



Key Messages/Talking Points

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Public Affairs Division - Washington, DC



Previous Hill Testimony ATF's National Cartel-Focused Firearms Trafficking Strategy (4/8/2011)

Cartel-Focused Firearms Trafficking Strategy

- In September 2010, ATF deployed the Project Gunrunner Cartel Focused Strategy, which reflects ATF's increased national emphasis on firearms trafficking enforcement related to the Southwest Border and the importance of identifying and prioritizing trafficking investigations in which a nexus to Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) and cartels may be established.
- Our revised approach places greater emphasis on investigations that target specific cartels and the persons responsible for organizing and directing firearms trafficking operations in the United States. This approach requires conducting our investigations in a more creative and comprehensive manner by fully incorporating our agency's unique regulatory, investigative, and analytical capabilities and resources.
- The addition of investigative tools, such as the proposed reporting requirement for certain types of rifles, would greatly increase the availability of key information on firearms trafficking organizations that are responsible for the trafficking to Mexico. The AR and AK style rifles are the preferred "tools of the trade" for the Mexican cartels.
- In addition to fully utilizing ATF's resources, this strategy relies on coordination with other law enforcement agencies, such as the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) through greater use of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) program and the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC).
- The strategy places a greater emphasis on multi-defendant conspiratorial cases that focus on persons who organize, direct, and finance cartel-related firearms and explosives trafficking operations.
- The strategy is multi-faceted and includes: the inspection of licensed firearms dealers and the investigation into straw purchasers and illegal traffickers; improved data collection, analysis and exploitation of information; the sharing and leveraging of information available to other law enforcement agencies; improved investigative coordination and information sharing with the Government of Mexico.

- In response to the ever increasing reach of the Mexican cartels into the heartland of the United States to obtain firearms in support of their drug trafficking operations, Project Gunrunner has evolved into a national strategy.
- ATF is dedicated to the mission of stemming the illegal flow of firearms domestically in the United States and internationally, and in no way sanctions the sale or transfer of firearms for illegal purposes. Additionally, ATF has not and will not knowingly allow guns to cross illegally to Mexico.
- Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) have aggressively turned to the United States as a source of firearms. They use those weapons against other DTOs, the Mexican military, Mexican and United States law enforcement officers, and innocent victims on both sides of the border. (Hoover; 2-7-08; statement; page 25)
- Comprehensive firearms tracing data indicate that Texas, Arizona and California are/were the three primary source states for firearms trafficked to Mexico. However, ATF data indicates that cartels are acquiring firearms from other states as far east as Florida and as far north and west as Washington state. (Hoover; 2-7-08; statement, page 25; prepared remarks, page 28)
- The DTOs have sought more powerful and increasingly higher quality weapons such as the Barrett 50-caliber rifle, the Colt AR-15 .223-caliber assault rifle, the AK-47 7.62 assault rifle and its variants; and FN 5.57-caliber pistols which are known in Mexico as "cop killers." (Hoover; 2-7-08; statement, page 25; prepared remarks, page 29)
- ATF has learned that interdiction alone will not stop the firearms trafficking problem. It is clear that we must locate the source of illicitly trafficked firearms; investigate the networks that are used to traffic them; and shut down the source and the networks of traffickers. (Hoover; 2-7-08; statement; page 25)
- Escalating gun violence along and across the border led ATF to initiate Project Gunrunner, a comprehensive, investigative enforcement and interdiction strategy that incorporates ATF's expertise, regulatory authority and investigative resources to attack the problem at the domestic and international level. (Hoover; 2-7-08; statement; page 25)
- ATF expanded its presence at the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), where ATF services as a central repository and clearinghouse for all weapons-related intelligence. ATF, collects, analyzes and shares this information with US and Mexican law enforcement agencies. (Hoover; 2-7-08; statement; pages 25-26)

