

**Southwest Border Initiative
(Project Gunrunner)**

Biweekly Update

January 25, 2010

The following is a biweekly update on significant events related to the Southwest Border Initiative. The information is collected from the different ATF offices involved in this initiative and intended for ATF use only.

FIELD OPERATIONS

DALLAS FIELD DIVISION

Investigations:

El Paso Field Office

781035-10-0016 [ATF] (SWB): On January 13, 2010, the El Paso Police Department Stash House Unit was at a residence in El Paso Texas. The occupant of the residence, identified as [ATF] [ATF] was found to be in possession of AK-47 type rifles and seven bullet proof vests. ATF Special Agents [ATF] responded to the residence and discovered that [ATF] was currently under indictment for a narcotics offense, and had received the rifles while under indictment. A subsequent interview of [ATF] revealed that he had received the rifles on December 28, 2009, and was paid \$1,000.00 to store them in his residence. The rifles were going to be delivered by [ATF] to an unknown party who was going to transport them into the Republic of Mexico. [ATF] was arrested for violation of 18 USC 922(n) and the firearms and bullet proof vests were taken into ATF custody. The investigation continues.

781035-10-0017 Operation Mexican Mafia (SWB): On January 13, 2010, agents with the ATF El Paso FO interviewed [ATF] in reference to firearms trafficking by the local faction of the Mexican Mafia. Based on the information received, an investigation was opened targeting members of the Mexican Mafia currently operating in the El Paso area.

781035-09-0063 [ATF] (SWB): Case closed: no prosecutorial merit. On January 20, 2010, ATF agents interviewed [ATF] who admitted that on 12/5/2006, he bought 2 Browning Hi-Point Pistols, and transported them into Mexico by mistake. [ATF] stated Mexican officials seized the firearms.

Fort Worth Field Office

Update as of 01/20/2010 Fire and Ice Investigation

Both INVs: 781040-08-0110 and 781040-09-0021 are tied together and the 09-0021 investigation is a spin-off investigation from the 08-0110 investigation. The below cited information is applicable to both ongoing investigations.

The Task Force continues to attempt to locate outstanding suspect [ATF] who is believed to be in west Fort Worth, Texas. [ATF] are both believed to be in Mexico. The whereabouts of Alfredo Solorio are unknown. All of these subjects have warrants entered in NCIC as a part of this investigation.

The ATF Fort Worth Field Office SWB investigations remain a priority for this office. As referenced in the last update, ATF and DEA personnel are working together and sharing information. The Task Force will focus its resources on identifying and dismantling of the remaining members of La Familia, a Mexican Drug Cartel organization which is responsible for the illegal trafficking of firearms, narcotics and violent crimes committed within our area of jurisdiction and which remains active in the North Texas area.

The Task Force has received information from [ATF] and through debrief interviews about suspects that were trafficking firearms and narcotics for the La Familia DTO. It appears that these individuals may have relocated. The Task Force is attempting to acquire [ATF] to assist with surveillance on these suspects.

The Task Force received information from DEA Atlanta and DEA Los Angeles that they were working a joint La Familia Investigation. Two vehicles in California were registered with vehicle information from two vehicles seized in Cleburne, Texas. With information received from Atlanta DEA agents, the Task Force discovered the two vehicles seized in Cleburne, Texas have been altered with hydraulic traps that had previously been missed when searched. Investigators continue to share information with DEA about subjects related to these vehicles.

HOUSTON FIELD DIVISION

Investigations:

McAllen I Field Office

7820550-09-0036 [ATF] et al.: On or about January 09, 2010, the Mission Police Department obtained and executed search warrants for residence and place of business for [ATF]. [ATF] Subsequent to the search, 254 rounds of assorted ammunition were recovered and [ATF] was arrested on state charges for firearms trafficking. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agents who were assisting in the investigation, determined that [ATF] was present in the United States as a Non-Immigrant B1/B2 visa holder. ATF drafted a Federal criminal complaint for [ATF] for violations of 18 USC 922(g)(5)(B). A detainer has been placed on [ATF] with the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Jail. [ATF] is suspected of being a recruiter for a large "straw purchasing" organization operating in the Southern District of Texas.

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

No new updates provide for this period.

