

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2010 1:22:00 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: Fw: Fast and Furi.



NOTICE: This electronic transmission is confidential and intended only for the person(s) to whom it is addressed. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and destroy this message in its entirety (including all attachments).

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

From: Needles, James R.
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Fri Oct 29 12:46:19 2010
Subject: RE: Fast and Furi.



-----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

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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: Newell, William D.
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2010 6:45 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: Fast and Furious Briefing Paper
Attachments: Fast and Furious Briefing Paper.docx

FYI.

Forgot to mention in the GRIT proposal the need for a detailed TOO. Our TOO is currently burning himself out. As you may have heard during the summer's home invasion initiative he is a top notch TOO but he is killing himself with all the cases we have going on, including this one, ATF case, several OCDETF cases, VCIT cases, and on and on. If you could include a request for a detailed TOO in your conversation with Mark and Billy about our GRIT proposal I'd appreciate it. Thank you Senor, have a good weekend.

BRIEFING PAPER

**Phoenix Field Division
Phoenix Group VII (Gunrunner/Strike Force)
785115-10-0004
January 8, 2010**

Background

1. This investigation has currently identified more than **ATF** individual connected straw purchasers. More suspects are being identified as the scope of the investigation expands.

ATF

queries, pole camera video surveillance, vehicles and addresses in common. To date (September 2009 – present) this group has purchased in excess of 650 firearms (mainly AK-47 variants) for which they have paid cash totaling more than \$350,000.00.

2. To date there have been five (5) notable seizure events connected with this group, and approximately 53 firearms originally purchased by this group have been recovered. Three of these seizures have been in the Country of Mexico, one recovery in Douglas, AZ, and one recovery in Nogales, AZ. The U.S. recoveries were both believed to be destined for Mexico. It should be noted however that there has been one seizure in the Phoenix area related to the ongoing DEA narcotics trafficking investigation.

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ATF

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ATF

This is being coordinated out the Phoenix OCDETF Strike Force, of which Phoenix Group VII is a full-time member.

6.

ATF

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8. On January 5, 2010, ASAC Gillett, GS **ATF** and case agent SA **ATF** met with AUSA Emory Hurley, who is the lead federal prosecutor on this matter. Investigative and prosecution strategies were discussed and a determination was made that there was

ATF

gathered. This investigation was briefed to United States Attorney Dennis Burke, who concurs with the assessment of his line prosecutors and fully supports the continuation of this investigation. Furthermore, Phoenix Special Agent in Charge Newell has repeatedly met with USA Burke regarding the on-going status of this investigation and **ATF**

ATF

9.

ATF

10. A joint strategy/deconfliction meeting is planned for Friday, January 15, 2010, with representatives from ICE, DEA, and ATF. This investigation, as well as other ongoing investigations, will be briefed to all present. It should be noted that deconfliction in the OCDETF Strike Force is not the issue, rather there are several Arizona ICE offices involved in this investigation due to the location of the firearms seizures and coordination between the various ICE offices has been problematic. Even though ICE has a group at

the OCDETF Strike Force the other ICE offices in Arizona are under different ASACs and that has created a coordination issue amongst all parties involved. Phoenix SAC Newell has previously requested that ICE coordinate all their investigative activity out of the OCDETF Strike Force, of which ICE is a member, in order to eliminate the requirement of the ATF Strike Force to try to coordinate with several different ICE offices. This will be discussed at the January 15 meeting.

Investigative Techniques a/o Efforts Used to Date

11. To date in this investigation we have utilized numerous proactive, advanced investigative techniques:

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ATF

Investigative Strategy

12. This investigation is currently being conducted in conjunction with the Phoenix DEA OCDETF strike force. ATF Phoenix VII is the lead investigating enforcement group in the firearms trafficking portion of this investigation. A formal OCDETF proposal is completed and will be presented on January 26, 2009, in furtherance of this investigation.

ATF

13.

ATF

14. The ultimate goal is to

ATF**ATF**

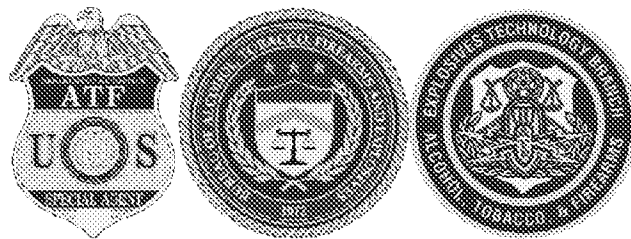
ATF

ATF GRIT PROPOSAL

PHOENIX FIELD DIVISION

ATF

4/27/2010



GRIT PROPOSAL

Phoenix Field Division Deployment of Gunrunner Impact Teams April 27, 2010

The following proposal was initially drafted on January 8, 2010. This is a modified plan scheduled to take place between the approximate dates of May 1, 2010 to August 8, 2010 (100 Days).

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) implemented a new initiative, the Gunrunner Impact Team (GRIT). The initial deployment of GRIT was to multiple locations within ATF's Houston Field Division. The purpose and scope of the initial deployment was to focus ATF's regulatory and criminal enforcement resources to comprehensively focus on firearms trafficking issues directly impacting the southwest border. The initial GRIT met significant success in the Houston Field Division but a post-GRIT assessment identified several "lessons learned" that would aid in the development of any future GRITs. The Phoenix GRIT proposal incorporates almost all of these Houston GRIT "lessons learned."

