) in the State of Chihuahua; 11 (24%) in Sinaloa; and 5 (11%) in Jalisco. According to

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the open source reporting, there were 578 firearms and 60 grenades recovered in 9 Mexican States.

(U//LES) The analysis of the data from all firearms recovered and traced in Mexico in 2009 was compared to the open source seizure events in order to match the firearms trace data to the events. From the matching trace data the Sinaloa cartel had recoveries (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) States in Mexico. There were (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) firearms recovered and traced that matched the open source seizure events. Of (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) firearms recovered and traced, (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) successful in identifying the first retail purchaser; (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) these purchases occurred in Arizona.

JUAREZ CARTEL

(U//LES) The Mexican military and law enforcement authorities were not successful in stopping the drug war in the State of Chihuahua. For more than 2 years, violent confrontations have raged between the Juarez and Sinaloa cartels. The cartel battles coupled with the intervention by the Mexican authorities have caused the loss of thousands of lives. The besieged Juarez cartel and their enforcement arm, La Linea, turned to the U.S.-Mexican gang, Barrio Azteca, to help them fend off the Sinaloa cartel. The Sinaloa cartel's control of the State of Chihuahua places the Juarez cartel under siege within portions of the city of Juarez. Their drug supply chains are cut off. Their firearms cross-border supply routes are restricted to the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez area where the Sinaloa cartel is gaining almost complete control. Without a breakthrough, the Juarez cartel will be dismantled or exterminated.

Juarez Cartel - La Linea - Barrio Azteca - 2009 Firearms Data:

(U//LES) During CY 2009, OSII's collection of open source reporting identified the Juarez cartel, La Linea and Barrio Azteca's involvement in 24 seizure events in Mexico. All of the seizure events occurred in the State of Chihuahua. According to the open source reporting, there were 64 firearms and 6 grenades recovered in these seizure events.

(U//LES) The open source reporting of seizure events in the State of Chihuahua lacks the reference to DTO affiliation and firearms information that prevents the matching of the data from the firearms recovered and traced in this State.

(U//LES) The analysis of the data from all firearms recovered and traced in Mexico in 2009 was compared to the open source seizure events in order to match the firearms trace data to the events. There were only 2 (8.3%) seizure events that matched the aforementioned 24 open source seizure events. There were a total of 181 seizure events in the State of Chihuahua in 2009, and from those there were 109 seizure events in Ciudad Juarez. The 24 Juarez cartel open source seizure events only account for 13 percent of the total 2009 seizure events. The Sinaloa cartel was confronting the Juarez cartel in the State during this time, and they only account for 20 seizure events or 11 percent of the total open source seizure events. These 44 events account for

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only 24 percent of the total open source seizure events and leave 137 seizure events not identified as being associated with a DTO.

(U//LES) Insufficient information was submitted to ATF's National Tracing Center for almost all of the firearms recovered and traced in the State of Chihuahua in 2009. The insufficient information prevented the matching of the trace data to the corresponding seizure events.

(U//LES) In 2009, the Mexican authorities in Chihuahua did not provide written official or open source reports on firearms recovered, and this precluded OSII from matching the firearms trace data to the seizure events. Rarely will the firearms trace data from a recovery in Mexico provide any information pertaining to the firearm's affiliation to a drug trafficking organization. The firearms recovered and traced information can only be matched to the analyzed open source reporting by having sufficient possessor, date and location information from the trace data.

(U//LES) There were (b) (3) (P.L. 11) firearms submitted to ATF's National Tracing Center for firearms recovered and traced from the State of Chihuahua in 2009. This information is almost entirely nonexistent as evidenced by the fact that there were only 10 firearms identified in the 2 seizure events that matched Juarez cartel open source reporting. None were identified as matching La Linea and Barrio Azteca. Furthermore, there were only 5 of the 20 Sinaloa open source seizure events that matched (b) (3) (P.L.) firearms recovered and traced in Chihuahua the same year. These (b) (3) (P.L.) firearms only account (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) of the total firearms submitted for tracing in 2009.

(U//LES) There were (b) (3) (P.L.) firearms of (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) of the total firearms recovered and traced that (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117). The trace information is valuable in (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117). However, without the DTO and seizure event information, the opportunity to expand the scope of the investigation and prosecution may be lost. The remaining (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

TIJUANA CARTEL

(U//LES) The fighting between the two factions of the Tijuana cartel continued throughout 2009. The fighting since February 2009 and the Mexican Government's intervention caused high demands for firearms and ammunitions. Their supply chains along the entire west coast and in Phoenix met these demands. According to Mexican authorities, the Sinaloa cartel and La Familia are also present in Baja California. The Sinaloa cartel is transporting bulk loads of drugs into Baja California for shipment to the United States. Mexican authorities have recovered large amounts of drugs, firearms, ammunition and cash from the Sinaloa in this area.

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Tijuana Cartel/EL TEO – 2009 Firearms Data:

(U//LES) During CY 2009, OSII's collection of open source reporting identified involvement of the Tijuana cartel and the El Teo DTO in 34 seizure events in Mexico. According to the open source reporting, there were 259 firearms and 4 grenades all recovered in Baja California.

(U//LES) The analysis of the data from all firearms recovered and traced in Mexico in 2009 was compared to the open source seizure events in order to match the firearms trace data to the events. From the matching trace data the Tijuana cartel and El Teo DTO had recoveries in Baja California. There were (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) firearms recovered and traced that matched the open source seizure events. Of the (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) firearms recovered and (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117).

LA FAMILIA MICHOACANA

(U//LES) While La Familia Michoacána was establishing majority control in the State of Michoacán, they were also restructuring and expanding. They sent organizational members from Mexico and positioned them throughout the United States. These leaders had direct control of their retail distribution and supply chains within these areas. In doing so, they gained a substantial amount of profits from the U.S. retail market and greatly increased their drug trafficking abilities, which in turn elevated their organization to cartel status. All of these factors caused a greater demand for firearms and ammunition on their supply chains to protect their interests in Mexico.

(U//LES) In October 2009, the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Coronado dealt a devastating blow to La Familia's U.S. operations that severely impacted the entire organization. The 44-month investigation led to the arrest of more than 1,186 people and the seizure of approximately \$33 million, 7.5 metric tons of marijuana, 2 metric tons of cocaine, 13 kilograms of heroin, 1,240 kilograms of methamphetamine and 389 firearms. This once-emerging organization is now in the position of having to make alliances with other organizations to maintain their current status.

La Familia Michoacána – 2009 Firearms Data:

(U//LES) During CY 2009, OSII's collection of open source reporting identified La Familia's involvement in 53 seizure events in Mexico. The top seizure event States in Mexico are: 25 (47%) in Michoacán; 13 (24%) in Mexico State; 7 (13%) in Guanajuato; and 6 (11%) in Guerrero. According to the open source reporting, there were 339 firearms and 68 grenades recovered in 5 Mexican States.

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(U//LES) The analysis of the data from all firearms recovered and traced in Mexico in 2009 was compared to the open source seizure events in order to match the firearms trace data to the events. From the matching trace data the La Familia had recoveries in the same five States in Mexico as in open source reporting. There were (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) reported) firearms recovered and traced that matched the open source seizure events. Of the (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

Significant Investigation:

(U//LES) In September 2008, ATF targeted an individual that paid cash in a multiple sale purchase of 20 AK-47 type rifles in Fort Worth, Texas. The investigation revealed that the target oversaw the purchases by numerous straw purchasers. The majority of the firearms purchased were AK-47 assault-style rifles and .50 caliber sniper rifles. It was determined that La Familia organization members from Mexico were in the United States and were part of this investigation. Hundreds of firearms were being transported to organization members in the State of Michoacán, Mexico.

(U//LES) Agents determined that some of these perpetrators were targets in a major Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) investigation involving the La Familia DTO at which time a joint OCDETF investigation was initiated. Intelligence gleaned indicated that a high-ranking La Familia cartel member, who resided in Mexico, would contact buyers positioned throughout the United States for the acquisition of firearms to be transported into Mexico. Through numerous interviews and debriefs, investigators learned that the weapons were used primarily to protect the organization's narcotic manufacturing sites and to engage in drug war battles with other cartel organizations. On October 21, 2009, ATF executed six search warrants, recovering 15 firearms and arresting 10 defendants while participating in the take-down of the Department of Justice's Project Coronado.

BELTRAN-LEYVA ORGANIZATION

(U//LES) The Beltran-Leyva Organization (BLO) lost majority control of the State of Michoacán to La Familia. They maintained control of their remaining southern coastal States, the coast of Sonora and costal portions of Sinaloa. The BLO maintained a strong relationship with Los Zetas in 2009. The BLO has arrangements with the Los Zetas to use their cross-border trafficking routes in Mexico along the south Texas border. The impending confrontation in the State of Sonora between the Sinaloa and Beltran-Leyva cartels came to a halt in mid December 2009, after the death of the BLO leader, Arturo Beltran Leyva, and the arrest of his brother, Carlos Beltran Leyva. This allowed the Sinaloa cartel to forge all the way to the U.S. border without any significant opposition.

Beltran-Leyva Organization – 2009 Firearms Data:

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(U) 2009 Project Gunrunner Assessment

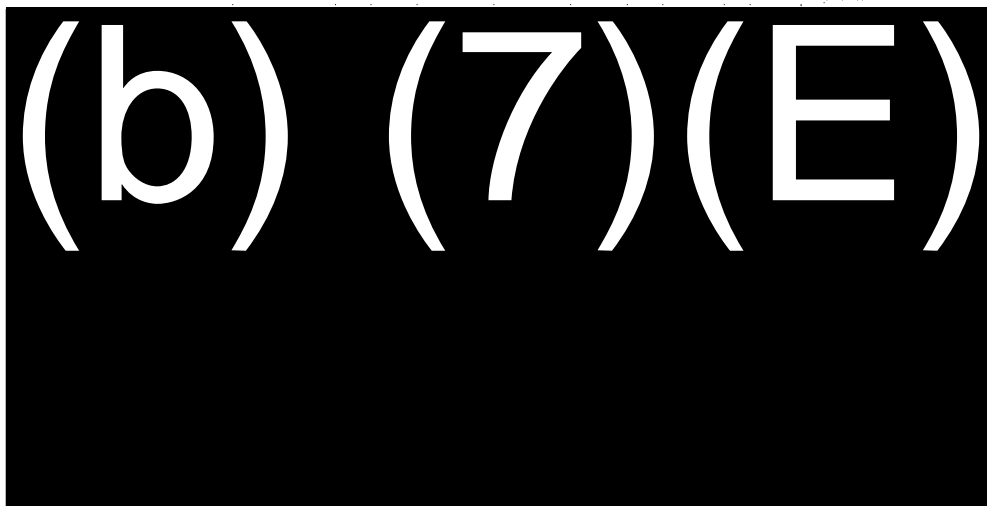
(U//LES) During CY 2009, OSII's collection of open source reporting identified the Beltran-Leyva Organization's involvement in 30 seizure events in Mexico. According to the open source reporting, there were 349 firearms and 78 grenades recovered in 9 Mexican States. The top seizure event States in Mexico are: 7 (23%) in Guerrero; 7 (23%) in Morales; and 4 (13%) in Nuevo Leon.

(U//LES) The analysis of the data from all firearms recovered and traced in Mexico in 2009 was compared to the open source seizure events in order to match the firearms trace data to the events. From the matching trace data there were recoveries in (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117). There were (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) (d) firearms recovered and traced that matched the open source seizure events. Of the (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

2010 Updates



(U) The above map fairly depicts the majority command and control by the Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs)/Cartels in areas throughout Mexico around May of 2010.

(U) The battling by the two factions of the Tijuana cartel ended without a clear winner after the arrest of the leader of the challenging faction.

(U//LES) In 2009, the mounting tensions between the Gulf cartel and Los Zetas began to take its toll on their longstanding relationship. A shooting incident in February 2010 sparked major ongoing hostilities in the States of Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas. The Sinaloa cartel and La Familia have aligned themselves with the Gulf cartel members in this area.

UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

(U) 2009 Project Gunrunner Assessment

(U//LES) From 2009 into 2010, the Sinaloa cartel continued to expand and gain territorial control in Mexico. They gained control up to the Mexico side of the U.S. border from the eastern half of Arizona to east of El Paso, Texas. As a result, they have set up new cross-border firearms trafficking routes as far east as El Paso. They are now able to route firearms to disputed areas adjacent to the territory controlled by the Gulf cartel and Los Zetas. This provides the Sinaloa cartel a greater advantage to deliver firearms to the region at a time that the Gulf cartel and Los Zetas are engaged in a battle.

CONCLUSION

(U) ATF remains at the forefront of the battle to eliminate the flow of firearms and munitions to Mexican DTOs. The demand by these organizations for U.S.-sourced firearms has never been greater. They have amassed enormous arsenals of semiautomatic and automatic assault rifles, machine guns, grenades and explosives. With these arsenals of weapons, they have handily confronted every level of Mexican law enforcement and the military. The territorial conflicts, internal battles and criminal violence have spiraled to unprecedented levels. These conflicts have risen to a level that some outside entities believe may even challenge Mexico's national security.

(U) ATF's Project Gunrunner is a huge undertaking that is expanding and adapting to meet the intelligence, investigative, and prosecutorial needs of international firearms trafficking cases. ATF is working in close collaboration with its domestic and international law enforcement partners to halt the violence along the Southwest border and throughout Mexico by denying the cartels the firearms, ammunition, and explosives that are essential for them to maintain power and control. However, OSII expects that the amount of violence, the number of seizure events and the number of firearms recovered will continue to increase throughout Mexico in FY 2010.

(U//LES) OSII points of contact are Southwest Border Team Leader (b) (7)(C) 648^{(b) (7)(C)}, Intelligence Research Specialist (b) (7)(C) (202) 648^{(b) (7)(C)} and Intelligence Research Specialist (b) (7)(C) (202) 648^{(b) (7)(C)}.

ATF PROJECT GUNRUNNER INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION PLAN

PROJECT OVERVIEW

GOAL:

The purpose of the Southwest Border Intelligence Collection Plan (SWBICP) is to improve the collection, analysis, and dissemination of actionable intelligence in support of Project Gunrunner. This will be accomplished by identifying intelligence gaps relevant to southwest border firearms trafficking and directing ATF collection efforts in all field divisions towards filling those gaps. The outcome will be the provision of improved, finished intelligence that can be used by ATF leadership to deploy investigative resources in a more efficient and effective manner.

WHY (Needs):

1. Enhance information sharing between ATF field offices and ATF headquarters.
2. Standardize procedures for the collection and analysis of information.
3. Improve analytical capabilities in HQ and the field.
4. Fulfill the need for actionable intelligence products useful for both decision makers as well as case agents.

HOW:

1. Develop a concept of operations (CONOPS) for the SWBICP.
2. Identify Priority Intelligence Requirements (PIRs) and Intelligence Requirements (IRs).
3. Identify office and position-specific duties.
4. Deliver mission-specific taskings to relevant personnel.
5. Work with other Bureau offices and outside resources to identify and provide for training needs to professionalize and enhance the capabilities of the intelligence apparatus within ATF.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

1. Standardized collection processes, improved analysis, and enhanced intelligence sharing throughout ATF.
2. Ongoing actionable intelligence products.
3. Improved intelligence for more informed decision making.
4. Enhanced prosecutions.

Concept of Operations

Firearms Trafficking Intelligence, Information, and Knowledge Management – SWB Intelligence Collection Plan

Introduction

The Southwest border of the United States is one of today's most prominent political and social issues. The battle for supremacy between the Mexican government and Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTO's) is creating a condition of instability that threatens security interests on both sides of the border. The rapid and disturbing escalation of violence within both Mexico and the United States can be directly linked to the persistent trafficking of drugs, humans, and firearms by Mexican DTO's. Police officers and political figures in Mexico are being assassinated at an increasing rate, and the lives of U.S. law enforcement officers stationed along or near the border have likewise been threatened.

One of the key elements fueling this issue is the widespread availability of firearms in the United States. ATF tracing data indicates that Mexican-bound gun traffickers have routinely exploited this abundant supply particularly with those FFL's and gun shows in close proximity to the border or located in population centers within the southwestern states. The subsequent surge in firearms trafficking into Mexico has put massive numbers of firearms into the hands of criminal organizations, who are then using them to attack government officials and civilians alike in furtherance of their drug trafficking enterprise. Firearms violence in Mexico is increasing in both frequency and ferocity. The Government of Mexico states that in the last 18 months more than 4000 persons have been killed as a result of drug-related violence, including 450 police officers, soldiers, and prosecutors.

In response, ATF leveraged its considerable investigative, intelligence, and technical resources in a dedicated effort to identify, disrupt and dismantle organizations and individuals engaging in the unlawful trafficking of firearms to Mexico. The result was "Project Gunrunner", initiated in April 2006. This project has already enjoyed much operational success, and has received favorable comment by Members of Congress.

As Project Gunrunner continued to evolve, several coordination meetings between Field Operations and OSII were held in El Paso and Houston. The SACs of the Los Angeles, Phoenix, Dallas, and Houston field divisions in particular requested that the investigative efforts of their respective divisions be better coordinated at the strategic level. A key component of this request was the development of a standardized methodology for the collection and dissemination of actionable intelligence both at the field and HQ levels.

-2-

Building on the success of Project Gunrunner, the Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information (OSII), in conjunction with the Office of Field Operations (FO), is further refining the initiative and is developing a Bureau-wide Southwest Border *Intelligence Collection Plan* (SWBICP) to maximize its information and intelligence management processes. This effort will significantly enhance the collection, analysis, and dissemination of actionable intelligence for use by management and field personnel alike.

This document outlines the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for the development of the SWBICP in support of Project Gunrunner.

Background

Firearms trafficking from the U.S. to Mexico is not a new phenomenon. ATF has actively been involved in the investigation and prosecution of organizations and individuals engaged in cross-border trafficking activities since the inception of the Gun Control Act of 1968. Although many successful investigations have been perfected over the years, they were – and often continue to be – limited in their scope. In essence, Mexican firearms trafficking cases have generally been approached with the archetypical “one felon, one gun” mindset. This means that once the purchasers or transporters (traffickers) have been identified, arrests are made and the case is concluded without pursuing further avenues which would expand the scope of the investigation. A more comprehensive approach to intelligence collection and coordination is an important way to both improve the quality of ATF’s southbound trafficking interdiction efforts, and improve the intelligence processes integral to their success.

In 2005, ATF Field Operations tasked the special agents in charge of the Los Angeles, Phoenix, Dallas, and Houston Field Divisions with developing individual operational enforcement strategies specific to countering firearms trafficking to Mexico. While these strategies proved effective at identifying and arresting individual traffickers, the limitation of this approach was the division specificity of the plans. This approach did not lend itself to coordinated intelligence collection or analysis. As a result, the criminal information beneficial to multiple field divisions was often stove-piped within each division and therefore could not facilitate the objective of identifying multi-divisional, complex trafficking operations under the direction of a specific DTO or other criminal organization.

The SWBICP is designed to broaden ATF’s approach by implementing a border-wide collection strategy. OSII and FO recognize that such a plan requires coordination spanning division jurisdictional boundaries, supported by a unified or standardized protocol for collecting information and linking leads previously not analyzed. This will better enable the identification – and therefore the disruption and dismantling of –

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trafficking schemes at the organizational level. To accomplish this objective, OSII assesses the need for the development of a standardized SWBICP that crosses divisional lines and harnesses the vast pool of information that is gathered daily by special agents, industry operations investigators (IOI's), and intelligence officers in the course of their duties.

Notwithstanding the numbers of arrests, with some notable exceptions there are still many investigations found in NForce where arrests of southbound traffickers were made and the case file fails to identify many of the critical details necessary to dismantling a trafficking organization. These details include but are not limited to:

- identifying the transportation methodology
- identifying primary and secondary routes
- repackaging and concealment methodology
- location of stash houses
- transshipment locations
- location of safe houses
- location/use of tunnels
- points of contact in the U.S.
- level of FFL involvement (if any)
- the source of funds
- who the firearms are being delivered to
- and perhaps most importantly, connection to one or more of the designated DTO's.

Each of these elements can be described as "links" in a trafficking chain; and each link can be separately targeted for disruption activities which will in turn disrupt the overall trafficking scheme. Gathering detailed information regarding these and other related elements enables ATF intelligence analysts to perform more in-depth studies which encompass a broader view of trends and patterns, resulting in a higher quality of intelligence product which can then be translated into action in the field.

Intelligence Collection Plan CONOPS

Overview

Intelligence is more than just the collection of facts and statistics; intelligence is the processing of information to formulate a product that can be acted upon or used to drive the decision making process. The term "processing" includes the collation of raw data into related items, evaluation to determine reliability and relevance, analysis to establish significance and implications, integration to identify patterns and collateral information,

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and finally, the interpretation of the data to assess its overall significance so that an actionable product can be disseminated.

ATF O 3700.2a (Criminal Enforcement Intelligence Program) sets forth the objective of integrating ATF's intelligence capabilities with those of Field Operations under the concept of intelligence-led operations. The order states "It is the goal of FO to fully aspire to the concept of intelligence-led policing in order to better address the emerging criminal threats facing ATF. To that extent, FO is implementing minimum mandatory staffing levels, training initiatives, personnel selection criteria, and reporting procedures to maximize the effectiveness of field intelligence personnel to help meet the Bureau's strategic goals of enforcing Federal criminal laws, protecting America against the threat of terrorism, and reducing crime and violence by assisting State, local, and community based-programs".

Project Gunrunner provides an opportunity to accomplish the stated objectives of ATF O 3700.2a by fully consolidating ATF's investigative expertise and proprietary technical resources with a focused and dedicated intelligence collection and analytical effort. This plan will leverage the best ATF resources in the most organized manner to effectively combat arms trafficking to Mexico.

The Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information is committed to providing the utmost support to the mission of ATF and Project Gunrunner, and will dedicate the necessary resources to ensure the success of this important initiative. The following mission statement has been set forth:

ATF Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information (OSII), Project Gunrunner Mission Statement: *To effectively employ strategic and operational intelligence in support of Field Operations in order to eliminate the diversion of firearms from the lawful marketplace by Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) and others engaged in trafficking firearms to Mexico, thereby reducing firearms-related acts of violence perpetrated by DTOs in support of their narcotics trafficking enterprises.*

Working with its domestic and international law enforcement partners, ATF will deny the "tools of the trade" to the firearms-trafficking infrastructure of the criminal organizations operating in Mexico through proactive enforcement of its jurisdictional areas in the affected border States on the domestic front, as well as through assistance and cooperative interaction with the Mexican authorities in their fight to effectively combat the increase in violent crime. Working together, the expected strategic outcome will be *the suppression of the firearms and explosives-related violence occurring on both sides of the border through effective law-enforcement collaboration involving focused intelligence sharing, training, and utilization of investigative techniques to interdict the illicit trafficking and the illegal use of firearms, explosives, and ammunition.*

-5-

Directing Resources

In order to develop the most comprehensive and thorough approach to providing proactive intelligence support to Project Gunrunner, intelligence gaps must be filled. This is accomplished through the establishment of Priority Intelligence Requirements (PIRs) and Intelligence Requirements (IRs). The IRs can either support PIRs or be stand alone requirements of a lesser priority than PIRs. Both PIRs and IRs serve as the basis for collection and analysis efforts. Based on the input obtained at the El Paso and Houston SAC meetings, the PIR's and IR's proposed for the SWBICP are shown below:

Priority Intelligence Requirements (PIRs)

1. How is the DTO acquiring guns?
2. Who are the Mexican citizens organizing weapons acquisitions and shipments?
3. Who are the U.S. citizens organizing weapons acquisitions and shipments?
4. Where are the guns and ammunition being stored (before going to Mexico/in Mexico)?
5. How are the guns and ammunition being transported to Mexico?
6. When and where are the guns and ammunition being brought into the Mexico?
7. What types of concealment methods are being used?
8. Identify sources of supply for weapons trafficking.
9. Identify the armorer being employed to maintain and modify weaponry.
10. Determine the black market cost of the firearms and ammunition
11. Determine the stocks of ammunition available.
12. Determine the location of weapons caches in the United States and Mexico.
13. Determine the level of training that the cartels receive on the use of those weapons.
14. How are transport, storage locations, and security locations obtained?
15. How do DTOs acquire police uniforms, ballistic vests, and other special equipment?
16. Identify the various means by which trafficking organizations pass on information to facilitate their illicit operations.

