

**Southwest Border Initiative  
(Project Gunrunner)**

**Biweekly Update**

**July 12, 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**

781035-10-0045 [ATF] (SWB): This case was originally opened as a general case following a referral from Dallas Division Intel. The case was converted to an actual case after [ATF] was linked to another open ATF investigation (781035-09-0061 Stray Bullet), where targets are suspected of purchasing ammunition for the purpose of illegal export to Mexico. A 7.62 rifle purchased by [ATF] in November 2009 was recovered in Mexico. The case is in the process of being submitted for federal prosecution.

781035-10-0028 [ATF] and Associates (SWB): On April 7, 2010, [ATF] currently under felony indictment, and [ATF] were arrested while in possession of 20 AK-47 assault rifles. A subsequent check of all the rifle serial numbers revealed that all 20 had been purchased by active targets of an on-going ATF investigation in Phoenix, Arizona. In a mirandized statement, [ATF] stated that he believed the rifles were destined for Mexico. The case is in the process of being submitted for federal prosecution.

781035-10-0025 [ATF] (SWB): On March 29, 2010, a suspected arson fire, occurred at the residence of [ATF] a convicted felon, and subsequently two firearms were located inside his residence. [ATF] is suspected of being a Barrio Azteca gang member. The case is in the process of being submitted for federal prosecution.

781035-08-0045 Operation Dirty Shield - OCDETF (SWB): On July 7, 2010, grand jury testimony was given regarding a proposed five count indictment on six defendants for violation of 18 USC, section 924(o), Conspiracy to Use or Carry a Firearm During and in Relation to a Drug Trafficking Crime. These persons are members of the [ATF] Drug 1

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Trafficking Cartel. It is anticipated that a true bill will be received on July 8, 2010, and once received, a detailed SIR as to the events leading to the indictment will be forwarded to ATF HQ via Dallas Field Division.

**HOUSTON FIELD DIVISION**

**Investigations:**

**Houston Group VIII**

782085-10-0035 Operation Red Diesel: ATF Houston Group VIII is in the process of identifying a Mexican national who is willing to purchase firearms and machine guns in exchange for narcotics. The group is waiting for the subject to return from a trip to Mexico.

782085-10-0041 [ATF] who has ties to the Bandidos Motorcycle Organization, stated that [ATF] sold him a firearm that was allegedly used in the murder of two Hispanic males. The source turned over the firearm to ATF. The firearm currently being run through NIBIN.

782085-10-0042 [ATF] stated that [ATF] is looking for firearms. According to [ATF] is an ounce drug dealer with ties to the [ATF] in Mexico. He is looking for machine guns and willing to trade drugs for guns. [ATF] has an extensive criminal record. It is anticipated that an undercover meeting will be set up in the near future.

782085-10-0044 [ATF] purchased nine AK type rifles from FFL Collectors firearms for approximately \$6,000. He was accompanied by a Hispanic male who was assisting him with the firearms. [ATF] called for an additional ten AR-15 rifles to be picked up on July 1, 2010, but he did not show up.

**San Antonio II (IO)**

An IOI received a telephone call from [ATF] owner of Dale Wise Custom Guns (5-74-029-07-2M-00177) in San Antonio, Texas on June 25, 2010. [ATF] stated that on June 24, 2010, a male and a female walked into his place of business. [ATF] described the male as Hispanic and "rough looking." The male told [ATF] that he was looking for hunting rifles. [ATF] informed the male that he had a selection and the male told [ATF] that he was looking for AK-47s. [ATF] showed him three that he had in inventory and quoted him a price. The male asked what the total for the three would be. The firearms were not purchased. Within an hour, a young Hispanic female and a black male entered the premises and the female informed [ATF] that she was looking for some hunting rifles. The same scenario as before occurred. The female asked for AK-47s in particular. The female purchased the three AK-47s with cash and had the exact amount of money to cover the cost of all three. The cash was paid with increments of twenty dollars. [ATF] stated that the female inquired if the store had any more AK-47s and [ATF] stated that all he had were the three. The female asked how soon could he get some more. The San Antonio III RAC was notified and requested a referral be generated.

**LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION**

**Investigations:**

**San Diego Group I**

784040-10-0068 [ATF] Working in conjunction with the DEA MET team, a group of methamphetamine suppliers were identified (documented Valleros Locos gang members). DEA has purchased approximately 1/2 pound of methamphetamine from this group and ATF has purchased nine firearms including one AK-47, one Desert Eagle .44 magnum, 3 sawed-off shotguns and one MAC-11.

784040-10-0075 [ATF] Working in conjunction with the DEA MET team, identified a methamphetamine supplier who is illegally present in the U.S. DEA has purchased one ounce of methamphetamine and ATF has purchased five firearms to date including one AK-47, one Desert Eagle pistol, one AR-15 5.56 caliber rifle, one 9mm pistol and one MAC-10.

784040-10-0073 Operation Second Sole: This particular case is being worked jointly by ATF and the San Diego Police Department Criminal Intelligence Unit. During a recent case working with SDPD, law enforcement cultivated a defendant who is working his/her case off with the approval of the United States Attorney's Office. [ATF] has knowledge of certain individuals who are currently working in the San Diego area conducting home invasion type robberies, weapons and narcotic trafficking and kidnappings. The case is in the early stages of development and [ATF] has already identified two individuals who traffic weapons. To date, we have purchased two handguns and placed additional orders. The purpose of the case is not only to purchase contraband, but gain intelligence on cartel-related violence that is spilling into the United States.

**El Centro Field Office**

784095-10-0004 OPERATION RIVER'S EDGE: The following four defendants in this case are in custody:

- State Arrest Warrant was issued for [ATF] for Importation of an Assault Weapon--he was arrested 06/07/2010.
- State Arrest Warrant was issued for [ATF] for Importation of an Assault Weapon--he was arrested on 06/25/2010.
- Federal Arrest Warrant was issued for [ATF] for felon in possession of a firearm and felon in possession of body armor-- he was arrested on 07/02/2010 by ATF Yuma and El Centro F.O.
- Federal Arrest Warrant was issued for [ATF] for straw purchasing and conspiracy--she was arrested on 07/02/2010, by ATF Yuma and El Centro F.O.

784095-10-0016 [ATF] et al: On 05/20/2010, ATF received information from the DEA regarding the possible illegal sales of firearms and explosives. DEA S/A [ATF] developed the information from a [ATF] [ATF] investigation, which is ongoing. A target of one the DEA's investigations was contacted by an unknown individual who wanted to sell long guns. The target of the investigation then contacted another individual who wanted to purchase the firearms. The recorded conversations describe numerous guns being stored in an unknown location. One of the individuals stated that there are enough guns to start a war and explosives are available as well. ATF Agents out of

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the El Centro Field Office received a Ping Order to help learn their whereabouts and eventually identify the individuals. The seller of the firearms has been “pinged” in Mexicali, MX and agents are attempting to learn his identity and addresses. The DEA has subpoenaed the subscriber information for both U.S.-based telephones from Nextel and has provided it to the ATF. DEA Los Angeles has possibly identified the target. We believe the phone is no longer in service, yet there are several new phone numbers potentially being used by [ATF] [ATF]. Investigative efforts are ongoing to identify the target and his addresses.

784095-10-0011 [ATF] ATF and DEA El Centro is currently conducting a Joint OCDEFT Investigation, “Operation Dirty Desert.” In the past months, there has been little activity within the case. The DEA believes the DTO under investigation [ATF] so it has been very difficult to gain any new intelligence from a [ATF] [ATF] did inform the DEA that [ATF] has seen [ATF] [ATF] in Mexicali, Mexico, within the past two weeks. [ATF] has also stated that [ATF] believes that [ATF] is transporting methamphetamine from Mexicali, MX to Indio, CA. [ATF] is an individual who was previously identified as a firearms supplier and hired gun for the DTO. A TECS inquiry was conducted and it indicates that [ATF] has had an alert issued on his name. EPIC was contacted and passed information that [ATF] was linked to a methamphetamine seizure in Texas in May 2010. The case agents have identified a possible address for [ATF] in Mecca, CA. A drive by was conducted of the residence. One of the vehicles at the residence was registered to an individual named [ATF].

