
From: ATF
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 11:23 AM
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Subject: Additional Resources; I hope this is close to what you were looking for...? I can always change or add to it. - Thanks
Attachments: briefing paper II.docx

Phoenix Field Division
Phoenix Group VII (SWB Group)
Briefing Paper on: 785115-10-0004

Background

1. This investigation has currently identified more than **ATF** individual connected straw purchasers. More suspects are being identified as the scope of the investigation expands. The straw-purchase suspects currently identified are associated with one another **[REDACTED]**

[REDACTED] To date
(September 2009 – present) this group has purchased in excess of 650 firearms (mainly AK-47 variants) for which they have paid cash totaling more than \$350,000.00.

2. To date there have been five (5) notable seizure events connected with this group, and approximately 53 firearms originally purchased by this group have been recovered. Three of these seizures have been in the Country of Mexico, one recovery in Douglas, AZ, and one recovery in Nogales, AZ. The U.S. recoveries were both believed to be destined for Mexico.

3.

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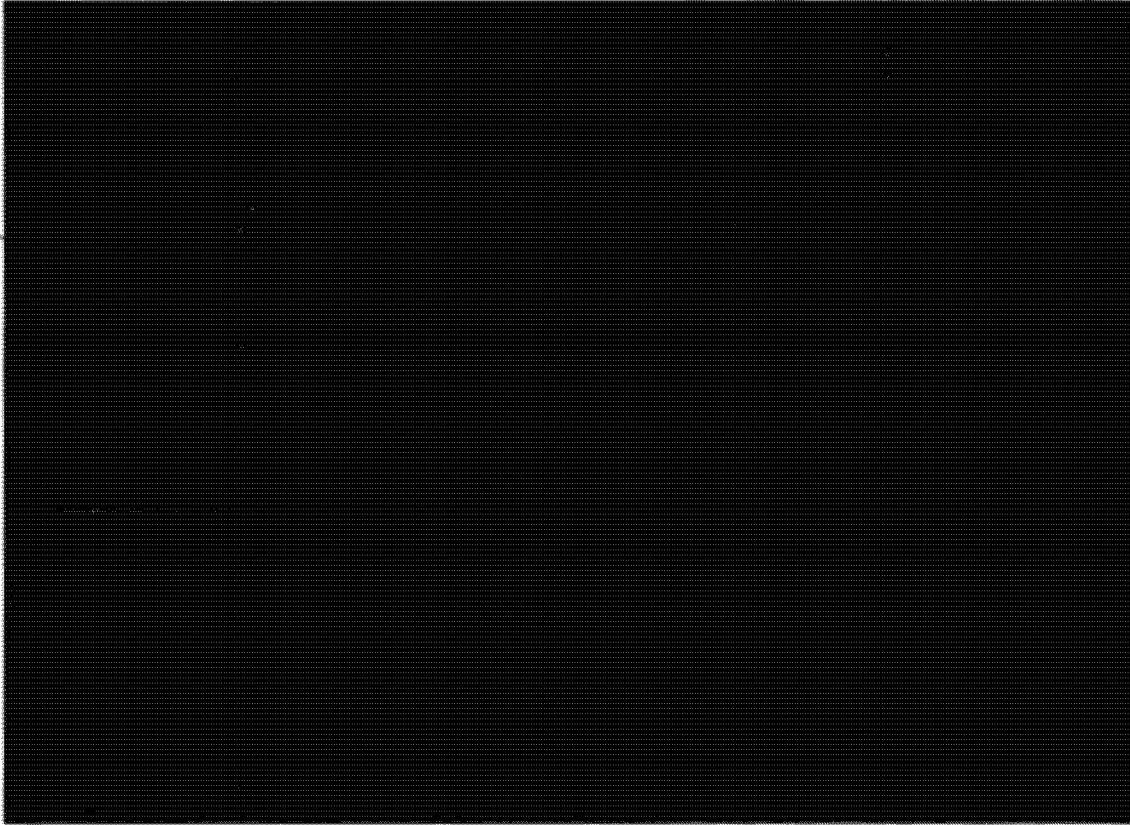
4.

ATF

5.