The Phoenix Field Division (PFD) shares a significant portion of the southern U.S. border with Mexico. Consequently, a significant focus of existing PFD resources is the proliferation of firearms trafficking which is directly related to the violence being perpetrated by Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) along the border. Although the PFD has identified criminal similarities shared by the Houston Field Division, the PFD's crime problems are not identical to the Houston Field Division. Therefore, the PFD has modified this GRIT proposal from the GRIT structure previously implemented in Houston. The PFD forwards this proposal for ATF's second GRIT to be deployed within the Phoenix Field Division in FY 2010.

This plan is not intended to serve as an enforcement operational plan for any specific aspect of this initiative nor is it intended to serve as guide to conducting specific investigations. This plan does however comply with the Bureau's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year 2010 in that it will focus ATF resources on the key Illegal Firearms Trafficking Strategic Priority. As outlined in Goal 1 of this priority, Interdict and Prevent Illegal Firearms Trafficking, this GRIT proposal outlines a plan to:

- Deploy integrated firearms enforcement teams,
- Expand risk-based approach to inspections,
- Increase ATF's Firearms Trafficking and Technical Training,
- Expand Awareness and Outreach
- Improve Inventory Control of Firearms Licensees

This plan also supports ATF's and the Department of Justice's Southwest Border Violent Reduction Strategy and specifically Project Gunrunner by focusing on the four main objectives of Project Gunrunner:

1. Investigate individuals responsible for illicit firearms trafficking along the Southwest border.
2. Coordinate with U.S. and Mexican law enforcement along the border in firearms cases and violent crime.
3. Train U.S. and Mexican law enforcement officials to identify firearms traffickers and provide outreach education to FFLs.
4. Trace all firearms to identify firearms traffickers, trends, patterns and networks.

Phoenix GRIT Strategy

The Phoenix Field Division GRIT strategy will focus on the following three components:

- Industry Operations Initiative
- Firearms Trafficking Investigative Initiative
- Home Invasion Initiative (Tucson)

The above components, while unique and individual in their own right, will be strategically addressed in a staggered, but coordinated effort.

Industry Operations Initiative

The letters "ATF" in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font, centered within a dashed rectangular border.

Once the FFLs have been identified and prioritized, the initially deployed team will pull Area Office files, initiate FLS queries and assignments in N-SPECT, request VCAP, NICS transaction reports, state corporation queries and, if applicable, NFRTR queries. They will provide continued direction and support to the IOIs deployed in the next phase of this initiative.

Beginning Monday, May 17, 2010, **ATF** IOIs will arrive and begin conducting FFL inspections, working closely with Phoenix Field Intelligence Group (FIG) personnel in order to ensure that any referral information is being quickly and thoroughly analyzed. The detailed IOIs will conduct inspections of the identified FFLs for a period of ninety (90) days. **ATF** IOIs will be located in Phoenix and **ATF** located in Tucson. These two locations were selected based upon anticipated workload.

Once the IOIs complete the assigned FFL inspections, the detailed Area Supervisors, IOAs and the IOI/SOO will remain an additional thirty (30) days to finish the review and closing actions for the completed inspections, conduct a comprehensive review of the inspection results as well as an evaluation of this phase of the PFD GRIT. This will require a 120 day detail for the Area Supervisors, IOAs and the IOI/SOO.

Also, during this initiative Phoenix Field Division IOIs will do a two week outreach project. They will visit FFLS within the division and provide them with information on Project Gunrunner, Don't Lie for the Other Guy Program and provide local contact information to use if they encounter any suspicious purchasers.

The overall goals for this initiative will be to complete as many inspections as possible of the identified high risk FFLS, develop leads for the firearms trafficking initiative, Educate FFLS regarding straw purchasing indicators, how to identify potential traffickers and how to improve internal controls and provide FFLs with a point of contact in the event the FFL has questions or wants to report suspicious activity.

Firearms Trafficking Investigative Initiative

The PFD GRIT Firearms Trafficking Initiative will primarily focus efforts on the two largest metropolitan areas within Arizona, Phoenix and Tucson. These two metropolitan areas are the primary source of firearms purchased in Arizona and recovered in crimes in Mexico. Additional resources for this initiative will be deployed to New Mexico and other areas of Arizona as needed and based on information and intelligence gathered during the initial phases of the Phoenix GRIT as well as active firearms trafficking investigations.

All firearms trace data and intelligence obtained by the GRIT will be fully coordinated with OSII personnel assigned to the Project Gunrunner initiative, the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), and the Violent Crime Analysis Branch (VCAB). In addition the use of DEA intelligence assets, particularly through the OCDETF Strike Force in Phoenix and Tucson satellite, will be extensively exploited to ensure our investigative efforts are in sync and complimentary to any on-going Mexican DTO related investigation. Furthermore, intelligence resources in Arizona such as the HIDTA Intelligence Screening Center in Tucson and the State Fusion Center (ACTIC) will be utilized to coordinate and de-conflict any GRIT investigative activity within the State of Arizona.

Phoenix metropolitan area – Beginning May 3, 2010, **ATF** special agents will be detailed in to the Phoenix enforcement groups for 100 days. In addition to the detailed

special agents, [ATF] Intelligence Research Specialists (IRS), and [ATF] Tactical Operations Officer (TOO) will be detailed to the Phoenix enforcement groups for 100 days. The assignment of personnel will be as follows: [ATF] special agents to Phoenix V, [ATF] special agents to Phoenix I, a TOO and IRS to Phoenix VII, [ATF] IRS to Phoenix IV, [ATF] Senior Operations Officer and [ATF] Tactical Surveillance Specialist to the division office.

