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Sent: 3/7/2011 7:25:48 PM
Subject: CBS segment - interview w. ATF agent

You can watch it: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/03/03/eveningnews/main20039031.shtml>

Transcript -

doddson's job is to stop gun trafficking across the border. instead, he says he was ordered to sit by and watch it happen.

investigators call the tactic letting guns walk. in this case into the hands of criminals who would use them in mexico and the u.s. doddson's bosses say that never happened. now he's risking his job to go public.

i'm boots on the ground here in phoenix and telling you we've been doing it everyday since i've been here. here i am. tell me i didn't do the things that i did. tell me you didn't order me to do the things i did. tell me it didn't happen. now you have a name on it, you have a face to put with it. here i am. someone. now tell me it didn't happen.

reporter: agent doddson and other insiders say the gun-walking strategy was approved all the way to the justice department. the idea was to see where the guns ended up, build a big case and take down a major cartel and it was all kept secret from mexico. a.t.f. named the case "fast and furious." this surveillance video obtained by cbs news shows suspected drug cartel suppliers carrying boxes of weapons to their cars at a phoenix gun shop. those long boxes being loaded into the red car are a.k.-47 type assault rifles.

reporter: so it turns out a.t.f. not only allowed the guns to walk, they videotaped it. documents show the inevitable results. the guns a.t.f. let go began showing up at crime scenes in mexico and as a.t.f. stood by watching thousands of weapons hit the street, the fast and furious group supervisor noted the escalating mexican violence. 958 killed in march, 2010, the most violent month since 2005. the same e-mail notes "our subjects purchased 359 firearms during march alone, including numerous barrett 50 caliber rifles. did you feel that a.t.f. was partly, perhaps, to blame for the escalating violence in mexico and on the boarder?"

i even asked them if they could see the correlation between the two. the more that our guys buy, the more violence that we're having down there.

reporter: senior agents including dodd son told us they confronted their supervisors over and over. and what was the answer, what did they say in

if you're going to make an omelet you've got to scramble some eggs.

reporter: there was so much opposition to the gun walking that an a.t.f. supervisor issued an e-mail noting a schism among the agents. "whether you care or not people at rank and authority of headquarters are paying close attention to this case. we are doing what they envisioned. if you don't think this is fun, you're in the wrong line of work. maybe the maricopa county jail is hiring detention officers and you can get \$30,000 to serve lunch to inmates."

we just knew it wasn't going to end well. there's no way it could.

reporter: then on december 14 2010, border patrol agent brian terry was gunned down. doddson got the bad news from a colleague. they said "did you hear about the border patrol agent?" i said "yeah." they said "well, it was one of the fast and furious guns." and there's really not much you can say after that.

reporter: two assault rifles a.t.f. had let walk nearly a year before, similar to these, were found at terry's murder.

i felt guilty. i mean, it's crushing. i don't know how to explain it. i mean practices on sunday...

reporter: doddson told authorities to senator grassley who is investigating. what's been the response? the response has been civil frch the standpoints that document we want we have not gotten them and i think it's a case of stonewalling.

reporter: doddson says he hopes speaking out helps the family of border patrol agent brian terry. they haven't been told much of anything about his murder wror the bullet came from.

first of all i would tell them that i'm sorry. second of all, i would tell them that i... i've done everything that i can for them to get the truth. after this i don't know what else i can do. but i hope to get it.

reporter: doddson says they never did take down a drug cartel, however he says thousands of fast and furious weapons are still out there and will be claiming victims on both sides of the border for years come. sharyl attkisson, cbs news, washington.

couric: late today the a.t.f. said it will convene a panel to look into its national firearms trafficking strategy but refused to comment specifically on sharyl's report. for more of the a.t.f. agents' story, you can go to our web site at cbsnews.com. also today, president obama had a message and a warning for libya's moammad qaddafi.