

FOR PRODUCTION
TO THE COMMITTEE

BATCH #

8

STARTING DATES _____

ENDING DATES _____

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 10:58 AM
To: ATF
Cc: Needles, James R.; Newell, William D.
Subject: Fw: Synopsis of investigation

Dave?

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From: McMahon, William G.
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Cc: Newell, William D.
Sent: Wed Feb 10 10:57:04 2010
Subject: Re: Synopsis of investigation

Guys,

[REDACTED]

Also, anything new to report on this case? I have to brief Billy and the Director today.

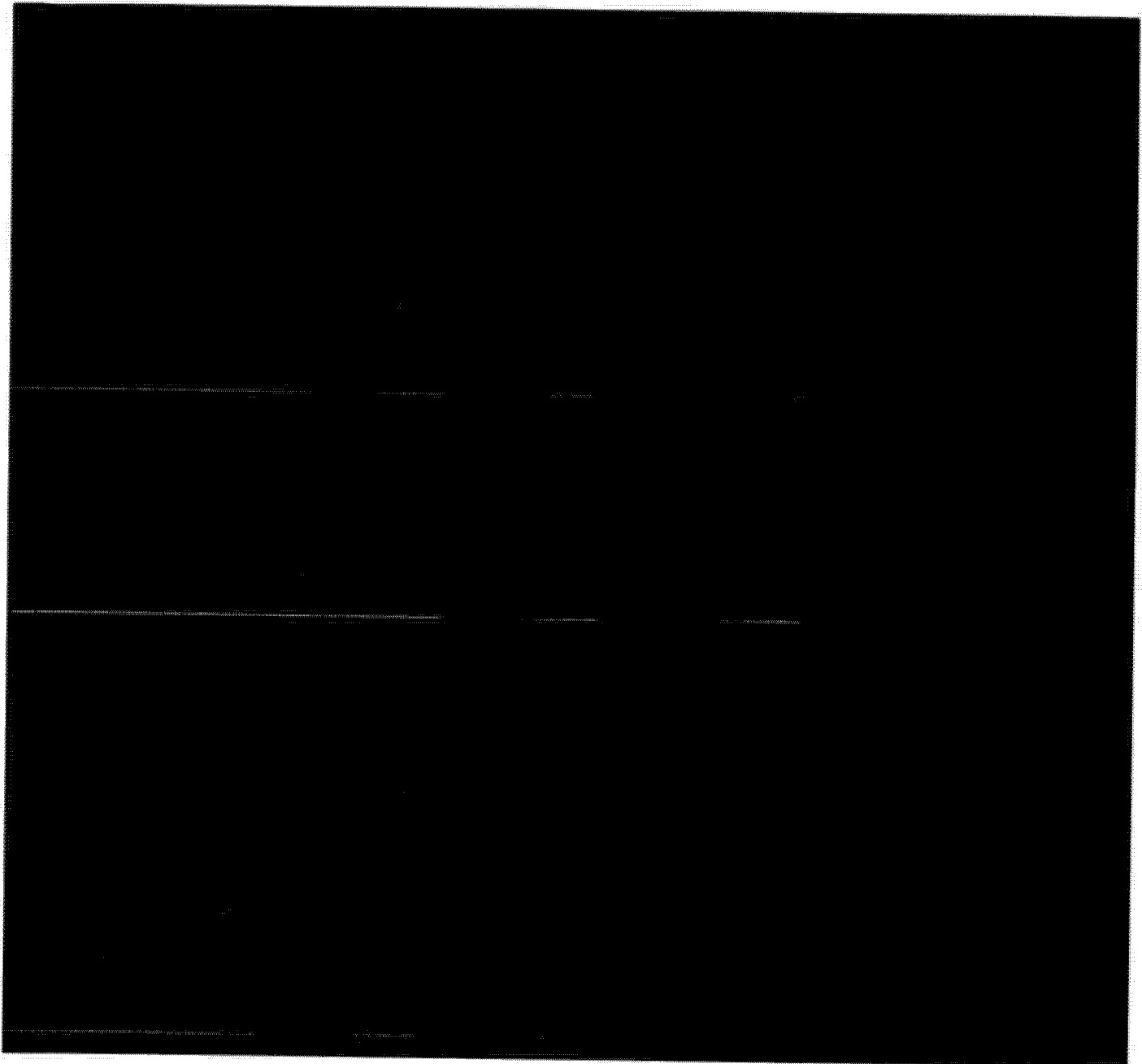
Thanks,

Bill

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From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
To: McMahon, William G.
Cc: Newell, William D.; Needles, James R.; ATF
Sent: Tue Feb 09 11:45:35 2010
Subject: Synopsis of investigation
Bill -

Per SAC Newell, I am forwarding a brief synopsis of an approved OCDETF investigation being conducted by Phoenix VII. The case agent is SA [REDACTED] the GS is [REDACTED].



Please advise if you have any further questions.

George T. Gillett
Assistant Special Agent in Charge
ATF - Phoenix Field Division
Office: [REDACTED]

From: ATF
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 6:59 PM
To: Newell, William D.; Gillett, George T. Jr.
Subject: Going to DC?

Gentlemen;

I have unofficially been informed that while in the DC area next week to attend the DEA SOD meeting I will be asked to stay a day extra to go to ATF HQ and attend a briefing to Mr. Hoover (and others obviously) regarding our current case. I am sure you are aware but I just thought I would make sure.

ATF

Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
[REDACTED]

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 7:19 PM
To: ATF
Subject: FW: Friday SWB briefing

Categories: Fast and Furious

FYI -

From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 5:19 PM
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Subject: RE: Friday SWB briefing

Thanks G. Will do!

William J. Hoover
Executive Assistant Director
O) [REDACTED]

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 6:55 PM
To: Hoover, William J.
Subject: Friday SWB briefing

Hey Billy –

I hope all is well with you. I don't know if you will be attending the SWB briefing tomorrow at 1:00 PM your time, but one of my Group Supervisors, ATF will be there. He's overseeing the OCDETF straw-purchase investigation with the guns going to Mexico. He's a new supervisor, and he's doing a fantastic job. If you're there, please ask him the really difficult questions; hopefully, he'll have the answers.... ☺ Actually, I know he'll have the answers – he was a Marine, too.

Take care,

George

From: ATF
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 6:00 PM
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Subject: RE: Fast and Furious Briefing and ATF

Thank you sir!

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 3:32 PM
To: ATF
Subject: FW: Fast and Furious Briefing and ATF

FYI –

As I said, you hit the ball out of the park.

From: O'Keefe, Kevin C.
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 9:29 AM
To: Newell, William D.; Gillett, George T. Jr.; Needles, James R.
Subject: Fast and Furious Briefing and ATF

Gentlemen – forgive my tardiness in reaching out to you all, but just wanted to pass on my thanks to ATF for staying out here at the end of last week and participating in the briefing for the VTC. He's definitely a solid guy and absolutely made an impact on the briefing. The higher ups in Field Ops probably reacted most favorably to ATF portions of the briefing and his overall insight. Thanks again for sending him out this way, and please pass on my compliments one more time. Take care.

Kevin O'Keefe
Chief, Criminal Intel Div
[REDACTED]

From: ATF
Sent: Friday, April 02, 2010 1:31 PM
To: Hurley, Emory (USAAZ); Gillett, George T. Jr.
Cc: Phoe-Group VII
Subject: No pressure but perhaps an increased sense of urgency...

MEXICO STATS

958 killed in March 2010 (Most violent month since 2005)

937 killed in January 2010

842 killed in December 2009

SINALOA - MARCH STATISTICS

187 murders in March, including 11 policemen

I hope this e-mail is well received in that it is not intended to imply anything other than that the violence in Mexico is severe and without being dramatic we have a sense of urgency with regards to this investigation. Our subjects purchased 359 firearms during the month of March alone, to include numerous Barrett .50 caliber rifles. I believe we are righteous in our plan to dismantle this entire organization and to rush in to arrest any one person without taking in to account the entire scope of the conspiracy would be ill advised to the overall good of the mission. I acknowledge that we are all in agreement that to do so properly requires patience and planning. In the event however that there is anything we can do to facilitate a timely response or turnaround by others we should communicate our sense of urgency with regard to this matter.

Thanks for everyone's continued support in this endeavor,

ATF
Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
[REDACTED]

From: Champion, Robert R.
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 12:25 PM
To: Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; Newell, William D.
Cc: Golson Sr., Michael A.
Subject: FW: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

FYI

Follow up from last night ref. the El Paso connection.