Phoenix Group I's FY2010 primary firearms trafficking strategic focus is on disrupting the illegal source(s) of firearms destined to violent gangs and drug trafficking organizations operating in and through the Phoenix metropolitan area. Many of these violent gangs and drug trafficking organizations have a direct nexus to Mexico therefore this group will handle those investigations dealing with trafficking directly impacting the Phoenix metropolitan area. It should be noted that Phoenix Group I was the designated "Gunrunner" group before the creation of Group VII, which was funded specifically as a "Gunrunner" office. It should also be noted that Group I was the office that managed the "Operation Gideon" home invasion initiative during the summer of 2009 which further proved the link between the violence in Mexico and the firearms related violence in Arizona.

Phoenix Group VII was created under "Gunrunner" to specifically address firearms trafficking from the Phoenix metropolitan area to Mexico. Additionally, Phoenix VII is located at the Phoenix OCDETF Strike Force, thus fully incorporating the efforts of this ATF group into the larger mission of the Strike Force, which is to focus investigations on the command and control elements of the Sinaloa Cartel and Arizona-based distribution cells associated with the Cartel. The Phoenix OCDETF Strike Force is a multi-agency unit, with participation from both Federal, and state and local agencies including: DEA, ATF, IRS, ICE, USMS, Phoenix PD, and the Maricopa County SO.

Beginning May 10, 2010 [ATF] Group Supervisors (GS) [ATF] Special Agents and [ATF] Investigative Assistants (IA), will report to the Phoenix Field Division. The assignment of personnel will be as follows; one (1) GS will report to Phoenix IV, one (1) GS will report to Tucson I, [ATF] Special Agents will report to Phoenix I, [ATF] Special Agents will report to Phoenix II, [ATF] Special Agents will report to Phoenix IV, [ATF] Special Agents will report to Tucson I and [ATF] Special Agents will report to Tucson II. [ATF] will report to Phoenix II, [ATF] IA will report to Phoenix IV and one IA will report to Tucson I.

Tucson metropolitan area – As stated above, beginning on May 10, 2010, one (1) GS and ten (10) special agents will be detailed to the Tucson Field Offices for 100 days. In addition to the detailed special agents, one (1) IRS and one (1) IA will report to Tucson II. For 100 days.

Tucson Group I's FY2010 primary firearms trafficking strategic focus is on the trafficking of firearms from the Tucson metropolitan area to Mexico. This involves proactive investigations and operational activity of the sources of crime guns recovered in

Mexico and the Tucson AOR, specifically but not limited to Gun Shows, FFLs, and Straw Purchasers of large quantities of “weapons of choice”.

Tucson Group II’s FY2010 primary strategic focus is on disrupting the illegal source(s) of firearms destined to violent gangs and drug trafficking organizations operating in and through the Tucson metropolitan area with a focus on the designated VCIT area, which currently encompasses the highest crime rate area in the City of Tucson. Many of these violent gangs and drug trafficking organizations have a direct nexus to Mexico therefore this group will handle those investigations dealing with the infiltration of established firearm and narcotic trafficking organizations operating within the Tucson metropolitan area.

ATF

The IOI inspections conducted in the first phase of the PFD GRIT will identify additional firearms trafficking leads which will be exploited by PFD FIG personnel and subsequently assigned to special agents for investigative follow-up. The Phoenix FIG will develop additional leads from data gleaned from eTrace of firearms recovered in

ATF

Finally, GRIT personnel will also be assigned to assist with a backlog of National Instant Check System (NICS) standard denials. There are approximately seventy (70) NICS referrals within N-Force that have not been assigned for investigative follow-up due to the many initiatives currently ongoing in the PFD including Gunrunner, Home Invasion, OCDETF Strike Force, and several large-scale firearms trafficking and explosives investigations. Intelligence Research Specialists will also re-initiate the

ATF

Personnel Implementation Schedule

The PFD management team has developed a complete lead tracking, assignment and distribution process, based upon the recommendations from the Houston after action report, and will be implemented in support of the PFD GRIT. Investigative leads will be effectively tracked within the N-FOCIS system and an IA will be designated as the GRIT lead coordinator to insure that all investigative leads are pursued and completed in a timely manner.

United States Attorney Collaboration

Phoenix Field Division Special Agent in Charge William Newell has discussed the GRIT proposal with the United States Attorney for the District of Arizona, Dennis Burke. US Attorney Burke has pledged his full support to ATF and SAC Newell on this initiative.

Moreover, from a PFD perspective, the GRIT initiative will further enhance the recently strengthened relationship between ATF and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Arizona. The Arizona Attorney General's Office has also pledged their support of this initiative in regards to those cases that may not meet Federal guidelines for prosecution. The Arizona AG's Office and AG Terry Goddard in particular have been a staunch support of the Phoenix Field Division's Gunrunner efforts over the past several years. It should also be noted that SAC Newell has discussed this GRIT deployment in Tucson with Tucson Police Chief Roberto Villaseñor and he too pledges his full support as he is keenly aware of the impact home invasions are having on his city.

Personnel Needs in Support of the PFD GRIT*

Industry Operations Initiative

ATF	Area Supervisors (Initially deployed to Phoenix)
	IOI/SOO (Phoenix Division Office for duration of Phoenix GRIT)
	IOIs (Locations to be determined)
	IOAs (Phoenix VI, Tucson III)
	Intelligence Research Specialists (Phoenix FIG for duration of Phoenix GRIT)
	I/A (Phoenix FIG for duration of Phoenix GRIT)

Firearms Trafficking Investigative Initiative

Phoenix metro area

ATF	Group Supervisor
	– Special Agents
	Investigative Analysts
	Intelligence Research Specialist
	Tactical Operations Officer
	Tactical Surveillance Specialist
	Senior Operations Officer

Tucson metro area

ATF	Group Supervisor
	– Special Agents (Tucson)
	Intelligence Research Specialist (Tucson)
	Investigative Analysts

Total Personnel to be deployed = **ATF**

***As outlined in the Houston GRIT assessment it is STRONGLY recommended that personnel considered for this deployment, especially special agents, have some fluency in Spanish. Their effectiveness will be extremely limited if they cannot converse at even a basic level in Spanish. It is also strongly recommended that the Intelligence Research Specialists and Investigative Analysts considered for this deployment be trained and well-versed in link analysis systems, N-Force/N-Quire,**

and have experience working with agencies such as DEA, CPB and ICE as well as with EPIC.