Intelligence Requirements (IRs)

1. What cell phone/landline/internet systems are used? (Include e-mail addresses, Web pages and social networking user names and passwords)
2. What types of encryption systems are being used?
3. Are computer systems, such as Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP), being used?
4. Traditional radio communications (i.e. VHF)?

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5. What type of communicating systems do firearms trafficking organizations utilize?
6. Are there “fixed” communications/command and control/intelligence collection sites maintained? Where are they located?
7. Do firearms trafficking organizations have intercept capability to counter U.S./Mexico law enforcement?
8. What transport means are favored/employed?
 - Maritime (shark-boats, shrimp-boats, container ships, etc.)
 - Air (commercial and private aviation)
 - Land (trucking, busses, privately owned vehicles, foot traffic)
 - Tunnels (includes use of drainage systems and levees)
 - Rail (exploitation of U.S. and Mexican rail systems)
 - Decoy/clone vehicles
 - a. How are stolen vehicles and tags obtained and used?
 - b. Are there established “SOPs” for crossing the border? What requirements are established, notifications (if any) that must be made prior to crossing the border?
9. Who presides over the financial transactions?
10. What is the percentage amount kept by transporters of firearms?

Project Gunrunner Intelligence Support

The intelligence collection plan for Project Gunrunner relies on several different offices and positions within ATF, both within HQ-based Intelligence (OSII) and the Field Operations assets and components such as the field intelligence groups and Mexico Country Office.

The ATF OSII SWB Unit, located at the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) will act as a “fusion center” for the collection and analysis of information regarding firearms trafficking to Mexico. As such, it will serve as the primary hub for the inflow and outflow of all information regarding firearms trafficking to Mexico. The SWB Unit will identify relevant firearms, ammunition, and explosives seizures through official Mexican Government Web sites, the news media, reporting from the ATF Mexico Country Office (MCO) and field intelligence groups where appropriate. Whenever possible, Mexico’s Center for Planning Analysis and Information Combating Organized Crime (CENAPI) Trace Request Reports and Central Administration for the Fiscal and Customs Inspection (ACIFA) Seizure/Trace Request Reports will be collected and processed to further identify each seizure.

-7-

Each intelligence component will have specified reporting requirements and procedures that will be fully outlined in a SWB Intelligence Collection Plan Standard Operating Procedures (SWBICP-SOP) document that is currently under development by OSII and Field Operations.

In order to maximize the effectiveness of Project Gunrunner's intelligence requirements, it is imperative that all components adhere to the collection process requirements and the reporting requirements outlined in ATF O 3700.2, Criminal Intelligence Enforcement Program Standard Operating Policies and Procedures. Utilizing N-Force as ATF's intelligence database is the cornerstone for developing an efficient and effective real-time, actionable intelligence gathering operation. In addition to using N-Force to document, share and warehouse intelligence, it will also be used to prepare strategic intelligence reports and assessments, as well as to provide actionable leads for future investigations.

701140:WJO
3111

MEMORANDUM TO: All Special Agents in Charge

FROM: Assistant Director
(Field Operations)

SUBJECT: Project Gunrunner

In support of Project Gunrunner, ATF's violent crime initiative along the border between the United States and Mexico, the current code has been renamed to more accurately reflect this project in N-FORCE. This code, "**PROJECT GUNRUNNER (SWB-Southwest Border Project)**" is located in the Investigative Profiles section of N-FORCE, and allows for a more comprehensive tracking and analysis of investigations of data related to Project Gunrunner. All special agents should continue to utilize this code. Furthermore, cases opened under either of the previous codes – "SWB Project" or "SOUTHWEST BORDER PROJECT (GUNRUNNER)" – need not be amended by field division offices. This project code name change will apply automatically in N-FORCE.

The "PROJECT GUNRUNNER (SWB-Southwest Border Project)" code should be interpreted broadly, and should be selected for any investigation associated with the southwest border or with Mexico. In addition, the following steps will allow thorough analysis of Project Gunrunner cases:

- Once a criminal link to the southwest border or Mexico is identified in an investigation, the case agent should select the "PROJECT GUNRUNNER (SWB-Southwest Border Project)" code in N-FORCE. This code is located in the Investigative Profile section, found on the Violent Crime/Investigative Profile tab of the General Case Information folder.
- In the Report of Investigation, special agents should place "PROJECT GUNRUNNER" as the first entry in the "Summary of Event" section.

All Special Agents in Charge

- Special agents should complete all identifying information on each person, suspect and defendant entered into N-FORCE. Special agents should attempt to establish if an individual has a previous arrest, and enter the State/FBI Identification Number(s). This will assist analysts in providing special agents with complete and current information on the individual.
- To facilitate inquiries on foreign-born nationals, it is critical that the date of birth and nationality of the individual is established. Information on family members, to include dates of birth and addresses, is also extremely helpful. This data enhances the ability of the Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information (OSII) to query information and track the movements of individuals and commodities.
- When generating the Significant Information Report (SIR), special agents should enter the words "PROJECT GUNRUNNER" as the first line entry of the "Narrative of Incident/Activity" field.
- FIREARM TRACES: the National Tracing Center requests that the special agents select the Trace Project Code "PROJECT GUNRUNNER (SW BORDER)" on the Trace Information tab for all firearms seized under this project.

The following link is to the Procedures for Incorporating Project Gunrunner references into NFORCE cases. This document is posted on the NFOCIS Web page under Publications:
http://intraweb/directorates/osii/nfocis/Publications/NFOCIS_Proc.htm

The Office of Field Operations and OSII will monitor the progress of Project Gunrunner, and will provide you with periodic updates. Questions related to the use of the "PROJECT GUNRUNNER (SWB-Southwest Border Project)" code in NFORCE should be addressed to (b) (7)(C) Chief, Case Management Branch, at (202) 927-██████████

William J. Hoover

From: Needles, James R.
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:33:59 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Additions to 6(e) list - "Fast/Furious"

What is your fax number?

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 5:17 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Newell, William D.; Needles, James R.
Subject: Additions to 6(e) list - "Fast/Furious"

Please add the following ATF personnel below to this GJ disclosure list:

Executive Assistant (b) (7)(C).

(b) (7)(C) will be assisting me in HQ. You may forward any correspondence to her via ATF e-mail and mail/FedEx to her at my HQ address below.

Thank you.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell: (b) (7)(C)

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From: Needles, James R.
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:31 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Request for ROI

Yes, he (b) (7)(C). It was recorded and needs to be transcribed.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 7:50 AM
To: Needles, James R.
Subject: FW: Request for ROI

Jim - Just for clarification -- are there any other post-arrest interviews (b) (7)(C) conducted that would be in other ROIs (or other reports) not yet completed?

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.548.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 10:40 AM

To: Stinnett, Melanie S.

Cc: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: RE: Request for ROI

Attached is the requested ROI# 482. This ROI was completed in NFORCE on 03/21/11.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division

ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

202.648. (b) (7)(C) cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Stinnett, Melanie S.

Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:57 AM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: FW: Request for ROI

Do we have the data requested – and if so, where can I find it?

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From: (b) (7)(C) (OIG) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]

Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:51 AM

To: Stinnett, Melanie S.; (b) (7)(C) (OIG); (b) (7)(C) (OIG); (b) (7)(C) (OIG)

Cc: (b) (7)(C) (OIG)

Subject: Request for ROI

Melanie,

It does not appear that any post-arrest interviews of (b) (7)(C) were in the NFORCE data that ATF provided to the OIG.

Could you please provide those ROIs to us?

Thank you,

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Senior Special Agent

Employee 4

2521

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General
1425 New York Ave. NW Suite 13100

Washington, DC 20530

Desk: (202) 353-(b) (7)(C)

Cell: (b) (7)(C)

From: Stinnett, Melanie S.
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 10:41 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Request for ROI

Thank you!

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 10:40 AM
To: Stinnett, Melanie S.
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Request for ROI

Attached is the requested ROI# 482. This ROI was completed in NFORCE on 03/21/11.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.5.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Stinnett, Melanie S.

Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:57 AM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Fw: Request for ROI

Do we have the data requested -- and if so, where can I find it?

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From: (b) (7)(C) (OIG) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]

Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:51 AM

To: Stinnett, Melanie S.; (b) (7)(C) (OIG); (b) (7)(C) (OIG); (b) (7)(C) (OIG)

Cc: (b) (7)(C) (OIG)

Subject: Request for ROI

Melanie,

It does not appear that any post-arrest interviews of Manuel Celis-Acosta were in the NFORCE data that ATF provided to the OIG.

Could you please provide those ROIs to us?

Thank you,

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Senior Special Agent
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General
1425 New York Ave. NW Suite 13100

Washington, DC 20530

Desk: (202) 353-(b) (7)(C)

Cell: (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 10:29 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Firearm purchases - per date w recover.xlsx DRAFT
Attachments: Firearm purchases - per date w recover.xlsx

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 10:29 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Firearm purchases - per date w recover.xlsx DRAFT
Attachments: Firearm purchases - per date w recover.xlsx

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 9:17 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

It is a culled down list from all employees who have separated after July 1 2009 consistent with Mr Issa's preservation request.

(b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
ATF Office of the Director
O: 202-648-(b) (7)(C)
C: (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Fri Apr 22 14:04:16 2011
Subject: FW: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Can either of you answer this?

(b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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From: Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 12:18 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

What universe of former employees are we contacting? Just those who retired on or after the start of gunrunner?

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Serres, Greg; McDermond, James E.; Chait, Mark R.; Newell, William D.; McMahon, William G.; Stinnett, Melanie S.; Holgate, Rick
Cc: (b) (7)(C) Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Sent: Fri Apr 22 08:15:42 2011
Subject: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Please take a look at the attached draft, and indicate your concurrence or corrections by 3 pm. Today.

Rick and/or Melanie with respect to the question in the comment box it my understanding is that ATF does not routinely permit contractors, sub-contractors, or consultants access to the responsive docs, but will utilize the services of a third party contractor to assist in the organization and querying of the documents. Is that correct?

(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff

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From: Gaston, Molly (SMO) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 7:11 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Issa Doc Preservation Letter

(b) (7)(C)

Attached please find the current version of the response to House Oversight's request about ATF preservation of documents. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

understand from Billy that you're the lucky one to whom I should direct this draft.

Thanks so much,
Molly

Molly Gaston

Office of Legislative Affairs

U.S. Department of Justice

Office: (202) 305-(b) (7)(C) | Cell: (b) (7)(C)

<<issa preservation response 421.docx>>

From: (b) (7)(C) Employee 4
Sent: April 22, 2011 2:37:18 PM

2628

To: (b) (7)(C) (CIV); (b) (7)(C) (CRM); (b) (7)(C) (USADC)
CC: (b) (7)(C); Stinnett, Melanie S.; Rubenstein, Steve R.; Chait, Mark R.; Holgate, Rick
Subject: FW: Document Requests

Attachments: Preservation Directive relative to Project Gunrunner; ES Preservation Directive / Review of Firearms Trafficking Investigation; Simplified Access to the Fast and Furious Shared Drive.; ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOCUMENT PRODUCTION RELATED TO OPERATION FAST AND FURIOUS; Corrected document - HCCGRDOCLIST.docx; FW: Verifications of search - IG review of certain firearms investigations; Preservation Directive FastandFurious (2).docx; 3_28 email to ADs.htm

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

(b) (7)(C) it was a pleasure to meet you this morning, hopefully we were able to answer your questions and provide you with sufficient background to begin your work. Again if you are in need of anything, please do not be hesitate to ask.