Robert R. Champion
Special Agent in Charge
U. S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Dallas Field Division
[REDACTED]

From: Flores, Oscar B.
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 10:08 AM
To: Champion, Robert R.
Subject: RE: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Mr. Champion,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Champion, Robert R.
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 8:46 AM
To: Golson Sr., Michael A.; Flores, Oscar B.; Chisholm, Kenneth L.
Subject: FW: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Oscar,

See the string of e-mails below and please get me the answer.

Thank you,

Robert R. Champion
Special Agent in Charge
U. S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Dallas Field Division
[REDACTED]

From: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 9:21 PM
To: Newell, William D.; Champion, Robert R.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Were the guys in Texas the couriers ? Thanks
Mark R. Chait
Acting Assistant Director
Field Operations

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From: Newell, William D.
To: Chait, Mark R.; Champion, Robert R.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 22:17:21 2010
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

These guns were purchased by our primary suspect in our OCDETF Strike Force case. It's the 900+ gun trafficking case. It's the same case we seized the 41 guns this past Saturday, [REDACTED]
Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Phoenix Field Division (AZ and NM)
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: Chait, Mark R.
To: Champion, Robert R.; Newell, William D.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 21:42:46 2010
Subject: Fw: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Champ/Bill - do you know the connection to the Phoenix case and any subjects identified in Mexico? Thanks
Mark R. Chait
Acting Assistant Director
Field Operations

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From: Hoover, William J.
To: Chait, Mark R.; Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 21:36:35 2010
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Mark,

Are we going any further with this investigation? Did we l'd the buyer in Mx? Etc.....

Billy
William J. Hoover
Assistant Director
Bureau of ATF

(O [REDACTED])
(C [REDACTED])

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From: Chait, Mark R.
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 21:02:44 2010
Subject: Fw: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Ken - below are some details of the case involving the 40 firearms in Texas.
Mark R. Chait
Acting Assistant Director
Field Operations

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From: Champion, Robert R.
To: Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; Webb, J. Dewey
Sent: Wed Feb 24 20:57:09 2010
Subject: Fw: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

FYI,

Here is the follow-up on the investigation with more detail.
Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

Robert R. Champion
Special Agent In Charge

Dallas Field Division
469-227-4300

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From: Flores, Oscar B.
To: Champion, Robert R.
Cc: Golson Sr., Michael A.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 20:24:07 2010
Subject: RE: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

[REDACTED]

The Case agent subsequently learned that the firearms recovered were purchased by In individual identified as part of an on-going investigation being conducted by the Phoenix VII Field Office.

On 01/21/2010 All 40 Firearms were transported to the Department of Public Safety Laboratory in El Paso, Texas to be entered into the NIBIN system.

SANDOVAL was indicted on 02/10/2010 and is currently in custody awaiting trial.

From: Champion, Robert R.
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 5:46 PM
To: Flores, Oscar B.
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation

Oscar,

Can you provide me some more detail on the case.

Thank you,

Robert R. Champion
Special Agent in Charge
Dallas Field Division
[REDACTED]

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From: Flores, Oscar B.
To: Golson Sr., Michael A.; Champion, Robert R.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 19:36:26 2010
Subject: Sandoval Investigation

Mr. Golson,

The case number for the investigation involving the 40 AK-47 type rifles that are currently being entered into NIBIN by the Department of Public Safety is 781035-10-0016

Let me know what additional information is needed.

S/A Oscar B. Flores
El Paso Field Office

OFC: [REDACTED]
FAX: [REDACTED]

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 4:29 PM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: Re: Fast and Furious case

10-4. Good to know. Dave is "rock solid" much like ATF's relationship with ICE, at least according to Director Melson.

George T. Gillett
ASAC - Phoenix Field Division
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: Newell, William D.
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Fri Mar 05 16:23:19 2010
Subject: Fast and Furious case

Dave did a great job on the conference call today. We can discuss more on Monday but one thing I want us to do asap is come up with a prosecution plan. I want our potential defendants listed out and what charges we hope to perfect against them. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I want us to have a good plan and then present to the DOJ rep, Joe Cooley, who was on line today and seems to have a good idea of what needs to be done. Since he's our detailed rep we should use him to get advice and guidance and then present our plans to the USAO. That way we'll already have Main Justice buy-in and they'll know it here. We can discuss more at Staff on Monday but wanted you to think about this and get with [ATF] and Tom to discuss as well.

Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
Phoenix Field Division (Arizona and New Mexico)
Office - [REDACTED]

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2009 8:39 AM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: Fw: Latest Trafficking Case

Importance: High

Who's supporting who??

George T. Gillett
Assistant Special Agent in Charge
ATF - Phoenix Field Division
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: O'Keefe, Kevin C.
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Mon Dec 14 08:03:51 2009
Subject: Latest Trafficking Case

George – I know my folks made contact last week while I was away from the office. DAD McMahon has tasked us with doing a link analysis on Hope's case, in order for him to brief AD Chait, who will in turn brief a DOJ Attorney on new SWB operational plans and use this case as an example. Sorry, if this word did not come down the field ops chain to you all.

My folks are under a time crunch, need to print out link analysis by tomorrow (Tuesday). They still need the Suspect Gun List that NTC provided Hope at the end of last week, in order to complete their chart. Can you please remind her to send it to [REDACTED] Alex Kruthaupt and Kristen Lauffer? Much appreciated.

Call me if you have questions or concerns. [REDACTED] is cell.

Kevin O'Keefe
Chief, Criminal Intel Div
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] ATF
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2009 11:53 PM
To: O'Keefe, Kevin C.
Subject:

I HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE SUSPECT GUN LIST FROM PHOENIX WITH THE PURCHASERS NAMES IN ORDER TO COMPLETE YOUR REQUEST.

[REDACTED] ATF

TEAM LEADER

Field Intelligence Support Team - Southwest Border
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Intelligence Operations Specialist

Office: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

From: Palmer, Douglas R.
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 8:09 PM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: FW: SAC write up 04 26 2010
Attachments: SAC write up 04 26 2010.docx

Bill,

Attached is a one page update from ATF

*Doug Palmer
Bureau of ATF
Phoenix Field Division
Supervisor, Phoenix V*

From: ATF
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 4:20 PM
To: Palmer, Douglas R.
Subject: SAC write up 04 26 2010

785115-10-0004, Jacob Chambers et al: This is an approved ATF OCDETF investigation (# SWAZP0496) that is a large scale conspiracy of over a thirty interconnected straw purchasers. Thus far in the investigation (September through present) the group has purchased over 1,300 firearms; most of which are the AK-47 variant 7.62 assault rifles and or the F.N. Herstal 5.7 mm pistols, to include approximately 15 Barrett .50 caliber rifles. For these firearms they have paid over \$900,000.00 in cash. Of those firearms purchased by the group approximately 150 have been recovered in Mexico or near the Mexican Border (the serial numbers are continually being updated and changed thus affecting the trace results) with a short time-to-crime; some as little as one day.

The most recent seizure on this investigation occurred on April 7, 2010 when twenty (20) AK-47 style firearms were recovered in El Paso, TX along with approximately 300 pounds of marijuana. All twenty of these firearms were originally purchased by subjects of this investigation during the time frame of March 23-25, 2010.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2011 9:31 AM
To: Needles, James R.; Gillett, George T. Jr.; Mangan, Thomas G.
Subject: Acting Dir Melson coming for F/F press conf

Just advised he's coming for the 25th press conf. Let's discuss today.

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From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 7:00 PM
To: [redacted] ATF; Gillett, George T. Jr.
Subject: Re: Going to DC?

Just don't get suckered into staying. Let's discuss more tomorrow.
Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Phoenix Field Division (AZ and NM)
Cell: [redacted]

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From: [redacted] ATF
To: Newell, William D.; Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Thu Feb 25 18:58:34 2010
Subject: Going to DC?
Gentlemen;

I have unofficially been informed that while in the DC area next week to attend the DEA SOD meeting I will be asked to stay a day extra to go to ATF HQ and attend a briefing to Mr. Hoover (and others obviously) regarding our current case. I am sure you are aware but I just thought I would make sure.

