

From: Hernandez, Armando
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 7:28 PM
To: ATF
Cc:
Subject: RE: Memo to PGR

ATF

You guys don't have to do anything from your end. I just want you to be aware of what we are telling them. This is how the process works: The body of this e-mail is going to be translated by our translator at the ATF Mexico City Office and put on ATF letterhead. ATF sign the memorandum and I will have it certified here at the TJ Consulate as an official U.S. Government document and forward to PGR. Do you have the firearms information on the Agua Prieta Sonora seizure? I definitely want to include this.

Thanks,

ATF
Assistant Country Attache
Tijuana Field Office
[REDACTED] (U.S. Desk Line)
[REDACTED] (Tijuana Desk Line)
[REDACTED] (Mobile)
[REDACTED] (Direct Connect)

From: ATF
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 4:18 PM
To: ATF
Subject: RE: Memo to PGR

Three quick questions for you;

1. Who should the Memo be addressed to; Ambassador US Embassy Mexico?
2. What should the subject line be; official notification/official referral of information?
3. We have 1 firearm recovered on 11/15/09 in Aqua Prieta, Sonora; do you what that included?

Thanks and I have attached the Memo I am drafting,

ATF
Supervisor
Group VII

From: Hernandez, Armando
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 5:00 PM
To: ATF
Subject: Memo to PGR

ATF

Good talking to you today. To follow-up what we discussed in our telephone call I have attached below the content of the letter for PGR.

Since the summer of 2009, authorities with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) an agency within the United States Department of Justice have been investigating a gun trafficking network that is supplying firearms to drug trafficking organizations in the Country of Mexico. Recently through collaborative efforts between the ATF and the Mexican PGR, firearms have been identified that can be linked to this gun trafficking network that is under investigation.

ATF

The following firearms traced back to the US investigation:

ATF

ATF

ATF

The following firearms traced back to the US investigation:

ATF

ATF

ATF

in the City of Tijuana. Some of these firearms also traced back to the investigation in the United States.

The following firearms traced back to the US investigation:

ATF

ATF

ATF

ATF

ATF

incident again traced back to the on-going investigation in the United States.

The following firearms traced back to the US investigation:
numbers

ATF

Thanks,

ATF

Assistant Country Attaché

Tijuana Field Office

(U.S. Desk Line)

(Tijuana Desk Line)

[REDACTED] (Mobile)
[REDACTED] (Direct Connect)

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2010 6:14 PM
To: ATF
Subject: SAC and I concur

Take the guns off as soon as BP can get them.

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

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From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2010 5:06 PM
To: ATF
Cc: ATF
Subject: Re: Guns from Phoenix VII investigation are moving from Tucson

ATF

In the event you need them:

Yuma -

ATF

Home: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]

El Centro -

ATF

Cell: [REDACTED]

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

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

From: ATF
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Sat Feb 20 16:08:23 2010
Subject: Re: Guns from Phoenix VII investigation ATF

ATF

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

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
To: ATF
Cc: Newell, William D.
Sent: Sat Feb 20 15:48:22 2010

Subject: Re: Guns from Phoenix VII investigation

ATF

Excellent. Good work. Keep me posted.

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

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

From: ATF

To: Gillett, George T. Jr.

Sent: Sat Feb 20 15:46:26 2010

Subject: Re: Guns from Phoenix VII investigation

ATF

The vehicle is stopped at a strip mall and [REDACTED] guns inside it. ATF and Tucson agents have eyes on it. [REDACTED]

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

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sat Feb 20 15:24:59 2010

Subject: Guns from Phoenix VII investigation are

ATF

GS ATF will be contacting both of you. This investigation is a high priority.

ATF has done an outstanding job of refocusing gun show resources so far.

You have full Division support and resources.

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

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From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 11:56 AM
To: ATF; Gillett, George T. Jr.
Subject: RE: FYI photo from this weekend...