Per your request I have attached the following:

The March 28 e-mail to all ADs regarding the document request from the IG and the preservation directive for Fast and Furious

The April 5 e-mail from Counsel entitled ES1 Preservation Directive/Fast and Furious

Verifications for every HQ directorate, the Phoenix Field Division, and a generic verification for all field divisions other than Phoenix to be executed in conjunction with the search for documents requested by the IG on March 25, 2011.

The Additional Instructions that (b) (7)(C) sent out to all ADs and SACs on April 6 with:

- The instructions on how to move items to the shared drive relative to both the IG document request and the congressional subpoena
- Verification forms to complete
- The IG document request
- Language stating what the subpoena covered

An e mail from (b) (7)(C) with corrected information on how to move items to the shared drive

Have a great weekend, we'll see you on Monday.

(b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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express authorization is strictly prohibited.
Employee 4

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 12:06 PM

To: All Assistant Directors; All Deputy Assistant Directors; All Special Agents in Charge

Subject: ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOCUMENT PRODUCTION RELATED TO OPERATION FAST AND FURIOUS

Attachments: OIG.FF document request 3-25-11.pdf; OIG and HCOGR Verification.docx; HCOGRDOCLIST.docx

On March 21, 2011, the Acting Inspector General (IG) for the Department of Justice advised Acting Director Melson that the IG's Oversight and Review Division recently initiated a review of certain ATF firearms trafficking investigations. In a March 21 memo, the Assistant IG for the Oversight and Review Division stated that the review would cover the matter known as Operation Fast and Furious, and other investigations with similar objectives, methods, and strategies. On March 25, 2011, Acting Director Melson received the attached request for documents and information relating to the IG review of certain firearms trafficking investigations.

On March 28, 2011, AD Stinnett sent each of you instructions on how to respond to the March 25, 2011 document request. She also sent each of you a document preservation request relative to Operation Fast and Furious.

On March 31, 2011 the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (HCOGR) issued a subpoena for documents related to Operation Fast and Furious and the FBI investigation into the death of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry.

While the IG document request and the HCOGR subpoena are generally directed at the same investigation, they are distinctly different in their scope. To minimize the impact of these two document requests, facilitate production of responsive documents, and ensure the confidentiality of responses, we will combine them into one request and secure them electronically. (Accordingly, to the extent that AD Stinnett's March 28, 2011 asked for you to produce hard copy documents to her office, you can disregard that portion of her guidance). **The due date for the electronic production of responsive documents and certification of search is close of business Monday, April 11, 2011.**

Regardless of any prior production of responsive documents to any entity inside or outside of ATF, everyone is required to produce any responsive documents, e-mails, etc. at this time. All responsive documents anywhere in the organization must be produced. Further, all documents must be fully produced. There is no authority for ATF to withhold records, or redact portions of records because we believe they are sensitive or confidential or privileged. The IG has statutory authority to obtain any and all records related to this review.

ACTION ITEM FOR EACH AD AND EMPLOYEES IN EACH DIRECTORATE

Please carefully review both the attached OIG request for documents and the attached HCOGR request and forward to each office within your area of responsibility. These documents should be forwarded to each employee in every office under your supervision. While it is likely that most of the requested records will be housed at the Phoenix Field Division or Bureau headquarters, it is nonetheless critical that each SAC and HQ Official ensure a thorough search is conducted at each field and headquarters division and any responsive record is forwarded as instructed. Please err on the side of caution and be over inclusive in producing documents or information.

Also attached is a revised verification certification that covers document production for the OIG and the HCOGR which needs to be signed and dated by each SAC and HQ Official. If your division does not have responsive materials, please note "no responsive records found" on the certification and provide a copy of the signed document as instructed below. A scanned copy of this document should be placed in the division folder as described below using the naming convention of "Division_Certification" e.g. Phoenix_Certification. Personnel in the Office of Field Operations should also e-mail a copy of their certification to Program Analyst (b) (7)(C).

Do not produce any of the following documents generally described as national policy documents (Headquarters has and will produce these documents):

The 2009 ONDCP National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy
The Draft 2011 ONDCP National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy
The Department of Justice Strategy for Combating the Mexican Cartels
The Department of Justice Firearms Manual
Any national ATF Orders, Briefs, Handbooks, or Guides
The ATF National Firearms Trafficking Enforcement Implementation Plan dated June 2009 and its transmittal memo
The ATF Cartel Strategy dated September 2010 and its transmittal memo

However, any additional guidance on any of the above topics issued at the directorate, division, field office, or branch level must be produced.

Do not produce any of the following documents generally described as NFORCE documents from the Fast and Furious case file (Headquarters has and will produce these documents):

Management Logs
Reports of Investigation
Significant Incident Reports
Affidavits
Anything currently contained in the Phoenix Field Division shared drive s:\Phoenix VII\7585115-10-0004

However, any other responsive documents, e-mail, or communications related to Operation Fast and Furious maintained at the directorate, division, field office, or branch level must be produced.

All production of responsive materials is to be in electronic form only as outlined below. Do not submit paper copies to headquarters. Any responsive document or other communication that is not currently in electronic form is to be scanned.

PROCESS FOR EACH EMPLOYEE TO SUBMIT RESPONSIVE DOCUMENTS ELECTRONICALLY

ATF will compile all responsive documents by having employees place electronic copies of the documents into a shared computer drive. Do not produce hard copies or e-mail copies of documents to HQ.

Each employee and task force officer in ATF has been given access to a nationwide shared computer drive titled "Fast and Furious Investigation." Access to this drive was automatically created when you logged in to your computer Monday, April 4, 2011.

If you have responsive documents to submit, follow the procedure below to deposit them into the shared drive in the appropriate location. If you have no responsive documents, complete your certification and return it in accordance with the instructions provided by your supervisor.

How to Access the Fast and Furious Investigation shared drive.

To access this drive, place your mouse pointer over the "Start" button in the lower left corner of your screen and right click, then select "Explore."

Scroll down until you see a drive labeled "Fast and Furious Investigation." (If you do not see this drive and your computer has not been rebooted recently, you will need to log out of the network and log back in so that the network may create your access to the shared drive.)

Left click on that drive.

Scroll to your field division or Headquarters Directorate

Left Click on that folder

How to Create a Document Folder

Next create a new user folder to hold your responsive documents. To do this:

Go to the top menu and select "File"

Then select "New"

Then select "Folder"

Name the new folder with your login id (network user id)

Left click on the folder you just created to enter it

Copy any responsive documents into your folder in the shared drive.

About your folder:

Only you can access your folder. No one else in your office, division, or directorate can view your submission(s).

Similarly, you cannot access anyone else's folder.

You can deposit documents into the folder, but once deposited in the folder you cannot read, rename, modify, or delete them.

Saving scanned documents

If you must scan a document to submit it, please save it using the following naming convention:

Your login ID_description_of_the_document_date of the document

Where Your login ID is your **network login ID**, followed by an underscore and the description of the document, for example, "**_division_firearms_trafficking_guidance_memo_**" followed by the date of the original document **201104XX** expressed as a four digit year followed by two digit month and 2 digit day

An example of a properly named scanned file might look like this:

Atfperson_division_firearms_trafficking_guidance_memo_20100920

Phoenix Field Division personnel need not produce e-mails to the shared folder, all Phoenix employees' e-mail will be collected automatically. Each Phoenix user will receive a network notification advising them that their e-mail folders are being copied from their pc in response to this information collection. All Phoenix employees are required to cooperate with this collection process.

How to Save Small Quantities of Responsive E-Mails

To save a singular responsive e-mail follow these steps:

Open the e-mail

Left Click on the “Office Button” Icon in the upper left hand corner

Select “Save As”

Browse to your folder on the shared drive.

In the Save as type: dialogue box be sure to select Outlook Message Format (*.msg)

Save the file directly to your folder in the shared drive.

How to Save Large quantities of responsive E-Mails

Move all responsive e-mails to a single folder within Outlook – create a new folder if need be.

Once you have moved all responsive e-mails into the folder, highlight the folder on the folder list.

Left click “File” in the upper left hand corner of the Outlook window

In the dialogue box select “Import and Export”

In the next dialogue box select “Export to a File,” then click “Next”

In the next dialogue box select “Personal Folder File (.pst),” then click “Next”

In the next dialogue box select (highlight by clicking on it) the folder where you have stored the responsive e-mails, then click “Next”

In the next dialogue box in the “Save exported file as” box, browse to your folder on the shared drive and save the .pst file containing your e-mail folder naming it using the following naming convention:

Your login ID_email_ff_20110404, then click “Finish”

Where Your login ID is your **network login ID**, followed by an underscore and the letters “_email_ff_” followed by the date you exported the file **201104XX** expressed as a four digit year followed by two digit month and 2 digit day.

Questions regarding what information to produce should be reviewed with your supervisor. If you are unable to determine how to proceed, questions may be directed to AD Melanie Stinnett in OPRSO via e-mail or at 202-648-7500

Questions regarding how to migrate data to the shared drive should be directed to the Helpdesk at 877-875-3723.

Any other questions should be addressed to (b) (7)(C) in the Office of the Director via e-mail or at 202-648-(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff

Office of the Director

O: 202-648-(b) (7)(C)

C: (b) (7)(C)

HQ Room 5 S 100

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:19 PM
To: All Assistant Directors; All Deputy Assistant Directors; All Special Agents in Charge
Subject: Corrected document - HCOGRDOCLIST.docx
Attachments: HCOGRDOCLIST.docx

I have been made aware that the attachment to my last message regarding document production was corrupted. Please see the repaired document attached.

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From: Stinnett, Melanie S.

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 5:07 PM

To: All Assistant Directors; Potter, Mark W.; Hoover, William J.

CC: (b) (7)(C) Serres, Greg

Subject: FW: Verifications of search - IG review of certain firearms investigations

Attachments: Verification.Dir.docx; Verification.CC.docx; Verification.FO.docx; Verification.eps.docx; Verification.om.docx; Verification.oprso.docx; Verification.osii.docx; Verification.ost.docx; Verification.pga.docx; Verification.hrpd.docx; Verification.phx.docx; Verification.field.docx

Attached are the verifications for every HQ directorate, the Phoenix Field Division, and a generic verification for all field divisions other than Phoenix. They are to be executed in conjunction with the search for documents requested by the IG on March 25, 2011. If you have any questions, we can discuss them at staff tomorrow.

Verification of Records Search – Office of Chief Counsel

I, _____, as Chief Counsel, have caused a search of the Office of _____ to be made for all documents and other information relating to ATF Operation Fast and Furious and declare that the enclosed materials, to the best of my knowledge and belief, reflect all documents responsive to the Office of the Inspector General's request dated March 25, 2011.

Date

Chief Counsel

Verification of Records Search – Office of the Director

I, _____, as Deputy Director, have caused a search of the Office of _____ to be made for all documents and other information relating to ATF Operation Fast and Furious and declare that the enclosed materials, to the best of my knowledge and belief, reflect all documents responsive to the Office of the Inspector General's request dated March 25, 2011.

Date

Deputy Director

**Verification of Records Search – Office of Enforcement Programs and
Services**

I, _____, as Assistant Director, have caused a search of the Office of _____ to be made for all documents and other information relating to ATF Operation Fast and Furious and declare that the enclosed materials, to the best of my knowledge and belief, reflect all documents responsive to the Office of the Inspector General's request dated March 25, 2011.

Date

Assistant Director

Verification of Records Search – Office of Field Operations

I, _____, as Assistant Director, have caused a search of the Office of _____ to be made for all documents and other information relating to ATF Operation Fast and Furious and declare that the enclosed materials, to the best of my knowledge and belief, reflect all documents responsive to the Office of the Inspector General's request dated March 25, 2011.