[redacted] ATF
Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
[redacted]

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2010 7:52 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: Latest in Phoenix "Fast and Furious" F/As trafficking case

Yesterday El Paso PD hit a "stash house" on information that it had dope/money/guns, etc. They found 40 AK-47s from our "Fast and Furious" case that were in Suspect Guns and were purchased by our most prolific purchaser - [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] CPB also busted a guy trying to cross into Mexico with two of "our" AK-47s from the same case and purchaser. As I said they were all purchased by our main straw purchaser,

[REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED]
 He's now buying FN pistols because he just turned 21. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Our two offices are talking and we are trying to get all the info on the "stash house" since our main guy Acosta has family ties to El Paso. We believe this house may have been used as a way station for guns from the Phoenix area before attempting to cross them into Mexico. We are also coordinating with El Paso CPB to get all the info on the person they busted trying to cross the two into Mexico. We are working this "fast and furious", good news being we got another 42 off the street and can keep our case going. Hopefully the big bosses realize we are doing everything possible to prevent guns going into Mexico while at the same time trying to put together a phenomenal case. Good news too is now we have another Federal venue should the office here decide to punt. [REDACTED]

Bill Newell
 Special Agent in Charge
 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
 Phoenix Field Division (Arizona and New Mexico)
 Office - [REDACTED]

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------------|-------|------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------|------|-------|
| 159 | 12/24/2009 | Thurs | [REDACTED] | 1974FI3139 | Romarm/Cugir | GP WASR | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 160 | 12/24/2009 | | [REDACTED] | 1966PR3333 | Romarm/Cugir | GP WASR | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 161 | 12/24/2009 | | [REDACTED] | 1985SBH4935 | Romarm/Cugir | GP WASR | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 162 | 12/24/2009 | | [REDACTED] | 1966RS4632 | Romarm/Cugir | GP WASR | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 163 | 12/24/2009 | | [REDACTED] | 1966PR1262 | Romarm/Cugir | GP WASR | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 164 | 12/24/2009 | | [REDACTED] | AB205147 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 165 | 12/24/2009 | | [REDACTED] | AB204847 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 166 | 12/24/2009 | | [REDACTED] | AB202708 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 167 | 12/24/2009 | | [REDACTED] | AB203499 | CENTURY ARMS | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |

| | | | | | INTL. | | | |
|-----|------------|--|--|----------|-----------------------|--------|------|-------|
| 168 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB202876 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 169 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB203056 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 170 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB203461 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 171 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB203177 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 172 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB203188 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 173 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB205205 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 174 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB202791 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 175 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB204842 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 176 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB203076 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 177 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB205095 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 178 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB203640 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 179 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB203466 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 180 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB202714 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 181 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB203219 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 182 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB202686 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 183 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB203362 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 184 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB203113 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 185 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB203071 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 186 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB203051 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 187 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB202901 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 188 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB202776 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 189 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB203578 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 190 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB202803 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 191 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB203564 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 192 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB202849 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 193 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB205059 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 194 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB205114 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 195 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB202864 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 196 | 12/24/2009 | | | AB203090 | CENTURY ARMS | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------------|--|------------|----------|-----------------------|--------|------|-------|
| | | | | | INTL. | | | |
| 197 | 12/24/2009 | | [REDACTED] | AB204841 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |
| 198 | 12/24/2009 | | [REDACTED] | AB203015 | CENTURY ARMS INTL. | M70AB2 | 7.62 | Rifle |

From: Henderson, Frank J.

Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2010 5:12 PM

To: Williams, Curtis D.; Flores, Oscar B.;

ATF

Cc: O'Keefe, Kevin C.

Subject: s/ns for last night

The case agents from El Paso and Phoenix are already talking. I went to the AUSA's office and looked over the affidavit for the 2 AKs at the Port. Right now, they are charging the driver w/ 1001-False Statements.

Here are the serial number for last night's seizure:

RomArm, GP/WASR 10/63:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Century Arms, Model M70AB2:

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Frank Henderson
ATF EPIC Branch Chief
Office: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 10:18 PM
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Subject: Fw: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Alert ATF to this and coordinate with Frank Henderson at EPIC. I'll talk to Champ.
Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Phoenix Field Division (AZ and NM)
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: Newell, William D.
To: Chait, Mark R.; Champion, Robert R.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 22:17:21 2010
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

These guns were purchased by our primary suspect in our OCDETF Strike Force case. It's the 900+ gun trafficking case. It's the same case we seized the 41 guns this past Saturday, [REDACTED]
Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Phoenix Field Division (AZ and NM)
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: Chait, Mark R.
To: Champion, Robert R.; Newell, William D.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 21:42:46 2010
Subject: Fw: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Champ/Bill - do you know the connection to the Phoenix case and any subjects identified in Mexico? Thanks
Mark R. Chait
Acting Assistant Director
Field Operations

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From: Hoover, William J.
To: Chait, Mark R.; Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 21:36:35 2010
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Mark,

Are we going any further with this investigation? Did we l'd the buyer in Mx? Etc.....

Billy
William J. Hoover
Assistant Director
Bureau of ATF

(O) [REDACTED]
(C) [REDACTED]

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From: Chait, Mark R.
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 21:02:44 2010
Subject: Fw: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Ken - below are some details of the case involving the 40 firearms in Texas.
Mark R. Chait
Acting Assistant Director
Field Operations

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From: Champion, Robert R.
To: Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; Webb, J. Dewey
Sent: Wed Feb 24 20:57:09 2010
Subject: Fw: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

FYI,

Here is the follow-up on the investigation with more detail.
Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

Robert R. Champion
Special Agent in Charge
Dallas Field Division
[REDACTED]

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From: Flores, Oscar B.
To: Champion, Robert R.
Cc: Golson Sr., Michael A.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 20:24:07 2010
Subject: RE: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

[REDACTED]

The Case agent subsequently learned that the firearms recovered were purchased by an individual identified as part of an on-going investigation being conducted by the Phoenix VII Field Office.

On 01/21/2010 All 40 Firearms were transported to the Department of Public Safety Laboratory in El Paso, Texas to be entered into the NIBIN system.

SANDOVAL was indicted on 02/10/2010 and is currently in custody awaiting trial.

From: Champion, Robert R.
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 5:46 PM
To: Flores, Oscar B.
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigatlon

Oscar,

Can you provide me some more detail on the case.

Thank you,

Robert R. Champion
Special Agent in Charge
Dallas Field Division
[REDACTED]

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From: Flores, Oscar B.
To: Golson Sr., Michael A.; Champion, Robert R.

Sent: Wed Feb 24 19:36:26 2010

Subject: Sandoval Investigation

Mr. Golson,

The case number for the investigation involving the 40 AK-47 type rifles that are currently being entered into NIBIN by the Department of Public Safety is 781035-10-0016

Let me know what additional information is needed.

S/A Oscar B. Flores

El Paso Field Office

OFC [REDACTED]

FAX [REDACTED]

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 12:29 PM
To: ATF
Subject: Fw: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Would you please address this? I'm out of the loop.

George T. Gillett
ASAC - Phoenix Field Division
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: Newell, William D.
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.; ATF
Sent: Thu Feb 25 12:27:32 2010
Subject: Fw: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

FYI - are we getting all this info from the El Paso office?
Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Phoenix Field Division (AZ and NM)
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: Champion, Robert R.
To: Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; Newell, William D.
Cc: Golson Sr., Michael A.
Sent: Thu Feb 25 12:25:28 2010
Subject: FW: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

FYI

Follow up from last night ref. the El Paso connection.

Robert R. Champion
Special Agent in Charge
U. S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Dallas Field Division
[REDACTED]

From: Flores, Oscar B.
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 10:08 AM
To: Champion, Robert R.
Subject: RE: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Mr. Champion,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Champion, Robert R.
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 8:46 AM
To: Golson Sr., Michael A.; Flores, Oscar B.; Chisholm, Kenneth L.
Subject: FW: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Oscar,

See the string of e-mails below and please get me the answer.

