
From: Hoover, William J. (ATF)
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
CC: Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); [ATF] (ATF)
Sent: 7/5/2011 4:48:43 PM
Subject: FW: Concerns regarding my testimony before Congress in "Operation Fast and Furious".

Matt,

Another for discussion at 2pm.

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) 202-648 [ATF]

***** NOTICE: This electronic transmission is confidential and intended only for the person(s) to whom it is addressed. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and destroy this message in its entirety (including all attachments).

From: Hoover, William J.
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2011 4:13 PM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.; [ATF]
Subject: FW: Concerns regarding my testimony before Congress in "Operation Fast and Furious".

FYI

Billy

William J. Hoover
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
O) 202-648 [ATF]

***** NOTICE: This electronic transmission is confidential and intended only for the person(s) to whom it is addressed. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and destroy this message in its entirety (including all attachments).

From: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 9:01 PM
To: Hoover, William J.
Subject: Fw: Concerns regarding my testimony before Congress in "Operation Fast and Furious".

Fyi

NOTICE: This e-mail message and any attached files are intended solely for the use of the addressee(s) named above in connection with official business. This communication may contain Sensitive But Unclassified information that may be statutorily or otherwise prohibited from being released without appropriate approval. Any review, use, or dissemination of this e-mail message and any attached file(s) in any form outside of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives or the Department of Justice without express authorization is strictly prohibited.

From: Brandon, Thomas E.
To: Chait, Mark R.; McMahon, William G.
Sent: Wed Jun 29 20:29:17 2011
Subject: FW: Concerns regarding my testimony before Congress in "Operation Fast and Furious".

Mark/Bill,

I'll call you guys tomorrow morning.

Tom

NOTICE: This e-mail message and any attached files are intended solely for the use of the addressee(s) named above in connection with official business. This communication may contain Sensitive But Unclassified information that may be statutorily or otherwise prohibited from being released without appropriate approval. Any review, use, or dissemination of this e-mail message and any attached file(s) in any form outside of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives or the Department of Justice without express authorization is strictly prohibited.

From: Anarumo, Joseph A.
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 10:51 AM
To: Brandon, Thomas E.
Subject: FW: Concerns regarding my testimony before Congress in "Operation Fast and Furious".

Sir, wanted to push this your way, I have spoken to **ATF** about this and this is in no way to be viewed as a demand letter. He is just concerned about the current state of affairs.

Regards,
Joe

NOTICE: This e-mail message and any attached files are intended solely for the use of the addressee(s) named above in connection with official business. This communication may contain Sensitive But Unclassified information that may be statutorily or otherwise prohibited from being released without appropriate approval. Any review, use, or dissemination of this e-mail message and any attached file(s) in any form outside of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives or the Department of Justice without express authorization is strictly prohibited.

From: **ATF**
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 5:56 PM
To: Anarumo, Joseph A.
Subject: Concerns regarding my testimony before Congress in "Operation Fast and Furious".

I am forwarding this correspondence as a dedicated employee and group supervisor in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, who has been placed in a situation which now leaves me concerned for my career, as well as for any potential advancement opportunities that may arise.

As you know, on June 15th, 2011, I was compelled by a congressional subpoena to provide testimony in

the inquiry that was initiated by the Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. I provided truthful testimony, as required by law, but also as mandated by my duty to ATF. I was also compelled to make truthful statements to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General in regards to this matter, that do not paint a pretty picture for the former command staff at the Phoenix Field Division

In my testimony, I made references to what I believed to be serious failures of leadership by the former Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the Phoenix Field Division William Newell, Assistant Special Agent in Charge George Gillett, and Group Supervisor [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] These failures of leadership included:

Allowing agents under their command to witness criminal activity, which posed a danger to the public, without taking appropriate police action.

In this case, ATF Agents witnessed, and in some limited cases encouraged, straw purchases to occur with the knowledge that the firearms purchased would ultimately be transferred to members of drug trafficking organizations. While these transactions were watched and sometimes videotaped, no interdiction efforts were undertaken. Furthermore, surveillances were often terminated in the greater Phoenix area, meaning that these firearms posed, and may continue to pose, a threat to law enforcement officers working in Phoenix, Arizona (and elsewhere in the United States) just as readily as they do to Mexican law enforcement authorities. SAC Newell and ASAC Gillett oversaw the case, and were familiar with the operational plans, which in some cases had GS-7s, -9's- and 11s as On-Scene Commanders over experienced GS-13 level field agents, in stark contrast with all of the policies we normally adhere to.

Failing to address serious ongoing issues with prosecutors from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona.

There have been long standing issues with respect to firearms prosecutions within the Phoenix Office of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona. [REDACTED] DP [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DP [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DP [REDACTED] In short, in my four-plus years as a supervisor in the Phoenix Field Division, aside from myself, the only other supervisor from ATF Phoenix who actively engaged in demanding accountability from the USAO was ASAC Jim Needles. SAC Newell and ASAC Gillett either ignored the issues, or at a minimum failed to adequately engage when dealing with the USAO in Phoenix, which may have contributed to the current situation in the "Fast and Furious case which has caused ATF such embarrassment .