Date

Assistant Director

**Verification of Records Search – Office of Human Resources and Professional
Development**

I, _____, as the Assistant Director, have caused a search of the Office of _____ to be made for all documents and other information relating to ATF Operation Fast and Furious and declare that the enclosed materials, to the best of my knowledge and belief, reflect all documents responsive to the Office of the Inspector General's request dated March 25, 2011.

Date

Assistant Director

Verification of Records Search – Office of Management

I, _____, as Assistant Director, have caused a search of the Office of _____ to be made for all documents and other information relating to ATF Operation Fast and Furious and declare that the enclosed materials, to the best of my knowledge and belief, reflect all documents responsive to the Office of the Inspector General's request dated March 25, 2011.

Date

Assistant Director

**Verification of Records Search – Office of Professional Responsibility and
Security Operations**

I, _____, as Assistant Director, have caused a search of the Office of _____ to be made for all documents and other information relating to ATF Operation Fast and Furious and declare that the enclosed materials, to the best of my knowledge and belief, reflect all documents responsive to the Office of the Inspector General's request dated March 25, 2011.

Date

Assistant Director

**Verification of Records Search – Office of Strategic Intelligence and
Information**

I, _____, as Assistant Director, have caused a search of the Office of _____ to be made for all documents and other information relating to ATF Operation Fast and Furious and declare that the enclosed materials, to the best of my knowledge and belief, reflect all documents responsive to the Office of the Inspector General's request dated March 25, 2011.

Date

Assistant Director

Verification of Records Search – Office of Science and Technology

I, _____, as the Assistant Director, have caused a search of the Office of _____ to be made for all documents and other information relating to ATF Operation Fast and Furious and declare that the enclosed materials, to the best of my knowledge and belief, reflect all documents responsive to the Office of the Inspector General's request dated March 25, 2011.

Date

Assistant Director

Verification of Records Search – Office of Public and Governmental Affairs

I, _____, as Assistant Director, have caused a search of the Office of _____ to be made for all documents and other information relating to ATF Operation Fast and Furious and declare that the enclosed materials, to the best of my knowledge and belief, reflect all documents responsive to the Office of the Inspector General's request dated March 25, 2011.

Date

Assistant Director

Verification of Records Search – Phoenix Field Division

I, _____, as the Special Agent-in-Charge, have caused a search of the Phoenix Field Division to be made for all documents and other information relating to ATF Operation Fast and Furious and declare that the enclosed materials, to the best of my knowledge and belief, reflect all documents responsive to the Office of the Inspector General's request dated March 25, 2011.

Date

Special Agent-in-Charge

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 8:16 AM

To: All Assistant Directors; All Deputy Assistant Directors; All Special Agents in Charge

Subject: Simplified Access to the Fast and Furious Shared Drive.

THE PROCESS FOR EACH EMPLOYEE TO SUBMIT RESPONSIVE DOCUMENTS ELECTRONICALLY HAS BEEN SIMPLIFIED.

Due to difficulties some personnel were having following the previous directions with folder creation and file access, we have greatly simplified the process of submitting your responsive documents.

ATF will compile all responsive documents by having employees place electronic copies of the documents into a shared computer drive. Do not produce hard copies or e-mail copies of documents to HQ.

Each employee and task force officer in ATF has been given access to a nationwide shared computer drive titled "Fast and Furious Investigation." When accessing this shared drive, each employee or TFO is now connecting directly into a uniquely created folder specific to each employee/TFO that was automatically created when you logged in to your computer Thursday, April 7, 2011. You no longer need to create or rename any folders.

If you have responsive documents to submit, follow the procedure below to deposit them into the shared drive. If you have no responsive documents, complete your certification and return it in accordance with the instructions provided by your supervisor.

How to Access the Fast and Furious Investigation shared drive.

To access this drive, place your mouse pointer over the "Start" button in the lower left corner of your screen and right click, then select "Explore."

Scroll down until you see a drive labeled Username on 'ntcpcifs02\common01\Fast and Furious Investigation\Users' R: where username is the login id of the employee or TFO. (If you do not see this drive or your computer has not been rebooted today, you will need to log out of the network and log back in so that the network may create your access to the updated shared drive.) Click on this drive to access it and deposit any responsive documents directly into this space. You do not need to create or rename any folders.

Copy any responsive documents into the shared drive bearing this label. This area is available only to you, and has been uniquely created for your use. If you deposited any documents into the shared drive yesterday, please resubmit them to this new drive space.

About your folder:

Only you can access your folder. No one else in your office, division, or directorate can view your submission(s).

Similarly, you cannot see or access anyone else's folder.

You can deposit documents into the folder, but once deposited in the folder you cannot rename or delete them.

(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
O: 202-648-(b) (7)(C)
C: (b) (7)(C)
HQ Room 5 S 100

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 2:19:09 PM
To: Serres, Greg; McDermond, James E.; Chait, Mark R.; Newell, William D.; McMahon, William G.; Stinnett, Melanie S.; Holgate, Rick; (b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C) Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Subject: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter
Attachments: issa preservation response 421.docx

Without objection I will send the below and attached to the Department at 3:00pm

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Molly back to you with one small edit, also there are two different aspects to the contractor question posed in the document.

1. The statement in the letter is correct: we do not allow contractors, consultants, etc. to keep, store, or retain ATF documents outside of the ATF network or premises (which is what I believe the letter intended to state; we should probably clarify). This is for security purposes, obviously, but it also means that we do not need to reach outside of the ATF network and premises for discovery purposes. (We can declare our search for responsive documents complete without querying contractors and consultants separately.)
2. Access to the responsive documents is a different question. HP has been intimately involved in the discovery process and, as systems administrators, definitively have access to the responsive documents – within the ATF network. Specifically, they helped establish the file structure for the collected documentation, they operate the eVault archiving capability, and they stood up the search software for the collected documents. In addition, outside of the specific repository of responsive documents we've created, you should assume that various contractors would have likely had access to (and potentially created) responsive documents: ballistic intelligence analysts, NTC contractors, asset forfeiture support contractors, among others. However, any/all access to responsive documents should have occurred only within the ATF network and premises, and therefore a search of our network and premises should have revealed any such documentation. In order to process the responsive documents for production to Congress, we will need to use the services of a support contractor.

(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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From: Gaston, Molly (SMO) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]

Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 7:11 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Cc: Hoover, William J.; (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Issa Doc Preservation Letter

(b) (7)(C)

Attached please find the current version of the response to House Oversight's request about ATF preservation of documents. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5) I understand from Billy that you're the lucky one to whom I should direct this draft.

Thanks so much,
Molly

Molly Gaston
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
Office: (202) 305-(b) (7)(C) | Cell: (b) (7)(C)



issa
preservation
response
421.docx (23
kB)

From: Stinnett, Melanie S.
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 12:15:59 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: Serres, Greg; McDermond, James E.; Chait, Mark R.; Newell, William D.; McMahon, William G.; Stinnett, Melanie S.; Holgate, Rick; (b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C) Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Subject: FW: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter
Attachments: issa preservation response 421 .docx

The attachment didn't go through the first time. Let me try this again.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 8:16 AM
To: Serres, Greg; McDermond, James E.; Chait, Mark R.; Newell, William D.; McMahon, William G.; Stinnett, Melanie S.; Holgate, Rick
Cc: (b) (7)(C) Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Subject: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

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Rick and/or Melanie with respect to the question in the comment box it my understanding is that ATF does not routinely permit contractors, sub-contractors, or consultants access to the responsive docs, but will utilize the services of a third party contractor to assist in the organization and querying of the documents. Is that correct?

(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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From: Gaston, Molly (SMO) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]

Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 7:11 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Cc: Hoover, William J.; (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Issa Doc Preservation Letter

(b) (7)(C)

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(b) (5)

(b) (5) I understand from Billy that you're the lucky one to whom I should direct this draft.

Thanks so much,
Molly

Molly Gaston
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
Office: (202) 305-(b) (7)(C) Cell: (b) (7)(C)



issa
preservation
response
421.docx (23
kB)

From: Stinnett, Melanie S.
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 12:14:24 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: Serres, Greg; McDermond, James E.; Chait, Mark R.; Newell, William D.;
 McMahon, William G.; Holgate, Rick; (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(C) Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover,
 William J.
Subject: RE: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

My edits/comments for paragraph 4 are incorporated in the attachment.

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To: Serres, Greg; McDermond, James E.; Chait, Mark R.; Newell, William D.; McMahon, William G.; Stinnett, Melanie S.; Holgate, Rick
Cc: (b) (7)(C) Melson,
 Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Subject: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

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Rick and/or Melanie with respect to the question in the comment box it my understanding is that ATF does not routinely permit contractors, sub-contractors, or consultants access to the responsive docs, but will utilize the services of a third party contractor to assist in the organization and querying of the documents. Is that correct?

(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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From: Gaston, Molly (SMO) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 7:11 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Hoover, William J.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Issa Doc Preservation Letter

(b) (7)(C)

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(b) (5) I understand from Billy that you're the lucky one to whom I should direct this draft.

Thanks so much,
Molly

Molly Gaston
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
Office: (202) 305-(b) (7)(C) | Cell: (b) (7)(C)

<< File: issa preservation response 421.docx >>

From: Holgate, Rick
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 8:44:19 AM
To: (b) (7)(C); Serres, Greg; McDermond, James E.; Chait, Mark R.;
Newell, William D.; McMahon, William G.; Stinnett, Melanie S.
CC: (b) (7)(C);
(b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

(b) (7)(C)

There are two different aspects to the contractor question.

1. The statement in the letter is correct: we do not allow contractors, consultants, etc. to keep, store, or retain ATF documents outside of the ATF network or premises (which is what I believe the letter intended to state; we should probably clarify). This is for security purposes, obviously, but it also means that we do not need to reach outside of the ATF network and premises for discovery purposes. (We can declare our search for responsive documents complete without querying contractors and consultants separately.)
2. Your question about access to the responsive documents is different. HP has been intimately involved in the discovery process and, as systems administrators, definitively have access to the responsive documents -- within the ATF network. Specifically, they helped establish the file structure for the collected documentation, they operate the eVault archiving capability, and they stood up the search software for the collected documents. In addition, outside of the specific repository of responsive documents we've created, you should assume that various contractors would have likely had access to (and potentially created) responsive documents: ballistic intelligence analysts, NTC contractors, asset forfeiture support contractors, among others. However, any/all access to responsive documents should have occurred only within the ATF network and premises, and therefore a search of our network and premises should have revealed any such documentation. You are also correct that in order to process the responsive documents for production to Congress, we will need to use the services of a support contractor.

Hope this helps,
Rick

Rick Holgate
Assistant Director for Science & Technology / CIO
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF)
o 202.648 (b) (7)(C)
c (b) (7)(C)

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Cc: (b) (7)(C) Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
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(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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From: Gaston, Molly (SMO) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]

Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 7:11 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Cc: Hoover, William J.; (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Issa Doc Preservation Letter

(b) (7)(C)

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Thanks so much,
Molly

Molly Gaston
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
Office: (202) 305-(b) (7)(C) | Cell: (b) (7)(C)

<< File: issa preservation response 421.docx >>

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 8:15:42 AM
To: Serres, Greg; McDermond, James E.; Chait, Mark R.; Newell, William D.; McMahon, William G.; Stinnett, Melanie S.; Holgate, Rick
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter
Attachments: issa preservation response 421.docx

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To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Hoover, William J.; (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Issa Doc Preservation Letter

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Molly

Molly Gaston
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
Office: (202) 305-(b) (7)(C) | Cell: (b) (7)(C)



issa
preservation
response
421.docx (23
kB)

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 4:11 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject: FW: New Issa letter

Attachments: 53439146-4-20-11-Melson-Follow-Up-Letter[1].pdf

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

The official version of this has yet to be received.

(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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From: (b) (7)(C)
 Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 10:54 AM
 To: (b) (7)(C)
 Subject: RE: Preservation Directive relative to Project Gunrunner

(b) (7)(C)

This is a broad request and I have an immense amount of relevant data. I am not sure how to retrieve some of the requested data, e.g. internet usage files and network access information. I guess I can call the Help Desk. Am I supposed to stop everything and make this a priority or incorporate it into my routine duties?