- *[Note: ATF/Hoover provided and discussed slides that contained Mexico trace data, but slides are not included in the hearing documents. Hoover never cited specific trace statistics, but cited an increase in trafficking as he referred to power point slides. The slides are mentioned on pages 26-27; Hoover; statement; 2-7-08]*
- ATF executed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with Mexico to provide eTrace training to nine consulates in Mexico. The goal was to deploy the system to all 31 states in Mexico. (Hoover; 2-7-08; statement; pages 27)
- Mexico's President Calderone and Attorney General Medina Mora identified cartel-related violence as a top priority and stated that illegal firearms trafficking from the United States is the "number one" crime affecting that country's security. (Hoover; 2-7-08; prepared remarks; page 28)
- There is more than enough evidence to indicate that more than 90 percent of the firearms that have either been recovered or interdicted in transport to Mexico originated within the U.S. (Hoover; 2-7-08; prepared remarks, page 28; Q&A, page 69)
- ATF has developed and continues to enhance an effective real-time intelligence and evidence sharing network with Mexico. However, the system has been overwhelmed on both sides of the border. Merely seizing firearms through interdiction without thoroughly investigating the supply and trafficking infrastructure accomplishes little. It is imperative to trace each firearm that is intercepted before it reaches Mexico or to trace the weapon once it is recovered in Mexico. (Hoover; 2-7-08; prepared remarks; page 29)
- An essential component of ATF's firearms trafficking investigations is ATF's eTrace system, and essential starting point for identifying and eliminating illicit sources of firearms in the U.S. With eTrace, ATF is able to reconstruct the flow of weapons along the border, determine how and where they are being purchased, and who is purchasing them. (Hoover; 2-7-08; prepared remarks; page 29)
- ATF is focusing industry operations resources on and near the border to identify federal firearms licensees (FFLs) who may be involved, directly or indirectly, in supplying firearms to known traffickers. As part of Project Gunrunner, ATF will seek to expand inspection and compliance activities to include focused forward traces of firearms that are identified as weapons of choice for the cartels. (Hoover; 2-7-08; prepared remarks; page 30)
- ATF intensified education and liaison efforts with the firearms industry and with other law enforcement agencies to reinforce the importance of collaboration to identify and report suspected straw purchasers and other illicit sources of firearms intended for Mexico. (Hoover; 2-7-08; prepared remarks; page 30)

- ATF has permanently assigned special agents to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and to Monterrey, Mexico. The agents engage in full-time intelligence sharing with the Mexican government and help develop and foster relationships as a way to provide technical and investigative assistance to police and prosecutors. (Hoover; 2-7-08; prepared remarks; page 30)
- ATF looked to assign additional special agents and intelligence research specialists to ATF offices in Mexico and deploy additional agents and analysts to EPIC to serve as liaison partners with and to other U.S. law enforcement entities operating in Mexico. (Hoover; 2-7-08; prepared remarks; page 30)
- ATF is looking to establish more pre-identified, specially vetted Mexican police officials that would allow ATF special agents in U.S. border cities to work directly with them to exchange timely investigative information regarding seizures of suspected U.S.-sourced firearms within the contiguous Mexican Border states. (Hoover; 2-7-08; prepared remarks; page 30)
- In January 2008, ATF announced that an additional 25 special agents and 15 industry operations inspectors (IOIs) would be permanently assigned to the Southwest border to curb illegal export of US firearms. Because ATF is a small agency, that number accounted for a significant portion of ATF's available manpower and directly affected its ability to address violent crime in other parts of the United States. (Hoover; 2-7-08; prepared remarks; page 30)
- It is estimated that there are more than 6,647 FFLs along the US/Mexico border, compared to approximately 35 IOIs and 100 ATF special agents. It is a major challenge for ATF to adequately identify and disrupt the illegal sources of firearms and ammunition, while participating in the interdiction of shipments of firearms and ammunition destined for Mexico. Nevertheless, in FY 2007, ATF investigated 187 firearms trafficking cases and recommended 465 defendants for prosecution and seized more than 1,297 firearms as a result of Project Gunrunner. (Hoover; 2-7-08; prepared remarks; page 31)
- ATF is part of the Administration's "Merida Initiative," which is a comprehensive U.S. strategy to address drug smuggling, firearms trafficking and violence in Mexico and Central America. Through the initiative, the FY 2008 supplemental provided \$2 million to ATF to expand Spanish eTrace to countries in the Central America region and to provide training to Mexico and Central America. (Hoover; 2-7-08; prepared remarks; pages 30-31)