784095-10-0019 [ATF] ATF El Centro is currently conducting an investigation on an individual identified as a major methamphetamine distributor and illegal firearms supplier operating in the Imperial Valley. Agents have recently registered [ATF] that has ties to this individual. Operational plans are currently being made to facilitate the purchase of one pound of marijuana and two destructive devices.

**General Intelligence:**

Agents are coordinating efforts with area DEA offices in an effort to positively identify a Mexican citizen believed to be illegally trafficking firearms to Mexico. Agents and Task Force Officers (TFOs) from the California Department of Justice are working with a confidential source that is in contact with a Mexican narcotics and firearms load coordinator.

**PHOENIX FIELD DIVISION**

**Investigations:**

**Phoenix I**

765040-10-0061 [ATF] This investigation relates to a known home invasion suspect who was overheard discussing an historical home invasion robbery while ATF Agents were monitoring jail call tapes. The suspects were identified, and the case will be pursued once the victim has been located. The robbery was reported to Phoenix Police.

785040-09-0141 Operation Middleman: This investigation focuses on members of the New Mexican Mafia, who have been identified through proactive monitoring of jail calls and who have been contacted in an undercover capacity by ATF special agents. Two 4

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individuals have sold narcotics to ATF UC agents and have had discussions about possible home invasion crews that they can introduce in the future. This investigation will now focus on historical criminal activity, continued purchases of methamphetamine from gang members and a possible proactive sting operation.

**Phoenix II**

785045-10-0026: [ATF] ATF has purchased 21 pistols/revolvers during undercover operations from [ATF] (a former Federal Firearms Licensee) and [ATF]. Some of these firearms were purchased at "out of state" gun shows in Nevada and Oklahoma. [ATF] had boasted about having 6,000 firearms in their collection. Fourteen firearms sold by [ATF] (as a non-licensee) and [ATF] have been recovered in crimes in Tennessee, Nebraska, Arizona, and California. Since September 2006, when [ATF] FFL expired, [ATF] have purchased in excess of 720 firearms.

On July 9-11, 2010, [ATF] attended the Crossroads of the West gun show in Phoenix, AZ. ATF special agents and the Phoenix Police Gun Squad worked the Gun Show to make additional firearms purchases and obtain conversation and video to support firearms violations. Admissions were obtained of interstate sales at gun shows in Reno, [Unrelated] Tulsa and South Dakota. One of the firearms purchased by a UC agent was purchased by [ATF] in April 2010 during a multiple sale.

A Federal Search Warrant was executed on July 12, 2010, on [ATF] residence and the collocated living quarters of his partner [ATF]. Approximately 50 law enforcement officers and analysts participated in the operation. A separate evidence processing site was established due to the likelihood of evidence exceeding 500 firearms. The search warrant lasted seven hours on scene, plus many more hours at the processing site. More than 700 firearms were seized from [ATF] residence, as well as the 2008 Dodge Sprinter van he used to transport firearms to gun shows. Approximately 1,100 firearms [ATF] had from his previous FFL business were left at the property and not seized. Receipts documenting purchases and sales of firearms were located along with flyers and registration forms for future gun shows. (See 7/12/10 SIR.)

785045-10-0023 Operation 602 Exchange: The goal of this Phoenix storefront is to identify and purchase firearms and other contraband from violent criminals and prohibited persons. Undercover agents have purchased 23 firearms, 3 NFA firearms, several ounces of methamphetamine, "crack," powder cocaine and marijuana, as well as other narcotics and contraband from at least 55 suspects. Since last week, the undercover agents purchased one Davis Industries .380 caliber pistol, one Tanfaglio .40 caliber pistol (stolen), 40.2 grams of methamphetamine, 4.1 grams of heroin, 100 ecstasy pills and identified eight additional suspects.

**Phoenix VII**

785115-10-0004 Operation Fast and Furious: On July 12, 2010, Federal Parolee [ATF] was arrested and charged on Arizona state charges of Hit and Run and Felon in Possession of a Firearm after fleeing from Peoria Police Department patrol units. ATF provided Peoria Police with information that [ATF] was in possession of firearms as part of an active ongoing T-III case (Operation Fast & Furious). [ATF] fled from officers and crashed his vehicle into a cinder block wall after jumping the train tracks near the intersection of 67<sup>th</sup> Lane and Grand Avenue, Peoria, AZ. Both [ATF] and the unidentified passenger fled the scene on foot and a short time later, Peoria Police officers captured [ATF] approximately ½ mile from the scene.

