

# PROJECT GUNRUNNER

## Southwest Border Initiative



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms &  
Explosives



## Project Gunrunner



### What is Project Gunrunner???

- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) implemented the Southwest Border Initiative in order to meet and defeat the growing threat of violence along the U.S. and Mexican Border.
- ATF's part in the Southwest Border Initiative is called Project Gunrunner.



## Project Gunrunner

### Phoenix Field Division Border Office Staffing

- For Arizona and New Mexico

- Phoenix (ATF Agents (ATF IOIs))

- Tucson (ATF Agents)

- Yuma (ATF Agents)

- Las Cruces (ATF Agents)





## Project Gunrunner

### Houston Field Division Border Office Staffing



- Laredo (ATF Agents)
- Houston (ATF Agents, ATF IOI)
- San Antonio (ATF Agents, ATF IOIs)
- McAllen (ATF Agents, ATF IOIs)



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Los Angeles Field Division  
Border Office Staffing



San Diego ATF Agents,  
ATF (OI)

- Los Angeles ATF  
Agents)



## Project Gunrunner

### Dallas Field Division Border Office Staffing



- Dallas (ATF Agents)
- Lubbock (ATF Agents, ATF IOs)
- El Paso (ATF Agents, ATF IOs)



## Project Gunrunner

### Threat Overview

The Mexican Drug Cartels use firearms – “weapons of choice” - to protect their leadership, loads and territory

The Sinaloa Cartel  
AKA: The Golden Triangle Alliance  
The Federation



VICENTE JOAQUIN	JUAN JOSE	ISMAEL	IGNACIO
CARILLO “EL CHAPO”	“EL AZUL”	“EL MAYO”	CORONEL
FUENTES GUZMAN	ESPARRAGOZA	ZAMBADA	VILLARREAL
	MORENO	GARCIA	

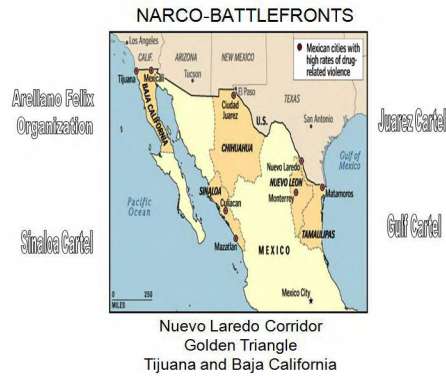
The Juárez cartel has most recently transformed itself into the Golden Triangle Alliance, or La Alianza Triángulo de Oro, because of its leaders in three Mexican border states: Sinaloa, Chihuahua and Durango. The organization is headed by Juan José Esparragoza Moreno, also known as El Azul, according to law enforcement sources. His wanted poster is on billboards in El Paso, courtesy of the FBI.



# Project Gunrunner

## Threat Overview Con't.

U.S. and Mexico are being affected by the war being fought between each of the various Drug Cartels and the Mexican government for control of the Borders. ATF covering 2000 miles of US/Mexico border.







## Project Gunrunner

### Alarming Trends

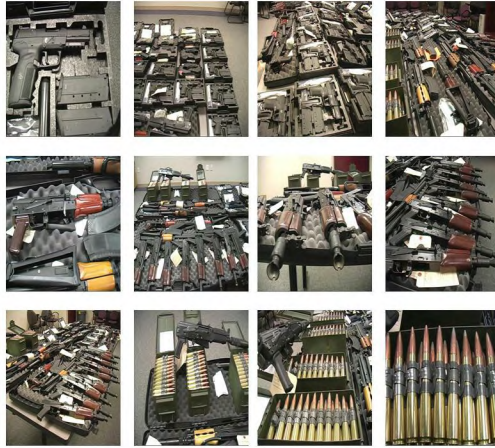
- Increased trafficking of high powered firearms and ammunition "Weapons of Choice"
- Increased Violence North & South of the Border due to on-going drug cartel turf battles and illegal immigrant trafficking
- In the first two weeks of December, 2007 ATF agents in the Phoenix FD seized 111 firearms destined to Mexico, 98% of which were "weapons of choice".
  - Also seized was 9000 Rounds of Ammunition of which, 8000 rounds were 7.62mm ammunition (AK-47) and 400 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition .
- It was determined that these firearms were obtained through traditional sources of supply in the Phoenix area such as: Gun Shows, Straw Purchases and FFL's