Training of Personnel

The Phoenix Field Division will provide a day of orientation training for all GRIT detailees. This training will be general and series specific in order to ensure maximum effectiveness for the target audience. This training is currently being conducted in the Phoenix Field Division for the new personnel assigned to the field division under “Gunrunner” funding so a well-established training program exists. Furthermore this training has received very high marks from the new employees who strongly believe it has provided them a much needed in-depth background on the issue of firearms trafficking along the SWB, Project “Gunrunner”, Mexican DTO related violence, recent trends in firearms and explosives trafficking, and ATF’s abilities and available resources to combat this trafficking and violence, etc. This training also includes briefings by Phoenix personnel currently involved in large-scale firearms trafficking investigations, explosives investigations related to Mexico, etc. It also includes a briefing by Phoenix EEO personnel who have been detailed repeatedly to Mexico to deal with the growing issue of military ordnance and commercial explosives thefts. Finally, this training includes briefings by the ATF Division Counsel, the USAO and Arizona Attorney General’s office on the legal issues involved in investigating and prosecuting firearms trafficking and firearms related violence in Arizona, both at the Federal and State level.

Long Term Goals

This plan has been crafted in a manner where the GRIT can be implemented within the PFD, but upon completion of the GRIT, a strong and lasting foundation of criminal enforcement and industry operations relationships will remain for the PFD to continue these regulatory and enforcement efforts. The Phoenix Field Division currently enjoys an outstanding relationship with its Federal, State, Tribal and Local law enforcement peers and it is expected that this GRIT deployment will only further enhance this relationship. The deployment of ATF special agents to Sierra Vista and Nogales, Arizona has long been sought by these law enforcement peers and will present an outstanding opportunity to showcase ATF’s unique expertise and experience in combating firearms trafficking and firearms related violent crime.

Estimated Funding Request Allocation \$1,784,051.00

CATEGORY		BUDGET	
1152	Overtime	\$0.00	0.00%
2111	Travel	\$1,617,521.00	85.13%
2210	FedEx/Commercial Mail	\$1,750.00	0.15%
2500	Other Services	\$22,400.00	2.00%

2547	Agent Cashier	\$7,500.00	0.67%
2600	Supplies & Materials	\$11,200.00	1.00%
2612	Vehicle Supplies	\$39,200.00	3.50%
2613	Fuel		0.00%
2625	Investigative Supply	\$4,480.00	0.40%
3100	Furniture		0.00%
3160	Investigative Equipment	\$80,000.00	7.14%
TOTAL		\$1,784,051.00	100.00%

Performance Measures

The nature of criminal investigative work makes the establishment of meaningful and measurable performance measures difficult. For example, establishing as a performance measure the number of straw purchasers or suspected firearms traffickers prosecuted is problematic in light of the fact that ATF cannot directly control this outcome. Disrupting or dismantling Mexican drug trafficking organizations is likewise outside ATF's ability to control since the DTO's largely operate outside the direct reach of U.S. law enforcement authorities. Establishing as a measure of success a reduction in the number of firearms recovered in Mexico that are U.S. sourced is something that is not likely to be realized during the GRIT deployment period and will only be achieved if sufficient resources continue to be dedicated to support the greater SWB violence reduction strategy. A reduction in the number of firearms traced from Mexico is also not a meaningful measurement of short term success since the total number of firearms currently in the custody of the Government of Mexico is unknown and progress with the GOM with regard to tracing all recovered firearms will only result in an increase of this potential measurement even if incidents of trafficked firearms is actually declining.

However, it is essential that ATF establish some meaningful performance measures that are linked to the GRIT strategy. Therefore, the Phoenix GRIT, using input from the Houston GRIT post-assessment, established and will track the following performance measures that are intended to gauge the impact this initiative has on disrupting firearms trafficking operations that support Mexican DTOs:

- The number of firearms trafficking investigations opened/closed during the surge period.
- The number of firearms trafficking defendants referred for prosecution.
- An increase in the number of referrals to the GOM and/or other U.S. law enforcement agencies.
- An increase in the number of firearms and other evidence recovered or seized by ATF or by other agencies acting on ATF information.
- A reduction in the number of firearms traces originating from Mexico with a relatively short "time to crime".

- The number of firearms (an estimate) prevented from being trafficked to Mexico. This estimate can be calculated as a result of a number of factors such as the number of firearms recovered in Mexico or interdicted at the border associated with known or suspected straw purchasers or traffickers; information obtained during interviews and investigations; the period of time that the trafficker or straw purchaser was known (or suspected) to have operated and/or expected to have continued operating had ATF not intervened; number of established border crossings for a particular person of interest; physical evidence recovered (i.e. firearms, empty gun boxes, currency, purchase receipts, lists depicting guns to be purchased, etc.); other purchases associated with the person(s) of interest discovered as a result of inspections of FFL records, etc.
- The number of additional FFL inspections conducted and violations cited.
- The number of criminal enforcement referrals made as a result of increased FFL inspections.
- The number of licensees that received the ATF/NSSF “Don’t Lie” program and Project Gunrunner materials.
- Estimated number of persons reached as a result of ATF licensee outreach programs.

