
From: Moran, Molly (OAG)
To: **Attorney General**
CC: Grindler, Gary (OAG); Wilkinson, Monty (OAG)
Sent: 7/11/2011 9:31:10 PM
Subject: Fw: Long Gun Clips

OMB approved the long gun form earlier today. Some clips thus far are below. Not surprisingly, Rep. Lamar Smith issued a statement critical of today's action (pasted below).

"It is the height of hypocrisy for the Obama administration to restrict the gun rights of border state citizens, when the administration itself knowingly and intentionally allowed guns to be trafficked into Mexico. ... This rule unfairly punishes citizens in Border States who have the right to purchase firearms to protect themselves and their families from dangerous drug traffickers and human smugglers." (Rep. Lamar Smith)

From: Schmalzer, Tracy (SMO)
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 05:12 PM
To: Cole, James (SMO); Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG); O'Neil, David (ODAG); Moran, Molly (OAG); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); Reich, Steven (ODAG)
Subject: Long Gun Clips

ATF to require gun buyer information on border
Associated Press – Pete Yost

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an effort to stem the illicit flow of weapons into Mexico, the Justice Department announced Monday that all gun shops in four Southwest border states will be required to alert the federal government to frequent buyers of high-powered rifles.

The new policy comes amid criticism of a failed federal probe aimed at dismantling large-scale arms trafficking networks along the Arizona border with Mexico.

In the probe, called Operation Fast and Furious, several agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives say they were inexplicably ordered by superiors to stop tracking some small-time "straw" buyers who purchased large numbers of weapons apparently destined for drug cartels.

Under the new policy, federal firearms licensees in Texas, California, Arizona and New Mexico must report purchases of two or more of some types of rifles by the same person in a five-day span. The requirement applies to purchases of semi-automatic rifles that have detachable magazines and a caliber of greater than .22.

ATF estimates it will generate 18,000 reports a year.

Deputy Attorney General James Cole said the new reporting measure will improve the ATF's ability to disrupt illegal weapons trafficking networks that funnel firearms to criminal organizations

One of the critics of Operation Fast and Furious called the new policy "the height of hypocrisy." The Obama administration is restricting the gun rights of border state citizens, "when the administration knowingly and intentionally allowed guns to be trafficked into Mexico," said House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith, R-Texas.

"Limiting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens is not going to solve the problem," Smith said.

ATF estimates the requirement will cover nearly 8,500 gun store operators in the four states, though less than 30 percent of those operators are expected to have multiple sales to report.

ATF will retain the information and if no investigative leads have been realized after two years, it will be purged.

Holders of federal firearms licenses already report multiple sales of handguns. The results go to the National Tracing Center, and ATF says it has led to successful prosecutions for firearms trafficking.

Gun Sellers to Alert U.S. on Some Rifle Buys

Bloomberg - Justin Blum

Gun sellers in states on the U.S.- Mexico border will have to report to the federal government if a customer buys two or more semiautomatic rifles over five days that are greater than .22 caliber and include a detachable magazine. The requirement, part of a year-long pilot program, will improve the government's ability to detect illegal weapons-trafficking networks that divert firearms to criminals, said Deputy Attorney General James Cole in a statement today.

"The international expansion and increased violence of transnational criminal networks pose a significant threat to the United States," Cole said. The requirement will help "confront the problem of illegal gun trafficking into Mexico and along the Southwest border."

The program will affect about 8,500 gun sellers in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, said a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives official, who spoke on condition of anonymity and wasn't authorized to discuss the matter. They will be required to report the purchases to the ATF within 24 hours, the official said.

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Federal Authorities To Collect More Data On Gun Buyers Along Border

NPR – Carrie Johnson

The Obama White House has cleared the way for federal authorities to get more information on gun purchases along the southwest border.

Dealers who sell multiple semi-automatic weapons to the same person in a short period of time must report the sales to federal authorities.

The new rule will apply in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas — states where illegal gun running from the U.S. to Mexico is rampant — and comes as gun trafficking along the border gets scrutiny from Congress.

Deputy Attorney General Jim Cole says people who buy several semi-automatic rifles with detachable magazines in a 5-day period will be reported to federal authorities.

Those weapons are popular among Mexican drug cartels and they're often found at crime scenes along the border. The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms had asked for the measure last year, but the White House stalled.

The effort got revived recently, amid investigations by Republican lawmakers into a failed federal gun trafficking operation known as Fast and Furious.

As we have reported previously (see posts [here](#) and [here](#)) during Fast and Furious:

Federal investigators wanted to follow the flow of guns from the U.S. into the hands of deadly Mexican drug cartels. So, in what's become known as "gunwalking," they monitored illegal gun purchases — but allowed the buyers to walk away with the weapons. Some of the weapons, including at the scene where a U.S. border agent was killed, were traced to Fast and Furious.