- With the addition of eTrace, it is easier to track firearms into Mexico. Through the tracing that ATF does with Mexico, we have daily contact through the ATF Attache office in Mexico City, through our agents assigned in Monterrey and our border liaison contacts in each of the four border states. We are able to put together information based upon the tracing that we are doing from the firearms in Mexico. We can then attack those specific trafficking corridors. (Hoover; 2-7-08; Q&As; page 46 & 69)
- ATF looks at source dealers for firearms and when it looks as if an FFL has an abnormal amount of traces that come back to him, ATF can utilize various investigative techniques to try to stop that FFL. ATF also uses interdiction methods on specific tracking routes. (Hoover; 2-7-08; Q&As; page 46)

Firearms tracing is critical as it allows ATF and its partners to identify trafficking corridors, patterns and schemes, as well as traffickers and their accomplices. The strategy is more productive than primarily relying on the limited border searches conducted on outbound persons going from the U.S. into Mexico. (Hoover; 2-7-08; written responses to questions from Engle, page 90)

- Since 2006, Project Gunrunner has been ATF's comprehensive strategy to combat firearms-related violence by cartels along the Southwest Border. This includes special agents dedicated to investigating firearms trafficking on a full-time basis and industry operations investigators (IOs) responsible for conducting regulatory inspections of Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs). (Breuer; 7-9-09; prepared statement; page 38)
- A comprehensive analysis of firearms trace data over the past three years indicates that Texas, Arizona and California are the three largest source states respectively, for firearms illegally trafficked to Mexico. In FY 2007 Mexico submitted approximately 1,112 guns for tracing that originated in these three states alone. (Hoover and Placido; 7-9-09; [joint statement, 3-17-09]; page 144)
- Drug traffickers have developed a preference for higher quality, more powerful weapons, such as .223 and 7.62x39mm caliber rifles and pistols, and .50 caliber rifles; each of these types of weapons have been seized by ATF in route to Mexico. (Hoover and Placido; 7-9-09; [joint statement, 3-17-09]; page 145)
- The ATF "Gun Desk," at EPIC serves as a central repository for all DOJ intelligence related to firearms along the Southwest Border. EPIC also serves as the primary repository for DHS intelligence on firearms smuggling, and the FBI, already a contributing member at EPIC is in the process of increasing its participation there by creating its Southwest Intelligence Group (SWIG). (McMahon and Placido; 7-16-09; joint statement, page 18)

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- ATF is aggressively working to keep weapons out of the hands of the cartels and other dangerous criminals in Mexico by adding additional special agents and other personnel to disrupt firearms trafficking networks, increasing oversight of the federal firearms licensees along the border, and improving the coordination of firearms trafficking information amongst federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies along the border. (Hoover and Placido; 7-9-09; [joint statement, 3-17-09]; page 141)
- At the end of the year (2009) we should be implementing our Spanish e-Trace, and hopefully to push that to every state in Mexico. (McMahon; 7-16-09; prepared statement; page 26)

United States Attorney Prosecutorial Guidelines

- Just as each ATF field division emphasizes different strategies based on criminal trends and patterns and the types of crimes that plague each division's area of responsibility, each U.S. Attorney's Office has its own priorities and guidelines. In an area such as the Southwest Border where the purchase of large numbers of firearms is commonplace, the threshold for prosecution of federal firearms violations is much higher than in those areas where fewer people purchase multiple firearms.
- ATF must make every effort to meet the specific USAO prosecutorial guidelines in order to successfully perfect investigations.

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For Internal Use Only

From: ATF
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 7:46 PM
To: Simpson, Kevin
Cc: Gillett, George T. Jr.
Subject: Phoenix Group VII biweekly update 02-03-2010
Attachments: Phoenix Group VII biweekly update 02-03-2010.docx

Phoenix Group VII

[REDACTED]

785115-10-0004, Jacob Chambers et al: This case is a large scale conspiracy of over a twenty interconnected straw purchasers. Thus far in the investigation (September through present) the group has purchased over 850 firearms; most of which are the AK-47 variant 7.62 assault rifles and or the F.N. Herstal 5.7 mm pistols. 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. This past week members of this organization have purchased two .50 caliber rifles (Bushmaster and Barrett) additionally they have questioned the FFL concerning how to obtain NFA machineguns.

