

From: Needles, James R.
Sent: Saturday, October 06, 2007 1:18:35 PM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: Re: Phoenix Case

To many middle men/women. I think once you deal with Billy directly we should be fine. If we need anything from [ATF] let me know additionally I advised her of the status. Also we have contact info for [ATF] if we do additional surveillance. [ATF] the ride went well enjoy the vacation.

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

From: Newell, William D.
To: Needles, James R.
Sent: Sat Oct 06 11:16:02 2007
Subject: Fw: Phoenix Case

Did I cover everything? I vented a bit but at this point I think I'm entitled.
Bill Newell
ATF - SAC
Phoenix Field Division

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

From: Newell, William D.
To: Carroll, Carson W.
Sent: Sat Oct 06 10:56:30 2007
Subject: Re: Phoenix Case

First, after the 30-45 minute conf call yesterday with [ATF] etc I was confident we had cleared up any legal concerns. [ATF] said as much and was going to meet with Billy personally to discuss. She didn't obviously but chose to brief him via an inaccurate e-mail drafted late on a Friday afternoon before a 3-day weekend. We all know its hard to put 30-45 mins worth of discussion in an e-mail so I'm concerned she didn't get a chance to do this in person because I'm confident Billy would not be as upset.

ATF

ATF

ATF

Lastly, I truly appreciate your enthusiasm about this case and I'm sorry I had to damper that as well as get you jammed up - for that I'm truly sorry. I think

ATF

Bill Newell
ATF - SAC
Phoenix Field Division

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

From: Carroll, Carson W.
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Sat Oct 06 09:55:01 2007
Subject: Fw: Phoenix Case

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

From: Hoover, William J.
To: Carroll, Carson W.

Sent: Fri Oct 05 18:34:34 2007
Subject: Fw: Phoenix Case

Carson,

Would you please read through the e-mail from **ATF** below.
I am a more than a little upset by the misinformation received to this point.
I do not want any firearms to go South until further notice. I expect a full briefing paper on my desk Tuesday morning from SAC Newell with every question answered. I will not allow this case to go forward until we have written documentation from the U S Attorney's Office re full and complete buy in. I do not want anyone briefed on this case until I approve the information. This includes anyone in Mexico.
We will discuss this further next week. Please set up a conference call with SAC Newell for the first thing Tuesday morning. Please allow for the time difference. SAC Newell should understand that I will need complete answers to every question I have had to this point. He can refer to my questions contained in my e-mails of last night and also to the issues listed in **ATF** e-mail.
Any questions call.

Billy

William J. Hoover
Assistant Director, Field Operations

ATF

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

From: **ATF**
To: Hoover, William J.
Cc: **ATF**
Sent: Fri Oct 05 17:22:19 2007
Subject: Phoenix Case

Hi Billy:

ATF and I spoke with Bill Newell, Jim Needles and one of the case agents on the Phoenix case. **ATF**

ATF

ATF I really think maybe there was a disconnect somewhere when being briefed on this case.

ATF What I would suggest is a better briefing paper with a section specifically on **ATF** and

ATF

ATF

Finally, we have a call into the Office of International Affairs over at DOJ. We generally want to find out exactly what must be done with respect to DOJ permission before we begin working international cases.

ATF

We can discuss in more detail on Tuesday but I hope you feel a bit better about this issue. I did discuss getting something in writing and I can explain more on Tuesday.

Have a good weekend.

ATF did I forget anything???????

ATF

ATF

Senior Counsel, Field Operations

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Office
Fax:
Cell
email

ATF

From: Needles, James R.
 Sent: Saturday, October 06, 2007 10:49:16 AM
 To: Newell, William D.
 Subject: Re: Phoenix Case

10-4

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

From: Newell, William D.
 To: Needles, James R.
 Sent: Sat Oct 06 10:04:29 2007
 Subject: Fw: Phoenix Case

FYI. Carson and I just talked and it appears Billy is not happy, but I'm confident I can work it out on Monday. However until further notice, we need to

[REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] I will try to iron out and get Billy some hard facts. [REDACTED] ATF

ATF

Bill Newell
 ATF - SAC
 Phoenix Field Division

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

From: Carroll, Carson W.
 To: Newell, William D.
 Sent: Sat Oct 06 09:55:01 2007
 Subject: Fw: Phoenix Case

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

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 To: Carroll, Carson W.
 Sent: Fri Oct 05 18:34:34 2007
 Subject: Fw: Phoenix Case

Carson,

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[ATF]
[ATF] I expect a full briefing paper on my desk Tuesday morning from SAC Newell with every question answered. [ATF]

ATF

We will discuss this further next week. Please set up a conference call with SAC Newell for the first thing Tuesday morning. Please allow for the time difference. SAC Newell should understand that I will need complete answers to every question I have had to this point. He can refer to my questions contained in my e-mails of last night and also to the issues listed in [ATF] e-mail.