This reporting chart created and utilized by the Houston GRIT, will be adopted for use by the Phoenix GRIT.

GRIT Performance for Reporting Period May 1, 2010 to August 8, 2010		
	Reporting Period	Since Inception
Number of Investigative Leads at the Start of GRIT		
Number of New Investigative Leads		
Total Leads		
Number of Leads Investigated		
Number of New Actual Criminal Cases Opened		
Number of Defendants Recommended for Prosecution		
Number of Referrals to the Gov. of Mexico and/or other U.S. LE Agencies		
Number of Firearms/Other Evidence Seized/Recovered by ATF or Other LE Agencies Acting on ATF Information		

Number of FFL Inspections Initiated		
Number of FFL Inspections Completed		
FFL Adverse Actions Recommended:		
Number of Warning Letters/Warning Conferences		
Number of Revocations (Recommended by Division and Concurred by HQ)		
Number of Licenses Surrendered in Lieu of Revocation		
Remaining Inspections to be Completed		
Number of Criminal Enforcement Referrals Made by IOIs to ATF LE		

From: [REDACTED] **ATF**
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2010 8:53 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: Fw: Arms Trafficking in Mexico

Fyi
Just what we need...another high level meeting on arms trafficking

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From: Melson, Kenneth E.
To: Hoover, William J.; Chait, Mark R. [REDACTED] **ATF**
Sent: Fri Jul 23 20:46:35 2010
Subject: FW: Arms Trafficking in Mexico

FYI

From: Pascual, Carlos (Mexico City) [REDACTED] **ATF**
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2010 5:05 PM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; [REDACTED] **ATF**; Lanny.Breue [REDACTED] **ATF**
Cc: [REDACTED] **ATF**; Garcia, Anthony P (Mexico City); Feeley, John D (Mexico City); Mines, Keith W (Mexico City)
Subject: Arms Trafficking in Mexico

I just came out of a two and half hour review meeting with Guillermo Valdes, the head of CISEN, and our principal counterpart in coordinating the implementation of security programs in Mexico . [REDACTED] **DP**

DP

[REDACTED] **DP** It may also a good opportunity to review recent developments on the use of explosive devices such as the car bombing in Ciudad Juarez last week. I don't have the time yet for such a meeting, but it would probably be in the last half of August. I wanted to give you a heads up as soon as possible. If there are dates that would absolutely not work for you, let me know and I can try to make sure that we work around them.

Thanks very much and best regards,

Carlos

SBU
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: ATF

Sent: Friday, November 12, 2010 9:04 AM

To: ATF; McMahon, William G.; Chait, Mark R.

CC: ATF

Subject: FW: November 17th Breakfast Meeting with the Director

Attachments: November 17 2010 SWB Strategy Meeting Agenda Final.wpd

From: Tsethlikai, Serra (USAEO) [mailto:Serra.Tsethlikai@usdoj.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2010 4:51 PM

To: ATF

Subject: November 17th Breakfast Meeting with the Director

Hello ATF

I just wanted to confirm again Director Melson's presence at the Border and Immigration Law Issues Subcommittee Meeting on November 17, 2010. Due to some unrelated scheduling changes, we have moved the place of the meeting and the start time of the meeting.

New place: BICEN Building, 600 E Street NW, Room 9083. We are on the southwest corner of 6th and E.

New Time: 7:15 a.m. to 8:30

I apologize for the changes and truly hope that they do not cause Director Melson any inconvenience.

I am attaching a copy of the Subcommittee Meeting's Agenda for your convenience.

<<November 17 2010 SWB Strategy Meeting Agenda Final.wpd>>

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-252-5845.

Serra M. Tsethlikai

Southwest Border and Immigration Liaison

Executive Office for United States Attorneys

ATF

**Border and Immigration Law Issues Subcommittee
Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday, November 17, 2010
600 E Street
Room 9083
Washington, DC**

WORKING SESSION AGENDA

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

7:15 Greetings and Opening Remarks

- ▣ Dennis K. Burke, Chair of the Subcommittee
United State Attorney
District of Arizona

7:15 - 7:40: ATF - Project Gunrunner

- ▣ Kenneth Melson, Director
- ▣ William Hoover, Executive Assistant Director
- ▣ Mark Chait
- ▣ **ATF**

7:40 - 8:05: FBI - Public Corruption Along the Border

- ▣ David Cardona, Deputy Assistant Director
- ▣ Dan H. Evans, Acting Section Chief Public Corruption
- ▣ Alan Vitkowsky
- ▣ Richard Denholm, Unit Chief Public Corruption

8:05 - 8:30: DEA - Cartel Strategy, T3s, Strike Forces and Future of Mexico

- ▣ SOD Representative
- ▣ Chief of Ops or Mexico
- ▣

8:30 Meeting Adjourns

Executive Summary of
“U.S. Firearms Trafficking to Mexico: New Data and Insights Illuminate Key
Trends and Challenges” by Colby Goodman and Michel Marizco

Majority of Seized Weapons from U.S.: The vast majority (80-90%) of firearms seized in Mexico come from the United States. A significant increase in the firearms data Mexico has submitted to ATF for tracing has confirmed this fact. From December 2006 to February 2010, Mexico seized an estimated 80,000 firearms. As of May 2010, ATF had received and inputted information on 69,808 firearms recovered in Mexico from 2007 to 2009. Of these ATF determined about 62,800 (90%) came from the United States. While some 10,000 firearms were not submitted for tracing, even if not a single one of those were from the U.S. the overall percentage of firearms coming from the U.S. would still be 79% (62,800/80,000).