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, issued a statement today saying, in part, that:

"It is the height of hypocrisy for the Obama administration to restrict the gun rights of border state citizens, when the administration itself knowingly and intentionally allowed guns to be trafficked into Mexico. ... This rule unfairly punishes citizens in Border States who have the right to purchase firearms to protect themselves and their families from dangerous drug traffickers and human smugglers."

But Cole, in a statement, said that:

"This new reporting measure — tailored to focus only on multiple sales of these types of rifles to the same person within a five-day period — will improve the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to detect and disrupt the illegal weapons trafficking networks responsible for diverting firearms from lawful commerce to criminals and criminal organizations."

Border gun dealers told to share more info on buyers

Houston Chronicle – Dane Schiller

Gun dealers all along the U.S.-Mexico border will now have to let the federal government know the names of customers who buy two or more of certain rifles or shotguns that are the styles preferred by Mexican drug cartels, officials said.

The announcement came Monday afternoon by Deputy Attorney General James Cole following a long-time request by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for such reporting to make it more efficient to determine who is buying the guns and whether they are being shipped to organized crime groups in Mexico.

The specific requirement applies to the purchase in border states of certain types of semi-automatic rifles – greater than .22 caliber and with the ability to accept an ammunition magazines within a five day period.

It is unclear when the reporting requirement will begin.

To Combat Gun Trafficking, ATF Ask Dealers To Report Sales Of Semi-Automatic Rifles

Talking Points Memo – Ryan J. Reilly

Amid ongoing probes of the ATF Fast and Furious scandal, the Obama administration announced Monday that they are asking gun dealers in four border states to report when they sell two or more semi-automatic weapons to an individual in a period of five business days.

The rule, enforced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), is meant to slow the trafficking of weapons across the Southern border and into the hands of Mexican drug cartels.

"The international expansion and increased violence of transnational criminal networks pose a significant threat to the United States," Deputy Attorney General James Cole said in a statement.

"This new reporting measure -- tailored to focus only on multiple sales of these types of rifles to the same person within a five-day period -- will improve the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to detect and disrupt the illegal weapons trafficking networks responsible for diverting firearms from lawful commerce to criminals and criminal organizations," Cole said.

Cole said the "targeted information requests" would occur in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas. The administration sought comments on the rule in the Federal Register in April.

"Federal, state and foreign law enforcement agencies have determined that certain types of semi-automatic rifles - greater than .22 caliber and with the ability to accept a detachable magazine - are highly sought after by dangerous drug trafficking organizations and frequently recovered at violent crime scenes near the Southwest Border," Cole said.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) quickly slammed the new measure, calling it the "height of hypocrisy for the Obama administration to restrict the gun rights of border state citizens, when the administration itself knowingly and intentionally allowed guns to be trafficked into Mexico."

"Limiting the second amendment rights of law abiding citizens is not going to solve the problem of guns being trafficked into Mexico," Smith said in a statement. "An additional reporting requirement won't stop drug cartels from getting weapons. This rule unfairly punishes citizens in Border States who have the right to purchase firearms to protect themselves and their families from dangerous drug traffickers and human smugglers."

Obama's Justice Department also plans to introduce a new electronic system that will make background checks for handgun buyers simpler and faster and has imposed tougher sentencing guidelines for "straw buyers," the Daily Beast reports.

New Requirement Imposed On Texas Gun Dealers

The federal government is imposing a new requirement on gun dealers in Texas and three other southwestern states in an effort to slow arms trafficking along the U.S.-Mexico border.

KWTX

WASHINGTON (July 11, 2011)—The U.S. Justice Department says gun shops in Texas and three other southwestern states will be required to alert the federal government to frequent buyers of high-powered rifles in an effort to stem the illicit flow of weapons into Mexico.

The new policy comes in the wake of widespread criticism of a failed federal probe called Operation Fast and Furious aimed at dismantling large-scale arms trafficking networks along the Arizona border with Mexico.

Under the new policy, federal firearms licensees in Texas, California, Arizona and New Mexico must report purchases of two or more of some types of rifles by the same person in a five-day span.

The requirement applies to purchases of semi-automatic rifles that accept detachable magazines and have a caliber of greater than .22.

“The international expansion and increased violence of transnational criminal networks pose a significant threat to the United States. Federal, state and foreign law enforcement agencies have determined that certain types of semi-automatic rifles – greater than .22 caliber and with the ability to accept a detachable magazine – are highly sought after by dangerous drug trafficking organizations and frequently recovered at violent crime scenes near the Southwest Border,” said deputy attorney general James Cole.

“This new reporting measure -- tailored to focus only on multiple sales of these types of rifles to the same person within a five-day period -- will improve the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to detect and disrupt the illegal weapons trafficking networks responsible for diverting firearms from lawful commerce to criminals and criminal organizations,” he said.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives estimates that the new requirement will generate 18,000 reports a year.