Thank you,

Robert R. Champion
Special Agent in Charge
U. S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Dallas Field Division

[REDACTED]

From: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 9:21 PM
To: Newell, William D.; Champion, Robert R.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Were the guys in Texas the couriers ? Thanks
Mark R. Chait
Acting Assistant Director
Field Operations

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From: Newell, William D.
To: Chait, Mark R.; Champion, Robert R.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 22:17:21 2010
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

These guns were purchased by our primary suspect in our OCDETF Strike Force case. It's the 900+ gun trafficking case. It's the same case we seized the 41 guns this past Saturday. [REDACTED]

Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Phoenix Field Division (AZ and NM)
Cell: [REDACTED]

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Field Operations

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William J. Hoover
Assistant Director
Bureau of ATF

(O [REDACTED])
(C [REDACTED])

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To: Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; Webb, J. Dewey
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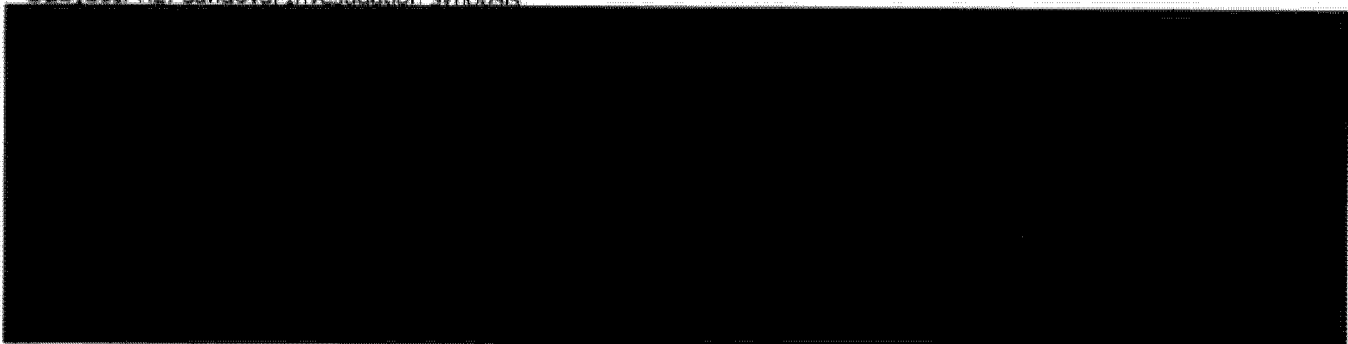
FYI,

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Robert R. Champion
Special Agent in Charge
Dallas Field Division


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Special Agent in Charge
Dallas Field Division
[REDACTED]

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Let me know what additional information is needed.

S/A Oscar B. Flores
El Paso Field Office

OFC: [REDACTED]
FAX: [REDACTED]

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 12:00 PM
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.; Cook, Nancy F.; Needles, James R.
Subject: FW: Southwest Border Strategy Group Meeting
Attachments: cartel.strategy2.wpd

Importance: High

Please read and we will discuss. I have a conference call with HQ on this.

Bill Newell
Bureau of ATF
Special Agent in Charge
Phoenix Field Division
Office [REDACTED]

From: Rowley, Raymond G.
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 8:22 AM
To: Torres, John A.; Webb, J. Dewey; Newell, William D.; Golson Sr., Michael A.; Champlon, Robert R.
Subject: FW: Southwest Border Strategy Group Meeting
Importance: High

FYI. Not sure anyone forwarded this document to you. It is the Department's new strategy for combating Mexican drug cartels. A component of the strategy is the reduction of the flow of firearms from the U.S. to Mexico. You may want to take a look prior to our conference call. It is my belief that our enforcement strategies should be aligned with this DOJ strategy.

Thanks,

Ray

From: Kaplan, P. Sam
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2009 1:50 PM
To: Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; Kumor, Daniel J.; Stucko, Audrey M.; McDermond, James E.; O'Keefe, Kevin C.; Rowley, Raymond G.; Ford, Larry W.; Goddard, Valerie J.
Cc: Michalic, Vivian B.; Hoover, William J.
Subject: FW: Southwest Border Strategy Group Meeting

As discussed at staff. Please find attached the proposed DOJ Cartel Strategy, which will be run by the DAG's Southwest Border Strategy Group. Please let me know if you have any comments or questions.

From: [Admin. Assistant] [mailto:[REDACTED]@usdoj.gov] **On Behalf Of** Ogden, David W. (ODAG)
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2009 6:03 PM
To: Ruemmler, Kathryn (ODAG); Delery, Stuart F. (ODAG); Siskel, Edward N. (ODAG); Osuna, Juan (CIV); Torrez, Raul; Breuer, Lanny A. (CRM); Raman, Mythili (CRM); Melson, Kenneth E.; Kaplan, P. Sam; Hoover, William J.; Leonhart, Michele M. (DEA-US); Mueller, Robert S. III (FBI); Harrington, T. J. (FBI); Perkins, Kevin L. (FBI); Carlin, John (FBI); Clark, John (USMS) DIR; Fahey, Sean (USMS); Lappin, Harley G. (BOP); Dalius, William (BOP); Dodrill, D. Scott (BOP); Jarrett, Marshall (USAE0); Derden, Terry (USAE0); Nash, Stuart (ODAG); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Hewitt, Karen

(USACAS); Fouratt, Greg (USANM); Johnson, Tim (USATXS) 7; Murphy, John E. (USATXW); Jones, Todd (USMS)
Cc: Blanco, Kenneth (CRM); Weinstein, Jason (CRM); Swartz, Bruce (CRM)
Subject: RE: Southwest Border Strategy Group Meeting

On behalf of DAG Ogden,
Earlier today you received notice from Ed Siskel of the inaugural meeting of the Southwest Border Strategy Group next Monday. One of the items that will be on the agenda for that meeting is discussion, and, if possible, adoption, of the Department's Strategy for Combating the Mexican Cartels. I am attaching hereto a draft copy of the strategy. It reflects a great deal of discussion with, and contributions from, many of your components over the past several months. The DAG asks that you come prepared with any specific suggestions or recommendations you may have related to this document.

And here is the document to attach:
<<cartel.strategy2.wpd>>

Admin. Assistant

From: Admin. Assistant **On Behalf Of** Ogden, David W. (ODAG)
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2009 6:32 PM
To: Ruemmler, Kathryn (ODAG); Delery, Stuart F. (ODAG); Siskel, Edward N. (ODAG); Osuna, Juan (CIV); Torrez, Raul; Breuer, Lanny A. (CRM); Raman, Mythili (CRM); Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); Kaplan, P. Sam (ATF); Hoover, William J. (ATF); Leonhart, Michele M. (DEA-US); Mueller, Robert S. III (FBI); Harrington, T. J. (FBI); Perkins, Kevin L. (FBI); Carlin, John (FBI); Clark, John (USMS) DIR; Fahey, Sean (USMS); Lappin, Harley G. (BOP); Dalius, William (BOP); Dodrill, D. Scott (BOP); Jarrett, Marshall (USAEO); Derden, Terry (USAEO); Nash, Stuart (ODAG); Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Hewitt, Karen (USACAS); Fouratt, Greg (USANM); Johnson, Tim (USATXS) 7; Murphy, John E. (USATXW); Jones, Todd (USMS)

Cc: Blanco, Kenneth (CRM); Weinstein, Jason (CRM); Swartz, Bruce (CRM)
Subject: Southwest Border Strategy Group Meeting
When: Monday, October 26, 2009 11:30 AM-12:30 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Main RFK Bldg., Room 4111

Call in telephone # [REDACTED] **and Pass Code #:** [REDACTED]

Briefing materials in binder -- Tab #3.

Attendees: Kathryn Ruemmler, Stuart Delery, Ed Siskel, Juan Osuna, Raul Torrez, AAG Lanny Breuer/CRM, Mythili Raman/CRM

- Ken Melson, Director, ATF, Sam Kaplan, William Hoover
- Michelle Leonhart, Administrator, DEA
- Robert Mueller, Director, FBI, T.J. Harrington, Kevin Perkins, John Carlin
- John Clark, Director, USMS, Sean Fahey
- Harley Lappin, Director, BOP, William Dalius, Scott Dodrill attending on behalf of Mr. Lappin
- Marshall Jarrett, Director, EOUSA, Terry Derden
- Stuart Nash, Director, OCDETF
- Dennis Burke, U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona by telephone
- Karen Hewitt, U.S. Attorney, Southern District of California
- Greg Fouratt, U.S. Attorney, District of New Mexico
- Tim Johnson, U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Texas by telephone
- John Murphy, U.S. Attorney, Western District of Texas
- Todd Jones, Chair, Attorney General's Advisory Committee ("AGAC")

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE STRATEGY FOR COMBATING THE MEXICAN CARTELS

It is a priority of the Department of Justice to stem the growing violence and associated criminal activity perpetrated by the Mexican drug cartels, along the Southwest Border and throughout the nation. In order to maximize the efficacy of its limited resources, which are spread through numerous components of the Department, it is necessary that the Department deploy those resources pursuant to a single, coherent strategic plan.

