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**From:** Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)  
**To:** Reich, Steven (ODAG); Johnston, Deborah A. (ODAG)  
**CC:** Pope, Amy (CRM)  
**Sent:** 6/17/2011 10:52:35 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Request for Staff Briefing

**DP**

We can discuss Monday.

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**From:** Reich, Steven (ODAG)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2011 06:39 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Deborah A. (ODAG); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)  
**Cc:** Pope, Amy (CRM)  
**Subject:** Re: Request for Staff Briefing

**DP**

Steven F. Reich  
Associate Deputy Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Room 4121  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
(202) 305-0091(w)  
steven.reich@usdoj.gov

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**From:** Johnston, Deborah A. (ODAG)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2011 06:06 PM  
**To:** Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)  
**Cc:** Reich, Steven (ODAG); Pope, Amy (CRM)  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Staff Briefing

I can certainly assist. Amy Pope would be my suggestion from crim. I'll defer to Steve on whether we should actually attend or participate in the briefing.

Debbie

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**From:** Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2011 5:48 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Deborah A. (ODAG)  
**Cc:** Reich, Steven (ODAG)  
**Subject:** FW: Request for Staff Briefing

Debboe,

Looks like this briefing will be more in your lane than mine. Is this something you would want to help ATF brief on? If not, is there someone from CRM who should go?

Matt

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**From:** Burton, Faith (SMO)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2011 5:00 PM  
**To:** Gaston, Molly (SMO); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); Reich, Steven (ODAG); Hoover, William J. (ATF);

**ATF**

(ATF)

**Subject:** FW: Request for Staff Briefing

All, I've reached out to Patrick Alwine at State to coordinate on this; they should be included in this meeting if they want to participate. Do we need a pre-meet call on Monday? We're aiming for 11 am on Tuesday.

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**From:** Rees, Harold [mailto:Harold.Rees@mail.house.gov]

**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2011 3:24 PM

**To:** Gaston, Molly (SMO)

**Cc:** Burton, Faith (SMO)

**Subject:** RE: Request for Staff Briefing

I am still hoping we can meet early afternoon on Monday for a briefing on firearms trafficking into Mexico and the foreign policy implications for the USG. As I indicated previously, we are particularly interested in the involvement of State department officials in discussions and meetings addressing the trafficking problem. Please let me know about Monday. If that is not going to work out, let's discuss another date to meet soon thereafter. Thank you.

Harold

HAROLD REES  
CHIEF INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
CHAIRMAN ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN  
2170 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
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**From:** Rees, Harold

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2011 3:24 PM

**To:** 'Gaston, Molly (SMO)'

**Subject:** RE: Request for Staff Briefing

Are we still set for Monday afternoon? How many are coming? Will State be represented? What time is good for you?

Thanks

Harold  
6-0837

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**From:** Rees, Harold

**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2011 3:40 PM

**To:** 'Gaston, Molly (SMO)'

**Subject:** RE: Request for Staff Briefing

DOJ-FF-33435

Molly,

Yes, please! Thanks for following-up. Once you firm-up availability and time on your end, I will secure a conference room here in Rayburn. Please give me a call if you wish to discuss. Thanks again.

Harold  
226-0837

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**From:** Gaston, Molly (SMO) [mailto:Molly.Gaston@usdoj.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2011 2:35 PM  
**To:** Rees, Harold  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Staff Briefing

Harold, would the afternoon of Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> work for you? It's looking like it works for us, and if it works for you, I can try to finalize it. Many thanks.

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**From:** Rees, Harold [mailto:Harold.Rees@mail.house.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2011 1:09 PM  
**To:** Gaston, Molly (SMO)  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Staff Briefing

Molly,

The committee is still very interested in learning more about firearms trafficking into Mexico and the foreign policy implications for the USG. For purposes of performing constitutionally required oversight, we are particularly interested in the involvement of State department officials in discussions and meetings addressing the trafficking problem. We request a briefing at the earliest possible opportunity. The courtesy of a response would be appreciated.

Harold

HAROLD REES  
CHIEF INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
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**From:** Rees, Harold  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2011 11:50 AM  
**To:** 'Gaston, Molly (SMO)'  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Staff Briefing

Molly,

Next week is constituent work week for the House when Members go home and there are no hearings scheduled. This is an excellent time for staff briefings. More importantly, it would be very helpful to have a briefing in advance of the US/Mexico Inter-Parliamentarian Group meetings the following week of the 12<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you can accommodate this request.