Small Percentage Traced to First Purchaser: Unfortunately, while it is relatively easy for ATF to determine whether a firearm came from the U.S., it often requires more data to be able to trace the firearm to its first purchaser. Of the estimated 18,406 U.S. firearms recovered in Mexico in 2009, ATF was only able to trace 4,999 (27%) to the first purchaser. One reason is that Mexican authorities often leave off their trace requests the import stamp number from AK-47 variants (since the number is not required on internal Mexican judicial case files), which U.S. officials need to trace weapons imported into the United States from other countries. Another difficulty is associated with AK-47 part kits imported into the United States with no markings on the parts to indicate they have been imported.

AK-47 and AR-15 are Weapons of Choice: While there is a wide range of U.S.-origin firearms seized in Mexico, including grenades and shotguns, assault rifles are the most sought-after and widely used by Mexican DTOs. They give the criminals far superior fire power to that of state and municipal police. The top two categories of firearms purchased in the U.S. and confiscated in Mexico are Romanian AK-47 type rifles and Bushmaster AR-15 clones. Many are purchased in the U.S. in a semi-automatic configuration and converted to fire as select fire machine guns. In 2009, Mexico seized a total of more than 4,400 firearms that have the same calibers as these two weapons.

Straw Purchases Commonplace: A common scheme to acquire firearms is the use of several “straw purchasers” and brokers. Straw purchasers are U.S. citizens or residents authorized to purchase firearms in the U.S. and earn \$100-\$500 per firearm that they deliver to a broker, who then delivers the weapons to a managing broker. More complex schemes, involving a greater number of purchasers and brokers, serve to hide traffickers’ identities and avoid prosecution. An AK-47 south of the border will command 3-4 times its purchase price (\$400) in the U.S. Further south, say in Oaxaca, the same AK-47 can be sold for \$2000-\$4000 above the purchase price, an indication of the relative lack of firearms coming into Mexico across its southern border.

Firearms are regularly trafficked into Mexico by commercial or private vehicles in batches of 5-10, often zip-tied to the frame of the automobile, or inside boxes of detergent. Texas, California, and Arizona are the most common source states for firearms seized in Mexico, though the average “time-to-crime” from first purchase is 15.7 years for these weapons, so there could be a difference in which U.S. states account for the most firearm purchases in the last three to five years.

Bilateral Cooperation Has Increased: Mexico and the U.S. have increased cooperation in interdiction, tracing, and prosecution of gun cases. GOM firearm seizures have increased from an average of 10,000 in 2005 and 2007 to an average of over 30,000 in 2008 and 2009. In October 2009 the GOM submitted for tracing a batch of 60,000 firearms seized over previous years. Tens of thousands of trace requests have been submitted so far in 2010. The U.S. has increased investigations and prosecutions and achieved hundreds of convictions in firearms trafficking cases. The U.S. has increased the number of weapons seized in southbound inspections. The U.S. has also increase cooperation in the form of training and equipment for the GOM, including delivering four Integrated Ballistics Identification Systems (IBIS) to give Mexico digital imaging capability on firearms information.

Recommendations: The authors recommend the following to further curb arms trafficking:

- Increase funding for ATF programs and staff along the border and in Mexico.
- Increase funding to place ATF agents in Guadalajara, Hermosillo, and Nuevo Laredo to deal with firearms seized in Michoacan, Sinaloa, Tamaulipas and Jalisco.
- Encourage State Attorneys General to bring charges against individuals engaged in straw purchasing based on state laws related to “fraudulent schemes.”
- Expand to more cities on the border the campaign “Don’t Lie for the Other Guy” that educates people on the illegality of straw purchasing. ATF could devote more staff working to enforce the law against straw purchasing and add a phrase to form 4473 about the illegality of transferring firearms to Mexico without a license.
- Require notification to U.S. authorities when an individual buys multiple military-style firearms in a short period of time. Current law requires such notification for handguns.
- Increase ATF staff devoted to inspections of U.S. gun stores along the border.
- Create methods for ATF to fine gun stores and enforce the ban on import into the U.S. of semi-automatic assault rifles.
- Ensure import markings are placed on AK-47 part kits imported into the U.S.
- Require background checks and sales records retention by private sellers (i.e. at gun shows) and also by gun stores for ammunition purchases.
- Increase quality of southbound license plate readers (i.e. to distinguish “8s” from “Bs”).
- Infrastructure that prevent vehicles from speeding across the border to evade inspection.
- Increase random southbound inspections following gun shows along the U.S. border.
- Mexico should increase timeliness and completeness of firearms tracing requests.

From: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2010 11:21 AM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: RE: simple numbers on F&F recoveries

10-4 thanks.

William G. McMahon
Deputy Assistant Director (West)
Office of Field Operations
Office - (202) 648- [ATF]

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2010 11:21 AM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: Fw: simple numbers on F&F recoveries

For what it's worth and since I don't like the perception that we allowed guns to "walk", I had [ATF] pull the numbers of the guns recovered in Mexico as well as those we had a direct role in taking off here in the US. Almost all of the [ATF] seized in the US were done based on our info and in such a way to not burn the wire or compromise the bigger case. The guns purchased early on in the case we couldn't have stopped mainly because we weren't fully aware of all the players at that time and people buying multiple firearms in Arizona is a very common thing.