An essential aspect of the DOJ plan must be ensuring a productive partnership with the government of Mexico, as well as with our state and local law enforcement counterparts. Equally important, we must avoid wasteful overlap and duplication with the activities of our other federal partners, particularly the law enforcement agencies at the Department of Homeland Security.

The following document sets forth the policy considerations that will guide the Department in this process.

The Strategy

The Department will implement its Strategy for Combating the Mexican Cartels under the supervision of the newly-created Southwest Border Strategy Group.

Operationally, the strategy will be executed through the proven mechanism of prosecutor-led, multi-agency task forces, using the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDEF) Program as the primary coordinating platform. The Strategy's key objectives are to:

- Increase the safety and security of U.S. citizens throughout the United States by enforcing violations of federal law along the Southwest Border.
- Reduce the flow of narcotics and other contraband entering the United States.
- Reduce the flow of illegal weapons, ammunition, explosives, and currency exiting the United States and entering Mexico.
- Strengthen Mexico's operational capacities and enhance its law enforcement institutions.
- Increase bilateral cooperation between Mexico and the United States on fugitive capture and extradition activities.
- Increase intelligence and information sharing to achieve focused targeting of the most significant criminal organizations.

- Improve case building through interagency coordination, leveraging the expertise and authority of each investigative and prosecutorial agency.
- Maximize the effectiveness of prosecution by locating, arresting, extraditing, and trying all levels, including most importantly the leadership, of these criminal organizations, and disrupting and dismantling the organizations' domestic transportation and distribution cells.

Division of Responsibilities with DHS

Addressing the Southwest Border threat has two basic elements: policing the actual border to interdict and deter the illegal crossing of undocumented persons or contraband goods, and confronting the large criminal organizations operating simultaneously on both sides of the border.

Given its statutory mission and the resources it can bring to bear at the border, DHS clearly bears primary responsibility for the policing function. DOJ fully supports DHS in that endeavor by sharing relevant intelligence and by prosecuting the most egregious offenders DHS arrests in the course of its policing function. The Department of Justice prosecutes tens of thousands of these reactive law enforcement cases in federal court every year.

However, the root cause of the explosion of violence along the Southwest Border is the conflicts within and among a limited number of sophisticated, transnational criminal organizations. These hierarchical, Mexico-based cartels are responsible for smuggling into the United States most of our nation's illegal drug supply. While the cartels' primary business is drug trafficking, they also sponsor a panoply of other crimes that support their illegal operations. These other crimes include extortion, torture, murder, corruption of public officials, sheltering of wanted fugitives, kidnapping and human smuggling, laundering of illicit criminal proceeds through the existing financial system and through bulk cash smuggling, and the illegal acquisition, trafficking, and use of firearms and explosives.

It is in taking down these organized, multi-faceted criminal enterprises that DOJ plays the primary role and brings to bear its special expertise. DOJ's success in this endeavor assists, in turn, DHS in the performance of its policing and enforcement function, by disrupting the operations of the cartels, thereby decreasing the pressure on the border. For its part, DHS, and in particular ICE, provides invaluable assistance to the attack on these criminal organizations, by bringing to bear its unique expertise on cross-border transit of contraband.

Border policing and interdiction, and the resulting prosecutions, are key elements of the U.S. government's overall border security strategy. However, the investigation, apprehension, extradition, and prosecution of key cartel leaders and their associates, and the deprivation through forfeiture of their ill-gotten gains, is the most effective means by

which we can move past merely addressing the symptoms of our problems along the Southwest Border and attack, instead, the underlying causes.

Deployment of Resources

The Department's view – based on its decades of experience in investigating, prosecuting, and dismantling organized criminal groups, such as the Mafia, international terrorist groups, and domestic and transnational gangs – is that the best way to fight large scale criminal organizations is through intelligence-based, prosecutor-led, multi-agency task forces that blend the strengths, resources, and expertise of the complete spectrum of federal, state, local, and international investigative and prosecutorial agencies. Through their participation in such task forces, the Department's prosecutors, together with its component law enforcement agencies – DEA, ATF, FBI, and USMS – give the Department the capacity to carry out the full range of activities necessary to succeed against these organizations.

The Department has embraced a model to achieve these comprehensive goals that is proactive, in which we develop priority targets through the extensive use of intelligence. This intelligence is obtained from law enforcement sources, as well as through the careful and disciplined use of classified information from intelligence community agencies to provide unclassified leads. Sharing information, we build cases, coordinating long-term, extensive investigations to identify all the tentacles of a particular organization. Through sustained coordination of these operations, we are able to execute a coordinated enforcement action, arresting as many high-level members of the organization as possible, disrupting and dismantling the domestic transportation and distribution cells of the organization, and seizing as many of the organization's assets as possible, whether those assets be in the form of bank accounts, real property, cash, drugs, or weapons. Finally, we prosecute the leaders of the cartels and their principal facilitators, locating, arresting, and extraditing them from abroad as necessary. In this effort, we coordinate closely with our Mexican counterparts to achieve the goal: destruction or weakening of the drug cartels to the point that they no longer pose a viable threat to U.S. interests and can be dealt with by Mexican law enforcement in conjunction with a strengthened judicial system and an improved legal framework for fighting organized crime.

The principal platform for the support and oversight of these prosecutor-led, multi-agency task forces is the OCDETF Program. In most places, along the border and throughout the country, OCDETF provides an effective mechanism for law enforcement agencies from within DOJ, from elsewhere in the federal government (including DHS and Treasury), and state and local law enforcement, to combine with federal prosecutors to form a "virtual task force" for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting a particular high-value drug trafficking organization. In certain key locales, OCDETF has established actual, brick-and-mortar Co-Located Strike Forces, for the pursuit of the highest level traffickers of drugs, guns, and money. For instance, the San Diego Major Mexican Traffickers Task Force has been responsible for coordinating the U.S. government's successful efforts against the Arellano-Felix Organization. The Houston

OCDETF Strike Force has directed our most damaging blows against the Gulf Cartel. And in the first several months of its existence, the Arizona OCDETF Strike Force has been responsible for the indictment of a leader and other members of a major Mexican cartel and the seizure of over \$43 million in cartel assets.

The Department will use the OCDETF Strike Force concept to target all the organized crime activities of the drug cartels – not just those crimes directly related to the drug trade. By further leveraging and coordinating the investigative expertise and jurisdiction of law enforcement agencies outside the drug enforcement area, the Department will task the Strike Forces to disrupt and dismantle every area of the cartels' infrastructure and undermine their ability to operate successfully in any illegal activity.

On a local level, each Strike Force co-locates law enforcement resources that are supplemented by one or more on-site Assistant United States Attorneys. Retaining the current Strike Force structure, specifically the co-location and intensive and early prosecutorial involvement, ensures that the Department capitalizes upon the proven synergy of these Strike Forces to maximize the effectiveness of long-term investigations of these organizations.

In those locations where they currently exist, DOJ will make the OCDETF Co-Located Strike Forces the focal point for interagency efforts against the Mexican criminal organizations.¹ Elsewhere along the border, and throughout the nation, DOJ will seek to replicate, to the extent possible, the OCDETF Strike Force model, in particular the characteristics of interagency cooperation, information sharing, and strategic, intelligence-based targeting that have been embodied in these Strike Forces. Depending on local conditions, existing institutions, such as HIDTA task forces, Southwest Border Initiative Groups, VICIT teams, or Safe Streets Task forces may serve as the appropriate focal point for this interagency cooperation in locations that do not have OCDETF Strike Forces.

The OCDETF Strike Force is a proven law enforcement strategy with a proven history of success in combating the major drug trafficking organizations. The synergy created by co-locating the diverse expertise of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies with prosecutors from the U.S. Attorney's Office, has had demonstrable success against major criminal organizations operating throughout the country.

Supplementing the regional operations of the Strike Forces with a comprehensive national policy and coordination body run out of the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, will give the Department a unified and comprehensive vehicle through which the United States government can disrupt the influence of the cartels. This unified and coordinated approach to law enforcement is not only the best way to use the formidable resources of the United States government, but also the most effective way to decrease the influence of these violent criminal enterprises while enhancing the public safety.

¹ OCDETF Co-Located Strike Forces are currently located in San Diego, Phoenix, El Paso, Houston (with satellites in Laredo and McAllen), Tampa, San Juan, Atlanta, New York, and Boston.

