

**Phoenix Field Division
Phoenix Group VII (SWB Group)
Briefing Paper on: 785115-10-0004**

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. The straw-purchase suspects currently identified are associated with one another through

[REDACTED]

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.

3. **ATF**

[REDACTED]

ATF

4. **ATF**

5. [REDACTED]

Investigative Techniques Used to Date

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

[REDACTED]

Strategy

7. This investigation is currently being conducted in conjunction with the Phoenix DEA OCDETF strike force. ATF Phoenix VII is the lead investigating enforcement group. A formal OCDETF proposal is completed and will be presented on January 26, 2009, in furtherance of this investigation.

ATF

ATF

8.

ATF

9. The ultimate goal is to [REDACTED] identify and prosecute all co-conspirators of the DTO [REDACTED] ATF

ATF

Additional Resources

10. This investigation is a Southwest Border "Gunner" investigation initiated by Phoenix Group VII. Group VII did not exist in FY'09 and was newly formed FY'10 under the Southwest Border Strategy to focus on investigations involving the trafficking of firearms to Mexico. As such, Group VII currently is comprised of ATF Special Agents, ATF [REDACTED] ATF and one Group Supervisor.

11. In order to conduct [REDACTED] Group VII is totally reliant on other groups and TFO to provide additional bodies. If those agents or TFO have other investigative priorities, [REDACTED] If one or more of the agents in Group VII is on leave or training we have 2-3 agents [REDACTED]

12. It is hereby respectfully requested that additional bodies be brought in for the purpose of [REDACTED] aiding/assisting in this investigation. [REDACTED] The [REDACTED] (especially of the ATF [REDACTED] which have been requested/ordered by targets of this investigation.) [REDACTED]