Investigative Techniques Used to Date

6. To date in this investigation we have utilized numerous proactive, advanced investigative techniques:



Strategy

7. This investigation is currently being conducted in conjunction with the Phoenix DEA OCDETF strike force. ATF Phoenix VII is the lead investigating enforcement group. A formal OCDETF proposal is completed and will be presented on January 26, 2009, in furtherance of this investigation.

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- 8.

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9. The ultimate goal is [REDACTED] to identify and prosecute all

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Additional Resources

10. This investigation is a Southwest Border "Gunner" investigation initiated by Phoenix Group VII. Group VII did not exist in FY'09 and was newly formed FY'10 under the Southwest Border Strategy to focus on investigations involving the trafficking of firearms to Mexico. As such, Group VII currently is comprised of ATF Special Agents; ATF [REDACTED] and one Group Supervisor.

11. In order to [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] Group VII is totally reliant on other groups and TFO to provide additional bodies. If those agents or TFO have other investigative priorities, [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] If one or more of the agents in Group VII is on leave or training we have 2-3 agents [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED]

12. It is hereby respectfully requested that 6 additional special agents be brought in for an initial 30 day detail the purpose of aiding/assisting in this investigation, mainly in the capacity of surveillance. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] will necessitate intensive, possibly round the clock, surveillance to prevent firearms from traveling south into the Country of Mexico. [REDACTED]

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13. Additionally, these 6 agents will need vehicles, preferably rental vehicles enabling them to switch out vehicles so as not to get "burned," and communication devices. These communication devices would most likely need to be in the form of either Phoenix Police Department handheld radios or Nextel push-to-Talk cellular telephones.

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 11:42 AM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: Fast and Furious BP October 2010
Attachments: [REDACTED] Oct write up for SAC.docx

As requested. Also, regarding the other "big" case SA **ATF** working on. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Briefing Paper

Phoenix Field Division

Phoenix Group VII (OCDETF Strike Force/Gunrunner)

ATF Investigation 785115-10-0004

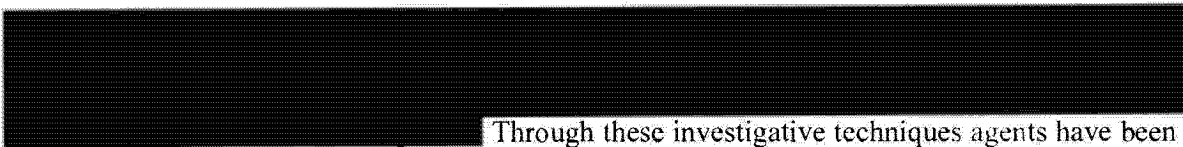
Operation: Fast & Furious, OCDETF No. SW-AZP-0496

Case Background

The Phoenix Group VII Field Office is leading an investigation entitled "Operation Fast & Furious" in conjunction with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Drug Enforcement Administration (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 SW-AZP-0496.

Since October 2009, ATF and the other partners listed above have been investigating a firearm trafficking organization that is being funded by the Sinaloa drug trafficking organization (DTO), a narcotics trafficking organization well known for violent criminal activity in Mexico. This organization is also involved in trafficking firearms to Mexico, and smuggling cocaine and marijuana into southern Arizona to be distributed throughout the United States. The OCDETF investigation of this organization is addressing 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 narcotics proceeds. From October 2009 to October 2010 agents have documented that this organization spent approximately 1.25 million dollars in cash at various Phoenix area Federal Firearms Licensees to acquire in excess of 1,900 firearms. The firearms are then being trafficked into Mexico using false compartments in various vehicles through various international Ports of Entry in Arizona and Texas.



Through these investigative techniques agents have been able to identify a large number of additional co-conspirators and disrupt the illegal activities of this firearms trafficking organization by seizing numerous firearms and narcotics. To date, over three hundred firearms and over fifty pounds of marijuana have been recovered by ATF agents in addition to the numerous firearms and narcotic seizures in Mexico related to this investigation.

Phoenix Group VII agents, in conjunction with the investigative partners listed previously and the Arizona United States Attorney's Office, are in the process of transitioning to the prosecutorial phase of the investigation. Agents have identified over [redacted] members [redacted] of the



List of Defendants Referred to USAO for Prosecution:



Proposed Charges:

ATF

From: ATF
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2010 3:19 PM
To: Newell, William D.
Cc: ATF
Subject: Briefing paper - 3 pages with; Case Background, defendants, list of charges.
Attachments: Oct write up for SAC.docx

Mr. Newell,

Here it is, I hope it is what you are looking for. It is 3 pages with;

1. case background,
2. defendants submitted, and
3. proposed charges

Please advise if you need or want changes/additions.