PHOENIX FIELD DIVISION

Investigations:

Phoenix Group VII

785115-09-0003 [ATF] This approved ATF OCDETF investigation is being worked jointly with the DEA as part of the OCDETF Strike Force, in Phoenix. [ATF] was transported by DEA Air Wing (coordinated through ATF Air Wing) from Fort Lauderdale, Florida to Phoenix, Arizona to be used by an ATF undercover special agent as a prop along with other props [ATF] [ATF] in the upcoming undercover enforcement action against a suspected Mexican Cartel member. This is expected to be a buy/bust operation and the case agent is coordinating with the AUSA to secure an anticipatory criminal complaint based on previous ATF undercover meetings and communications.

785115-10-0004 [ATF] et al: This case is a large-scale conspiracy between more than twenty straw purchasers. Thus far in the investigation (September through present) the group has purchased over 800 firearms, most of which are the AK-47 variant 7.62 assault rifles and or the F.N. Herstal 5.7 mm pistols. Of those 800 firearms purchased by the group, approximately 150 have been recovered in Mexico or near the Mexican Border (the serial numbers are continually being updated and changed, thus affecting the trace results) with a short time-to-crime--some as little as one day. ATF special agents continue to coordinate with the DEA regarding their current T-III as it affects this investigation and also to work with the USAO to secure a Federal, ATF-sponsored T-III targeting group. Group VII special agents have secured and served five Pen Registers on target telephones and, thus far, members of this group have high call frequency to/from one another and various FFLs. Additionally, agents have employed the LETS system to consensually record calls to/from a friendly FFL and one of the suspects for the purpose of ordering and discussing large-scale firearm purchases.

[ATF]

Tucson Group II

785085-10-0026 [ATF] On January 4, 2010, [ATF] was attempting to cross the border into Mexico from the United States. He is a citizen of Mexico and holds a DSP-150 B1/B2 border crossing card. [ATF] was wearing two, heavy jackets on a warm day. He was detained for a secondary screening prior to crossing into Mexico. Several boxes of ammunition were found on his person. The boxes were hidden inside his jacket and shirt. [ATF] advised that he bought some of the ammunition (.22, 30-30 and .30-06) at Wal-Mart, in Nogales, Arizona. He claimed that the .38 caliber ammunition was given to him by a friend. [ATF] was arrested by ICE. [ATF] made his initial appearance, on January 4, 2010. He was charged with Title 18 922(g) (5) (B) Alien in Possession of Firearms.

Albuquerque Field Office

785010-09-0052 [ATF] On December 4, 2010, Guatemalan National [ATF] [ATF] was arrested by ATF in Newark, New Jersey. The Albuquerque Field Office perfected a case resulting in a Federal Indictment and Arrest Warrant charging him with 18 U.S.C. Section 371, Conspiracy to Possess and Illegally Export Firearms from the United States to Guatemala and 18 U.S.C. Section 922 (g)(5), Alien in Possession of Firearms. [ATF] conspired with a U.S. citizen "straw man" to purchase firearms for him in the United States for illegal export to the country of Guatemala. [ATF] [ATF] was arrested upon his arrival from the nation of Israel. On January 6, 2010, [ATF] was arraigned on these charges and in a detention hearing held on January 12th [ATF] was ordered held without bond pending his Federal criminal trial.

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION

Liaison, Training, Media, and Other SWB Interaction:

The Directors held the ATF/CBP/ICE Firearms Trafficking summit in San Diego on November 3-4, 2009. At the conference, the "California" working group meeting wouldn't deal with any of the specific case deconfliction issues or the MOU. They did agree to form a group and work on joint case development and finding solutions to the deconfliction issues. They presented this as the first stage of resolving these issues to the Directors in front of the entire conference on November 4. In December, SS/A [ATF] and CBP Assistant Director, Border Security Paul Henning selected a narrow group of Mexican born multiple handgun purchasers with California addresses for a few months in late 2009 (list below). The following initial queries were completed:

- Identified them completely, including mother's maiden name (needed for checks in Mexico)
- Immigration checks
- Border crossings and analysis
- Photographs
- Drivers license, IDs
- Two of the subjects on this list ([ATF]) only cross on the weekends, and could indicate a gun show buyer. Others re-enter the US on the weekend driving California rental cars, another indicator of gun show travel and trafficking.