Last week (01/26/2010) this case was presented by ATF and approved OCDETF status by the Phoenix committee who will forward the proposal on to the Houston Regional Committee for final authority. [REDACTED] this investigation which overwhelmingly shows the connection amongst these straw purchasers and the FFLs. [REDACTED]

Briefing Paper
Operation: Fast & Furious, OCDEF No. SW-AZ-0496
ATF Investigation 785115-10-0004

Phoenix Field Division
Phoenix Group VII (SWB group)
January 12, 2011

Purpose: Indictment and arrest of approximately 19 individuals involved in firearms trafficking to Mexican drug trafficking organizations/cartels.

Date of Operation: January 25, 2011.

Background: Since October 2009, ATF and other partners have been investigating a firearm trafficking organization that is being funded by a drug trafficking organization involved in violent criminal activity in Mexico, southern Arizona, and other regions of the United States. These acts involve violations of Federal firearms, narcotics, money laundering, and conspiracy statutes.

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 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.

[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, 278 firearms and over 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.

Evidence in ATF Custody: 278 firearms, 250 "drum" magazines, thousands of rounds of various caliber ammunition.

OPERATION DETAILS:

Command Post: [REDACTED]

Incident Commander(s): ASAC Jim Needles.

Arrest Teams: [REDACTED]

Additional ATF Support: No additional ATF support outside the reporting division will be needed to complete the operation.

Specialized ATF Support: ATF Special Response Team.

Issues/Problems: No issues or problems are anticipated.

Anticipated Seizures: No significant seizures are anticipated during the enforcement operation.

Media: Acting Director Melson, SAC Newell, and United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Dennis Burke will hold a press conference.

Action or Follow-up: This is considered "Phase I" of the judicial process. ATF has identified approximately 20 additional straw purchasers associated with this organization. Subsequent indictments and superseding indictments are anticipated.

Participants: ATF, Internal Revenue Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Homeland Security Investigations), U.S. Marshals Service, Phoenix Police Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of the Inspector General.

Case Agent: [redacted] ATF

Telephone: [redacted]

RAC/GS: [redacted] ATF

Telephone: [redacted]

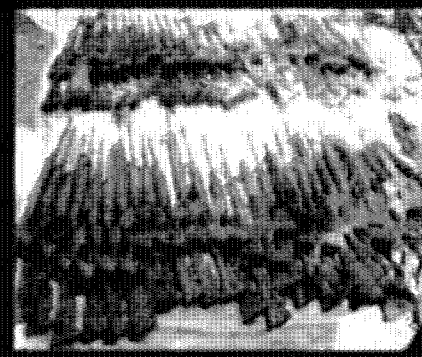
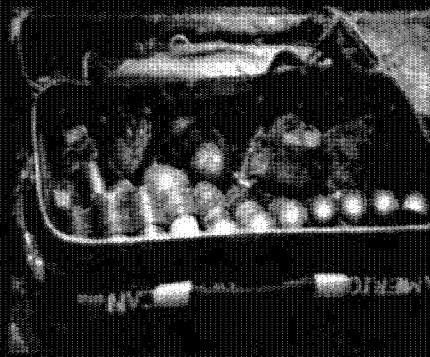