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From: [ATF]
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thu Dec 16 19:22:42 2010
Subject: simple numbers on F&F recoveries
Sir,

I can make this more grand tomorrow if you wish but right now by my count;

- Firearms recovered in Mexico = [ATF]
- Firearms recovered in the USA = [ATF]

Thanks,

[ATF]
Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
[ATF]

From: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 4:32 PM
To: Chait, Mark R.
CC: ATF
Subject: FW: F/F Summary Chart
Attachments: F&F Summary.xlsx; F&F Summary.xlsx

Mark,

I don't know what you received before but is this what you are looking for regarding the chart from Phoenix?

Bill

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 4:27 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: Fw: F/F Summary Chart

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From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Wed Mar 16 16:23:37 2011
Subject: FW: F/F Summary Chart

Per your request.

George T. Gillett

Assistant Special Agent in Charge

ATF - Phoenix Field Division

Office: (602) 776-5400

From: ATF
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 12:08 PM
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Subject: RE: F/F Summary Chart

George

Attached <<F&F Summary.xlsx>> is the updated firearms recovery chart that cites the following.

- Indicted targets that purchased firearms
- Date targets were entered into N-Force (identified)
- Number of firearms purchased prior to date of entry
- Number of firearms purchased after date of entry
- Number of firearms purchased after date of entry and recovered in the U.S.

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

Additionally, IRS **ATF** is preparing a similar chart for the Operation Wide Receiver investigation. This chart is expected to be completed today.

ATF

- Senior IRS

Acting Intel Group Supervisor

ATF

Direct

Mobile

(602) 776-5519 - Fax

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

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.

Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 7:07 AM

To: **ATF**

Subject: Fw: F/F chart

Pls see the SAC's comments.

George T. Gillett

ASAC - Phoenix Field Division

Cell: **ATF**

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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.

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

From: Newell, William D.

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

Sent: Wed Mar 16 08:57:11 2011

Subject: F/F chart

Did **ATF** finish the F/F chart showing a breakdown of how many of the 1318 guns we seized? Also, the Wide Receiver chart? Need them asap. Thanks

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<<F&F Summary.xlsx>>

785115-10-0004

5/22/2011

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>
ATF					

ATF

A/GS Phoenix FIG

ATF

From: [REDACTED] **ATF**

Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 8:32 AM

To: McMahon, William G.

Subject: Re: Grand Juries Indict 34 Suspects in Drug and Firearms Trafficking Organization

10-4

Can I fwd to the Mex Embassy?

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From: McMahon, William G.

To: [REDACTED] **ATF**

Sent: Tue Jan 25 08:27:57 2011

Subject: Fw: Grand Juries Indict 34 Suspects in Drug and Firearms Trafficking Organization

Dan,

I left you a voice mail on your cell. Here is the draft press release I mentioned.

Bill

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From: Newell, William D.

To: McMahon, William G.; Chait, Mark R.

Sent: Tue Jan 25 08:08:28 2011

Subject: Fw: Grand Juries Indict 34 Suspects in Drug and Firearms Trafficking Organization

FYI - DRAFT press release.

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From: Tarango, Manuel (USAAZ)

To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ) ; Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ) ; Sherwood, Robert (USAAZ) ; STEVENAZCA@aol.com ; Ramey, Jenna (USAAZ) ; Gwinn, Laura (CRM) ; Sanchez, Ramona F. (DEA-US) ; McCormick James P ; Picard, Vincent M ; Mangan, Thomas G.; Newell, William D.; [REDACTED] **ATF** MTarango@usa.doj.gov

Sent: Mon Jan 24 20:29:51 2011

Subject: Grand Juries Indict 34 Suspects in Drug and Firearms Trafficking Organization

All, below is the final proposed press release for tomorrow's press conference. It will not be made public until the press conference at 10AM MTS. Please let me know if there are any items I need to correct.

Thanks

DP

DP

DP

#

For more information on the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, visit <http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/>

J. Manny Tarango

United States Attorney's Office

District Of Arizona

40 N. Central Avenue, Suite 1200

Phoenix, AZ 85004

Office

Cell:

Fax: (

ATF

Email:

ATF

Website:

ATF

34

From: Smith, Charles E.

Sent: Friday, December 17, 2010 7:01 PM

To: Needles, James R.

Subject: FW:

FYI

Charlie Smith

ASAC

Dallas Field Division

469-227-4300 Office

ATF

Direct
Cell

From: ATF

Sent: Friday, December 17, 2010 2:14 PM

To: Smith, Charles E.

Cc: ATF

Subject:

Charlie,

ATF

ATF

ATF

ATF

ATF

ATF

DP

ATF

DP

Thanks,

ATF

35

From: ATF
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 2:53 PM
To: ATF
Subject: RE: UI 785120- ATF

I just added so more source docs on ATF

From: ATF
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 12:51 PM
To: ATF
Cc: ATF
Subject: RE: UI 785120-10 ATF

ATF

Thanks so much. I was able to get all the info. We appreciate it!

DP

D ATF

Thanks again.

ATF

Special Agent
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
Phoenix Field Division - Group VII
Cell: ATF

From: ATF
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 11:32 AM
To: ATF
Subject: RE: UI 785120- ATF

ATF

All those documents you speak of are in NFORCE under source file. I will give you access so that you can look at them. As far as the guns in questions, we do not have them in custody. Long story short, BP conducted a traffic stop on these guys and were not able to find anything on them in order to seize the weapons. However, BP was able to document the weapons. The weapons are gone, my suspicions are they are still w/ the suspect or they have crossed over into MX.

ATF (the driver) has over 90+ border crossings.

If need be, LC II can go talk to ATF and ascertain where the guns are at. However, that would probably blow a hole in the Phx case.

From: ATF
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 9:32 AM
To: ATF
Subject: UI 785120- ATF

ATF

DP

ATF

DP**ATF**

Also, can I be a huge pain in the ass? Is it possible to take photos of the firearms and the serial numbers? If you have an off-site vault or it is a monster pain, don't worry about it.