Thanks, (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
 Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 3:40 PM
 To: (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (7)(C)
 Cc: (b) (7)(C)
 Subject: FW: Preservation Directive relative to Project Gunrunner

All FOD personnel – Please thoroughly review and comply with this additional document preservation directive, which relates to Project Gunrunner. Please note the instructions on identification and storage procedures within the attachment. Please contact me with any questions. Thank you.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
 202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Stinnett, Melanie S.

Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 3:12 PM

To: All Assistant Directors; All Deputy Assistant Directors; All Special Agents in Charge

Cc: Hoover, William J.; (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Preservation Directive relative to Project Gunrunner

On March 31, 2011 the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (HCOGR) issued a subpoena for documents related to Operation Fast and Furious and the FBI investigation into the death of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry. The subpoena also seeks documents and communications relating to Project Gunrunner. On April 8, 2011, Acting Director received a letter from Chairman Issa requesting that ATF preserve all documents and records, including e-mail, electronic documents, and data ("electronic records") created since July 1, 2009 related to the planning and implementation of Project Gunrunner and Operation Fast and Furious.

As you may recall, on March 28, 2011, I issued a Preservation Directive relative to Operation Fast and Furious which remains in effect until further notice. Additionally, I am issuing a second Preservation Directive relative to Project Gunrunner which is attached to this e-mail. I ask that you read this directive carefully, especially since it contains a provision related to seized property. Please make sure that each employee in your directorate or field division complies with this directive. Finally, I need the name of POCs, as set forth in the directive, by COB Friday, April 15, 2011.

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From: (b) (7)(C) (OIG); (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 4:06 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) (OIG); (b) (7)(C) Stinnett, Melanie S.
CC: (b) (7)(C) (OIG)
Subject: RE: NFORCE questions
Attachments: ROI 486.pdf; F&F Event Reports Extract from NFORCE as of 201103_1.docx

(b) (7)(C) here. Perhaps I can clarify the NForce question.

You provided us with an NFORCE extract (See attached "F&F Event Reports Extract from NFORCE as of 201103_1"). It does not appear that the ROI numbers are included in the extract. If the ROI numbers are included in the NFORCE extract, could you please let us know how we might identify particular ROIs (often one report will reference another and it would be helpful to find the referenced report). Could you please also provide us with an more recent NFORCE extract? (I gather from the title that the above NFORCE extract was run on 3/1/2011.)

We would also like all of the ROIs for F&F in electronic format (see attached "ROI 486" as an example). It may be important for us to identify the author as well as the approving supervisor for particular ROIs. Please let us know if you have them in electronic format (and whether they have been OCR'd, indexed, or otherwise loaded into a Concordance-like database).

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

From: Stinnett, Melanie S. (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C) (OIG)
Cc: (b) (7)(C) (ATF)
Sent: Wed Apr 20 15:18:33 2011
Subject: NFORCE questions

(b) (7)(C)

While (b) (7)(C) is on leave, he has been reading his e-mails. Here is his response (though he does qualify it with the statement that he is not an NForce guru. Also, he is not sure exactly what you are looking at, actual NForce or copied forms/data). So here goes:

NForce, which contains a wide variety of data that be useful, contains an "events" folder for each investigation, which is basically a listing of reported investigative events, such as "Surveillance of John Doe on 04/20/11." If you "select" the event from the list, then double click on the big yellow field below the event summary (synopsis caption in report), the report narrative (whether a draft or final version has been prepared) will open up for reading or printing. In this format, the assigned "ROI number" does NOT appear, even if finalized. To see a Report of Investigation (ROI) in final form, you must access Forms Explorer (on top line tool bar) within the specific case, which will display an outline of all forms created by type in folders, including ROIs. When you expand the ROI folder, this list will display all finalized ROIs, including the ROI number, synopsis caption (like mentioned above), who created the form and when it was finalized. Printing from this section takes a little bit longer since it includes the form package and the narrative, but it's best because it's a "final form" document with the ROI number included. Note that review/approval signatures and dates are not included in NForce.

Hopefully this helps. If not, please advise and (b) (7)(C) will get the necessary answers for ask an NForce manager to assist. Also, (b) (7)(C) said to feel free to call him anytime this week. His cell number is (b) (7)(C) assuming he has a

cell signal).

Melanie

From: (b) (7)(C) (OIG) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 11:16 AM
To: Stinnett, Melanie S.
Subject: RE: potential field activities when you visit Phoenix

Next week will be ok.

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

From: Stinnett, Melanie S. [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 11:14 AM
To: (b) (7)(C) (OIG)
Subject: RE: potential field activities when you visit Phoenix

Not a problem. Thanks for letting me know. Also, I think (b) (7)(C) who you met last week, would be the person who can answer the questions you had on NFORCE. However, he is out this week on leave. If he contacts you early next week is that sufficient, or do you need me to find someone else?

From: McCaskill, John J. (OIG) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 11:12 AM
To: Stinnett, Melanie S.
Subject: RE: potential field activities when you visit Phoenix

Melanie,

It would be next week before we could confirm the activities.

(b) (7)(C)

From: Stinnett, Melanie S. [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 4:57 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) (OIG); (b) (7)(C) (OIG); (b) (7)(C) (OIG)
Cc: Hoover, William J. (ATF); (b) (7)(C) (ATF)
Subject: potential field activities when you visit Phoenix

(b) (7)(C) f:

I wanted to suggest some activities that might be useful for you when you make your visits to the Phoenix Field Division. ATF is willing to arrange the activities below if you are interested:

- HIDTA Briefing
- Helicopter ride along the border (with CBP). The ride will be along the western part of the Southwest Border between the US and Mexico and will include the area over Nogales and the Tohono O'dham Indian Reservation
- Visit to a local gun show, with an ATF agent escorting you through the gun show.
- Visit to a major federal firearms licensee (not related to the Fast and Furious investigation)

Let me know if you are interested in any or all of the above so that we can coordinate. We will need notice of at

least a week before you plan to visit the field division.

Melanie

Title of Investigation: (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)	Investigation Number: 785115-10-0004	Report Number: 486
---	---	-----------------------

SUMMARY OF EVENT:

On May 13, 2010, ATF Group Supervisor (b) (7)(C) and AUSA (b) (7)(C) met with (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) at which time among other topics, those present discussed the practice of the FFL with respect to gun sales.

NARRATIVE:

1. Post indictment I have been advised that (b) (7)(A) (b) (7)(A). This report memorializes a meeting held on May 13, 2010, at which time among other topics, those present discussed the practice of the FFL with respect to gun sales.
2. On May 13, 2010, ATF Group Supervisor (b) (7)(C) and AUSA (b) (7)(C) met with (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) and employees (b) (7)(C) had previously been (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(E)
3. (b) (7)(C) was advised by GS (b) (7)(C) and AUSA (b) (7)(C) that they could not tell him who he could or could not sell firearms to and that they could not instruct him to make a sale in violation of the law or to refuse to make a lawful sale. (b) (7)(C) was advised by GS (b) (7)(C) and AUSA (b) (7)(C) that as an FFL (b) (7)(C) has to comply with all of the statutes and regulations that govern the sale and transfer of firearms and cannot sell firearms unless the required paperwork and background check were completed.
4. (b) (7)(C) was told by GS (b) (7)(C) and AUSA (b) (7)(C) that the information he provided to ATF was very important and useful to ongoing ATF investigations. GS (b) (7)(C) and AUSA (b) (7)(C) also described additional information that (b) (7)(C) or his employees might receive from purchasers which would not necessarily be required by the provisions of Chapter 44 of Title 18 to be kept in his records, but which would prove useful to ATF. (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(E)

Prepared by: (b) (7)(C)	Title: Group Supervisor, Phoenix VII Field Office (b) (7)(C)	Date: 4-6-11
Authorized by: (b) (7)(C)	Title: Group Supervisor, Phoenix VII Field Office (b) (7)(C)	Date: 4-6-11
Second level reviewer (optional): William D. Newell	Title: Special Agent in Charge, Phoenix Field Division	Date:

5. (b) (7)(C) further described (b) (7)(E) they maintain as part of their business to track both firearm and non-firearm (ammunition and firearm accessories) for each individual customer. It should be noted

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

6. At the conclusion of the meeting with GS (b) (7)(C) and AUSA (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) it took them on a tour of the facility and range. (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

At no time were any threats or promises made

(b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

ATTACHMENTS:

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(D), (b) (7)(E)

PROJECT GUNRUNNER COMPLIANCE

SENT VIA FAX TO 602-776-5459
ATTN: ATF - Phoenix Field Division, Special Agent

Per ATF - Project Gunrunner (Form # ATF P3317.6 05/08) this record is generated as a result of the following key indicators:

Bought a large # of same model gun
Model _____

Paid in cash - amount \$ 9260.70
denomination 20's, 100's, 50's

Has come in multiple times for similar purchase

Have little or no knowledge of the firearm they are purchasing

Structured their purchase to avoid ATF reporting requirements

Lacked the physical stature to handle the firearm being purchased

Attempted to conceal their conversations with each other

Avoided entering into conversation or being evasive

Not haggle or question the price of firearm. Money is no object.

Purchaser information from 4473

Purchaser Name _____

Address _____

DL # _____

Phone # Provided _____

Firearm Make _____

Model _____

Ser # _____

Additional info if applicable buyer was accompanied by _____

This form prepared by _____
Signature

Date _____

Print Name _____

Print Title _____

(b) (7)(D), (b) (7)(E)

WHEN COMPLETED RETURN THIS FORM TO OPERATIONS MANAGER

Submitted By

This form submitted by _____
Signature

Date _____

Print Name _____

Print Title _____

(b) (7)(D), (b) (7)(E)

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 2:23 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Subject: FW: GAO 320599/Firearms Trafficking: US Efforts to Combat Arms Trafficking to Mexico... (GAO-09-709)ATF Open Recommendations -- Status Update due by 4/22/11

Attachments: CRL Arms Trafficking0001.pdf

Importance: High

Here is string of emails and original document for GAO response.

(b) (7)(C)

ATF National Coordinator
Southwest Border/Project Gunrunner

(202) 648-(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) cell

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From: Chait, Mark R.

Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 4:19 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Cc: (b) (7)(C) McMahon, William G.

Subject: FW: GAO 320599/Firearms Trafficking: US Efforts to Combat Arms Trafficking to Mexico...(GAO-09-709)ATF Open Recommendations – Status Update due by 4/22/11

Importance: High

(b) (7)(C) can you please prepare this response for FO. thanks

0 UN5 ||& KOW
\$W0A0C07 I0E0V0U
) I0H02 S0E0U0R0U
| | | | | | | | | |

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 3:29 PM
To: Chait, Mark R.; Rubenstein, Steve R.
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: GAO 320599/Firearms Trafficking: US Efforts to Combat Arms Trafficking to Mexico...(GAO-09-709)ATF Open Recommendations – Status Update due by 4/22/11
Importance: High

AD Chait and AD Rubenstein:

Please refer to the attached documents and the below email from the Department regarding the above cited review. In July 2009, former Special Agent (b) (7)(C) Attorney (b) (7)(C) and Ms. (b) (7)(C) were involved in preparing ATF's response to the open recommendations. The Department is requesting an informal status update via email on the 6 open recommendations. A response concerning specific actions taken or completed regarding the six open recommendations must be forwarded to Audit Liaison, (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) by April 22, 2011, for a timely status update to the Department.

Recommendation Number 1) The U.S. Attorney General should prepare a report to Congress on approaches to address the challenges law enforcement officials raised in this report regarding the constraints on the collection of data that inhibit the ability of law enforcement to conduct timely investigations.

Recommendation Number 2) To further enhance interagency collaboration in combating arms trafficking to Mexico and help ensure integrated policy and program direction, the U.S. Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security should finalize the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ATF and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and develop processes for periodically monitoring its implementation and making any needed adjustments.

Recommendation Number 3) To help identify where efforts should be targeted to combat illicit arms trafficking to Mexico, and to improve the gathering and reporting of data related to such efforts, the U.S. Attorney General should direct the ATF Director to regularly update ATF's reporting on aggregate firearms trafficking data and trends.