Any questions call.

Billy

William J. Hoover
Assistant Director, Field Operations

[0] [ATF]

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

From: [ATF]
To: Hoover, William J.
Cc: [ATF]
Sent: Fri Oct 05 17:22:19 2007
Subject: Phoenix Case

Hi Billy:

[ATF] and I spoke with Bill Newell, Jim Needles and one of the case agents on the Phoenix case. [ATF]

ATF

[ATF] I really think maybe there was a disconnect somewhere when being briefed on this case.

[ATF] What I would suggest is a better briefing paper with a section specifically on [ATF] and [ATF]

ATF

ATF

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Have a good weekend.

ATF did I forget anything???????

ATF

Senior Counsel, Field Operations

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Office

Fax:

Cell:

Email:

ATF

From: Needles, James R.
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2010 9:32:03 AM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: RE: Fast and Furi.

Of the [ATF] individuals we know of who are supplying firearms to the organization, [ATF]

[ATF] are notified if they make a purchase.

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

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2010 4:46 AM
To: Needles, James R.
Subject: Fw: Fast and Furi.

Get with [ATF] since you're together and give me a status on firearms purchase activity over the past 30 days of the suspects in this case. An e-mail will suffice.

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

From: Chait, Mark R.
To: Newell, William D.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Fri Oct 29 07:39:08 2010
Subject: Re: Fast and Furi.

I'm concerned that we are not shutting down the activity waiting on an indictment. Thanks
Mark R. Chait
Assistant Director
Field Operations

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

From: Newell, William D.
To: Chait, Mark R.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Fri Oct 29 07:29:16 2010
Subject: Re: Fast and Furi.

No, they pushed it to December 7. I was supposed to meet with the USA this coming week to discuss the delay but he canceled due to an "unexpected" DC trip. I'm going to call him today.

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

From: Chait, Mark R.
To: Newell, William D.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Fri Oct 29 07:27:17 2010
Subject: Fast and Furi.

Any news on a quicker indictment?

Mark R. Chait
Assistant Director
Field Operations

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From: ATF
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2010 5:08 PM
To: Needles, James R.
Subject: FW: Fast & Furious

Jim -- just want to make you aware of something that just came up. ATF one of my best SWB analysts, had been following a YouTube posting of a "confession" of a Mexican national in front of a group of armed, masked men. See below. The guy had important ties and ended up dead two weeks ago. ATF was able to track down the guns caught on the bad guys (Sinaloa Cartel), whom the Mexicans say are responsible for the kidnapping and later murder. ATF matched 2 of the recovered AKs to the Fast & Furious. He passed on this info to ATF (see hi-lighted below).

ATF

This info has stayed in our intel chain and also gone to ATF in the MCO, who was assisting in obtaining the data in the first place.

Just wanted you to know.

ATF

Chief, Criminal Intel Div

ATF

From: ATF
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2010 4:01 PM
To: ATF
Cc: ATF
Subject: Fast & Furious

ATF

On November 4, 2010 Mario González Rodríguez, brother to former state attorney general Patricia Gonzalez, was found dead in a shallow grave in a vacant lot in Chihuahua. Mario González was kidnapped on October 21 and appeared on a YouTube video handcuffed, confessing to a group of armed men pointing guns at him that he and his sister were closely affiliated with La Linea.

 mario gonzalez rodriguez.jpg

The discovery of the body came after an armed confrontation in Chihuahua between police and armed gunmen, in

which five persons presumed to be kidnappers were captured. A few hours after the capture three persons who had been kidnapped were rescued.

I reached out to our EPIC counterparts who put in a request to the PGR rep. there for the firearms data. Today, I received the firearms data from the seizure that occurred on Nov. 4 and out of the 16 firearms seized. I could positively identify 2 Aks that relate to the Fast & Furious case. Some of the remaining Aks could be connected to the Fast & Furious case however, most of the other serial numbers were recorded incorrectly and I wasn't able to get a match in Etrace. I already reached out to phoenix and gave them the information. Below are the two firearms and their corresponding suspect gun info:

ATF




ATF

785115-10-0004



ATF

785115-10-0004

 http://extras.mnginteractive.com/live/media/site525/2010/1105/20101105_1

V/R

ATF

Intelligence Research Specialist

OSII/SWB FIST

202-648

ATF

From: ATF
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 4:42 PM
To: Needles, James R.
Subject: RE: Fast & Furious - Map & Recoveries

