

BRIEFING PAPER

**Phoenix Field Division
Phoenix Group VII (Gunrunner/Strike Force)
785115-10-0004
January 8, 2010**

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.



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. It should be noted however that there has been one seizure in the Phoenix area related to the ongoing DEA narcotics trafficking investigation.

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[REDACTED] This is being coordinated out the Phoenix OCDETF Strike Force, of which Phoenix Group VII is a full-time member.

6. [REDACTED]

7. [REDACTED] ATF
[REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED]

8. On January 5, 2010, ASAC [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] GS [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] and case agent SA [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] 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

[REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED]

gathered. This investigation was briefed to United States Attorney Dennis Burke, who concurs with the assessment of his line prosecutors and fully supports the continuation of this investigation. Furthermore, Phoenix Special Agent in Charge Newell has repeatedly met with USA Burke regarding the on-going status of this investigation and [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]

10. A joint strategy/deconfliction 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. It should be noted that deconfliction in the OCDETF Strike Force is not the issue, rather there are several Arizona ICE offices involved in this investigation due to the location of the firearms seizures and coordination between the various ICE offices has been problematic. Even though ICE has a group at

the OCDETF Strike Force the other ICE offices in Arizona are under different ASACs and that has created a coordination issue amongst all parties involved. Phoenix SAC Newell has previously requested that ICE coordinate all their investigative activity out of the OCDETF Strike Force, of which ICE is a member, in order to eliminate the requirement of the ATF Strike Force to try to coordinate with several different ICE offices. This will be discussed at the January 15 meeting.

Investigative Techniques a/o Efforts Used to Date

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

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Investigative 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 in the firearms trafficking portion of this investigation. A formal OCDETF proposal is completed and will be presented on January 26, 2009, in furtherance of this investigation.

ATF

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14. The ultimate goal is to **ATF** [REDACTED] **ATF**

ATF

ATF [REDACTED] **ATF**