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March 25, 2008

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MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Director
Field Operations

FROM: Special Agent in Charge
Los Angeles Field Division

SUBJECT: Proposal for the Establishment of a Third Law Enforcement Field
Office in San Diego, California.

This correspondence is a proposal for the establishment of a third law enforcement group in San Diego, California (San Diego Group IV) and a request for additional resources in order to better support ATF's Southwest Border (SWB) initiative. San Diego currently has two law enforcement groups and a three agent Satellite office in El Centro, California was approved on March 13, 2008. These groups are responsible for two extremely large counties in California, to include San Diego County and Imperial County which cover the California/Mexico border from the Pacific Ocean to the state of Arizona.

The new San Diego SWB Field Office Group (IV) will be a component of the Los Angeles Field Division. This office will be responsible for any and all investigations involving ATF's jurisdiction, with a focus on international firearms trafficking and border gun violence. The office will target firearm traffickers, gun shows and violence along the border of California and Mexico. This group will develop liaisons with their Mexican counterparts with the assistance of the ATF Mexico Office.

With the activity generated by the San Diego Groups, it is also requested that a third Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) be approved for the Los Angeles Field Division. Most Federal agencies have a separate field division in San Diego due to the high level of work being conducted in Southern California and an ASAC stationed in San Diego would give ATF better representation at the command level.

The following information is provided per ATF O 100.166, Procedures for Processing Proposed Bureau Organizational Changes.

DISCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGE

It is requested that authorization be granted to establish a third Law Enforcement Group consisting of the following:

One (1) Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC)

One (1) Resident Agent in Charge (RAC)

One (1) Investigative Analyst (IA)

ATF Special Agents (SA)

The office would be under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Field Division and supervised by its own RAC.

REASON FOR CREATION

San Diego Field Office Group I, which is responsible for all Arson and Explosive investigations as well as the Gun Show Task Force, has **ATF** agents. Of those **ATF** is assigned to **ATF** is an ATF K-9 handler and **ATF** it is assigned to the Metro Arson Strike Team (MAST) in San Diego. This leave **ATF** to cover Imperial County and San Diego County. San Diego Group II has seven **ATF**, of those **ATF** is assigned to the North County Gang Task Force, **ATF** assigned to the East County Gang Task Force, **ATF** agent is assigned to Imperial County Major Traffickers Task Force, **ATF** agent is assigned to "BEST" Border Enforcement Task Force, **ATF** agent is assigned to the San Diego Law Enforcement Coordination Center and **ATF** agent is assigned to the Ariellano Felix Task Force. That leaves **ATF** to work firearms investigations. San Diego Field Offices do not have enough resources to dedicate special agents to work strictly Southwest Border investigations. Firearm traffickers are distributing firearms to criminals/gang members in Southern California and are transporting these firearms across the boarder to drug cartels in Mexico. The drug cartel's violence is directly affecting the citizens of Southern California in their ongoing kidnappings, murders and gun battles over territories and drug distributions. Additional special agents, equipment and resources are needed to better combat this epidemic of violence and gun trafficking. This new Field Office would enable ATF to better support the SWB Initiative. No disadvantages have been identified.

ORGANIZATIONAL DESCRIPTION AND EXHIBITS

A designated new organizational code will be created. The name of the office associated with the new organizational code would be San Diego Group IV Field Office. The office would cover the geographical area of responsibility as designated by the Special Agent in Charge of the Los Angeles Field Division.

PROPOSAL IMPLEMENTATION

June 1, 2008 or as soon as staffing becomes available. The implementation plan will include the announcement of one ASAC position, one RAC position, hiring one IA position, and transferring or hiring the needed Special Agents.

IMPACT STATEMENT

There is no identifiable negative impact associated with this proposal. Additional agents in San Diego would have a significant positive impact on ATF's ability to assist state, local and federal agencies in regards to firearms trafficking, border violence and Project Gunrunner. ATF would be able to significantly impact our ability to proactively address firearms being trafficked to Mexico. An ASAC assigned to San Diego would give better command structure and Bureau representation.

COST ESTIMATE

The expenses incurred to relocate one ASAC and one RAC, the transferring of SA's and the hiring of an IA.

GSA Leased Space – San Diego currently has enough space to support an additional group and one ASAC.

Parking – An additional **ATF** parking spaces would be required.

Government Vehicles – **ATF** government owned vehicles for ASAC, RAC, and **ATF** agents.

ESA – Expenses – Computer equipment for newly hired special agents, assigned task force officers and support staff.

Radios/cell phones – **ATF** radios and cell phones would be needed for new agents and task force officers.

San Diego Group IV evidence vault would need to be built.

If you have any questions or would like further information concerning this proposal, please contact Karl G. Anglin, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Los Angeles Field Division, (818) 265-2500.

John A. Torres