Purchaser Last Name	Other LAST Name	Purchaser First Name	Purchaser Middle Name	Purchaser Sex	Purchaser Status	Xings since 2000/09	Most Crossings @	Add'l Crossings @	Residence on DL	DL #
				M	LAPR 091716135	5/5	Otay Mesa	N/A	Redlands	
				M	Naturalized	0			West Covina	
				F	LAPR 044083585	0				
				M	Naturalized	51/15	Calexico W.	Calexico E	Norwalk	
				M	Naturalized	10/2	MIA	LAX	Littlerock	
				M	LAPR 092109065	104/	SFO	Nogales		
				M	LAPR 078192075	2/0	San Ysidro	El Paso	Redwood City	
				M	Naturalized	0			Lake Elsinore	
				M	Naturalized	2/0	SDO		San Diego	
				M	Naturalized	4/0	LAX		Pacoma	
				M	Naturalized	21/5	San Ysidro	Otay Mesa	Whittier	
				M	Naturalized	9/9	San Ysidro	El Paso	San Pedro	
				M	Naturalized	14/2	SFO	OAK	Hayward	
				M	Naturalized	2/0	LAX		Bakersfield	
				M	Naturalized	3/2	San Ysidro		Vacaville	
				M	Naturalized	3/0	San Ysidro		Corona	
				M	Naturalized	2/1	Tecate		L.A.	
				M	Naturalized	10/2	LAX		Corona	
				M	Naturalized				Huntington Park	
				M	LAPR 031185676				Freedom	
				M	Naturalized	11/3	San Jose	OAK	Livermore	
				M	Naturalized	7/3	San Ysidro		Victorville Fed Pri	
				M	Naturalized	1/1	SAC		Sacramento	
				M	LAPR 090424892				Vallejo	
				M	Naturalized	5/0	Otay Mesa		Chula Vista	
				M	Naturalized	2/0	LAX		Lancaster	
				M	Naturalized	0			Lake Forest	
				M	Naturalized	8/5	Otay Mesa	San Ysidro	Perris	
				M	Naturalized	4/0	LAX	Houston	Bakersfield	

On January 7, ATF RAC **ATF** hosted 23 representatives from local ATF/ICE/CBP at the ATF office in San Diego (attached list) at the first meeting of the California Working Group Intelligence Conference. At the round table discussion, ICE stated (2 BEST RACs and 1 ASAC) that they had no intelligence to bring to the table and no seizures of firearms in the past year at the POEs. SS/A **ATF** presented the above list as a sample of what could be worked on jointly. It was decided that the ATF/CBP/ICE working group would use available assets to analyze these 29 Mexican born subjects with a local nexus in a timely and competent manner. As some of the subjects were part of ongoing ATF and GOM investigations, the group agreed to take no independent enforcement action on the suspect list, and would meet to prioritize and plan on how to investigate the suspects after the joint intelligence analysis was complete.

ATF/CBP/ICE Intel analysts met on January 12, 2010 and settled the sharing and taskings of the data runs to include:

- Multiple purchaser
- ATF's NForce – cases, ROIs, etc
- CBP's Enforce
- Color DL and CIS photos
- Mexican birth certificates and family members, addresses from A file
- Criminal history

License plates and crossing history
Telephone number (checked with DEA's SOD)
EPIC 10,
NADDIS,
State Department Visa data base, etc

Those hits will all be added to the spreadsheet and all information will be placed in each subjects "working file."

On January 26, there is a scheduled conference call to discuss updates of information and intelligence. The final list will be presented in February or March to the California Working Group (ATF + CBP + ICE) to decide on prioritizing who to work first and how.

Significant Events Occurring This Period:

On January 10, Guadalajara El Informador reported that the suspected leader of a Gulf cartel cell operating in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco State, was arrested by State Secretariat of Public Security agents. [ATF] [ATF] is believed to be a hitman who has committed murders in the area and tossed grenades at state authorities.

On January 10, Monterrey El Norte reported that Ciudad Juarez does not have the highest murder rate among all cities along Mexico's northern border. Last year, there were 493 homicides in Nogales, a city of 193,000 people. At a rate of 255 murders per 100,000 residents, Nogales beat out Ciudad Juarez, which had 201 murders per 100,000 residents in 2009.

The January 10, 2009 edition of Mexico City Milenio (bi-weekly magazine) focused on the illegal arms trade in the country. The magazine stated that rifles, pistols, machine guns and even bazookas can now be bought by Mexican criminals easier than ever. According to federal authorities, there are more than 15 million illegal firearms in the 32 states that comprise Mexico. The magazine stated that at least 60% of the illegal firearms come from the United States. According to the magazine, customs officials from both sides of the border allow firearms of all sorts to move from El Paso, Texas to Chiapas State, crossing Nuevo Leon State and Michoacan State; from Las Cruces, New Mexico to Culiacan, Sinaloa State and all the way to Oaxaca State and the border with Guatemala; and from Houston to Tabasco State.