While the prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency task force model is a key component of the Department's Southwest Border Strategy, it will not be the only component. We must also recognize and support the important daily work performed by our investigators and prosecutors in stopping and seizing the flow of massive amounts of narcotics, firearms, and bulk cash from flowing across the border in both directions. These more reactive narcotics cases are important to the overall cartel strategy, because in the process we are seizing millions of pounds of drugs, thousands of firearms, and millions of dollars in bulk cash as they enter and exit the country. In addition, these commodity-focused cases yield significant intelligence that is then fed into the Special Operations Division (SOD), the OCDETF Fusion Center (OFC), and the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) for use in supporting more proactive, intelligence-driven investigations that are designed to attack all of the cartels' diverse lines of illegal business. Therefore, the Department's Strategy for Combating the Mexican Cartels must include an assessment of the resource needs of all our components, and a plan for how they intend to achieve the stated goals of the Strategy in light of the specific cartel activity impacting their jurisdictions.

Intelligence

Law enforcement agencies must have the ability to access, link, and interpret voluminous intelligence information from as wide a community as possible. We use this shared information to identify and target the most significant organizations, so that we can achieve the greatest impact with our finite resources. We also use shared information to develop coordinated, multi-jurisdictional investigations of those high-impact targets, making sure that investigations are mutually reinforcing, without duplicating or jeopardizing other investigations targeting overlapping organizations.

Several multi-agency endeavors are particularly important to the provision of tactical intelligence and operational support in targeting the largest and most dangerous Mexican cartels.

The Attorney General's Consolidated Priority Organization Target (CPOT) List

The CPOT list of international "Most Wanted" drug kingpins will be used to help focus our critical resources on the greatest threats from the Mexican cartels. Of the 59 worldwide cartels currently on the list, 25 of them are Mexico-based.

The El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC)

EPIC is a DEA-led multi-agency organization that provides case-specific tactical intelligence, focusing specifically on the Southwest Border. The ATF Firearms Intelligence Analysis Team is a specialized component of EPIC that serves as a central point of analysis and repository for all Southwest Border firearms-related intelligence. FBI recently created the Southwest Intelligence Group (SWIG), a clearinghouse of all FBI activities involving Mexico, and it is in the process of moving that clearinghouse to

EPIC. EPIC houses the National Seizure System, which collects and maintains data on seizures of drugs, guns, and money by law enforcement agencies throughout the nation.

The Special Operations Division (SOD)

SOD is a DEA-led multi-agency coordination center that targets the communication devices the criminal organizations' leaders use to communicate with each other. SOD actively supports multi-jurisdictional, multi-national, and multi-agency electronic surveillance investigations, coordinating overlapping investigations and ensuring that tactical and operational intelligence is shared between law enforcement agencies.

The OCDETF Fusion Center (OFC)

The OFC is a comprehensive, multi-agency data center containing drug and related financial data from DEA, ATF, FBI, ICE, CBP, IRS, USMS, EPIC, USMS, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs, and other key agencies. It conducts cross-agency and cross-jurisdictional integration and analyses to create comprehensive pictures of targeted organizations and to pass usable leads through SOD to participants in the field.

Current Areas of Focus

Pursuant to the principles articulated above, DOJ is pursuing initiatives in the following areas:

1. Ramping up Establishment and Use of Vetted Units in Mexico

An important aspect of case building in Mexico involves U.S. cooperation with specially vetted Mexican law enforcement units. DOJ law enforcement agents work in an advisory capacity to develop elite vetted units of Mexican federal police officers, training them to conduct law enforcement operations that lead to the discovery and seizure of drugs, guns, explosives, money, and documentary evidence to support bilateral investigations and prosecutions. The Mexican units also arrest active members of the cartels, who may eventually become either cooperating witnesses, defendants, or both. These units are essential to our operations. In order to properly leverage and support these crucial operations, the Department must expand their number, to include more drug trafficking units, a firearms trafficking unit, a money-laundering/financial unit, and a fugitive apprehension unit.

2. Continued Focus on Attacking Cartel Finances

A particular point of emphasis in recent years has been the dismantlement of the financial infrastructure of the drug trafficking organizations. These efforts have been hampered by the fact that financial cases are complex and time-consuming, and the pool of experienced financial investigators is finite. Since the curtailment of IRS involvement

in drug investigations in 2005, ATF, DEA, FBI, and USMS have hired additional financial investigators and forfeiture specialists. OCDETF has established the Financial Investigative Contractor (FIC) Program to bring additional experienced financial investigators to bear on the largest cartels, and has buttressed the analytical and document exploitation capabilities of its Co-Located Strike Forces in San Diego, Phoenix, El Paso, Houston, and Atlanta. DEA has implemented Financial Investigation Teams (FITs) in its field divisions to target the financial assets of drug traffickers. Analysts and attorneys in the U.S. Attorney's Offices and in the Department's Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section have also stepped up their efforts to assist. In addition, Southwest Region federal agencies are working with state and local law enforcement agencies on an OCDETF bulk currency initiative that targets the highest level drug cartels and their transportation routes in the Southwest. These efforts must be supported and expanded.

3. Attacking the Southbound Flow of Firearms

Addressing the flow of weapons into Mexico from the United States is also a primary focus of our efforts. ATF's intelligence has shown that the prevalence of firearms and explosives trafficking into Mexico has a direct nexus to the cartels' national domestic drug distribution network. Thus, given the national scope of this issue, merely seizing firearms through interdiction will not stop firearms trafficking to Mexico. We must identify, investigate, and eliminate the sources of illegally trafficked firearms and the networks that transport them. Since 2006, Project Gunrunner has been ATF's comprehensive strategy to combat firearms-related violence perpetrated by the drug cartels along the Southwest Border. Increasingly close collaboration between ATF and the efforts of the multi-agency drug task forces along the border, including, most particularly, the OCDETF co-located Strike Forces, ensures that scarce ATF resources are directed at the most important targets.

4. Increased Focus on Locating and Apprehending Fugitives



Department maintain its commitment to support and expand these international fugitive apprehension efforts.

5. Expanded Use of the Extradition Process

[REDACTED]

6. Continued Pursuit of Corrupt Public Officials Who Facilitate the Drug Trade

[REDACTED]

7. Merida

[REDACTED]



From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2010 10:11 PM
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Cc: Needles, James R.
Subject: Re: Fast and Furious update

Good, more evidence of straw purchasing.
Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Phoenix Field Division (AZ and NM)
Cell: [REDACTED]

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----- Original Message -----

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
To: Newell, William D.
Cc: Needles, James R.
Sent: Sat Feb 13 20:58:31 2010
Subject: Fast and Furious update

[REDACTED] The main straw purchaser
bought the gun and [REDACTED] it went directly to Acosta's residence.

[REDACTED] We'll advise if the
gun moves south from this point.

George T. Gillett
ASAC - Phoenix Field Division
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2009 1:24 PM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: Re: ATF case status?

At least 17 of the guns recently recovered in TJ are from ATF purchasers.

The OCDETF proposal was drafted yesterday.

Total purchased last week (including yesterday) were approximately 175.

George T. Gillett
Assistant Special Agent in Charge
ATF - Phoenix Field Division
Cell: [REDACTED]

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----- Original Message -----

From: Newell, William D.
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Sun Dec 13 13:14:35 2009
Subject: Hope's case status?

Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Phoenix Field Division (AZ and NM)
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: ATF
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 3:38 PM
To: ATF
Cc: Gee, Chong H.
Subject: FW: Ref Operation The Fast and the Furious Funding Memo Draft
Attachments: OCDETF SWAZP-0496 Funding Memo.doc

ATF

Chong Gee asked if there are any changes by SAC Newell, ASAC Gillett, or you please let me know so I can notify her right away.

Thank you,

ATF

From: Gee, Chong H.
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 12:58 PM
To: ATF
Subject: RE: Ref Operation The Fast and the Furious Funding Memo Draft

ATF

Good work! Please have your GS review and send it to the Division for SAC's signature. The signed memo should be forwarded to:

ATF
505 South Flagler Drive
Suite 402
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
Attn: SA Troy Stratton

Please let me know if you have further questions.
Thanks...Chong

From: ATF
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 12:25 PM
To: Gee, Chong H.
Subject: FW: Ref Operation The Fast and the Furious Funding Memo Draft

Chong,

I made the corrections. Please let me know if I should change or add anything else.