ATF

but now she has confirmed that this attached chart was created by the IRS-CID SA ATF

From: Needles, James R.
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 12:08 PM
To: ATF
Subject: FW: Fast & Furious - Map & Recoveries

From: ATF
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 11:55 AM
To: Needles, James R.; Gillett, George T. Jr.
Cc: ATF
Subject: Fast & Furious - Map & Recoveries

The map of firearm recoveries includes only recovered firearms purchased by a specified ATF reference the Fast & Furious investigation and entered into the Suspect Gun Program database. ATF

ATF

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).

ATF

ATF

ATF - Senior IRS
Acting Intel Group Supervisor

(602) 776-**ATF** - Direct
ATF - Mobile
ATF - Fax

785115-10-0004

5/24/2011

Indicted targets (Purchasers)	<i>Date 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 in U.S. after target was identified (entered) in investigation</i>	<i>Firearms recovered in U.S. after target was identified and seized by ATF</i>	<i>Firearms recovered in Mexico after target was identified (entered) in investigation</i>
ATF							

ATF

A/GS Phoenix FIG

ATF

From: Needles, James R.

Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 2:08 PM

To: **ATF**

Subject: FW: Fast & Furious - Map & Recoveries

Attachments: Firearm purchases - per date w recover.pdf

From: **ATF**

Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 11:55 AM

To: Needles, James R.; Gillett, George T. Jr.

Cc: **ATF**

Subject: Fast & Furious - Map & Recoveries

The map of firearm recoveries includes only recovered firearms purchased by a specified **ATF** reference the Fast & Furious investigation and entered into the Suspect Gun Program database. **ATF**

ATF

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).

ATF

ATF**ATF**

Senior IRS

Acting Intel Group Supervisor

ATF

Direct

Mobile

(602) 776-5519 - Fax

From: Needles, James R.
Sent: 1/2/08 Wednesday, January 02, 2008 4:23:42 PM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: RE: US/Mexico Firearms Trafficking

10-4

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

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2008 4:19 PM
To: Needles, James R.; Mangan, Thomas G.
Subject: Fw: US/Mexico Firearms Trafficking

We're back in business. Let's discuss when I get back to the office in about 15 mins. I'm at the JOC.

Bill Newell
SAC - ATF
Phoenix Field Division

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

From: Carroll, Carson W.
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Wed Jan 02 15:47:12 2008
Subject: RE: US/Mexico Firearms Trafficking

Thank you Bill. Also...I was wondering if you could have someone do a powerpoint on the recent case where you tried to walk the guns to Mexico.

We are meeting with some Congressional Members to discuss SWB. ..it would be nice to have the pictures included of the guns recovered in the Mexico assassination (one or two of the recovered guns traced back to our suspect?).

It does not need to be too complex or long.

Carson

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

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2008 1:37 PM
To: Carroll, Carson W.
Subject: RE: US/Mexico Firearms Trafficking

As with all our "Gunrunner" stories over the past 1.5 years we have been

DOJ-FF-02954

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trying to highlight ATF's efforts to keep "weapons of choice" out of the hands of violent criminals, on both sides of the border. We have also been using these times to try to educate the public about "straw" purchasing and the fact that an "innocent favor" might be putting a firearm into the hands of a violent criminal. Our main efforts in doing this are to highlight what ATF contributes to the fight against the very hot topic of border-related violence, something I think we should be doing every chance we get.

As to Robyn's question we have numerous cases and significant intel to back this up, especially several recent cases on which this AP story was predicated - all of which are unsealed (complaints and/or indictments). This info also includes defendant debriefs which we did not get into in the story for obvious reason. Also, the trace data in these cases also confirms this but we did not touch on this for AP story since I have consistently stayed away from the numbers of guns traced and who is doing, or not doing, the tracing. (If you recall in one recent case the seizure of several of these weapons from the very violent Arellano-Felix DTO was a few DAYS).