I don't know what will be easier for you – scanning the documents and emailing them or just photocopying and mailing them to us. If you opt to mail, can you send it to the DEA office? Here's the address:

ATF SA **ATF** (4th floor)
3010 2nd St., Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Thanks **ATF** If you need anything from up here, don't hesitate to let me know. I'll get it done for you.

ATF

Special Agent
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
Phoenix Field Division - Group VII

Cell: **ATF**

37

From: ATF
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2010 4:36 PM
To: ATF
Subject: FW: Solicitud OEPA/047/2010
Attachments: DICTAMEN-BALISTICA NAVOJOA.PDF; ASEGURAMIENTO DE ARSENAL EN NAVOJOA..doc

Importance: High

This is the Spanish (Mexican) document I was speaking of, 5 are from ATF

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 10:34 AM
To: ATF
Subject: FW: Solicitud OEPA/047/2010
Importance: High

This was a seizure in Navojoa, Sonora on July 4th. It wasn't in eTrace yet so I asked ATF to get me the info. The Sonoran PGR office report is attached listing all the firearms data, a little hard to read but you can make it out. Just curious if any of the Fast and Furious firearms are there.

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: ATF
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 9:18 AM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: FW: Solicitud OEPA/047/2010
Importance: High

Bill, aquí te mando la información que me solicitaste con respecto a un aseguramiento en Navojoa, Son. El día 4 de Julio de 2010.

From: ATF [mailto:ATF@pgr.gob.mx]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 9:01 AM
To: ATF
Subject: RV: Solicitud OEPA/047/2010
Importance: High

ATF

Titular de la Oficina de Enlace de PGR
Phoenix Arizona.
201 E WASHINGTON ST.
SUITE #940 PHOENIX AZ. 85004

Ofis.	ATF	
Cel.		
Next		
Email		

De: **ATF**
 Enviado el: jueves, 15 de julio de 2010 05:57 p.m.
 Para: **ATF**
 Asunto: RV: Solicitud OEPA/047/2010

Estimado **ATF**:

Adjunto te envío el dictamen solicitado, así como la tarjeta generada con motivo de este asunto.

Quedo al pendiente para cuando se defina lo del curso.

Saludos cordiales

Atte

ATF

"Toda la información de este correo así como la contenida en los documentos que se adjuntan, se encuentra clasificada conforme a lo previsto en los artículos 13 fracciones I, IV, 14 fracciones I, III y IV y 18 fracción II de la Ley Federal de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública Gubernamental, en relación con lo dispuesto en los Lineamientos Generales para la clasificación y desclasificación de la información de las dependencias y entidades de la Administración Pública Gubernamental, emitidos por el Pleno del Instituto Federal de Acceso a la Información Pública, publicados en el D.O.F. el 18 de agosto de de 2003, así como a las Recomendaciones para la organización y conservación de correos electrónicos institucionales de las dependencias y entidades de la Administración Pública Federal, emitida por el Instituto señalado y publicadas el 10 de febrero en el D.O.F. 2009"

Estimado Licenciado, que gusto de volver a escribirle, aunque sea solicitándole su auxilio para obtener información, le comento que su servidor ha estado fuera del país y del continente por un mes y una semana, motivo por el cual no había tenido la oportunidad de saludarlo, sin embargo estoy preparando un curso de especialistas en desactivación y reconocimiento de artefactos explosivos caseros, para el personal de PGR y otros en el estado de Sonora, en cuanto se concrete me pondré en contacto con usted nuevamente.

Por otro lado le quería pedir de favor si se me pudiera proporcionar una Tarjeta Informativa y el dictamen pericial de las armas aseguradas en un evento el día **4 de Julio 2010 en el Municipio de Navojoa, Son., donde elementos del ejército al revisar un vehículo pick up chevrolet** **ATF** **encontraron 25 fusiles tipo AK 47 entre otras cosas.**

Sin mas por el momento le envío un cordial saludo.

ATF
 Titular de la Oficina de Enlace de PGR
 Phoenix Arizona.
 201 E WASHINGTON ST.
 SUITE #940 PHOENIX AZ. 85004
 Ofis. **ATF**
 Cel. **ATF**
 Next **ATF**
 Email **ATF**

"Toda la información de este correo así como la contenida en los documentos que se adjuntan, se encuentra clasificada conforme a lo previsto en los artículos 13 fracciones I, IV, 14 fracciones I, III y IV y 18 fracción II de la Ley Federal de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública Gubernamental, en relación con lo dispuesto en los Lineamientos Generales para la clasificación y desclasificación de la información de las dependencias y entidades de la Administración Pública Gubernamental, emitidos por el Pleno del Instituto Federal de Acceso a la Información Pública, publicados en el D.O.F. el 18 de agosto de de 2003, así como a las Recomendaciones para la organización y conservación de correos electrónicos institucionales de las dependencias y entidades de la Administración Pública Federal, emitida por el Instituto señalado y publicadas el 10 de febrero en el D.O.F. 2009"

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dispuesto en los Lineamientos Generales para la clasificación y desclasificación de la información de las dependencias y entidades de la Administración Pública Gubernamental, emitidos por el Pleno del Instituto Federal de Acceso a la Información Pública, publicados en el D.O.F. el 18 de agosto de de 2003, así como a las Recomendaciones para la organización y conservación de correos electrónicos institucionales de las dependencias y entidades de la Administración Pública Federal, emitida por el Instituto señalado y publicadas el 10 de febrero en el D.O.F. 2009"

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