[ATF] suffered a broken leg and was transported 5

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to a local hospital for treatment. The passenger was never located. [ATF] was released from Federal custody in September of 2009, after serving approximately 60 months for 21 USC 846, Conspiracy to Possess Marijuana in February 2004. During an inventory search of the vehicle, Peoria police officers recovered 20 ROMARM/CUGIR 7.62x39 caliber rifles from the bed of the truck. The firearms had been purchased earlier that day by a subject identified as a straw purchaser in the coinciding ATF investigation. In addition, two pistols were recovered from the cab compartment of the vehicle. ATF agents took custody of the 20 ROMARM 7.62x39 caliber rifles as part of the ongoing ATF investigation. A Peoria officer retained custody of the two pistols for further state prosecution.

On July 13, 2010, the Phoenix Police Department (PPD) received a tip after [ATF] had been inside of Carlon's Auto Service, located at 3501 W. Lincoln Ave., Phoenix, AZ and observed numerous firearms in a backroom that they described as being "loaded up." The PPD Detective was aware of ongoing ATF investigation Operation Fast and Furious and coordinated with Phoenix Group VII agents. This business had previously been identified as being a related business for firearms trafficking activities as part of this investigation. ATF Group VII agents and PPD Detectives went to the business to conduct an interview. They obtained consent and subsequently recovered 73 firearms, as follows: 20 AK-47 variant rifles, 1 Barrett .50 caliber rifle, 1 AR-15 rifle, approximately 50 semi-automatic pistols (mainly 9mm caliber), approximately 250 75 round drum magazines for 7.62 caliber rounds, as well as other various magazines and assorted ammunition. The traces of the firearms indicate that many were recently purchased by known straw purchasers in this investigation. Some of the 9mm pistols appear to be used (secondary market) firearms and this recovery took place following a large gun show in Phoenix, AZ the previous weekend (July 9-11, 2010). The 250 75 round drum magazines retail for over \$200.00 each, which totals more than \$50,000.00 worth of magazines. This recovery adds to the total of 169 firearms recovered in the previous 25 days by Group VII agents and GRIT agents assigned to Group VII as part of Southwest Border Firearms Trafficking investigations. (See 7/1/10, 7/8/10, 7/13/10 and 7/14/10 SIRs.)

785071-10-0064 [ATF] This Phoenix Group VII GRIT investigation is part of investigation 785115-10-0004 (Operation Fast and Furious), whereby residents of Phoenix, AZ purchased in excess of 200 firearms. On May 29, 2010, ICE Laredo seized 147 of these firearms. On June 18, 2010, ATF Phoenix seized 18 of these firearms then on June 26, 2010, seized another 25 of these firearms. Some of the subjects had previous firearms traces in Mexico.

On July 9, 2010, ATF Phoenix arrested [ATF] on a Federal Criminal Complaint for his role as a self-admitted recruiter in this organization. After his arrest, [ATF] provided additional details and identified photo line-ups of other straw purchasers he recruited. Further, [ATF] identified from photographs the individual he worked for in the organization. After meeting with the USAO, as many of 15 additional suspected straw purchasers are anticipated to be arrested and charged for their activity in this firearms straw purchase organization.

**Tucson II**

785085 10 0035 VCIT Gang Case: ATF continues to

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develop investigative leads involving a suspect known only as [ATF] and his associates. [ATF] has made several street level narcotics buys from [ATF] and discussed the possibility of firearms purchases. [ATF] has also engaged [ATF] in conversation regarding setting up home invasions for stealing narcotics or cash. An ATF UC Agent has been introduced to Junior for the purpose of setting up a home invasion sting operation. The initial meet went well and the investigation continues.