Recommendation Number 4) To help identify where efforts should be targeted to combat illicit arms trafficking to Mexico, and to improve the gathering and reporting of data related to such efforts, the U.S. Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security should, in light of Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) recent efforts to assess southbound weapons smuggling trends, direct ATF and ICE to

ensure they share comprehensive data and leverage each other's expertise and analysis on future assessments relevant to the issue.

Recommendation Number 5) To help identify where efforts should be targeted to combat illicit arms trafficking to Mexico, and to improve the gathering and reporting of data related to such efforts, the U.S. Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security should ensure the systematic gathering and reporting of data related to results of these efforts, including firearms seizures, investigations and prosecutions.

Recommendation Number 6) To improve the scope and completeness of data on firearms trafficked to Mexico and to facilitate investigations to disrupt illicit arms trafficking networks, the U.S. Attorney General and the Secretary of State should work with the Government of Mexico to expedite the dissemination of eTrace in Spanish across Mexico to the relevant Government of Mexico officials, provide these officials the proper training on the use of eTrace, and ensure more complete input of information on seized arms into eTrace.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

SAC (b) (7)(C)
OPRSO/Inspection Division
202-648-9200

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From: (b) (7)(C) (JMD) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 11:03 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: ATF Open Recommendations

Hi (b) (7)(C)

I've taken a close look at the recommendations and a bit of the history behind the responses. It looks like ODAG (Ed Siskel) met with the Bureaus involved, but ATF (b) (7)(C) ATF and (b) (7)(C) (CRM) did the majority of the consolidation for the "Department's" response. Because of that, I think ATF is ultimately going to be responsible for responding to the recommendations. Fortunately, I think it will be fairly simple to close these recommendations. This is what I suggest:

Recommendation 1. We did not concur with this recommendation. Unless the existing constraints on the collection of data relevant to firearms trafficking was removed in the last 2 years, there is nothing more that we can do. I will stick to our original argument and suggest GAO close the recommendation.

Recommendation 2. Was the MOU between ATF and ICE ever finalized? If not, we need to give an update on its status. If it was, we will need to have it approved so that we can send it to GAO for closure of this recommendation.

Recommendation 3: Has ATF published certain aggregate-level firearms trace data and studies per the GAO's recommendation? If so, we can provide copies that will serve as supporting documentation that we implemented the recommendation.

Recommendation 4: I believe this recommendation should be closed based on the response. Unless GAO needs a copy of the MOU.

Recommendation 5: Same response as #4

Recommendation 6: Has ATF completed its Spanish version of e-trace? If so, we need to provide GAO with supporting documentation to close the recommendation.

Please refer to the appropriate ATF personnel for appropriate action, let me know if you have any questions. Response due by Monday, April 25, 2011.

Thanks!

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 2:46 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Subject:

- Douglas, Arizona November 2005: In just the past few weeks ATF has been involved in the arrest of seven individuals suspected of trafficking firearms from Arizona into Mexico , where they were sold for twice their market value here in the United States. ATF has documented that at least 84 firearms, including AK-47 rifles were purchased and smuggled into Mexico. The investigation began when Mexican law enforcement officials arrested two Mexican citizens for firearms trafficking in the State of Senora, which is contiguous with Douglas, Arizona. This case is demonstrative of the cooperative effort between ATF and Mexican law enforcement authorities.

(b) (7)(C)

Senior Special Agent
Firearms Operations Division
202.648.(b) (7)(C) office)
(b) (7)(C) cell)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 10:15 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Status

(b) (7)(C) I am waiting for (b) (7)(C) to call me back. Meanwhile, I have three people in Field Ops staff who believe they recall/may have "pre-Gunrunner" guidance memo(s) about the SWB Initiative from the 05-06 period. They are looking right now in their file systems.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) ell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:21 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C) (CRM); (b) (7)(C) (CIV)
Subject: Status

Good Morning (b) (7)(C)

Where do we stand with recovering 2005-06 Gunrunner documents?

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 8:17:05 AM
To: (b) (7)(C) USAAZ
CC: Newell, William D.; Needles, James R.
Subject: Additions to 6(e) list - "Fast/Furious"

Please add the following ATF personnel below to this GJ disclosure list:

Executive Assistant (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) will be assisting me in HQ. You may forward any correspondence to her via ATF e-mail and mail/FedEx to her at my HQ address below.

Thank you.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.5.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 7:43:03 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Call me?

Looking for the folder where (b) (7)(C) copied all the "Bureau" documents. Cannot seem to locate... thanks

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 4:44:54 PM
To: Serres, Greg
Subject: Re: Email review - status

3285

Thanks.

I talked to (b) (7)(C) who said he and (b) (7)(C) were done, and (b) (7) was close. (b) (7)(C) said an OST reply to where to put the tagged items was pending. I told the DOJ folks maybe tomorrow morning? Thanks

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

Original Message

From: Serres, Greg
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tue Apr 26 15:55:04 2011
Subject: Re: Email review - status

I am checking on it now and will get back to you.

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Serres, Greg
Sent: Tue Apr 26 15:42:07 2011
Subject: Email review - status

The doj attys were asking. I understand you're out of the building. Thanks

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 3:42:07 PM
To: Serres, Greg
Subject: Email review - status

3286

The doj attys were asking. I understand you're out of the building. Thanks

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202 648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Accepted: Document Production in re: Congressionals and FOIA

Location: DCR 5S-105

Start: 4/25/2011 3:30 PM

End: 4/25/2011 4:30 PM

Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Required Attendees: (b) (7)(C)

Resources: DCR 5S-105

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2011 1:28 PM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: Re:

Ok. Have a good weekend.

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: Newell, William D.
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Sat Apr 23 13:26:33 2011
Subject: Re:

I'm in Phx for the weekend and don't come back until Wednesday. McMahon's aware. I gave the 3 "new" DOJ attorneys a 2 hour briefing on Friday and then a quick tour of the FO conf room. They will be sitting in the conf room on the opposite side of the hallway, down by OST AD. They are here to assist us with Congressional responses. McMahon can fill in more on that on Monday. This past week I somewhat organized our conf room as well as my temp office, where Needles was. I'll be in on Thurs/Friday.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Newell, William D.
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Sat Apr 23 13:05:17 2011
Subject:

Bill and (b) (7)(C)

Can we find some time on Monday or Tuesday to sit down so I can update you on the Phoenix trip -- what was accomplished and what is currently being done. Just want to keep everyone informed. Enjoy your holiday weekend and see you both Monday.

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

SPECIAL AGENT (b) (7)(C)
PROJECT OFFICER
OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS
FIREARMS OPERATIONS DIVISION
CELL (b) (7)(C)
DESK (202) 648 (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2011 1:07 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) Newell, William D.
Subject: Re:

Absolutely. We'll be meeting sometime Mon AM to catch up on new letters in last week and some requests from IG.
Thanks

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Newell, William D.
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Sat Apr 23 13:05:17 2011
Subject:

Bill and (b) (7)(C)

Can we find some time on Monday or Tuesday to sit down so I can update you on the Phoenix trip – what was accomplished and what is currently being done. Just want to keep everyone informed. Enjoy your holiday weekend and see you both Monday.

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)

SPECIAL AGENT (b) (7)(C)
PROJECT OFFICER
OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS
FIREARMS OPERATIONS DIVISION
CELL (b) (7)(C)
DESK (202) 648-(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 2:15 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

One of the earlier preservation requests stated docs after June 2009? I'd have to look.

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Fri Apr 22 14:09:24 2011
Subject: Re: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

I was not part of that discussion after the first mention, but what D stated is what I thought.

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Fri Apr 22 14:04:16 2011
Subject: FW: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Can either of you answer this?

(b) (7)(C)
Acting Chief of Staff
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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From: Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 12:18 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

What universe of former employees are we contacting? Just those who retired on or after the start of gunrunner?

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Serres, Greg; McDermond, James E.; Chait, Mark R.; Newell, William D.; McMahon, William G.; Stinnett, Melanie S.; Holgate, Rick
Cc: (b) (7)(C) Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Sent: Fri Apr 22 08:15:42 2011
Subject: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Please take a look at the attached draft, and indicate your concurrence or corrections by 3 pm. Today.

Rick and/or Melanie with respect to the question in the comment box it my understanding is that ATF does not routinely permit contractors, sub-contractors, or consultants access to the responsive docs, but will utilize the services of a third party contractor to assist in the organization and querying of the documents. Is that correct?

(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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From: Gaston, Molly (SMO) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]

Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 7:11 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Cc: Hoover, William J.; (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Issa Doc Preservation Letter

(b) (7)(C)

Attached please find the current version of the response to House Oversight's request about ATF preservation of documents. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

understand from Billy that you're the lucky one to whom I should direct this draft.

Thanks so much,
Molly

Molly Gaston

Office of Legislative Affairs

U.S. Department of Justice

Office: (202) 305-(b) (7)(C) | Cell: (b) (7)(C)

<<issa preservation response 421.docx>>

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 2:09 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

I was not part of that discussion after the first mention, but what D stated is what I thought.

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Fri Apr 22 14:04:16 2011
Subject: FW: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Can either of you answer this?

(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

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From: Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 12:18 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

What universe of former employees are we contacting? Just those who retired on or after the start of gunrunner?

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: Serres, Greg; McDermond, James E.; Chait, Mark R.; Newell, William D.; McMahon, William G.; Stinnett, Melanie S.; Holgate, Rick
Cc: (b) (7)(C); Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Sent: Fri Apr 22 08:15:42 2011
Subject: Issa Doc DRAFT Preservation Letter

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Please take a look at the attached draft, and indicate your concurrence or corrections by 3 pm. Today.

Rick and/or Melanie with respect to the question in the comment box it my understanding is that ATF does not routinely permit contractors, sub-contractors, or consultants access to the responsive docs, but will utilize the services of a third party contractor to assist in the organization and querying of the documents. Is that correct?

(b) (7)(C)

Acting Chief of Staff

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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From: Gaston, Molly (SMO) [mailto:(b) (7)(C)]

Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 7:11 PM

To: (b) (7)(C)

Cc: Hoover, William J.; (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Issa Doc Preservation Letter

(b) (7)(C)

Attached please find the current version of the response to House Oversight's request about ATF preservation of documents. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

understand from Billy that you're the lucky one to whom I should direct this draft.

Thanks so much,
Molly

Molly Gaston

Office of Legislative Affairs

U.S. Department of Justice

Office: (202) 305-(b) (7)(C) | Cell: ((b) (7)(C))

<<issa preservation response 421.docx>>

From: (b) (7)(C)
 Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 9:36 AM
 To: (b) (7)(C)
 Subject: Re: Suspect Gun Spread sheet

Thanks. We could look into that. This is a new request for a report for all FF suspects, like one NTC prepared for suspect (b) (7)(C). Thanks

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
 202-648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
 To: (b) (7)(C)
 Cc: (b) (7)(C)
 Sent: Tue Apr 19 08:40:15 2011
 Subject: RE: Suspect Gun Spread sheet

(b) (7)(C) you should just get a copy from the R-drive of all the material we submitted for the IG – that way you got everything

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From: (b) (7)(C)
 Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 9:09 AM
 To: (b) (7)(C)
 Cc: (b) (7)(C)
 Subject: Re: Suspect Gun Spread sheet

Yes. This is a product for me and others reviewing the Phoenix case to utilize. We appreciate the extra attention. Thanks

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
 202-648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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in any form outside of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives or the Department of Justice without express authorization is strictly prohibited.

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Mon Apr 18 09:02:45 2011
Subject: Suspect Gun Spread sheet

(b) (7)(C)

Our programmer is out this week (she being the one who sent you the original spreadsheet). We have a retired contractor programmer who comes in tomorrow and who can replicate the first query (and add the recovery information). For consistency's sake, can we delay, until tomorrow, getting you the spreadsheet?