Also, as part of the Southwest Region OCDETF "Gatekeeper" initiative, of which ATF's "Gunrunner" is an integral part, we have been highlighting the fact that drug cartels in Mexico are using drug proceeds to buy guns and ammo - a well-established fact. We have consistently been saying and it's a well publicized fact that "drugs go north and guns/money go south". This article by the AP was further efforts on our part to highlight these points and bring attention to our efforts on the border to try to stem the illegal flow of these "weapons of choice" south (and west to SoCal). By doing this we are letting folks know we are working hard to address the issues of cross-border violent crime by doing everything within our statutory authority to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. A big point by the Mexicans has been we aren't doing enough and if you notice the unsolicited quote by Mr. Saavedra of the Mexican Consular's Office in Douglas we are addressing their concerns about not working more closely together. I meet regularly with the Mexican Consul General in Phoenix, Mr. Carlos Flores Vizcarra, to discuss these issues and to let him know we are doing everything possible with the resources we have and within the confines of the U.S. law to address his government's concerns. He has never dealt with anyone in ATF before and the efforts we are making with his office is why you see that quote from one of his 3 Deputy Consuls.

My real concern is this however, with all the info from us, DEA, FBI, ICE and Mexican officials highlighting the use of U.S. firearms by drug dealers, etc I'm a little confused by Robyn's question. Is there something else I could do to educate her or is her question based on something else I'm not aware of?

Bill Newell

Bureau of ATF

Special Agent in Charge

20

Phoenix Field Division

Office - **ATF**

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

From: Carroll, Carson W.

Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2008 10:26 AM

To: Newell, William D.

Subject: FW: US/Mexico Firearms Trafficking

Bill,

See DOJ's question below.

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

From: Thiemann, Robyn (OLP) [mailto:Robyn.Thiemann2@usdoj.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2008 9:23 AM

To: Carroll, Carson W.

Cc: **ATF** Hoover, William J.; Carter, Ronnie A.; Zammillo, James A., Sr.; Stucko, Audrey M.

Subject: RE: US/Mexico Firearms Trafficking

See article, below. Do we have evidence beyond the summaries of investigations that support this statement?

"Some of those guns end up in the hands of California gangs or with coyotes herding illegal immigrants into the U.S. But Mangan said a majority of the guns are smuggled into Mexico for use by drug dealers."

Happy²¹ New Year!

RT

ATF says more guns sent illegally south of the border

By CHRIS KAHN Associated Press Writer

Article Launched: 12/27/2007 04:29:10 PM MST

PHOENIX-Spread across a conference table at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in Phoenix are enough weapons to equip several car loads of drug runners.

Agents said Thursday they found the 42 weapons in a storage locker about 10 days ago. The guns were worth \$250,000 in all: Belgian-made "FN" handguns, semiautomatic AK rifles and other pistols. They also found four olive boxes loaded with 50-caliber bullets-ammunition that's big enough to take out an airplane.

"These are, quite frankly, weapons of war," ATF special agent Tom Mangan said as he picked up an assault rifle and examined it.

"The type of fire power you're seeing here is on the increase," he said. "You're seeing sophisticated weapons, military weapons, assault type weapons, assault pistols, very expensive pistols."

ATF officials said gun runners typically gather large caches of weapons anonymously through "straw" purchases. They might give someone \$100 to go into a gun show or a Wal-Mart and buy a few rifles at a time. They

might²² buy guns over the Internet.

Some of those guns end up in the hands of California gangs or with coyotes herding illegal immigrants into the U.S. But Mangan said a majority of the guns are smuggled into Mexico for use by drug dealers.

Mangan said this year the ATF Phoenix office learned that about 300 assault-type weapons were brought south on one occasion, and another 200 assault-type weapons were smuggled on a separate occasion.

"Certainly, these narcoterrorist organizations, these drug organizations have unlimited source of income, and it's just a matter of getting these guns," Mangan said. "And where do they get these guns? They get them here."

Jim Needles, an ATF agent who was recently transferred to Arizona from New York, said he was alarmed by the kind of weapons agents are finding here.

"You see a lot of firearms seized in New York, but not that sophisticated type of weapon," he said. "You don't see AK-47s. You don't see the 50-caliber type of weapons."

Raul Saavedra, deputy counsul at the Mexican Consulate in Douglas, Ariz., said he didn't have data to back up ATF's claim that gun-running is on the rise. But he said the Mexican government has recognized it as a huge problem.

"A lot of the drug violence comes through weapons, and those weapons are bought in the U.S.," Saavedra said.

The Mexican government has called on the United States to stop the flow of guns into the country, he said, but America's firearms laws make it hard to stop gun running.

"What's been useful is there has been a lot of cooperation" between the countries to stem the gun trade, Saavedra said.

"If weapons are seized in Mexico, they pass that information to U.S. authorities, and they can track that number to where it was bought, and they can at least confirm if the sale was done legally," he added.

The weapons recently seized by the ATF are among 111 guns the Phoenix office collected this month. Mangan wouldn't provide details about where they were found and where they were headed. The ATF is still investigating the incident, he said.