Internal accountability

There were several agents, myself included, who at some point during the "Fast and Furious" case, voiced concern for the safety of the public and the tactic of "walking firearms." While my concerns were basically ignored, the concerns of others were met with more deliberate action. Special Agents [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] were transferred from Group VII. Interestingly, IRS [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] who very actively assisted in keeping the intell in the Fast and Furious case from the watchful eyes of HQ or Mexico City Office personnel, was promoted (albeit temporarily- pending a draft proposal) to run the Intell Group. This after several members of the Intell Group had previously

made formal complaints about IRS [ATF] creating a hostile work environment, which were downplayed by ASAC Gillett and SAC Newell. ASAC Gillett went as far as to verbally admonish me for listening to the complaint made by IRS [ATF] stating that I should have told her to leave my office and that the Intell Group was not within my chain of command. Additionally, SAC Newell, after the "Fast and Furious" case broke, was frequently heard advising agents that "we (ATF) never walked guns." Many of these very agents, were in fact the same agents who were ordered to stand down on interdicting guns in the "Fast and Furious" case. SAC Newell continued to frequently boast that the case agent deserved an award for the case, despite the fact that many agents feared that a Border Patrol Agent may have been killed with a "walked" gun, a fact that I cannot say is or is not true. The result was however, a complete breakdown in trust for the former command structure within the Phoenix Field Division.

Upward and outward accountability

Since the investigation into the "Fast and Furious" case missteps began, it has become apparent that Phoenix Field Division SAC Newell did not thoroughly brief his chain of command in ATF Headquarters. There seemed to be shock and outrage over the number of guns that were surveilled at the time of their purchase, but not interdicted in this case. This has led to outrage within ATF's hierarchy, but extended to our federal, state and local partners. I have received phone calls from members of other federal agencies, including an official who is appointed by the President of the United States, who have voiced serious disappointment in SAC Newell's judgment, and worse, in his denials to them that the "walking of guns" ever occurred. Fortunately, these individuals also know that this case is not the manner in which ATF Agents normally conduct business.

I have 25 years of law enforcement experience, and have until this point enjoyed a very good reputation within the law enforcement communities in which I have worked. I have had the honor to work with some of the finest agents that ATF has in its ranks, and had the privilege of working with some of the finest prosecutors employed by the United States Department of Justice. I have worked on numerous complex cases, in which I put many armed criminals in prison, and in quite a few instances put them in jail for life. I also had the distinct honor, on my last case while assigned to the New York Field Division, of working to have two men who were wrongfully accused of murder- freed. One of those men, [ATF] was in jail awaiting trial for a murder he did not commit. The other [ATF] had been convicted by a jury and had spent over 10 years in prison based upon a misidentification. I freed those men using the same investigative tools that I had used to put many criminals in jail. Tools that, as you heard [or read] in my testimony, were not available to ATF Agents in Phoenix. Those tools, coupled with the relentless pursuit of the truth made for powerful weapons in the war on crime. I will continue to fight the war, with all of my resolve, as a proud member of ATF.

Now to address my concerns:

Because of the actions of few, I was forced to testify before congress, and to provide testimony under oath to the Office of the Inspector General. Many of those about whom I've had to provide damaging testimony are now assigned to posts of duty at ATF Headquarters. Due to their GS-15 level, or in some instances SES level, it is likely that they will remain in a headquarters position for the foreseeable future. *This would make a headquarters assignment for me at least uncomfortable, and at most hostile.* I only state this as a concern because I will need to complete "headquarters time" in order to be eligible for promotion to the GS-15 level under our current policy.

In addition, I would need to participate in the GS-15 Assessment Center. In doing so, I would need to be graded by the peers of some of the individuals about whom I was compelled to provide truthful, but

damaging testimony. I am very concerned that some of the assessors may have a bias towards me, based upon previous relationships with those in the former Phoenix Field Division chain of command, about whom I was compelled to testify.

DP

DP

Prior to my testimony, I voluntarily uprooted my family and relocated to Phoenix. I did so to pursue a career in supervision within ATF. After over twenty years in law enforcement, all of it "in the street", I feel that I have something to offer the bureau. Since my promotion, I have vigorously pursued leadership training opportunities, including "out of bureau" training opportunities, and will continue to strive to become a respected leader within our agency.

In the interest of transparency, I would also like to make it clear that I would be interested in filling one of the ASAC vacancies which will be announced in the Phoenix Field Division. I believe that I can serve SAC Brandon well in that I have developed strong working relationships with our federal, state and local partners in the Phoenix area. I have also displayed accountability to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Phoenix, as well as the commitment to hold them accountable.

Furthermore,

DP

DP

I continue to believe that ATF is the finest law enforcement agency in the world.

I would be willing to discuss this in person, if that would be of interest to any of the parties in the decision making process.

I thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter.

ATF

NOTICE: This electronic transmission is confidential and intended only for the person(s) to whom it is addressed. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and destroy this message in its entirety (including all attachments).

NOTICE: This e-mail message and any attached files are intended solely for the use of the addressee(s) named above in connection with official business. This communication may contain Sensitive But Unclassified information that may be statutorily or otherwise prohibited from being released without appropriate approval. Any review, use, or dissemination of this e-mail message and any attached file(s) in any form outside of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives or the Department of Justice without express authorization is strictly prohibited.