

Chait, Mark R.

From: Chait, Mark R.
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 10:25 AM
To: Newell, William D.
Cc: McMahon, William G.
Subject: Re: SIR

Bill - can you see if these guns were all purchased from same FFL and at one time. We are looking at anecdotal cases to support a demand letter on long gun multiple sales. Thanks Mark R. Chait Assistant
~~Director Field Operations~~

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

From: Newell, William D.
To: McMahon, William G.; [REDACTED]; Chait, Mark R.;

Sent: Tue Jul 13 19:37:57 2010
Subject: Fw: SIR

Another SIR coming. Same Group just discovered another load, related to same case, of 73 guns and about 220 drum magazines (75 round each of 7.62). At the same time same Group out on another deal related to same case regarding straw purchase of a \$10,000 .50 caliber firearm.
Bill Newell

Special Agent in Charge
ATF Phoenix Field Division (AZ and NM)
[REDACTED]

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

From: [REDACTED] **ATF**

HOGRAF - 001172

DOJ-FF-49064

To: Needles, James R.; Newell, William D.; **ATF**; Significant Activity Report

Sent: Tue Jul 13 18:54:52 2010

Subject: SIR

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION REPORT

DATE: July 13, 2010
FROM: Phoenix Field Division
FIELD OFFICE: Phoenix VII Field Office

CASE INFORMATION

CASE NUMBER: 785115-10-
CASE TITLE: **ATF** et al
SPECIAL AGENT: **ATF**
TELEPHONE NUMBER: **ATF**

SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY:

Recovery of 20 - 7.62 rifles as part of ongoing **ATF** investigation.

NARRATIVE OF INCIDENT/ACTIVITY:

ATF

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This recovery adds to the total of 96 firearms recovered in the previous 24 days by Group VII agents and GRIT agents assigned to Group VII as part of Southwest Border Firearms Trafficking investigations.

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2011 6:19 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: FW: Tentative indictments for Group VII
Attachments: Fast and Furious Talking Points for DAD.doc.docx; PHX GRIT Briefing - Sept 15th.pdf; Strike Force examples.pptx

Categories: Yellow Category, Red Category, Green Category

We plan on discussing all the cases below at the press conference. In all of them the main ATF charge is 18 USC 924(a)(1)(A) but also include 371, Dealing w/o a License, etc.

Since we just had the GRIT press conf in August and most if not all of the very same reporters will be coming I plan on creating a nexus between that last press conference and our most recent efforts to show the constant and ongoing efforts on our part to address the illegal trafficking of firearms to Mexico. We are also finalizing a handout very similar to the one we used for the GRIT (which Melson liked). (Copy attached of GRIT example as a reminder of what it looked like).

For Fast and Furious and a couple of the below cases we are going to plug the OCADETF Strike Force and the Gunrunner Group's role on the Strike Force, basically using the Arizona Strike Force's mission statement which is "focus investigations on the command and control elements of the Sinaloa Cartel and Arizona-based cells associated with the Cartel". The Strike Force's 5 investigative strategies include "#1 – Intelligence driven investigations that target CPOT-level members of the Sinaloa Cartel", "#2 - Identification and investigation of not only the northern transportation routes for narcotics, but a strict focus on the methods of operation used by the subordinate cartel cells in Arizona to transport drug related proceeds and weapons back to Mexico from and through Arizona", and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. We did these very things in the Fast and Furious so I feel strongly we lived up to our commitment to the OCADETF Strike Force concept as do our partners.

Also, the case listed under #4 below highlights very well the intermingling of [REDACTED], drug trafficking and firearms trafficking the Phoenix metro area. This case had it all and is a great example of how we work well with a local PD in quickly addressing not only [REDACTED] but also the associated firearms trafficking of 49 AKs that were purchased in very short order by a diverse group of straws (another reason to mention the long gun reporting issue). The short PowerPoint attachment highlights this case as well as an example of a map we used for GRIT that we are going to redo to include info on the seizure info of these cases. Use "ATF" to open.

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

From: Newell, William D.
Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2011 1:10 PM
To: McMahon, William G.
Subject: Fast and Furious Talking Points for DAD doc
Attachments: Fast and Furious Talking Points for DAD doc.docx

Categories: Yellow Category, Red Category, Green Category

Revised.

Phoenix Press Conference Key Messages and Talking Points:
(Some will be specific to Fast and Furious and some will address all the cases)

Key Messages:

Since the second GRIT initiative ended in August, 2009 the Phoenix Field Division has continued to proactively address firearms trafficking to Mexico in support of ATF's Project Gun Runner

These investigations demonstrate the commitment on the part of ATF and its Federal, State, Local, Tribal and International partners to address the criminal activity involved in the trafficking of firearms to Mexico

These investigations address the key goals of ATF's Southwest border firearms trafficking strategy which are:

- Prevent violent crime
- Ensure the safety of the communities situated along the Southwest Border
- Disrupt and dismantle the firearms trafficking networks responsible for the diversion of firearms from lawful commerce and into the hands of the Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs)

These investigations all involved tireless effort on the part of ATF employees using a wide variety of investigative methods to fully identify those responsible for trafficking firearms to Mexico

ATF's firearms tracing system, eTrace, played a key role in assisting in identifying the individuals involved in violating Federal firearms laws in these investigations

In all of these cases a large number of certain types of rifles, such as AR and AK variants with detachable magazines were purchased by straw purchasers as part of complex firearms trafficking organizations and then recovered in violent crimes in Mexico, according to ATF trace data, investigative experience, and Mexican law enforcement official reports

Substantiates the fact that Mexican DTOs and other associated criminal groups operating along the SWB are actively pursuing "weapons of choice" in U.S. commercial firearms market

These cases demonstrate the ongoing trafficking of firearms by Mexican DTOs and other associated groups operating in Arizona and the need for the reporting of multiple sales for certain types of rifles in order to ferret out those intent on providing firearms to these criminal groups

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Talking Points:

(Using the "Ws" method – you can change if you desire)

What:

- Proactive investigations focused on eliminating the entire firearms trafficking network, not just the straw purchasers
- ATF led firearms trafficking investigations into several firearms trafficking networks based in metro Phoenix
- Some initiated as early as October, 2009
- OCDETF Strike Force effort.
- Multi-agency (ICE, IRS, DEA, Phoenix PD)
- Almost exclusively "weapons of choice" which we have openly discussed many times before
- Alleged violations of Federal firearms laws by individuals involved in the illegal acquisition and transfer of firearms, money laundering, etc (the USAO will cover specific charges per case in more detail). Thus we should only state what is in the indictment when it comes to numbers of firearms. The indictment for Fast and Furious will not have the total number of firearms trafficked. Note: We have seized 352 firearms here in the U.S. in our effort to stop the trafficking while still making the larger case, and about 250 have been seized in Mexico. We will update the numbers again next week.

Who:

- Metro Phoenix area based complex firearms trafficking organizations

For Fast and Furious:

- [REDACTED]
- Firearms primarily destined for Sinaloa DTO (based on traces, seizures in Mexico and other investigative data gathered during investigations)
- A large group of straw purchasers [REDACTED] were used extensively to spread out purchases and evade detection (another time to address Multiple Sale on Long Guns issue)

How:

- Trafficking organizations used a large number of straw purchasers to spread out sales
- Shows straw purchases and the use of straw purchasers is still a major issue (lack of criminal history, need money, unlimited resource, etc)
- Firearms were purchased at numerous FFLs in the metro area

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- Firearms were trafficked to Mexico in a variety of ways but mainly in small loads using vehicles crossing into Mexico via POEs

For Internal ATF Use Only:

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