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

From: Carroll, Carson W. [mailto:ATF]
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2007 5:11 PM
To: Thiemann, Robyn (OLP)
Cc: ATF Hoover, William J.; Carter, Ronnie A.; Zammillo, James A., Sr.; Stucko, Audrey M.
Subject: FW: US/Mexico Firearms Trafficking

Robyn,

24
See Attached. We can provide additional details regarding trace
information if needed.

Carson

PHOENIX FIELD DIVISION**Investigations:****Phoenix Group VII****ATF**

785115-10-0004

ATF

This case

ATF**ATF****Tucson Group I****ATF**

From: Newell, William D.

Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2008 7:58 PM

To: [REDACTED] **ATF**

CC: Needles, James R.; Gillett, George T. Jr.

Subject: Arizona Firearms Trafficking Initiative Mission and Goals

Due By: Tuesday, January 02, 1601 12:00 PM

ATF

I just got done attending an OCDETF Strike Task Force meeting over at DEA. This was a follow-up meeting to the one held last week at the U.S. Attorney's Office. Also in attendance was Roger Vanderpool, Jack Harris, David Gonzales and Beth Kempshall. The meeting was to propose moving existing resources and personnel already assigned at DEA to staff and fund an OCDETF initiative aimed at a recently approved Mexican CPOT who is a top member of the Sinaloa Cartel.

Drugs north – Guns south, we all know that. What many don't know is that the drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) are also firearms trafficking organizations (FTOs). ATF has countless cases and 40 years of firearms trafficking experience to prove it. Twenty years ago I put several corrupt FFLs in Brownsville, Texas out of business because they were trafficking thousands of firearms to the Juan Garcia Abrego DTO (Gulf Cartel).

Turned out the FFLs were actually owned by a lieutenant in the Garcia Abrego DTO! Our recent success with X-Caliber Arms is a recent example of this DTO-FTO relationship. Bottom line is we MUST go after the SOURCE if we are to make an impact. As the agency with primary oversight over the Federal Firearms Laws it is ATF's responsibility to go after the illegal SOURCE of firearms being trafficked to violent criminals on both sides of the SWB. Our unique jurisdictional authority over the Federal firearms laws, and FFLs in particular, provides us a unique ability to make a tremendous impact on the illegal trafficking of firearms by and to the Sinaloa Cartel. DEA's unique abilities, authority and years of success dismantling DTOs in Mexico makes this a perfect marriage and I am 100% for it.

In addition, for the past two years our efforts on firearms trafficking to Mexico have proven that the Sinaloa Cartel is the cartel most actively attempting to acquire firearms in Arizona. This assessment is based on firearms seized and traced from Sinaloa Cartel members in Mexico and the U.S., the numerous active and ongoing ATF investigations in Arizona, ATF Mexico Office joint efforts with Mexican LE, [REDACTED] **ATF**

ATF

ATF And -- the guns being purchased by this cartel are not all going to Mexico as the February seizure by DEA in Tucson proved. In that case several members of the Sinaloa Cartel were arrested with numerous firearms purchased from a firearms trafficker already being investigated by ATF Phoenix. DEA and ATF in Tucson and Phoenix are now working on this case jointly. This is just one high-profile case, there are many others. There is no doubt in my mind that targeting the Sinaloa Cartel as a group is the best strategy.

That being said I am proposing the the Arizona Firearms Trafficking effort be based out of this OCDETF funded Strike Task Force. My experience with OCDETF Strike Task Forces has been outstanding and I am fully committed to this joint effort. To me this is the best of all solutions because the OCDETF Strike Task Force is the ultimate in power and resources and can be the "big stick" in the effort to impact the violence being perpetrated by the Sinaloa DTO. Regardless of what your final decision is on this matter I am fully committed to continue my assistance to ANY State, Local, Federal, and Tribal law enforcement agency in Arizona trying to make an impact on the illegal trafficking of firearms. That's my job as ATF SAC over Arizona and New Mexico and this decision will not impact that in any way.

ATF

[REDACTED] group will be leading the charge on this so you would be working with a known, and proven, entity. I fully expect this to take the relationship between the AZ AG's office and ATF to another level by joining all prosecutorial efforts in a coordinated manner. I remain fully committed to working with your shop and to me this is a tremendous opportunity to attack this violent criminal organization from all angles. By

coordinating the efforts of the AG's office with the USAO we can do just that.

I am open to any comments and suggestions.

Bill Newell
Bureau of ATF
Special Agent in Charge
Phoenix Field Division

Office

ATF