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Special Agent
Chief, Law Enforcement Support Branch
National Tracing Center
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
244 Needy Road
Martinsburg, WV 25405
(304) 260-(b) (7)(C)

Don't embrace mediocrity!

Quid Opus, Opus Bene.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 9:10 AM
To: (b) (7)(C); Newell, William D.; Needles, James R.
Subject: Fw: Suspect Gun Spread sheet

Fyi

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Mon Apr 18 09:09:06 2011
Subject: Re: Suspect Gun Spread sheet

Yes. This is a product for me and others reviewing the Phoenix case to utilize. We appreciate the extra attention. Thanks

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Mon Apr 18 09:02:45 2011
Subject: Suspect Gun Spread sheet

(b) (7)(C)

Our programmer is out this week (she being the one who sent you the original spreadsheet). We have a retired contractor programmer who comes in tomorrow and who can replicate the first query (and add the recovery information). For consistency's sake, can we delay, until tomorrow, getting you the spreadsheet?

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Special Agent
Chief, Law Enforcement Support Branch
National Tracing Center
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
244 Needy Road
Martinsburg, WV 25405
(304) 260-(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 9:09 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
CC: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Suspect Gun Spread sheet

Yes. This is a product for me and others reviewing the Phoenix case to utilize. We appreciate the extra attention. Thanks

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Mon Apr 18 09:02:45 2011
Subject: Suspect Gun Spread sheet

(b) (7)(C)

Our programmer is out this week (she being the one who sent you the original spreadsheet). We have a retired contractor programmer who comes in tomorrow and who can replicate the first query (and add the recovery information). For consistency's sake, can we delay, until tomorrow, getting you the spreadsheet?

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Special Agent
Chief, Law Enforcement Support Branch
National Tracing Center
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
244 Needy Road
Martinsburg, WV 25405
(304) 260-(b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 8:27 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Suspect Guns and Associated Traces for (b) (7)(C) 785115-10-0004

Thanks

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
 202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Mon Apr 18 08:27:23 2011
Subject: RE: Suspect Guns and Associated Traces for (b) (7)(C) 785115-10-0004

(b) (7)(C) we are working on it and will get it to you as soon as possible.

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)
 Special Agent
 Chief, Law Enforcement Support Branch
 National Tracing Center
 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
 244 Needy Road
 Martinsburg, WV 25405
 (304) 260-(b) (7)(C)

Don't embrace mediocrity!

Quid Opus, Opus Bene.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 4:54 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Suspect Guns and Associated Traces for (b) (7)(C) 785115-10-0004

Thank you. When approved, this report should be emailed to me, (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) (Phoenix Division).

As discussed, please include columns with Recovery Date and Recovery Place (city/state or country). THANKS

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648. (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 4:22 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Suspect Guns and Associated Traces for (b) (7)(C) 785115-10-004

S/A (b) (7)(C)

I thought for sure he was still here, however our Branch Chief is out of the office for the day. Your request must be approved by him before I can create and send out a spreadsheet. This will have to wait until Monday morning to be approved. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Thank You,

(b) (7)(C)

Law Enforcement Support Branch
Suspect Gun Program
Contractor-Research Assistant
ATF National Tracing Center
304-260 (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 4:14 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Suspect Guns and Associated Traces for (b) (7)(C) 785115-10-0004

As discussed, for all "suspect purchasers" in ATF case 785115 10 0004, can we have a listing of all suspect/traced guns like the one attached for purchaser (b) (7)(C)? Please place data in alpha order by purchaser, with the guns in order based on date of purchase. It is not necessary to have those guns that were recovered and traced at the top of the list. These can remain in the list in purchase date order.

Can we also add any identifiable purchases/traces for guns that were never entered into "suspect gun"?

THANKS. I owe you big.

(b) (7)(C)
 Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
 202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 3:53 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Suspect Guns and Associated Traces for (b) (7)(C) 785115-10-0004

S/A (b) (7)(C)

Attached is a spreadsheet of the firearms identified in the Suspect Gun database as being purchased by (b) (7)(C) and submitted under ATF case 785115-10-0004. There were (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) from (b) (7)(C) purchases and (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

recovered crime guns for this investigation.
Please advise if any other details are needed.

(b) (7)(C)

Program Analyst
ATF National Tracing Center
244 Needy Rd.
Martinsburg, WV 25405-9431
(304)260-**(b) (7)(C)**
(800)788-7133 ext. **(b) (7)(C)**
Fax: (800)578-7223

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 7:30 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: update with DEA case

I can explain the beginning of 2nd paragraph if you want to call me... I'm at my desk...

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 7:30 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: update with DEA case

Thank you!

(b) (7)(C)

Chief
ATF Public Affairs Division

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From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Fri Apr 15 18:33:37 2011
Subject: FW: update with DEA case

FYI – This is for information only. The details are being gathered by PFD. I discussed with SAC Newell that this might lead to some media inquiries and you should be aware.

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 4:08 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: update with DEA case

FYI

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From: Brandon, Thomas E.
To: Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; Newell, William D.; Needles, James R.
Cc: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Fri Apr 15 16:05:30 2011
Subject: FW: update with DEA case

FYI

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in any form outside of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives or the Department of Justice without express authorization is strictly prohibited.

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 3:48 PM
To: Atteberry, Thomas G.; Brandon, Thomas E.
Subject: update with DEA case

Gentlemen,

DEA case originated in April of 2010. They conducted (b) (7)(E), seized (all numbers approximate) 3 million in currency, 84 kilos of cocaine, 10 pounds of meth.

The call the other day to SA (b) (7)(C) was in regards to 46 firearms and 4 empty gun boxes (FN 5.7mm). Of those 46 firearms, (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117)

(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117) One thing of possible note

(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C)

gun boxes 3 were purchased by 2 different straw purchasers from Fast and Furious, both who have been indicted and arrested. (The plastic gun box has a serial number sticker on the outside of the box.)

At 2 other locations (which to the best of my knowledge SA (b) (7)(C) was not called on?) the DEA also recovered firearms from Fast and Furious:

(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C)

In summary 47 of the 60 firearms appear to be purchased by suspects associated with Fast & Furious, and 3 of the 4 empty gun boxes appear to be purchased by suspects associated with Fast & Furious.

Thanks,

(b) (7)(C)
Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 10:03:36 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: do you have briefing paper on Big Musky?

thanks

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.5.129
 202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 9:55 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: do you have briefing paper on Big Musky?

Below is another write-up. I do not have a "briefing paper." Thanks.

St. Paul IV Field Office

778065-09-0050, BIG MUSKY: (Primary investigation complete. Prosecution pending.)

In November 2007, (b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C)
 (b) (3) (P.L. That same Ruger was recovered in Mexico in January 2008. The circumstances of the recovery are still unknown. Since June 2007, (b) (7)(C) has had over 15 border crossings into Mexico from the U.S. and purchased over 100 firearms. Between the dates (b) (7)(C) purchased the Ruger firearm and the time it was recovered, (b) (7)(C) had three border crossings back into the U.S. ATF OSII has a high degree of confidence that (b) (7)(C) is directly or indirectly associated with the LOS ZETAS cartel as a supplier of firearms. It is estimated that (b) (7)(C) has paid over \$45,000 for firearms in that same time and the vast majority of the purchases have been in cash. Since January 2007, (b) (7)(C) has had over \$61,000 wired to his Wells Fargo Bank account from six different Mexican Banks/Accounts, none of which is claimed on his income taxes. During July, August, October, and November 2009, agents conducted a (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)

On November 15, 2009, following a 1,400 mile mobile surveillance by ATF from Minnesota to Laredo, TX, (b) (7)(C) was taken into custody by CBP at the Laredo

POE. The following firearms were recovered; 4 FN Herstal 57 5.7mm pistols, 4 FN Herstal PS90 assault rifles, 1 FN Herstal 57 5.7mm assault rifle, 3 Ruger LCP .380 pistols and 2 Berreta .380 pistols.

On June 1, 2010, the Mexican Secretariat of Public Safety (SSP) executed a search warrant and arrest warrant for (b) (7)(C). This warrant was a result of investigative leads from the BIG Musky investigation provided to Mexican authorities by the ATF Assistant Attaché. (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C), along with (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) were identified as the three recipients of 119 firearms from (b) (7)(C). Preliminary information from Mexican authorities indicates that 12 firearms were recovered at the scene and (b) (7)(C) has given a full confession. It should be noted that this is the first time that Mexican authorities were able to judicialize an investigation, obtain search warrants, affect arrests and recover evidence based on information provided by ATF.

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 9:37 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: do you have briefing paper on Big Musky?

I have a write up that OSII did and a timeline... thanks

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
 ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
 202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 1:03 PM
To: (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Production Comments

This is now at 3PM today. (b) (7)(C) After your 130pm meeting, lets discuss the location...and I'll bring you the stack that (b) (7)(C) and I reviewed yesterday and today.

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 11:08 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Production Comments

(b) (7)(C)

The department would like to have a conference call at 2:00 today to address any concerns that ATF has about the production planned for Monday. Does that work for you? Also, we have a few more documents that have been submitted for production that you have not yet reviewed.

(b) (7)(C)

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Subject: Accepted: OLA/ATF Discussion about Document Production

Location: Call-in below

Start: 4/29/2011 3:00 PM

End: 4/29/2011 4:00 PM

Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Required Attendees: Gaston, Molly (SMO)

Resources: Call-in below

Subject: Accepted: OLA/ATF Discussion about Document Production

Location: Call-in below

Start: 4/29/2011 3:00 PM

End: 4/29/2011 4:00 PM

Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Required Attendees: Gaston, Molly (SMO)

Resources: Call-in below

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 2:00 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Indicted Purchasers
Attachments: Book2.xlsx

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648.(b) (7)(C); (b) (7)(C)

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From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 9:18 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fw: Indicted Purchasers

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From: Needles, James R.
To: Newell, William D.; McMahon, William G.
Sent: Wed Apr 27 18:56:05 2011
Subject: Indicted Purchasers

Updated as of 04-26-11.

Information regarding additional suspects identified for indictment is currently being updated. When completed the individuals will be added to the list.

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785115-10-0004

2/26/2013

Indicted targets (Purchasers)	Date identified (entered in Investigation)	<i>Firearms</i> <i>purchased before</i> <i>target was</i> <i>identified</i> <i>(entered in</i> <i>Investigation)</i>	<i>Firearms</i> <i>purchased after</i> <i>target was</i> <i>identified</i> <i>(entered in</i> <i>Investigation)</i>	<i>Firearms</i> <i>recovered</i> <i>(N/A/ATF) in</i> <i>U.S. after</i> <i>target was</i> <i>identified</i> <i>(entered in</i> <i>Investigation)</i>	<i>Firearms</i> <i>recovered in</i> <i>U.S. by ATF</i> <i>after target</i> <i>was</i> <i>identified in</i> <i>investigation</i> <i>in</i>	<i>Firearms</i> <i>recovered in</i> <i>Mexico after</i> <i>target was</i> <i>identified</i> <i>(entered in</i> <i>Investigation)</i>	<i>Firearms</i> <i>recovered</i> <i>prior to</i> <i>identification</i> <i>of target in</i> <i>Investigation)</i>	TOTALS
(b) (3) (P.L. 111-117), (b) (7)(C)								

(b) (7)(C)
A/CIS Phoenix FIG

(b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 12:37:27 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: DOJ laptops

DOJ attorney's still have issues. They are trying to locate tech (b) (7)(C) but no answer at desk...
Thanks

(b) (7)(C)
Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 11:10 AM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: do you guys have a minute?

Be right down. (b) (7)(C)s out today (storm)

(b) (7)(C) Division Chief Firearms Operations Division
202-648-(b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thu Apr 28 11:01:17 2011
Subject: do you guys have a minute?

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From: (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 8:04:16 PM
To: (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Finished with DOJ tonight

We quickly went through all the old stuff I got from FMS today. They scored it on first blush. I have a copy for you/me to review tomorrow and see if we feel any should be excluded, redacted, etc. See you tomorrow!

(b) (7)(C)

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129
202.648 (b) (7)(C) Cell (b) (7)(C)

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