Thanks,

ATF

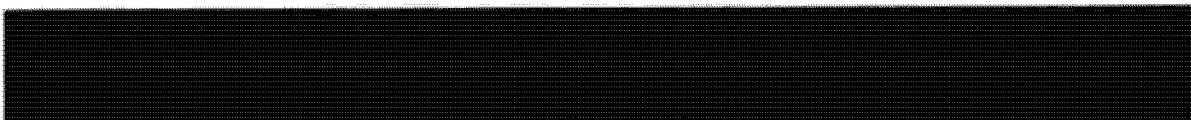
Phoenix Field Division
Phoenix Group VII (SWB group)
Briefing Paper on ATF Investigation 785115-10-0004
Operation: Fast & Furious, OCDETF No. SW-AZ-0496

Case Background

The Phoenix Group VII Field Office is conducting this investigation; Operation Fast & Furious, 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.

Since October 2009, ATF, and other partners listed above, 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. From October 2009 to October 2010 agents have documented that this organization has spent approximately 1.25 million dollars in cash at various Phoenix area FFLs to acquire in excess of 1,900 firearms. 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.



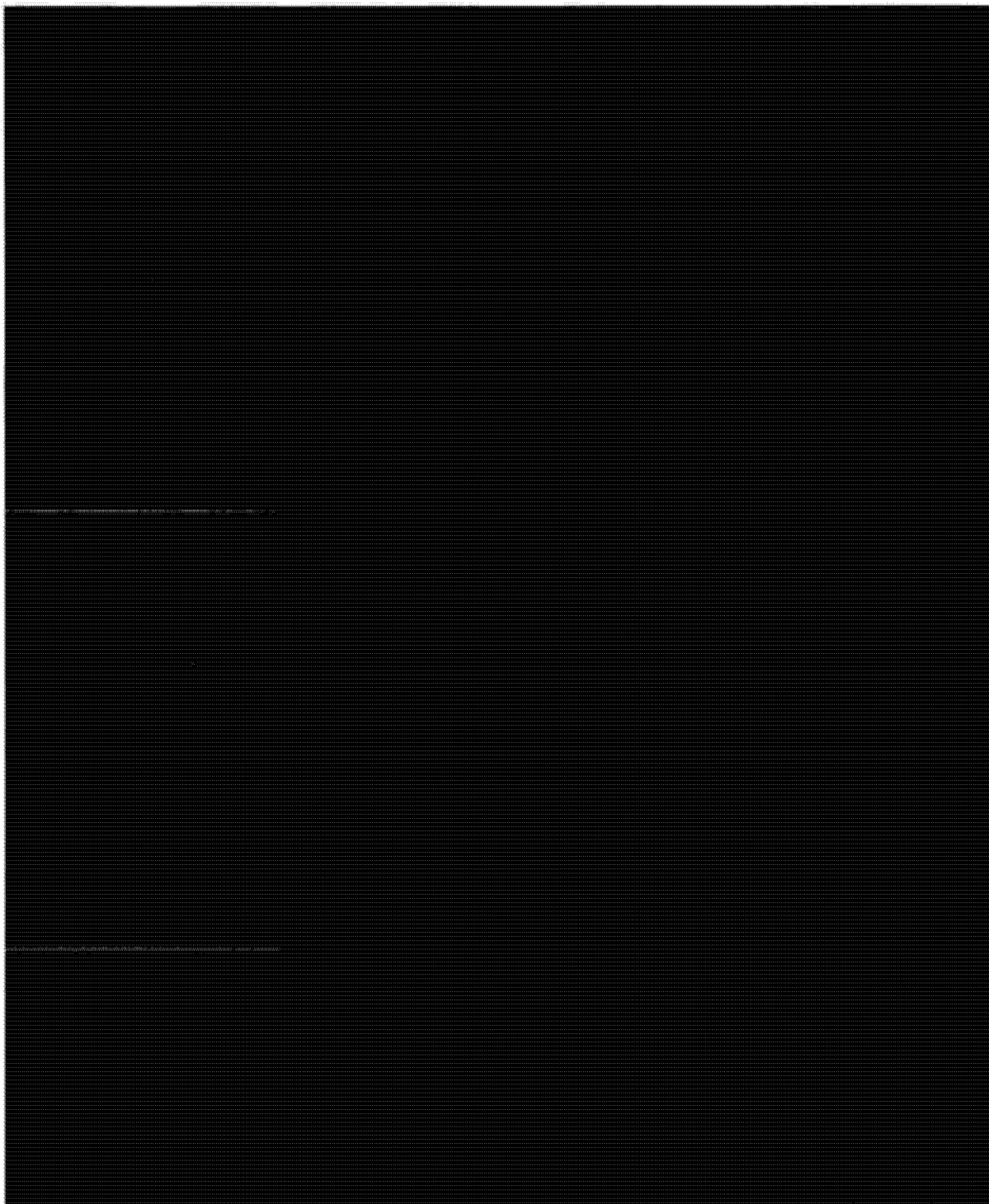
Through these investigative techniques, agents have been