Mr. Gillett sent it to me yesterday but thank you. Also, I talked to the USA this morning about this case and advised him of the seizure and link to the Tucson OCDETF case. He was taken aback by some of the facts I informed him about (including the fact that we are up to approx 800 guns) so I am setting up a briefing for him (alone no USAO "posse") about this case and several other cases I feel his is being misled about. Should be within the next couple of weeks so be prepared. Thanks.

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

From: ATF
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 9:53 AM
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.; Newell, William D.
Subject: FYI photo from this weekend...

ATF
Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII
[REDACTED]

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 4:09 PM
To: ATF
Subject: FW: briefing paper II
Attachments: briefing paper II.docx

From: ATF
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 10:29 AM
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Subject: briefing paper II

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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ATF

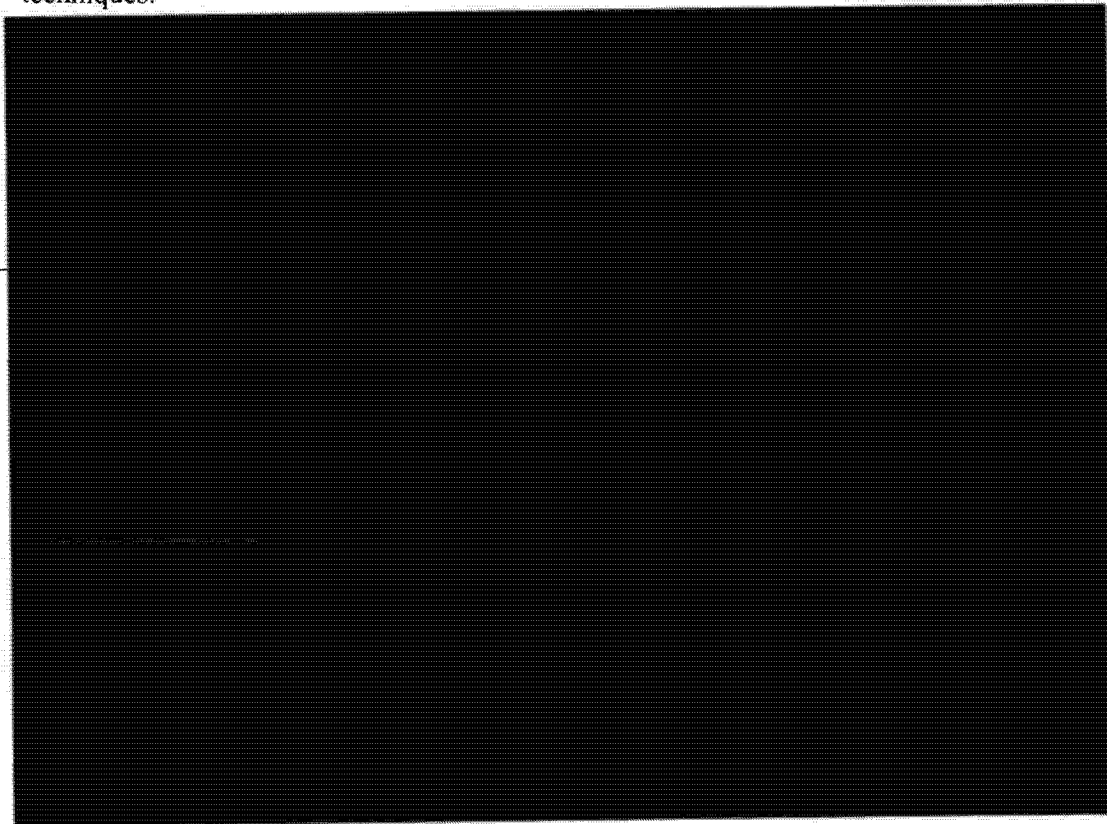
4.

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.

ATF

ATF

- 8.

ATF

9. The ultimate goal is [REDACTED] ATF

ATF

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 of [REDACTED] ATF and one Group Supervisor.