Thank you,

ATF

From: Gee, Chong (USATXS) [mailto: [REDACTED]@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 10:31 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: ATF
Subject: FW: Ref Operation The Fast and the Furious Funding Memo Draft

ATF

Hope all is well with you....

I have reviewed your funding memo and I suggest the following minor corrections:

Page 2, Lease of Investigative Equipment-rental vehicle for \$20,000 (marked with a yellow highlighter)-SOD will not allow rental vehicles any more unless there are exigent circumstances.....

[REDACTED]

Page 3, State&Local overtime is separate from the OCDETF operational funds. It strictly comes from US Attorney's office; therefore, it should be eliminated from the memo and we will execute a different paper work for S&L overtime.

ATF please call me when you make these corrections. We can discuss and I will try answer if you have any questions. Thank you.

SA Chong Gee
ATF OCDETF Coordinator
Southwest Region
USAO [REDACTED]
CELL [REDACTED]

From: ATF
To: Gee, Chong H.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 11:35:08 2010
Subject: Ref Operation The Fast and the Furious Funding Memo Draft
Ms. Gee,

I have attached a draft of my OCDETF funding memo for Operation The Fast and the Furious that I will be submitting to GS ATF

Thanks,

ATF

Special Agent ATF
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Phoenix - Group VII
[REDACTED]
(Desk)
(Fax)
(Cell)

February 24, 2010

785115:TAE
3530

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief, Special Operations Divisions

FROM: Special Agent in Charge
Phoenix Field Division

SUBJECT: OCDETF Funding Request (Initial)
Operation The Fast and The Furious, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

This memorandum serves as a request for OCDETF funding in the amount of **\$123,300.00** for the investigation entitled Operation The Fast and The Furious. The Phoenix Group VII Field Office is conducting this investigation in conjunction with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Phoenix Police Department (PPD). This operation, sponsored by ATF, was approved as an OCDETF case by the Southwest Region as SWAZP-0496. There has been no previous funding request for this investigation.

During the past several months, ATF, ICE, DEA, IRS, and PPD have been investigating a firearm trafficking organization that is being funded by a drug trafficking organization (DTO) that is involved in violent criminal activity in Mexico, Southern Arizona and many other regions of the United States. This organization is involved in trafficking firearms to Mexico, and smuggling cocaine and marijuana into Southern Arizona to be distributed throughout the United States. In support of this criminal activity the organization often uses violent/deadly enforcement tactics. These acts contribute to violations of Federal Laws to include Firearms, Narcotics, Money Laundering, and Conspiracy Laws.

Agents believe that the Phoenix-based firearm trafficking group is actively purchasing firearms through straw purchasers using bulk narcotics proceeds. The firearms are then being trafficked into Mexico using non-factory compartments in various vehicles through various Ports of Entry (POE's) in Arizona and Texas. Since the ATF case was initiated, agents have identified approximately twenty-three straw purchasers who have purchased a large amount of AK-47 style rifles and pistols from various FFL's in the Phoenix Metropolitan area and Prescott, AZ, since September 2009. [REDACTED] and other

HOCR ATF - 001464

DOJ-FF-43021

investigative techniques are being utilized in an attempt to further the investigation. There have been five firearms seizures in Arizona, two firearms seizures in Texas, six firearms seizures in Mexico including a seizure of over two million dollars in US Currency, firearms, cocaine and methamphetamine from inside a warehouse.

OPERATIONAL FUNDING CATEGORIES AND JUSTIFICATION

AGENT CASHIER

PURCHASE OF EVIDENCE

During this investigation, agents have utilized a GPS tracker [REDACTED] as an investigative technique. Agents may need funds to obtain additional [REDACTED] parts and/or accessories that would be used for GPS tracker installation [REDACTED]. It is estimated funds in the amount of \$300.00 would be needed to acquire the firearms parts and/or accessories.

Total Agent Cashier – \$300.00

MISSION TRAVEL

It is anticipated that travel funds including airfare, a rental vehicle and an approximate per diem rate of \$211.00 a day will be needed for at least ten temporary duty agents on a thirty day detail that are needed to assist with moving surveillance. To date, firearm recoveries related to the case have occurred in Mexico, Arizona and Texas. It is also anticipated that funds for travel to other geographic locations by multiple agents for cases related to Operation The Fast and the Furious will be necessary.

Total Mission Travel - \$95,000.00

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

LEASE OF INVESTIGATIVE EQUIPMENT

Based on surveillance of the targets, agents have determined that the suspected targets actively purchase firearms from various Federal Firearms Licensees (FFL's) throughout the day and utilize various firearm drop/stash locations. Trackers are needed [REDACTED]. Agents are requesting funds to lease five GPS trackers and tracking services, estimated cost of \$7,500.00. The cost of each tracker is approximately \$1500.00. To facilitate communications between surveillance units, agents are requesting funds to lease Sprint/Nextel push-to-talk telephones, estimated cost \$5,000.00.

[REDACTED]

Total Investigative Services - \$28,000.00

A total of **\$123,300.00** in ATF OCDETF operational funding is requested for use in furtherance of this investigation. If you have any questions regarding this OCDETF funding request, please contact Group Supervisor [ATF] Phoenix Group VII Field Office, at [REDACTED], or ATF Special Agents [ATF] at [REDACTED] or [ATF] at [REDACTED]

This funding request has been reviewed and approved by the OCDETF Coordinator, Southwest Region.

William Newell
Special Agent in Charge
Phoenix Field Division

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2010 11:19 PM
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Subject: Re: SRT Operational Plan Draft (SRT-10-099)

Any movement on the gun with the tracker? I told HQ we had plenty of surveillance (loosely the truth) but that we may end up losing the tracker if the battery runs out before it goes south. After that we'll have to wait for the gun to get seized before we can potentially get it back.

Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Phoenix Field Division (AZ and NM)
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
To: Boteler, Blake L.; Newell, William D. [REDACTED] **ATF**
Cc: Flanery, William H.
Sent: Sun Feb 14 22:27:38 2010
Subject: Re: SRT Operational Plan Draft (SRT-10-099)

Blake -

The Op Plan is approved. Thank you!

George

George T. Gillett
ASAC - Phoenix Field Division
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: Boteler, Blake L.
To: Newell, William D.; Gillett, George T. Jr.; [REDACTED] **ATF**
Cc: Flanery, William H.
Sent: Sun Feb 14 21:05:45 2010
Subject: SRT Operational Plan Draft (SRT-10-099)
I hope everyone is having a wonderful Valentine's Day.

Attached is the SRT Operational Plan Draft (SRT-10-099) for the anticipated [REDACTED] operation scheduled to take place around noon on Wednesday February 17th. Please review this at your convenience and contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have and I will address them. This is mostly a duplication of the previously approved

operational plan (SRT-10-86) with the primary changes being that of dates and personnel. Once I receive your Division's approval I will forward this operational plan to SOD for briefing to the appropriate DAD.

Thanks again for requesting the SRT's assistance in this investigation and we look forward to working with you all in the future.

S/A Blake Boteler
ATF-Special Response Team 3

(O) [REDACTED]
(F) [REDACTED]
(C) [REDACTED]

From: ATF
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 12:34 PM
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.; Newell, William D.
Subject: FW: Good Hit!!!! El Teo's brother in Possession of [REDACTED] firearm.

No action needed; this is the 4th "El Teo" related recovery in Mexico purchased by our crew here in Phoenix.

From: Kruthaupt, Alex J.
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 9:03 AM
To: ATF
Cc: Lauffer, Kristen E; O'Keefe, Kevin C.; Bass, William F.
Subject: Good Hit!!!! El Teo's brother in Possession of [REDACTED] firearm.