On January 11, Mexico City Reforma reported that State Police Officer [ATF] was shot to death by an armed group while he was eating at a seafood restaurant in the Lazaro Cardenas neighborhood of Mexico State's Tultitlan municipality. State Security Agency reports say that the group shot him and then launched two fragmentation grenades outside the restaurant. The officer died instantly, no one was injured by the grenades, and three people were arrested.

On January 12, Mexico City El Universal reported that the Federal police arrested [ATF] [ATF] in La Paz, Baja California Sur State. [ATF] was a hit man for the Arellano Felix cartel who, when he broke from that group in April 2008, unleashed a wave of violence in Tijuana, Baja California. More than 300 executions in 2009 are attributed to him and his group of collaborators. Most of the murders of municipal, State, and Federal police officers, as well as public officials, in Baja California are attributed to his

crime cell.

On January 13, Mexico City El Universal reported that a group of armed subjects, planning to attack Coacalco municipal police officer [ATF] engaged in a persecution and grenade attack that moved through the Coacalco, Tultitlan, and Tlalnepantla municipalities of Mexico State. Armed with grenades and R-15s, they killed two municipal police officers and one civilian and wounded two Federal officers and one State police officer. [ATF] was killed pursuing the culprits. Four suspects were arrested.

On January 14, Ciudad Juarez Diario reported that 2,000 more federal agents have begun arriving in Ciudad Juarez to start the gradual replacement of Army soldiers currently stationed in the city. The new officers will help fight the growing crimes of extortion, kidnappings and arsons to places of businesses, specifically through more intelligence gathering. According to Mayor Jose Reyes Ferriz, city officials are proposing that the military remain in Ciudad Juarez until March 31, at which point they hope to have all public security functions performed by police officers from all three levels of government.

On January 14, Ciudad Juarez Diario reported that U.S. and Mexican officials were meeting in both El Paso and Ciudad Juarez for a "security summit" to discuss crime in Ciudad Juarez. Attendees at the meeting include the Mexican Public Security Cabinet, led by Public Security Secretary Genaro Garcia Luna, and U.S. officials led by U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Carlos Pascual. Issues for discussion include transportation of weapons from the U.S. into Mexico, the sending of money to the Republic, the deportation of criminals through Ciudad Juarez, and the Merida Initiative funds that will be allocated to the border region.

On January 16, Ciudad Juarez Diario reported that control of Joint Operation Chihuahua was transferred from military officials to Federal Police following meetings between Mexican and U.S. authorities during the past two days in Ciudad Juarez. Vidal Diaz Ochoa will replace General Felipe de Jesus Espitia as commander for the program. The new arrangement will reportedly include the Mexican Navy, which will be in charge of intelligence operations.

On January 16, Tijuana Periodico Frontera reported that at least 60 Army tanks rolled through Ensenada yesterday on their way to Tijuana, in an effort to reinforce the military presence in the city that has been home to most of the violence committed by [ATF] and his gang. Government and public security officials have indicated that they expect some sort of violent reaction to [ATF] recent arrest.

On January 19, Mexico City Proceso reported that military personnel arrested Juan Carlos Tarabay Castillo, aka, "El 20," in Veracruz. Castillo is a suspected supervisor for the Gulf Cartel in southern Mexico (see below section for related seizure information).

Significant Seizure Events This Period:

On January 14, the Mexican military, acting on an anonymous tip, raided a residence being used as a "safe house," where they arrested two members of a kidnapping ring, freed a hostage and seized an arsenal along Las Fuentes Blvd., inside of Fraccionamiento Villa Floresta, in Tijuana, Baja California. Authorities seized 7 AK-47 rifles, 1 .45 caliber handgun, 1 .40 caliber handgun, 1 .38 Special caliber handgun, 1 .22 caliber handgun, 28 magazines, over 1,000 rounds of ammunition of various calibers and 2 vehicles.

On January 16, the Mexican Navy, while on air patrol 7

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near San Fernando, Tamaulipas, had their aircraft fired on and observed two men fleeing the scene. They landed and found and seized 14 firearms, 2 grenades, \$74,931 USD, 1,898 rounds, 2 packages of cocaine, 67 psychotropic pills, 46 keys and two alarmed safes, 4 holsters, 10 quick reloaders, various clothing, and a building.