FIREARMS & EXPLOSIVES TRAFFICKING INTELLIGENCE UNIT



IRON RIVER

GUN VIOLENCE & ILLEGAL FIREARMS TRAFFICKING ON THE U.S. - MEXICO BORDER





LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

FIREARMS & EXPLOSIVES TRAFFICKING INTELLIGENCE UNIT

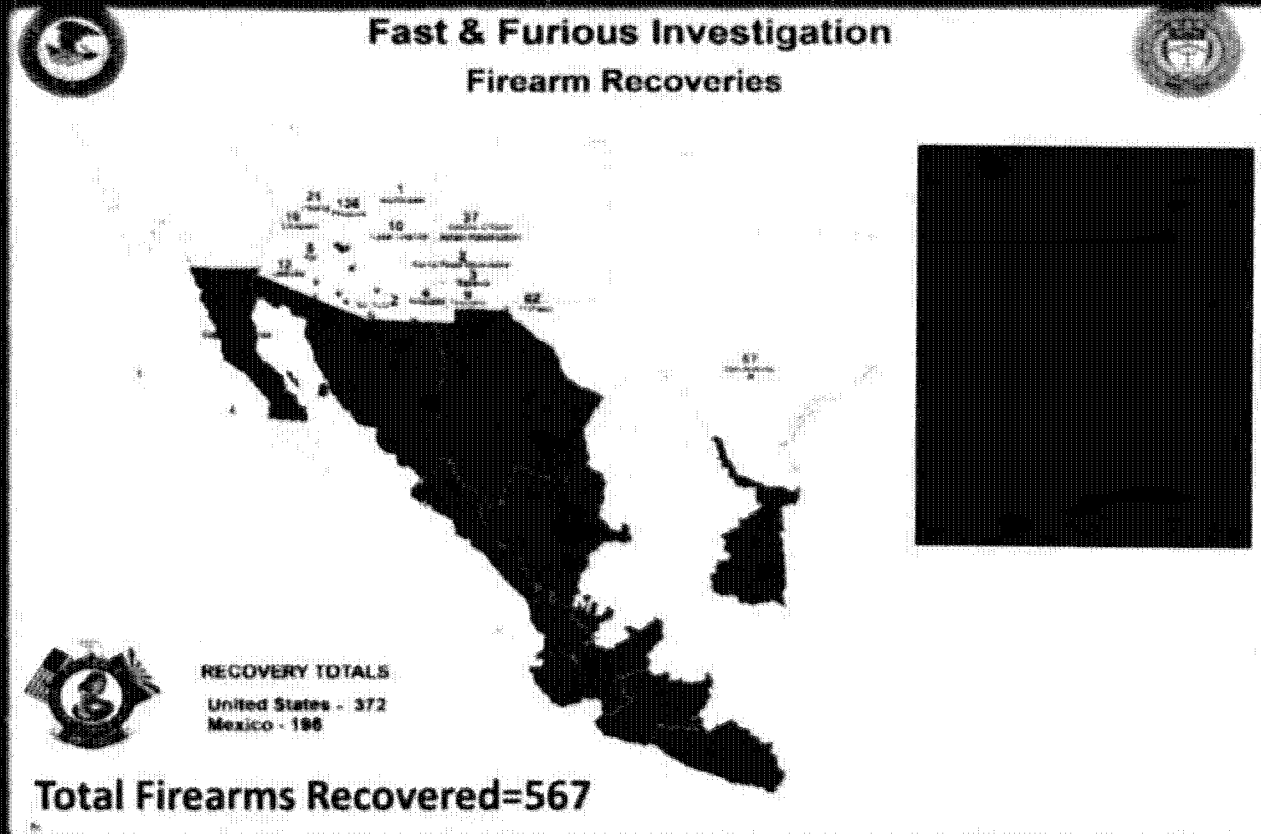
This information is ORCON. Further dissemination and forwarding of this information/email is prohibited without ATF prior approval.

FAST & FURIOUS OCDETF INVESTIGATION

United States of America

vs.

1. [REDACTED] ATF
2. Hector Rolando Carlon
3. Julio Jose Carrillo
4. Alfredo Celis
5. Manuel Fabian Celis Acosta
6. Jacob Wayne Chambers
7. [REDACTED] ATF
8. Jonathan Earvin Fernandez
9. Dejan Hercegovac
10. Kristi Gail Ireland
11. Juan Jose Martinez Gonzalez
12. Jacob Anthony Montelongo
13. Joshua David Moore
14. Danny Cruz Morones
15. [REDACTED] ATF
16. Jose Angel Polanco
17. Francisco Javier Ponce
18. John William Rowland
19. Sean Christopher Steward
20. Kenneth James Thompson



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LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

HOGRAF - 001507

DOJ-FF-44501



On January 25, 2011, multi-agency law enforcement officers under the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) conducted an earlier morning round up and arrested 20 defendants named in the 53-count [ATF] indictment, which was unsealed.