785085 10 0049 [ATF] Crew: ATF is working an investigation into a street-level narcotics ring, presumably led by [ATF] Agents are utilizing [ATF] as well as undercover officers and agents, and have been successful in purchasing street level amounts of crack cocaine, as well as several firearms and an NFA weapon from the targets. To date, six potential defendants have been identified. One of the suspects has made overtures about committing home invasions and this line of investigation is currently being pursued. [ATF]

[ATF]

Las Cruces I

785095-10-0014 [ATF] made a total of 25 purchases between 2006 and 2009 from FFLs in Deming, NM. [ATF]

[ATF]

[ATF] was sentenced in May 2010 to one year and a day incarceration, plus 3 years probation for a possession and smuggling of marijuana.

785095-10-0015 [ATF] On 01/03/2009 [ATF] purchased a Hi Point 9mm pistol (S/N: P1433749) from Command Bunker in Las Cruces, New Mexico. An FTS query revealed that the firearm was recovered in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, on 03/11/2009, with a time to crime of 67 days. Attempts are being made to locate the suspect. Location of border crossings and past residences indicate that [ATF] could possibly be in Greely, CO or El Paso, TX. Other ATF offices are assisting in locating [ATF]

785120-10-0010 [ATF] On January 24, 2010, U.S. Border Patrol Agents seized a firearm from [ATF] at the U.S. Border Checkpoint located at mile marker 120.5 on Interstate 10, Las Cruces, New Mexico. BP agents interviewed the suspect and conducted a K-9 inspection of his vehicle. The K-9 alerted to the back seat area of the vehicle and the following firearm was subsequently found, wrapped in a black trash bag and hidden under the back seat of the vehicle: One Rock River, model LAR-15, .556 caliber rifle, bearing serial number AC 2004488. [ATF] claimed no knowledge of the firearm. ATF special agents will follow-up with [ATF] to determine if he is trafficking in firearms. He has had several border crossings into Mexico.

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION

**Significant Seizure Events This Period:**

On June 22, 2010, elements with the Federal Police arrested a suspected leader and member of “La Familia Michoacana” in Nezahualcoyotl, Mexico State. Authorities seized 3 handguns, 5 AK-47 type rifles, 10 magazines, 500 rounds of ammunition, tactical gear, 14 cellular telephones, a small amount of currency, marijuana and a vehicle.

On June 22, 2010, elements of the 7th Military Zone of the Mexican Army raided a marijuana processing center located at the intersection of Calle Chopo and Calle Canelo in the subdivision on the north wing of the Cerro de La Silla hill located in the Colonia Bosquez del Contry in Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon. The Army was met with gunfire and a 15 minute long gun battle ensued, resulting in the deaths of 3 gunmen and the capture of 17 persons, 5 of whom were wounded. The Army recovered a ton of marijuana, three pistols, a shotgun, and three light trucks.

On June 24, 2010, elements with the Policia Federal Preventiva (PFP), Agencia Federal de Investigacion (AFI) and state police arrested [ATF] alleged leader and member of “Los Zetas” in San Pablo Xochimehuacan, Puebla. Authorities seized one 9mm handgun, one .38 caliber handgun, one box of 9mm rounds, one scale, and three vehicles.

On June 24, 2010, Mexican military personnel raided two residences, seized over five tons of marijuana, currency and an arsenal during several operations in Culiacan, Sinaloa. Authorities seized 199 firearms, magazines, hundreds of ammunition rounds, over \$87,000 in U.S. currency, 35 kilos of Opium, over 5 tons of marijuana and 17 vehicles.

On June 26, 2010, Mexican military personnel arrested [ATF] a “sicario” (assassin), with alleged ties to the Sinaloa Cartel and seized an arsenal in Ensenada, Baja California. Authorities seized 9 rifles, 2 9mm handguns, 1 grenade launcher, 10 grenades, 71 magazines, over 2,000 rounds of ammunition and 6 vehicles.

On June 30, 2010, Mexican military personnel were involved in a confrontation against an unidentified armed group in Panuco de Coronado, Durango. Authorities seized 20 rifles, 62 magazines, 4,000 rounds of ammunition, nearly 5,000 dosage units of cocaine, marijuana and 20 vehicles.

On June 30, 2010, Mexican military, responding to a tip on a possible safe house in the area, detained two men and seized 8 firearms, 77 magazines, 55 grenades, an unspecified amount of uniforms for federal and state authorities and 2 vehicles in Tapachula, Chiapas.