# Project Gunrunner

## Gun Show Seizure



Southwest Border Initiative  
"Weapons of Choice"

Primary New Weapons of Choice

ATF

ATF

ATF

Additional New Weapons of Choice

ATF

of Choice

ATF

KAZ clowns

ATF

ATF



## Project Gunrunner

December 1-2, 2007  
Phoenix Gun Show



- The Phoenix Gun Show operation culminated in the arrest of 16 people, the recovery of 16 "weapons of choice" rifles, 19 handguns, \$13,000 in cash, a 2007 Ford F-150 King Ranch 4 door, 60 high-capacity magazines for AK-47 clones, and nearly 10,000 rounds in ammunition.
- A dozen undocumented aliens who were patrons of the gun show were taken into custody and a large amount of criminal intelligence was gathered, including intelligence on firearms trafficking into Mexico supporting Southwest Border Initiatives.



# Project Gunrunner

## Recent Phoenix Firearms Trafficking Investigation

Total number of firearms purchased from January 2006 thru January 2007: **ATF**

Firearms trafficked to Mexico included the following:

**ATF**

Total number of firearms recoveries:

**ATF**

Firearms Seized by ATF: **ATF**

**ATF**

Total number of firearms purchased from January 2006 thru January 2007: **336**

Firearms trafficked to Mexico included the following:

**ATF**

Total number of firearm recoveries: (4) Recovered in Mexico, Time **ATF**

Firearms Seized by ATF: **ATF**

**ATF**



## Project Gunrunner

December 17, 2007  
YUMA SEIZURE

### Recovery of 42 Firearms pursuant to Southwest Border Initiative

While conducting an investigation at the Phoenix Gun Show, agents from the Phoenix I Field Office were advised of a suspicious purchase of 2 AK-47 type, semi-automatic pistols by a male subject and also left a \$5,000.00 deposit for 10 additional firearms. Surveillance resulted in the observation of 9 firearms being loaded into a vehicle and eventually transported to a storage facility in Yuma, AZ.

Surveillance and consented search of the storage locker resulted in the seizure of: (12) FN Five Seven 5.56mm pistols; (1) .22 caliber Browning pistol; (2) 9mm Beretta pistols; (3) 9mm Glock pistols;

(1) 9mm Smith & Wesson pistol; (12) AK-47 type assault rifles; and (9) AK-47 type pistols. Also recovered was a large

cache of ammunition, which included .50 caliber rifle ammunition.

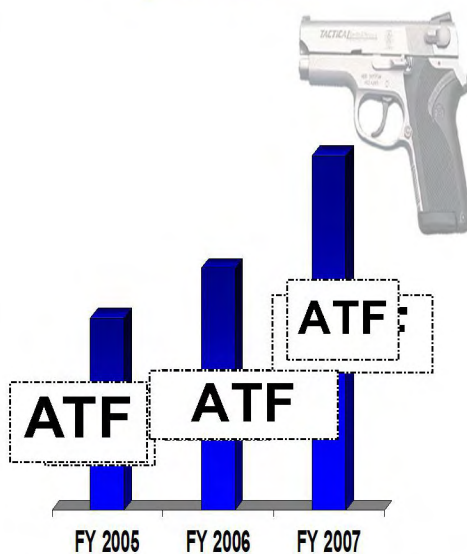
**A follow-up investigation to the Yuma Seizure has revealed that this is one of the firearms**