The [ATF] indictment alleges that from approximately September 2009 to December of 2010, the defendants conspired to purchase more than 700 firearms to be illegally exported to Mexico. The defendants, none of whom are licensed firearms dealers, acted as "straw purchasers" by falsely declaring that they were buying the weapons for themselves. The Firearms Trafficking Organization was allegedly purchasing the firearms in support of the Sinaloa cartel. As depicted on the map a total of 567 firearms were recovered, a third in Mexico. The majority of the Mexico recoveries were in the Mexican States of Baja California (74) and Sonora (71) and the U.S. recoveries were mainly in Arizona (253). A total of 62 firearms were recovered in El Paso, Texas and 12 across the border in the Mexican State of Chihuahua.

Most of the firearms identified in the indictment came from [ATF] in Glendale, Arizona. The indictment states that [ATF] who is accused of buying 239 weapons for the ring, bought all but nine from the Glendale store. Most of the firearms purchased by this organization were AK 47 type rifles.

The indictment states that 41 firearms bought by [ATF] were found on February 20, 2010 in an SUV that was abandoned near the US-Mexico border on the Tohono O'odham Nation land. Thirty-Seven of these were AK-47 type rifles and 3 were handguns.

These cases are being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for Arizona.

From: Beebe, Cynthia A.
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2010 12:53 PM
To: Chicago Supervisors
Subject: FW: OCTOBER ROLL CALL - 1811s
Attachments: Cartel Strategy ADFO Memo 090810 scan.pdf; Cartel Strategy Memo 9-7-10.docx; Cartel Strategy NFORCE screens POWER POINT.pptx; Roll Call Sign-In Sheet.doc

Hi,
 fyi –

Cindy

From: Outlaw, Wanda C.
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2010 11:01 AM
To: Ahrens, Patrycja B.; All ASACS; All Directors, Industry Operations; Alvarez, Gena B.; Arbogast, Beth; Armentrout, Eileen M.; Beardsley, Kristine K.; Beebe, Cynthia A.; Boyce, Trecia A.; Boykin, Lisa T.; Bradley, Karen J.; Buonocore, Peter J.; Campbell, Susanne M.; Chrisfield, Nancy A.; Clarke, Nancy M.; Cockrell, Mary L.; Croke, Angelina N.; Curtis, Timothy J.; Davis, Joshua C.; Del Razo, Walter A.; Delwiche, Deborah D.; Dwyer, Cathy A.; Earsom, Bobbe; Filides, Bill; Fusco, Darlene A.; Ginyard, Angela J.; Gunther, Debbie L.; Heiler, Susan K.; Hissam, Jacqueline A.; Holzbeierlein, Robin L.; Hong, Edward; Horn, Tamira L.; Hubbard, Linda G.; Jefferson, Brenda M.; King, Timothy R.; Kuffrey, Karen M.; Lacourse, Sandra R.; Leon, Cecelia; Levy, Julie P.; Mack, Karen L.; Makel, Gloria J.; Manes, Robin A.; Martinez, Jennifer K.; McDaniel, Cheryl Y.; Milledge, Regina M.; Morosky, Jaime L.; Noel, Marjorie R.; Perdas, Andrew M.; Priority Items - Field Operations Public Folders; Reza, Antonia; Riotto, Maria; Saunders, Schlevia E.; Sherlock, Sandra Y.; Showalter, Laura T.; Smith, Karen L.; St. Pierre, Susanne C.; Tani, Kathy A.; Taylor, Juanita M.; Klein, Thomas H.; Usera, Madeline M.; Velazquez, Vilkie; Vines, Therese L.; Weber, Clare A.; Wong, Kathryn T. F.; Young, Richard S.; Younger, Yvette K.
Cc: Boykin, Lisa T.; Klein, Thomas H.; King, Timothy R.; Arbogast, Beth
Subject: OCTOBER ROLL CALL - 1811s

you limit your choices only to what seems possible or reasonable, you disconnect yourself from what you truly want, and all that is left is a compromise. If you limit your choices only to what seems possible or

OCTOBER ROLL CALL INSTRUCTIONS:

This message will serve to provide Roll Call training materials on **Project Gunrunner—A Cartel Focused Strategy** that includes: the AD's Memo, the Cartel Strategy Memorandum, a Power Point presentation and the Roll Call Sign-In Sheet.