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thirty (30) pounds of marijuana have been recovered by ATF agents in addition to the numerous firearms and narcotic seizures in Mexico related to this investigation.

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List of Defendants Referred to USAO for Prosecution:



Proposed Charges:

ATF

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Friday, December 03, 2010 4:12 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
Cc: ATF
Subject: December Fast and Furious BP for SAC
Attachments: December Fast and Furious BP for SAC.docx

FYI.



Briefing Paper

Phoenix Field Division

Phoenix Group VII (OCDETF Strike Force/Gunrunner)

ATF Investigation 785115-10-0004

Operation: Fast & Furious, OCDETF No. SW-AZP-0496

Case Background

The Phoenix Group VII Field Office is leading an investigation entitled "Operation Fast & Furious" in conjunction with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Phoenix Police Department (PPD). This operation was approved as an OCDETF case by the Southwest Region as SW-AZP-0496.

Since October 2009, ATF and the other partners listed above have been investigating a firearm trafficking organization that is being funded by the Sinaloa drug trafficking organization (DTO), a narcotics trafficking organization well known for violent criminal activity in Mexico. This organization is also involved in trafficking firearms to Mexico, and smuggling cocaine and marijuana into southern Arizona to be distributed throughout the United States. The OCDETF investigation of this organization is addressing 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 narcotics proceeds. From October 2009 to October 2010 agents have documented that this organization spent approximately 1.25 million dollars in cash at various Phoenix area Federal Firearms Licensees to acquire in excess of 1,900 firearms. The firearms are then being trafficked into Mexico using false compartments in various vehicles through various international Ports of Entry in Arizona and Texas.



Through these investigative techniques agents have been able to identify a large number of additional co-conspirators and disrupt the illegal activities of this firearms trafficking organization by seizing numerous firearms and narcotics. To date, over three hundred firearms and over fifty pounds of marijuana have been recovered by agents in addition to the numerous firearms and narcotic seizures in Mexico related to this investigation.

Over the past several weeks agents, in conjunction with the investigative partners and the United States Attorney's Office (LSAO), have been preparing for the indictment of individuals in this investigation.

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The reasons for this include