Thank you.

Harold

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**From:** Rees, Harold  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 25, 2011 12:53 PM  
**To:** Gaston, Molly (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] ATF; 'BlumenfieldJR@state.gov'; 'HatcherSM@state.gov'  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Staff Briefing

Ms. Gaston and Ms. Burton,

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs has oversight responsibility generally with regard to USG relations with other countries such as Mexico and more specifically with regard to funds used under the Merida Initiative. As such, from the email traffic below, you can see that I have previously asked ATF to brief staff on this committee about Project Gunrunner and/or Operation Fast and Furious. Among other things, we are interested in hearing about purported any meetings including Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer, his deputy, and then-U.S. ambassador to Mexico Carlos Pascual, among other officials, about the operation/project. As I mentioned to Greg, we would not expect ATF, DOJ, or State to divulge information that could reasonably be expected to interfere with criminal investigations that are open or ongoing. We are very interested, however, in the foreign policy implications of DOJ/ATF trafficking efforts in Mexico. As this request has been outstanding for quite some time, I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest possible opportunity. Thank you.

HAROLD REES  
CHIEF INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
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**From:** [REDACTED] ATF  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 25, 2011 9:48 AM  
**To:** Rees, Harold  
**Cc:** Gaston, Molly (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)  
**Subject:** FW: Request for Staff Briefing

Hi Harold,

DOJ-FF-33437

I tried to call you this morning. Please reach out to Faith Burton or Molly Gaston at DOJ Leg Affairs re: this request. I have cc'ed them on this email.

Call me if you have any questions and have a nice day.

**ATF**

DOJ- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives  
Chief - Office of Legislative Affairs

**ATF**

202.648.7453 (office)  
202.648.9708 (fax)

**From:** Rees, Harold

**To:** **ATF**

**Cc:** **ATF**

**Sent:** Wed May 18 13:13:35 2011

**Subject:** RE: Request for Staff Briefing

Greg – I have not heard from you in quite a while. Can you tell me if DOJ has made a decision as to whether ATF can talk with us?

HAROLD REES  
CHIEF INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
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**From:** Rees, Harold

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 12:27 PM

**To:** **ATF**

**Subject:** Request for Staff Briefing

Greg,

As I mentioned on the phone this morning, the House Foreign Affairs Committee is interested in learning more about ATF international trafficking issues generally regarding Latin America and more specifically, to the extent possible, ATF efforts regarding the trafficking of illegally purchased firearms into Mexico. Although our interest was spurred by recent reports regarding Project Gunrunner, we would not expect ATF to divulge information that would interfere with criminal investigations that are open or ongoing. I understand that ATF testified a few years ago before our Western Hemisphere subcommittee Members. At this point, we are just interested in a staff briefing due to our obvious foreign policy interests in the matter. We also plan to seek a briefing from the Department of State regarding the impact of these reports on the US relationship with the government of Mexico. Below is a copy of news article that caught our attention:

DOJ-FF-33438

# Mexican legislators demand US talks on gun scandal

## Mexico nabs alleged head of 'Resistance' drug gang

Mexican police have captured the alleged leader of a drug gang that calls itself "The Resistance," a group that operates in western Mexico, officials said Monday.

## The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY -- Legislators from all of Mexico's three major parties in congress are calling for a joint U.S.-Mexico working group to examine accusations that U.S. federal agents allowed hundreds of guns to flow into Mexico.

Congressman Humberto Trevino estimated Tuesday that 150 shooting injuries or deaths have been linked to guns that were allowed to proceed into Mexico as part of a U.S. effort to build cases against traffickers.

Two of those weapons were involved in the killing of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent in December in southeastern Arizona.

Mexican drug cartels frequently pay straw purchasers to buy weapons at U.S. gun stores and smuggle them south to avoid stringent gun-control laws in Mexico.

Read more: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/03/08/2104723/mexican-legislators-demand-us.html#ixzz1G7GKLu3c>

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Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions. We look forward to talking with you as soon as possible. Thank you.

HAROLD REES  
CHIEF COUNSEL, OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
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