The memorandum and the strategy document outline the increased national emphasis on firearms trafficking enforcement related to the Southwest border, as well as the importance of identifying and prioritizing those investigations in which a nexus to Mexican drug trafficking organizations and cartels may be established. Initially implemented in our four Southwest border field divisions, Project Gunrunner has evolved into a national strategy as we have seen cartels reach further into the interior of the U.S. to acquire firearms in support of their lucrative drug trafficking operations. The revised strategy acknowledges and incorporates an investigative approach already implemented by several ATF field divisions and reiterates the primary responsibility of the field special agents in charge for implementation of the strategy. This document recognizes that Project Gunrunner is both an ATF strategy and a component of a larger U.S. Government counternarcotics strategy. Our success is contingent upon the effective use of our regulatory, investigative, technical, intelligence, training, liaison, and public/industry outreach capabilities. The success of Gunrunner is also dependent on our ability to secure prosecutions appropriate to the criminal conduct. It is imperative that comprehensive, complex criminal investigations that link firearms traffickers to violent drug trafficking organizations and operations be conducted in order to leverage the prosecutorial advantages afforded by a wider array of criminal and civil statutes.

Vital to our ability to track and report our efforts is the timely and accurate reporting of information in our case management system (e.g., N-Force and N-Spect). The Cartel Strategy document and the attachments to this memorandum provide detailed guidance for agents and industry operations investigators on coding investigative activity in N-Force and N-Spect. Recent enhancements to N-Force allow us to document investigations involving specific Mexican cartels in the same manner as U.S. street gangs and outlaw motorcycle organizations. All special agents and industry operations investigators should be familiar with these procedures.

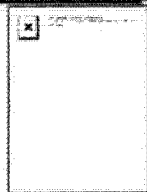
Please use the attachment titled "Roll Call Sign-In Sheet" to ensure proper recording of all employees who have

received this training so that attendance can be properly and timely entered into learnATF by field training coordinators.

General questions regarding Roll Call training should be forwarded to Training Specialist, Wanda Outlaw, Continuing Education Branch, at [REDACTED]. Thank you!

"Under this Order, you may not disclose any information to the public without authority. (See 28 CFR Part 16). If you fail to receive authority prior to releasing official ATF information, then you are potentially in violation of ATF's Standard of Conduct Order."

Wanda C. Outlaw
Training Specialist
Leadership & Occupational Development Division
99 New York Avenue NE
Suite 2E-417
Washington, DC 20226
[REDACTED] office
[REDACTED] FAX
[REDACTED]@atf.gov



Spirit From Within

"Attitudes are contagious...so ask yourself, is mine worth catching." you limit your choices only to what seems possible or reasonable, you disconnect yourself from what you truly want, and all that is left is a compromise. If you limit your choices only to what seems possible or reasonable, you disconnect yourself from what you truly want, and all that is left is a compromise.

From: Traver, Andrew L.
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2010 5:31 PM
To: Nichols, Dana K.; Allison, James S.; Fitzgerald, Michael J.
Subject: FW: Project Gunrunner - A Cartel Focused Strategy (3317)
Attachments: Cartel Strategy NFORCE screens 091610.pptx; Cartel Strategy 9-7-10.docx; Cartel Strategy ADFO Memo 090810 scan.pdf

FYI and implementation. Thanks.

Andrew L. Traver
 Special Agent In Charge
 ATF-Chicago Field Division
 [REDACTED] (Office)
 [REDACTED] (Cell)

" I will never quit. I persevere and thrive on adversity. When knocked down I will get back up every time. I am never out of the fight."

From: ATF
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2010 2:24 PM
To: All Special Agents in Charge
Cc: Shoemaker, Stephanie R.; Firearms Operations Division (FOD); Kumor, Daniel J.; Vidoli, Marino F.; Riehl, Joseph M.; Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.; Torres, Julie M.; Boxler, Michael B.; McCabe, Harry L.
Subject: Project Gunrunner - A Cartel Focused Strategy (3317)

All Special Agents in Charge:

Attached is a memorandum from the Assistant Director (Field Operations) discussing and transmitting a document entitled *Project Gunrunner – A Cartel Focused Strategy*. The memorandum and the strategy document outline our increased national emphasis on firearms trafficking enforcement related to the Southwest border, as well as the importance of identifying and prioritizing those investigations in which a nexus to Mexican drug trafficking organizations and cartels may be established.