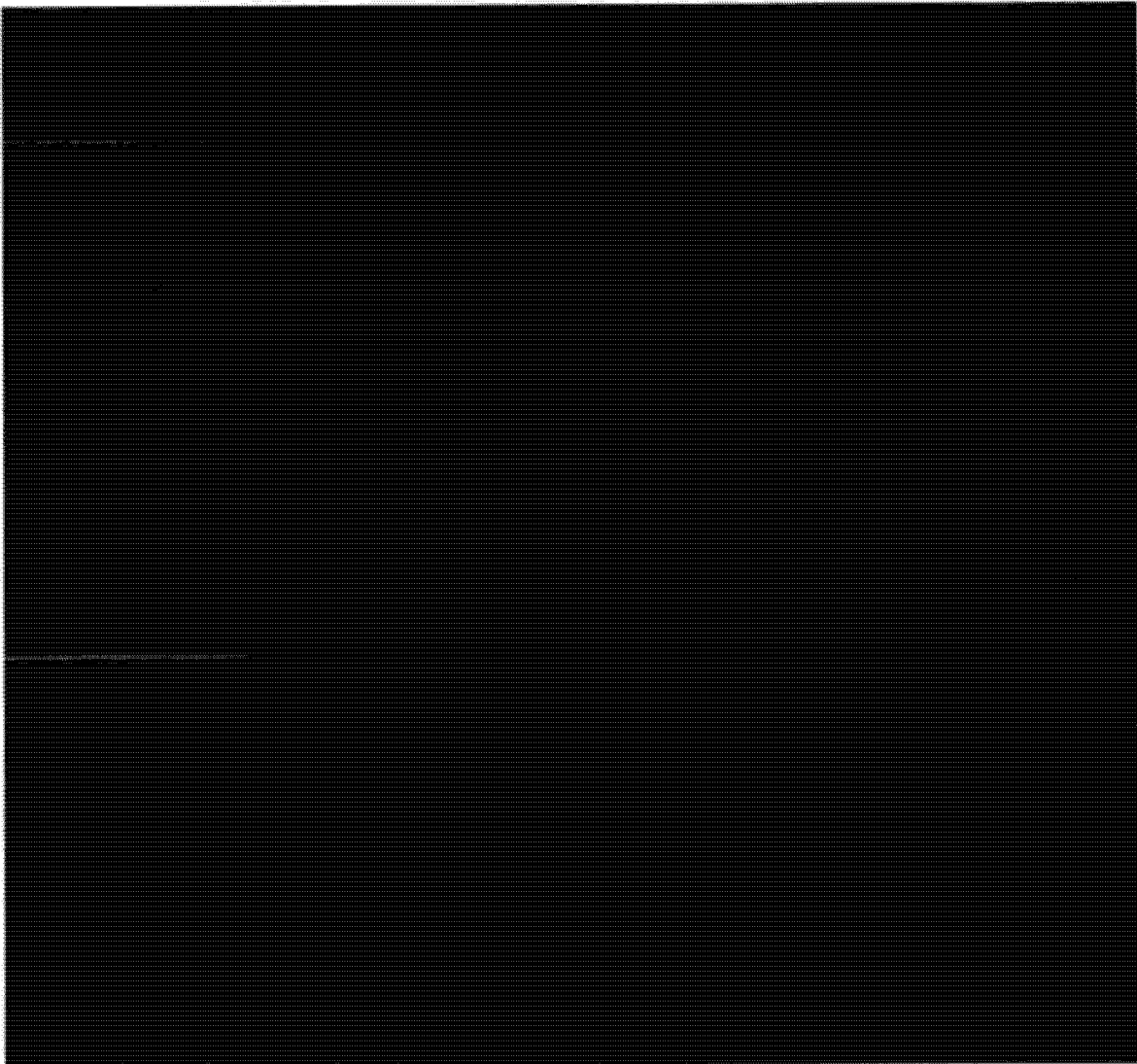
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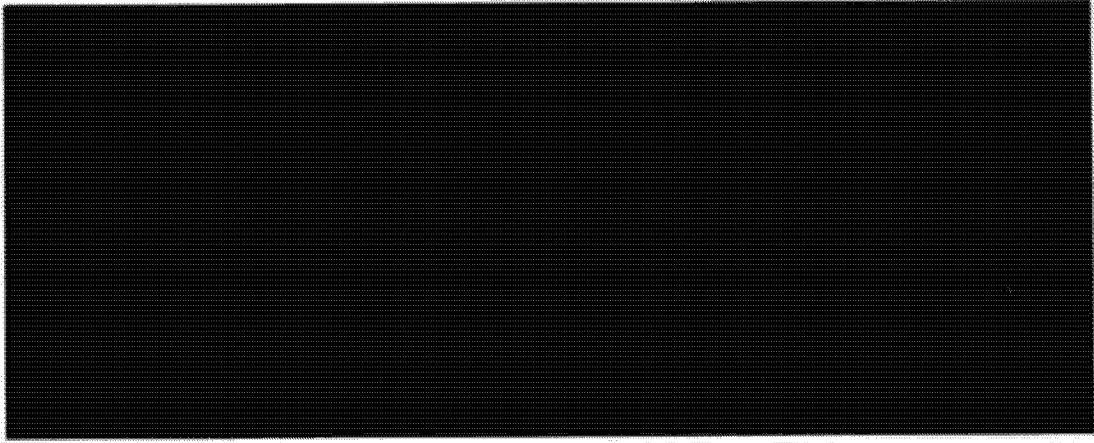
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On December 3rd SAC Newell and ASAC Needles met with USA Burke, Chief of Criminal Cunningham and lead the AUSA for this case and discussed all these matters.