On January 19, elements of the Mexican Army captured three Gulf cartel members including **ATF** **ATF** a top Gulf cartel lieutenant in charge of operations in the States of Veracruz, Puebla, Oaxaca, Chiapas, Tabasco, Campeche and Quintana Roo in the municipality de Boca del Rio, Veracruz. At the time of the arrest, the Army thwarted a rescue attempt. Two long guns, a handgun, 3 grenades, \$33,000 U.S. dollars, over 3 million pesos, 3 vehicles, military clothing and equipment, communications equipment, and documents were seized in the operation. The men, firearms, grenades, and other evidence were handed over to the Sub-procurator Specializing in Organized Crime Investigations (SIEDO).

On January 20, the Mexican Military, pursuant to a patrol, detained **ATF** **ATF** from the Beltran Leyva Organization and **ATF** **ATF** from La Familia Michoacan Organization and seized 10 firearms, 45 magazines, 1,159 rounds of ammunition, four body armor vests, one portable radio and four vehicles in the municipality of Coyucan de Catalan, Guerrero.

On January 20, Mexican Military personnel arrested eight gunmen, seized several firearms, vehicles and drugs in the vicinity of Ejido El Cumeral, Sonora. Authorities seized 5 rifles, 1 handgun, 3 grenades, 6 magazines, 231 rounds of ammunition of various calibers, 12 packages of marijuana and 3 vehicles.

On January 23, Mexican Military seized 20 firearms, 118 grenades, 20 magazines, 298 rounds of ammunition, 5 vehicles, one ATV and 200 kilograms of Crystal in the municipalities of Purépero, Cherán and Tangancicuaró, Michoacán.

This reporting period:

- 21 Mexican seizures identified in Open Sources/Seizure Files Open
- 5 Suspect Guns

(Contact EPIC for details on the above information.)

Trace Requests for Mexico Recoveries:

FY 10 Trace Requests Thus Far:

There were 33,298* trace requests submitted involving Mexico recoveries between October 1, 2009 and January 18, 2010, of which 3,079 are pending completion. The break down by agency is as follows:

- Total Trace Requests by ATF 209
- Total Trace Requests by DHS 255
- Total Trace Requests by Mexico

32,834

- Total Trace Requests From Other Agencies 0

*These numbers do not include 11,401 duplicate traces.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

Mexico City

Liaison, Training, Media, and Other SWB Interaction:

From January 19–22, an ATF Canine trainer from the National Canine Training and Operations Center traveled to Mexico to conduct an assessment of explosives detection canines for the Department of State. The travel was coordinated by the Department of State.

During the week of January 25, Kevin Carwile, Chief of the DOJ Gang Unit and Paul O'Brien, Chief of DOJ Narcotics and Dangerous Drug Section will meet with MCO personnel at the U.S. Embassy to discuss firearms and explosives investigations as well as Spanish eTrace.

Monterrey

Liaison, Training, Media, and Other SWB Interaction:

On January 12, Assistant Country Attaché [ATF] Special Agent [ATF] Consul General [ATF] and FBI Assistant Legal Attaché [ATF] met with SSP Commissioner Ricardo Gonzalez to discuss security issues in the State of Durango. In addition, Monterrey personnel gave a brief presentation on ATF for the PGJ (state) crime laboratory technicians. After the presentation, Assistant Country Attaché [ATF] and Special Agent [ATF] met with Attorney General Garcia and Crime Laboratory Directory [ATF] to sign the ATF eTrace MOU.

Investigative Assistance:

On January 12, the U.S. delegation met with Ismael Hernandez Deras, the Durango State Governor, and Daniel Garcia, the Durango State Attorney General, and SSP Commissioner Ricardo Gonzalez to discuss the investigation of the murdered U.S. citizen. During the meeting, the FBI Legal Attaché requested ATF's assistance in entering the spent casings recovered at the crime scene into the State of Nuevo Leon's Integrated Ballistic Information System. The Mexico Assistant Country Attaché also discussed the deployment of Spanish eTrace to the 32 Mexican States. Attorney General Garcia and Crime Laboratory Director Castillo received a copy of the ATF eTrace MOU for their legal department to review. Both the Governor and Attorney General agreed in principle to sign the eTrace Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Tijuana

Liaison, Training, Media, and Other SWB Interaction:

During the week of January 7, Tijuana Field Office personnel met with SSP Federal Police State Coordinator Elias Alvarez Hernandez. Mr. Alvarez oversees all SSP operations in northern Baja California. During the meeting, Tijuana Field Office personnel met with Mr. Alvarez's area commanders and exchanged personal information for future operations or requests for information. Mr. Alvarez indicated that the SSP is preparing to deploy about 300 SSP agents to Tijuana for security operations and offered his intelligence, surveillance and tactical units to support ATF.