Initially implemented in our four Southwest border field divisions, Project Gunrunner has evolved into a national strategy as we have seen cartels reach further into the interior of the U.S. to acquire firearms in support of their lucrative drug trafficking operations. The revised strategy acknowledges and incorporates an investigative approach already implemented by several ATF field divisions and reiterates the primary responsibility of the field special agents in charge for implementation of the strategy. This document recognizes that Project Gunrunner is both an ATF strategy and a component of a larger U.S. Government counternarcotics strategy. Our success is contingent upon the effective use of our regulatory, investigative, technical, intelligence, training, liaison, and public/industry outreach capabilities. The success of Gunrunner is also dependent on our ability to secure prosecutions appropriate to the criminal conduct. It is imperative that comprehensive, complex criminal investigations that link firearms traffickers to violent drug trafficking organizations and operations be conducted in order to leverage the prosecutorial advantages afforded by a wider array of criminal and civil statutes.

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file://Z:\Produce\JSA\Allison\FW Project Gunrunner - A Cartel Focused Strategy (3317).htm 6/16/2011

HOCR ATF - 001511

DOJ-FF-44505

Please review and internally disseminate the memorandum, the *Project Gunrunner – A Cartel Focused Strategy* document, and other attachments to ensure complete understanding and proper implementation of our revised priorities. Please address any questions about this material to [ATF] ATF Southwest Border National Coordinator at [REDACTED] or [ATF] Chief, Firearms Operations Division at [REDACTED].

ATF

Chief, Firearms Operations Division
ATF HQ - Room 6.S.129

[REDACTED], Cell [REDACTED]

Request Summary

Itinerary #:586165
Request Summary

Date Requested:1/7/2011

Travel Itinerary				
Destination Country	Destination Cities	Start Date	End Date	Status
MEXICO	Mexico City, Mexico	1/10/2011	1/14/2011	APPROVED

Travelers

Name: ATF

Contact Info: ██████████@atf.gov

Country of Birth: USA

Emergency Contact: In case of emergence contact 202-648-7777

Clearance: Top Secret

Clearance Verification: All ATF employees clearances are provided by the Office of Internal Affairs

Agency: Department of Justice/ATF

Employment Type: Direct Hire

Passport Type: Official

Passport #: ██████████

Passport Country: USA

Other Group Members:

None

Carrier Information					
Carrier and #	Mode	Departure Point	Departure Date/Time	Arrival Point	Arrival Date/Time
US Airway flight 173	Air	Phoenix, AZ	1/10/2011 10:49:00 AM	Mexico City, Mexico	1/10/2011 2:47:00 PM
US Airways flight 174	Air	Mexico City, Mexico	1/14/2011 3:40:00 PM	Phoenix, AZ	1/14/2011 6:10:00 PM

Request Details

MEXICO				
Clearance From	Agency/Section	Arrival Date	Departure Date	Status
MEXICO/MEXICO CITY	BUREAU OF ALCOHOL TOBACCO AND FIREARMS	1/10/2011	1/14/2011	APPROVED
Other Posts & Sections to be Informed of Visit		Destination Cities: Mexico City, Mexico		

HOCR ATF - 001513

DOJ-FF-44507

Post	Section	Purpose of Visit: ATF Special Agent
	None	ATF [redacted] will travel to Mexico City to examine recovered firearms (accompanied by ATF S/A Jose Wall), in furtherance of ODETF Investigation "Fast and Furious" ATF 785115-10-0004 [redacted]
		Access to Building Required? No POC at Post: ATF Deputy Country Attache [redacted] Access to PCC Required? No VIP Visit? No

Assistance	
Need Lodging Reservations? No	Appointment Request? No
Need Airport Assistance/Transportation? No	Other Needed Assistance? No
Have Accompanying Pouch? No	Fiscal Data None
Other Comments/Remarks	

Lodging Accommodations					
Lodging Name	Street Address	City	Rate	Local Telephone #	Confirmation #
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

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If you would like all automatic email transactions to be CC'd to another email account, please specify the email address here:

To CC multiple email addresses, delimit the addresses with a semicolon

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