It should be further noted that firearms purchasing and trafficking activity by this organization has subsided significantly since early October of this year. This is due to several factors not the least of which are proactive measures taken by the agents assigned to Phoenix Group VII.

List of Defendants Referred to USAO for Prosecution:





Proposed Charges:

ATF

ATF

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 2010 1:24 PM
To: All Phoenix Exchange
Subject: U.S. Border Patrol Agent killed in the line of duty

A U.S. Border Patrol agent, Brian A. Terry, 40, was shot and killed north of the Arizona-Mexico border while trying to catch bandits who target illegal immigrants. Terry, working as part of a BORTAC unit, was waiting with three other agents in a remote area north of Nogales, Ariz., late Tuesday night when a gunfight with the bandits began. No other agents were injured, but one of the suspects was wounded in the shootout. Terry was shot in the back and was pronounced dead at approximately 4:00 AM today.

The FBI is investigating the shooting. Four suspects are in custody [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ATF Tucson personnel are assisting with the follow-up investigation and will be assisting with a search of the area. A firearm in the custody of the FBI is currently being traced.

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

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Thursday, December 16, 2010 11:03 AM
To: [REDACTED] ATF
Cc: Newell, William D.; Needles, James R.
Subject: Murder of Border Patrol Agent

Folks –

I wanted to take a moment to thank each of you, as well as your personnel, for the outstanding work yesterday in the aftermath of U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry's murder. Shootings where law enforcement officers are wounded or killed are always difficult, especially around the holidays, and I know that each of you wanted to contribute in the aftermath of this tragic course of events. SAC Newell, ASAC Needles and I thank you for your diligence and selfless dedication to duty. As a result of your efforts and the efforts of your personnel, the individual that straw-purchased two of the firearms recovered from this crime scene has been arrested and is facing Federal firearms charges. Moreover, [REDACTED] Thank you again, and please extend our appreciation to all involved in yesterday's events.

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

From: [redacted] ATF
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 3:11 PM
To: [redacted] ATF
Subject: RE: Solicitud OEPA/047/2010

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From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 10:34 AM
To: [redacted] ATF
Subject: FW: Solicitud OEPA/047/2010
Importance: High

This was a seizure in Navojoa, Sonora on July 4th. It wasn't in eTrace yet so I asked [redacted] ATF to get me the info. The Sonoran PGR office report is attached listing all the firearms data, a little hard to read but you can make it out. Just curious if any of the Fast and Furious firearms are there.

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

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 9:18 AM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: FW: Solicitud OEPA/047/2010
Importance: High

Bill, aquí te mando la información que me solicitaste con respecto a un aseguramiento en Navojoa, Son. El día 4 de Julio de 2010.

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@pgr.gob.mx]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 9:01 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: RV: Solicitud OEPA/047/2010
Importance: High

[redacted]
Titular de la Oficina de Enlace de PGR

Phoenix Arizona.
201 E WASHINGTON ST.
SUITE #940.PHOENIX AZ. 85004
Ofis. [REDACTED]
Cel. [REDACTED]
Next [REDACTED]
Email. [REDACTED]@pgr.gob.mx y [REDACTED]@atf.gov

De: [REDACTED]
Enviado el: jueves, 15 de julio de 2010 05:57 p.m.
Para: [REDACTED]
Asunto: RV: Solicitud OEPA/047/2010

Estimado [REDACTED]:

Adjunto te envío el dictamen solicitado, así como la tarjeta generada con motivo de este asunto.

Quedo al pendiente para cuando se defina lo del curso.