On January 13, Tijuana Field Office Assistant Country Attaché [ATF] attended a meeting with Tijuana Consul General (CG) Kashkett, the Mayor and Police Chief of Chula Vista, California, the San Diego Sheriff's Office, the San Diego District Attorney's Office and several representatives from community projects that are geared toward safe border initiatives. This meeting covered how Merida Initiative funds are going to be distributed and how the attendees apply for funding to provide training in police tactics, ethics, leadership, prosecution techniques and equipment for their Mexican counterparts.

From January 20-22, the Monterrey Field Office is co-hosting its annual Law Enforcement reception at the U.S. Consulate, where the ATF MCO Country Attaché will meet the Nuevo Leon State Attorney General and various Nuevo Leon State and Federal Law Enforcement contacts.

Investigative Assistance:

On January 4, MCO Tijuana and ATF Miami personnel traveled to Hermosillo, Sonora and met with ICE and DEA agents, to continue discussions of joint operations against Mexican DTOs. In late October 2009, the agents discussed the possibility of using the ICE Miami Field Division's Project Safeguard as an opportunity to sell and purchase controlled items to DTO's that operate in Latin America. (Project Safeguard is a continuation of the old U.S. Customs undercover operation, "Project Exodus," that dealt with foreign governments and individuals in controlled items.) Two Sources of Information (SOI) have been recruited and are very familiar with the organizations that operate in Northern Sonora State which traffic marijuana, cocaine and heroin to the United States.

Both SOI's have indicated that the State of Sonora is now almost exclusively the territory of Mexican DTO kingpin [ATF]. This has occurred since the smaller organizations that previously allied themselves with [ATF] have been decimated by an ongoing war that arose when [ATF] was killed by the Mexican Navy on December 16, 2009. Currently, the strongest DTO in Sonora is headed by [ATF] who is loyal to [ATF]. [ATF] receives multi kilo shipments of cocaine from [ATF] through Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point), Sonora. [ATF] then moves the cocaine into the United States between Nogales, Sonora, and Mexicali, Baja California. According to SOI information, [ATF] is attempting to purchase heavier armament such as Barrett .50 calibers, M203 rifles and grenade launchers, fragmentation and 40mm grenades as well as Light Anti-Tank Weapons instead of the usual AK-47 rifles. This armament is to be used to maintain his dominance and increase his capability in the area. [ATF] is also interested in purchasing satellite telephones, encrypted radios and ballistic vests. Since the SOI's

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safety is paramount in this operation, it was decided by the attendees that they attempt to send non-lethal gear to the DTO's operating in Northern Sonora.

The Tijuana Field Office is utilizing two SOIs in an attempt to identify the firearms source(s) for an identified individual of a DTO operating in the Tijuana area (Case# 701532-10-0001-Tijuana Brass). The individual is responsible for the procurement of firearms and conducting operations against a rival cartel and law enforcement officials in the area.

The Tijuana Field Office continues to support the ATF Yuma Field Office (Case # 785041-09-0008) regarding the [ATF] investigation, the target of which is suspected of smuggling over 400 grenade hulls to the State of Sinaloa. The Tijuana Field Office is facilitating the exchange of information between the DEA Mazatlan Field Office and the Yuma, AZ ATF case agent in an effort to identify the destination of the grenade hulls. The Tijuana Field Office provided technical expertise to the Attorney General's Office (PGR) on a firearms seizure which occurred on January 14 in Tijuana. Through the trace process, it has been determined that 3 of the 14 seized AK-47 firearms are linked to a Phoenix Field Division investigation, which has identified over 500 firearms being bought by straw purchasers in Phoenix. The Tijuana Field Office is attempting to obtain PGR documents associated with this seizure for the Phoenix Field Division.

During the week of January 7, Tijuana Field Office personnel continued to work closely with the Mexican Attorney General's (PGR) office in Tijuana and Mexicali as well as the ATF Phoenix Field Division regarding the 500 AK-47 rifles which have been purchased in Phoenix, some of which are being recovered in Mexico. A meeting is scheduled during the week of January 11 with the PGR Delegate and Sub-Delegate to discuss additional details of this investigation (UI# 785115-10-0004). If investigative tools are implemented in the Phoenix Field Division, the Tijuana Field Office will receive and exchange real-time actionable intelligence with their Mexican counterparts.

OFFICE OF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

No new updates provide for this period.

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

No new updates provide for this period.

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