ATF

I came across a trace this morning from the "First Look" pull we get. Anyways, a firearm came back to [REDACTED] (sp in the trace [REDACTED]). Anyways, the possessor of the weapon was the brother of EL Teo. Looks like your guys in Phoenix know some important people. We will update our stuff here to include this seizure.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES
NATIONAL TRACING CENTER
Phone: (800) 788-7133 Fax: (800) 578-7223
Print Date: March 08, 2010



FIREARMS TRACE SUMMARY

FTS ID: T20100037505

Request Date: 02/11/2010

CENAPI CENAPI
INFORMATION CENTER COMBATTING
CALLE XOCHITL S/N, COL. EL REL
MEXICO CITY, DF 04640 MEXICO

Badge No:
Investigation No:

PURCHASER INFORMATION

Purchase Date: 11/02/2009

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
DOB: [REDACTED]
POB: [REDACTED]
Race: [REDACTED] Height: [REDACTED]
Sex: [REDACTED] Weight: [REDACTED]
ID 1: [REDACTED] #: [REDACTED]
ID 2: [REDACTED] #:

FIREARM INFORMATION

Manufacturer: ROMARM/CUGIR
Model:
Caliber: 762
Serial Number: [REDACTED]
Type: RIFLE
Country: ROMANIA
Importer: CENTURY ARMS INC (CAI), ST.
ALBANS, VT
Obliterated:
Identifying
Marks:
NIBIN:
Gang Name:

RECOVERY INFORMATION

Recovery Date: 02/08/2010
Time to Crime: 98 days

LA PAZ, BJ
MEXICO
Possessor: [REDACTED]
DOB:

POB:

DEALER INFORMATION

FFL Number: 98602353

ATF

ANY LLC

UNITED STATES

Phone: ATF

Ship Date: 10/27/2009

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

THE DESCRIBED FIREARM WAS TRACED TO AN INDIVIDUAL PURCHASER. THE NATIONAL TRACING CENTER HAS BEEN ADVISED BY THE FINAL FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEE THAT THE PURCHASER HAS ACQUIRED ADDITIONAL FIREARMS FROM THEIR BUSINESS.

The information in this report must be validated prior to use in any criminal proceedings. This report does not constitute a fulfillment of the Interstate Nexus requirement in any Federal, State or Administrative legal process or litigation. That expert testimony or Interstate Nexus determination is made through trained experts who must be contacted at the local ATF Field Office or Field Division Directorate.

Sensitive but Unclassified - For Official Use Only

Two Suspected Tijuana Cartel Members Arrested in Mexico

MEXICO CITY – Two suspected Tijuana cartel members who took control of part of the criminal organization following last month's arrest of kingpin Teodoro Garcia Simental have been detained by Federal Police officers in La Paz, a city in Mexico's Baja California Sur state, the Public Safety Secretariat said.

Jose Manuel Garcia Simental, the brother of Teodoro Garcia Simental, and Raydel Lopez Uriarte were arrested on Monday, the secretariat said.

Teodoro Garcia Simental, known as "El Teo" and accused of hundreds of killings, was arrested on Jan. 12.

Simental was a long-time member of the Tijuana drug cartel, which was formed by the Arellano Felix brothers.

El Teo and Fernando Sanchez Arellano, a nephew of the Arellano Felix brothers, reportedly fought for two years for control of the cartel, the majority of whose former leaders are in prison or dead.

El Teo got the support of Sinaloa cartel leader Joaquin "El Chapo" (Shorty) Guzman in his war with Fernando Sanchez Arellano.

The border city of Tijuana and surrounding areas have been the scene of numerous murders in a war for control of turf and smuggling routes.

Jose Manuel Garcia Simental and Lopez Uriarte had links to both the Tijuana cartel and the Sinaloa cartel, the secretariat said.

"After the capture of El Teo, his brother, Jose Garcia Simental, was in charge of drug trafficking operations, getting support from the group led by Raydel Lopez Uriarte," who was the right-hand man of El Teo, the Public Safety Secretariat said.

Jose Manuel Garcia Simental and Lopez Uriarte were among the "most-wanted suspects of the governments of Mexico and the United States," the secretariat said.



The Tijuana drug cartel has branched out from the drug trade over the years, engaging in other criminal activities, such as kidnappings.

There had been reports in recent years that El Teo was running one of the factions of the cartel, which is considered one of the largest criminal organizations in Mexico.

From: Martin, Steve K.
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 8:48 AM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: RE: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Yep. As a matter of fact, Lorren is putting together some visuals to show the connections. Just let us know.

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 8:30 AM
To: Martin, Steve K.
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Amen. If I set up a briefing for Billy and Mark will you lead it? As we discussed yesterday our Phoenix case is now "pinging" off several other cases and I strongly believe your shop has a great handle on the "big picture". I'll write the BP as requested but this briefing would be much better if done with visuals.

Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Phoenix Field Division (AZ and NM)
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: Martin, Steve K.
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thu Feb 25 07:57:09 2010
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

We try to stay out of ops lane--and sometimes we get the hairy eyeball when we get in it. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

There are simple things that I assume they know, [REDACTED] but you know what they say about ass/u/me.
Steve Martin-DAD-OSII/ATF

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From: Newell, William D.
To: Martin, Steve K.
Sent: Thu Feb 25 00:06:10 2010
Subject: Fw: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Have Mark and Billy not been briefed? I thought they were?
Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Phoenix Field Division (AZ and NM)
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: Chait, Mark R.
To: Newell, William D.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 22:47:10 2010
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Ok I may need a map to keep it straight. I would like to get an updated BP to keep the DD appraised. Thanks Bill.
Mark R. Chait
Acting Assistant Director
Field Operations

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From: Newell, William D.
To: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 22:24:05 2010
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Our primary trafficker in Phoenix is related to the people who owned the house in El Paso. Also, our events over this past weekend linked our Phoenix OCDETF case with an active ATF OCDETF case in Tucson, one being prosecuted by Kevin Carwile's shop due to lack of effort by the USAO. [REDACTED] This link was not known before and was a surprise to us - a good one.

Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Phoenix Field Division (AZ and NM)
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: Chait, Mark R.
To: Newell, William D.; Champion, Robert R.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 22:20:39 2010
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Were the guys in Texas the couriers ? Thanks
Mark R. Chait
Acting Assistant Director
Field Operations

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From: Newell, William D.
To: Chait, Mark R.; Champion, Robert R.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 22:17:21 2010
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

These guns were purchased by our primary suspect in our OCDETF Strike Force case. It's the 900+ gun trafficking case. It's the same case we seized the 41 guns this past Saturday, one of them had the Halo tracker.

Bill Newell
Special Agent in Charge
ATF Phoenix Field Division (AZ and NM)
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: Chait, Mark R.
To: Champion, Robert R.; Newell, William D.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 21:42:46 2010
Subject: Fw: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Champ/Bill - do you know the connection to the Phoenix case and any subjects identified in Mexico? Thanks
Mark R. Chait
Acting Assistant Director
Field Operations

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From: Hoover, William J.
To: Chait, Mark R.; Melson, Kenneth E.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 21:36:35 2010
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Mark,

Are we going any further with this investigation? Did we I'd the buyer in Mx? Etc.....

Billy
William J. Hoover
Assistant Director
Bureau of ATF

(O [REDACTED])
(C [REDACTED])

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From: Chait, Mark R.
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; Hoover, William J.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 21:02:44 2010
Subject: Fw: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

Ken - below are some details of the case involving the 40 firearms in Texas.
Mark R. Chait
Acting Assistant Director
Field Operations

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From: Champion, Robert R.
To: Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; Webb, J. Dewey
Sent: Wed Feb 24 20:57:09 2010
Subject: Fw: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

FYI,

Here is the follow-up on the investigation with more detail.
Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

Robert R. Champion
Special Agent in Charge
Dallas Field Division
[REDACTED]

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From: Flores, Oscar B.
To: Champion, Robert R.
Cc: Golson Sr., Michael A.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 20:24:07 2010
Subject: RE: Sandoval Investigation synopsis

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Case agent subsequently learned that the firearms recovered were purchased by in individual identified as part of an on-going investigation being conducted by the Phoenix VII Field Office.

On 01/21/2010 All 40 Firearms were transported to the Department of Public Safety Laboratory in El Paso, Texas to be entered into the NIBIN system.

SANDOVAL was indicted on 02/10/2010 and is currently in custody awaiting trial.

From: Champion, Robert R.
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 5:46 PM
To: Flores, Oscar B.
Subject: Re: Sandoval Investigation

Oscar,

Can you provide me some more detail on the case.

Thank you,

Robert R. Champion
Special Agent in Charge
Dallas Field Division
[REDACTED]

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From: Flores, Oscar B.
To: Golson Sr., Michael A.; Champion, Robert R.
Sent: Wed Feb 24 19:36:26 2010
Subject: Sandoval Investigation

Mr. Golson,

The case number for the investigation involving the 40 AK-47 type rifles that are currently being entered into NIBIN by the Department of Public Safety is 781035-10-0016

Let me know what additional information is needed.

S/A Oscar B. Flores
El Paso Field Office
OFC [REDACTED]
FAX [REDACTED]