Saludos cordiales

Atte

[REDACTED]

"Toda la información de este correo así como la contenida en los documentos que se adjuntan, se encuentra clasificada conforme a lo previsto en los artículos 13 fracciones I, IV, 14 fracciones I, III y IV y 18 fracción II de la Ley Federal de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública Gubernamental, en relación con lo dispuesto en los Lineamientos Generales para la clasificación y desclasificación de la información de las dependencias y entidades de la Administración Pública Gubernamental, emitidos por el Pleno del Instituto Federal de Acceso a la Información Pública, publicados en el D.O.F. el 18 de agosto de de 2003, así como a las Recomendaciones para la organización y conservación de correos electrónicos institucionales de las dependencias y entidades de la Administración Pública Federal, emitida por el Instituto señalado y publicadas el 10 de febrero en el D.O.F. 2009"

Estimado Licenciado, que gusto de volver a escribirle, aunque sea solicitándole su auxilio para obtener información, le comento que su servidor ha estado fuera del país y del continente por un mes y una semana, motivo por el cual no había tenido la oportunidad de saludarlo, sin embargo estoy preparando un curso de especialistas en desactivación y reconocimiento de artefactos explosivos caseros, para el personal de PGR y otros en el estado de Sonora, en cuanto se concrete me pondré en contacto con usted nuevamente.

Por otro lado le quería pedir de favor si se me pudiera proporcionar una Tarjeta Informativa y el dictamen pericial de las armas aseguradas en un evento el día **4 de Julio 2010 en el Municipio de Navojoa, Son., donde elementos del ejército al revisar un vehículo pick up chevrolet silverado 2005 color blanco con placas [REDACTED] encontraron 25 fusiles tipo AK 47 entre otras cosas.**

Sin mas por el momento le envío un cordial saludo.

[REDACTED]
Titular de la Oficina de Enlace de PGR
Phoenix Arizona.

DHS

Ofis. [REDACTED]
Cel. [REDACTED]
Next [REDACTED]
Email. [REDACTED]@pgr.gob.mx y [REDACTED]@atf.gov

"Toda la información de este correo así como la contenida en los documentos que se adjuntan, se encuentra clasificada conforme a lo previsto en los artículos 13 fracciones I, IV, 14 fracciones I, III y IV y 18 fracción II de la Ley Federal de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública Gubernamental, en relación con lo dispuesto en los Lineamientos Generales para la clasificación y desclasificación de la información de las dependencias y entidades de la Administración Pública Gubernamental, emitidos por el Pleno del Instituto Federal de Acceso a la Información Pública, publicados en el D.O.F. el 18 de agosto de de 2003, así como a las Recomendaciones para la organización y conservación de correos electrónicos institucionales de las dependencias y entidades de la Administración Pública Federal, emitida por el Instituto señalado y publicadas el 10 de febrero en el D.O.F. 2009"

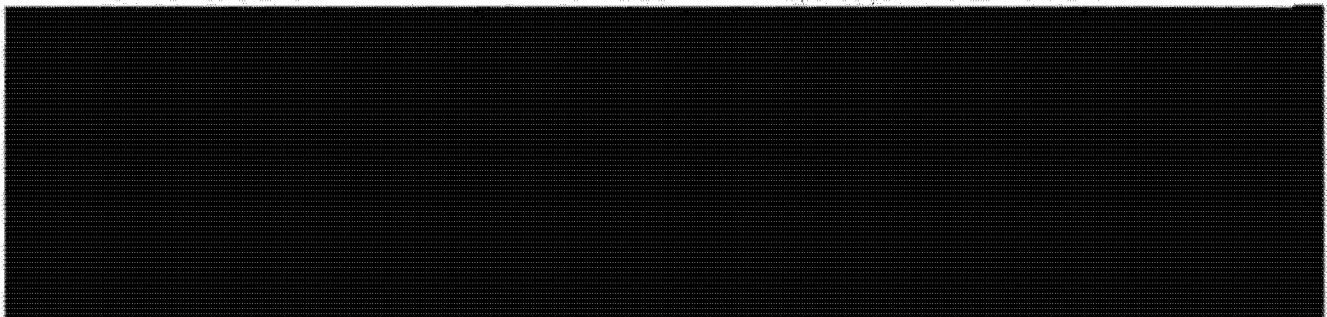
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From: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 3:26 PM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: RE: Fast and Furious update

10-4 thanks.

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 3:24 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: Fast and Furious update



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