

From: Ramey, Jenna (USAAZ) <Contractor>
To: Sherwood, Robert (USAAZ) <Contractor>
Sent: 2/10/2011 4:00:07 PM
Subject: FW: Firearms smuggling case- U.S. Attorney's Office of Arizona

Our Aussie friend has more questions. I can answer the obvious ones, but wanted to check in with you first. Let me know if you want me to respond, when you have a sec.

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

From: Peter Huck
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 1:33 PM
To: Ramey, Jenna (USAAZ) <Contractor>
Subject: Re: Firearms smuggling case- U.S. Attorney's Office of Arizona

Thanks Jenna. I'm looking through the indictments. Incidentally, I'm curious, but what on earth is the US Dept of Ag doing as part of the OCDETF? I've come across the other agencies on previous stories but not the DoA. One thing that strikes me about the indictments, and the allegations concerning straw purchasers, is what standard are US gun dealers held to? If these were all phony buyers how are gun dealers to know, and what steps are they expected to take - legally - to ensure any buyers' bona fides? I've heard about how easy it is to purchase weapons at outdoor sales, but surely it must be easier to police the licensed dealers? Are they bound by US and/or state laws?

Given that cartels want US-made weapons, have very deep pockets and can obviously pay cash, surely the gun dealers on the US side of the border are the Achilles' heel for any concerted effort by US and Mexican law enforcement agencies to stop this murderous trade.

I'm also interested in getting some idea of the known scale of this problem, viz. estimates on number of weapons illegally trafficked, and where they came from: dealers, gun fair sales or, perhaps, thefts in the US.

Is there anyone who might like to comment on this subject?

I'm also mentioning Project Gunrunner in this story. I've looked at US news stories - apparently alerted to the operation by a letter from a Rep. Senator - which suggest the operation went awry, resulting in the death of a Border Patrol agent near Nogales. Obviously, very unfortunate. But how would US authorities have been expected to monitor, let alone control, the use of the assault rifles in question?

This is probably being handled by AFT but, again, would anyone in your office like to comment on this case?

All best,

Peter Huck

On Feb 11, 2011, at 5:33 AM, Ramey, Jenna (USAAZ) <Contractor> wrote:

> Mr. Huck,

>

> Below you will see links from our website with information on the indictment you were referencing . Among the links are: 1) Our office's press release with quotes from the U.S. Attorney and ATF's Special Agent in Charge. 2) 5 indictments that were recently issued in regards to firearms trafficking. And 3) ATF's map of the firearms recovered in the main ATF investigation.

>

>

> Grand Juries Indict 34 Suspects in Drug and Firearms Trafficking Organization (PDF)

> Related Indictments | US v. ATF et al. ; US v. Flores et al. ; US v. Broome et al. ; US v. Aguilar ; US v. Abarca

> ATF | Map of Firearms Recovered in ATF Investigation

>

> Our web address is www.justice.gov/usao/az if you want more information. Let us know if you have any more questions!

>
> Best,
>
> Jenna Ramey
>
> Public Affairs Contractor
>
> U.S. Attorney's Office
>
> District of Arizona
>
> 602-514-7629
>