11. In order to conduct [REDACTED] ATF 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 If one or more of the agents in Group VII is on leave or training we have 2-3 agents [REDACTED] ATF

12. It is hereby respectfully requested that additional bodies be brought in for the purpose of aiding/assisting in this investigation, mainly in the capacity of surveillance. [REDACTED] will necessitate intensive, possibly round the clock, surveillance to prevent streams from traveling south into the Country of Mexico (especially of the [REDACTED] which have been requested/ordered by targets of this investigation.) [REDACTED] ATF

[REDACTED]

From: ATF
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2010 1:44 PM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: another version
Attachments: Oct write up for ATF docx

Mr. Newell,

Here is something I recently sent to ATF for OCDETF purposes. It is much more generic and all information that you are well aware of. I just thought I would offer another version to my 80 page document.

Thanks,

ATF

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.

[REDACTED]

Through these investigative techniques, agents have been able to identify additional co-conspirators and disrupt the firearms trafficking organization by seizing numerous firearms and narcotics. To date, over three hundred (300) firearms and over fifty (50) pounds of marijuana have been recovered by ATF agents in addition to the numerous firearms and narcotic seizures in Mexico related to this investigation.

Agents are in the process of transitioning to the prosecutorial phase of the investigation. Agents have identified over [REDACTED] **ATF** of the firearms trafficking organization. Agents anticipate the indictment, arrest, and conviction of the identified members of the organization in the upcoming months.

From: Needles, James R.
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2010 12:46 PM
To: Newell, William D.
Subject: RE: Fast and Furi.

Of the [REDACTED] individuals we know of who are supplying firearms to the organization, [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] DEA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] and are notified if they make a purchase.

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

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2010 4:46 AM
To: Needles, James R.
Subject: Fw: Fast and Furi.

Get with ATF since you're together and give me a status on firearms purchase activity over the past 30 days of the suspects in this case. An e-mail will suffice.

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

From: Chait, Mark R.
To: Newell, William D.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Fri Oct 29 07:39:08 2010
Subject: Re: Fast and Furi.

I'm concerned that we are not shutting down the activity waiting on an indictment. Thanks Mark R. Chait Assistant Director Field Operations

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transmission in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and destroy this message in its entirety (including all attachments).

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

From: Newell, William D.
To: Chait, Mark R.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Fri Oct 29 07:29:16 2010
Subject: Re: Fast and Furi.

No, they pushed it to December 7. I was supposed to meet with the USA ~~this coming week to discuss the delay but he canceled due to an~~ "unexpected" DC trip. I'm going to call him today.

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

From: Chait, Mark R.
To: Newell, William D.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Sent: Fri Oct 29 07:27:17 2010
Subject: Fast and Furi.

Any news on a quicker indictment?
Mark R. Chait
Assistant Director
Field Operations

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From:

ATF

Sent:

Tuesday, April 13, 2010 12:12 PM

To:

[Redacted]
ATF
DHS
DHS

Cc:

Phoe-Group VII; Gillett, George T. Jr.

Subject:

Delayed yet again

To all;

[Redacted]

ATF

[Redacted]

Sincerely,

ATF

Group Supervisor

Phoenix Group VII

[Redacted]

From: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 3:36 PM
To: **ATF**
Subject: FW: Document1
Attachments: briefing paper II (3).docx; Doc1.docx

Can you put it in a BP format for me?

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 12:11 PM
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Subject: Re: Document1

Have him put into a BP format, will most likely go to DAG.
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: Newell, William D.
Sent: Tue Oct 05 14:50:12 2010
Subject: Fw: Document1

I have not reviewed but don't want to stand in the way of progress.

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

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From: **ATF**
To: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Sent: Tue Oct 05 14:46:43 2010
Subject: Document1
Here it is...

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.

ATF

[REDACTED] ATF

[REDACTED] ATF

4.

ATF

5.

6.

7.