**successfully smuggled into Mexico.**

M3AC

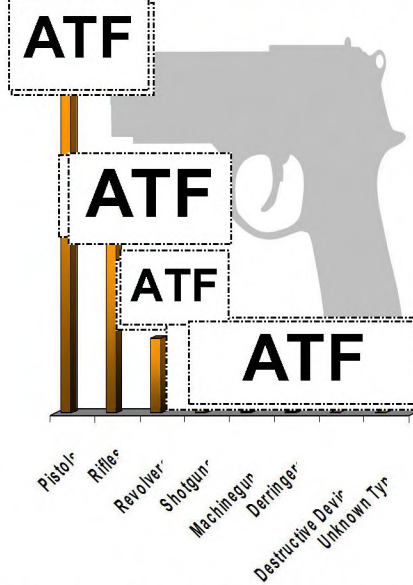


**Total Number of Firearms  
Submitted for Tracing by Mexico  
by Fiscal Year**



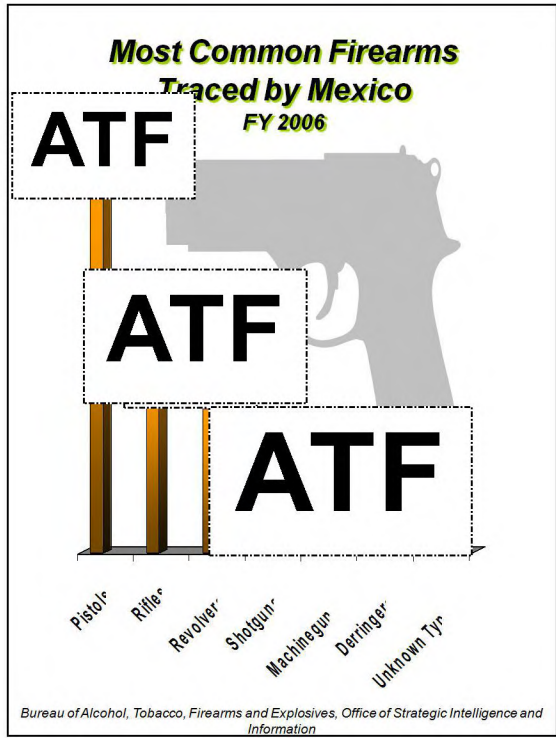
*Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information*

**Traced Firearms by type  
Recovered in Mexico in FY 2005**



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information





**Firearms Submitted for Tracing  
by Mexico**

**FY 2007**

**ATF**



**ATF**

- Rifles
- Pistol
- Shotgun
- Revolver
- Machinegun
- Derringer
- Destructive Dev
- Unknown Typ

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information

**Top 15 Source States for  
Firearms Recovered in Mexico**

**ATF**

**ATF**

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Explosives*

**Top 15 Source States for  
Firearms Recovered in Mexico**  
*EY 2006*

**ATF**

*Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and  
Info*

**ATF**

**Top 15 Source States for  
Firearms Recovered in Mexico  
FY 2007**

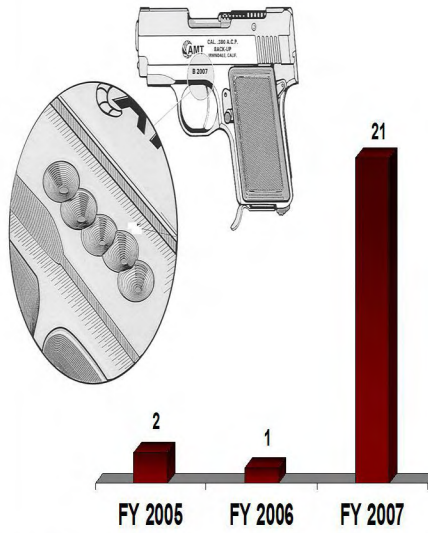
**ATF**



**ATF**

*Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco*

**Firearms with Obliterated Serial Numbers Recovered in Mexico  
by Fiscal Year**



*Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information*

## **Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics**

### **1 Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced**

- Includes traces with a recovery country of Mexico.
- Includes Guns Recovered and Traced Between 10/1/2004 – 9/30/2007, or if the recovery date was blank, the trace entry date was between 10/1/2004 – 9/30/2007.
- Duplicate traces, Firearms Not Recovered, Gun Buy Back and Firearms Turned In are not included in this figure.

### **2 Firearm Types Recovered in Mexico**

- Includes same criteria as Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced.

### **3 Top Source States for Firearms Recovered in Mexico**

- Includes same criteria as Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced.
- Traces must identify a purchaser and the state in which the final dealer is located.

### **4 Firearms with Obliterated Serial Numbers Recovered in Mexico**

- Includes same criteria as Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced.
- Traces must contain the "Obliterated Serial Number" indicator to be included.

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