

09-341

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RESPONSE: sent 1/19/10:

Thank you for your message for the Attorney General's Suggestion Box concerning ATF leadership. The Attorney General was grateful for your bringing these serious issues to his attention. Your complaint has been referred to the Office of the Inspector General, Investigations Division, which has undertaken a review and will take any further action it considers necessary.

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RESPONSE: sent 3/19/10:

Thank you for your comments for the Attorney General's Suggestion Box regarding various issues of management at ATF. The Attorney General was grateful for your taking the time to share your thoughts regarding this significant issue.

Since your comments last April, he has placed Kenneth E. Melson at ATF to lead the agency. Mr. Melson has a wealth of knowledge in the law and forensic sciences. Most recently, he was in charge of the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys where he was responsible for administrative oversight of the 94 U.S.

Attorneys Offices and for liaison between the U.S. Attorneys and other Federal agencies and DOJ components. He has a record of being a fair, competent and thoroughly professional leader, and the Attorney General has a great deal of faith in Mr. Melson's ability to take on this next great challenge in leading ATF.

The Attorney General wants you to know, however, that if you witness conduct that you believe to be inappropriate or unprofessional, you should contact either ATF's Office of Professional Responsibility or the Inspector General at the Department of Justice. Thank you for your service to the Department and to the American public.

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Privacy

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DRAFT RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comments concerning ATF provided to the Attorney General's online Suggestion Box. The Attorney General appreciates your expressions of good will. However, because many of the issues that you raised are the subject of current litigation, we are unable to respond further at this time.

[approved and sent 10/19/09]

09-375

DP

RESPONSE: sent 2/12/10:

Thank you for your comments, sent last year to the Attorney General's Suggestion Box, regarding the management of ATF. The Attorney General was grateful for your taking the time to share your thoughts, and particularly wanted you to know that in all of his conversations with ATF Leadership they constantly remind him of the hard work that is done on the front lines and in the field by the street agents and the industry operation investigators.

While not everyone in a leadership position takes the same career path, there are many managers that have spent time earlier in their careers doing the job you are doing now. Of course, the job changes with the times, but there are certain core principles that do not change.

Having said that, the Attorney General is always concerned if employees feel there is a lack of integrity regarding anyone in a leadership position. You may not be aware that there are several complaints currently being reviewed by both ATF's Office of Internal Affairs and the Department of Justice's Inspector General. However, since those issues are dealt with between individuals and management, for privacy reasons their resolutions cannot be made public.

We appreciate your dedication to ATF and to protecting the public. We trust that if you have evidence that an ATF employee, at any level, has acted illegally or unethically, you will contact your Office of Internal Affairs immediately.

Thank you again for contacting the Attorney General's Suggestion Box, and thank you for your service.

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Acknowledgement sent 4/8/10:

Thank you for your comments sent to the Attorney General's Suggestion Box. We apologize for the delay in responding, but we are a small staff attempting to tackle a large volume of comments and concerns. However, you should know that the Attorney General is personally invested in his Suggestion Box and is adamant that each message should be dealt with individually and appropriately. We are working hard to do that in a more timely manner and thank you in advance for your patience.

[NOTE: this was not forwarded to the Attorney General.]

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RESPONSE: sent 4/4/11:

Thank you for your comments for the Attorney General's Suggestion Box regarding S/A Jay Dobyms and various issues with ATF management. We have previously apologized to you for the delay in responding to your comments, although we would point out that you have by now received substantive responses at least three times, including notice of a referral to the Office of the Inspector General. In the present instance, although we understand your obvious concern for a fellow agent, it would be inappropriate for the Attorney General to respond regarding another agent's employer/employee issues.

We hope you will find this to be responsive to your concerns, and thank you again for contacting the Attorney General's Suggestion Box.

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[NOTE: No response was sent to this and it was not forwarded to the AG, due to ongoing litigation.]

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RESPONSE: sent 4/4/11:

Thank you for your comments for the Attorney General's Suggestion Box regarding your EEO claims against the ATF. The Attorney General was grateful for your bringing these issues to his attention. The Attorney General believes in the rights of the men and women who proudly wear the uniform of our country, including specifically those outlined in the Uniformed Services Employment And Reemployment Act of 1994. He also believes strongly in ridding the workplace of discrimination based upon a person's race, color, religion, sex, national origin,

age, disability or genetic information. The AG has also made clear that retaliation against a person because he or she complained about discrimination, filed a charge of discrimination, or participated in an employment discrimination investigation or lawsuit will not be tolerated.

The Attorney General takes allegations such as yours very seriously, and has directed that they be handled appropriately. However, because you have filed an EEO complaint, it would be inappropriate for the AG to interfere or comment on your specific case while it remains in the EEO process.

We hope you will find this to be responsive to your concerns, and thank you again for contacting the Attorney General's Suggestion Box.

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RESPONSE: sent 4/4/11:

Thank you again for your comments for the Attorney General's Suggestion Box concerning ATF management. The Attorney General appreciated your taking the time to contact him. However, because the issues that you raise are the subject of current litigation, it would be inappropriate for us to respond further at this time.

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RESPONSE: sent 4/4/11:

Thank you for your comment for the Attorney General's Suggestion Box concerning your relationship with your supervisor. Fair and equitable treatment of all employees is required not only by the Attorney General, but by law. The Attorney General takes complaints such as yours very seriously, and he asked us to forward your message to senior ATF leadership. ATF's response follows.

ATF has a process that should allow you to express your concerns, without fear. ATF generally encourages employees to first discuss their complaints with their supervisor, which in your case may not be a good option. If you do not receive satisfaction, you may discuss the matter with your second-level supervisor.

You also may at any time contact the ATF Ombudsman's Office who will work with you to try to resolve your complaint. The ATF Office of the Ombudsman is there to assist employees in seeking fair and equitable solutions to work-related problems through an informal and confidential process. They may be reached at 202-648-8750.

We hope you will find this to be responsive to your concerns, and thank you again for contacting the Attorney General's Suggestion Box.

11-123

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RESPONSE: sent 4/4/11:

Thank you for your most recent comment for the Attorney General's Suggestion Box regarding your complaints about ATF management. We have previously apologized to you for the delay in responding, but we are a small staff attempting to tackle a large volume of comments and concerns. However, you should know that the Attorney General is personally invested in his Suggestion Box and is adamant that each message should be dealt with individually and appropriately. We are working hard to do that in a more timely manner and thank you in advance for your patience.

In regard to your latest comment, although the Attorney General is deeply concerned about the safety and security of all Department employees, given your involvement in litigation with ATF, it would be inappropriate for him to comment further at this time.

We hope you will find this to be responsive to your concerns, and thank you again for contacting the Attorney General's Suggestion Box.

REPLY: received 4/7/11:

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UNPROCESSED ATF COMMENTS

As of 5/18/11, the following five comments received by the AG's Suggestion Box in 2010 had not yet been processed.

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Privacy

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