ATF

8. On January 5, 2010, ASAC Gillett, GS **ATF** and case agent SA **ATF** met with AUSA Emory Hurley, who is the lead, federal prosecutor on this matter. Investigative and prosecution strategies were discussed and a determination was made that there was

ATF

gathered. This investigation was briefed to United States Attorney Dennis Burke, who concurs with the assessment of his line prosecutors and **ATF** this investigation.

9.

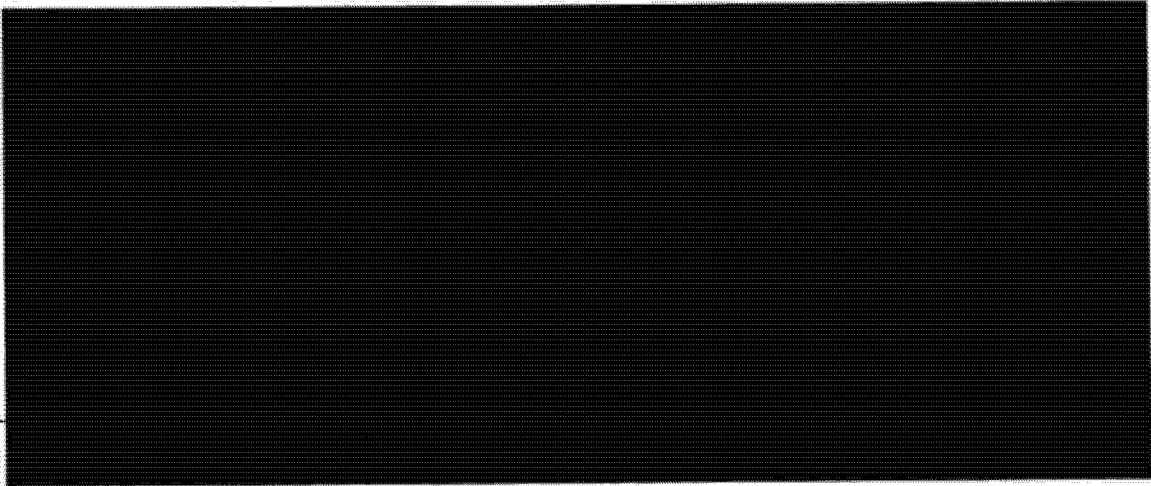
[REDACTED] and the weapon(s) will be interdicted prior to their crossing of the Mexican border.

10. A joint strategy/de-confliction meeting is planned for Friday, January 15, 2010, with representatives from ICE, DEA, and ATF. This investigation, as well as other ongoing investigations, will be briefed to all present.

Investigative Techniques Used to Date

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

[REDACTED]



Strategy

12. 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.

ATF

ATF

13.

ATF

14. The ultimate goal is

ATF

ATF

Dates of Travel: August 29, 2010 – September 2, 2010

Reason for Travel: Follow-up to our first meeting (August 10, 2010) with PGR SIEDO Director [REDACTED] and her Chief Deputy of Narcotics [REDACTED].

The following are brief summaries of the meetings and events of note during our trip to Mexico City.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Conclusions/Summary:

Overall, this trip to Mexico City was successful in at least two regards: (1) It further demonstrated that the District of Arizona is a present force in Mexico and it strengthened relationships and contacts with both the GoM and amongst agencies working in the Embassy; and (2) with regard to the [REDACTED] and other weapons and drug trafficking investigations, it evidenced SIEDO's great willingness to cooperate in an unprecedented manner. Moving forward, we plan on returning to Mexico City once again to meet with the witnesses that SIEDO plans on making available to us. We plan on securing copies of all the prosecution and

investigation files related to the summaries that SIEDO has already provided. Agent

ATF

plans on gaining access to firearms in military custody for her and ATF's review. We

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ATF

for the OCDEFT

Strike Force. And, finally, we plan on continuing to utilize these newly discovered and

strengthened relationships to develop strong investigations and prosecutions in the future.