On July 1, 2010, elements with the Federal Police arrested [ATF] suspected leader of “Los Aztecas,” along with six other suspects working for “La Linea” in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. Authorities seized 6 rifles, 1 UZI type sub-machinegun, 6 magazines, 206 rounds of ammunition, tactical gear, 28 various means of communication, a small amount of heroin and marijuana.

On July 4, 2010, Mexican military personnel seized an arsenal found inside of an abandoned vehicle in Navajoa, Sonora. Authorities seized 25 AK-47 type rifles, 78 magazines, over 8,000 rounds of ammunition, and a vehicle.

On July 5, 2010, the Mexican Marines, conducting patrol operations in Ciudad Gustavo Díaz Ordaz, Tamaulipas, captured 3 men transporting 700 kilos of marijuana, 1 rocket launcher, 6 fragmentation grenades, 8 long guns, 3 handguns, 113 magazines, 2,500 rounds of ammunition, 4 vehicles, and 23 pieces of



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communications equipment.

On July 5, 2010, a Mexican Marine helicopter was fired upon by a convoy of gunmen near Reynosa, Tamaulipas. The Marines repelled the attack, capturing 15 gunmen and liberating 8 apparent kidnapping victims. The convoy was also found to be transporting seven tons of marijuana. The Marines recovered 10 long guns, 84 magazines, 1,863 rounds, and 10 pieces of communications equipment.

On July 5, 2010, Mexican military personnel raided a residence, arrested two sicarios, seized marijuana and four firearms in Nogales, Sonora. Authorities seized 2 9mm handguns, 1 AK-47 type rifle, 1 G-3 rifle, 6 magazines, 4 rounds of ammunition, and 3.5 kilos of marijuana.

On July 8, 2010, Mexican military personnel seized an arsenal and several vehicles, including some that were armored-equipped or with false compartments in San Lorenzo and Melon, Sinaloa. Authorities seized 1 grenade launcher, 4 AK-47 type rifles, 4 AR-15 type rifles, 1 5.7x28 caliber handgun, 3 shotguns, 2 sub-machineguns, 2 .45 caliber handguns, 2 .40 caliber handguns, 1 .22 caliber handgun, 2 .38 caliber handguns, 1 grenade, 38 magazines, over 1,000 rounds, tactical gear, uniforms, 12 cellular telephones, and 7 vehicles.

**This reporting period:**

General N-Force Cases Opened (162080-10-0001): 92

Suspect Guns: 14

**Trace Requests for Mexico Recoveries:**

**FY 10 Trace Requests Thus Far:**

There were 37,307\* trace requests for Mexico that were submitted between October 1, 2009 and July 5, 2010, of which 571 are pending completion. The break down by agency is as follows:

- Total Trace Requests by ATF 1,265
- Total Trace Requests by DHS 382
- Total Trace Requests by Mexico 35,657
- Total Trace Requests From Other Agencies 3

\*These numbers do not include 11,646 duplicate traces.

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**

**Mexico City**

**Liaison, Training, Media, and Other SWB Interaction:**

On July 7, 2010, ATF's Mexico Office attended the 9

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14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Firearms Coordination Group (GC-Armas) meeting held at CENAPI in Mexico City. Discussion focused SSP and Mexican Customs not providing information on firearms, ammunition and other war materiel seizures to GC-Armas, ATF firearms associated investigations in the Houston and San Francisco Field Divisions, Spanish eTrace training and the status of the eTrace MOU.

On July 9, 2010, ATF's Mexico Office hosted a meeting with personnel assigned to SIEDO and UEITA. ATF provided an overview of the tracing process and how Spanish eTrace can benefit not only the Mexican Intelligence Agency, but other Mexican federal agencies. Other topics discussed were the urgent tracing of all .50 caliber rifles, the origination of explosives seized in Mexico, and the review of information from the listing of 33 multiple sale purchasers.

**Monterrey**

**Investigative Assistance:**

From June 29 - July 2, 2010, personnel from ATF's Monterrey Office and the Combined Explosives Investigative Team assisted the Mexican Defense Agency in Matamoros, Tamaulipas in documenting, x-raying and photographing two .90mm ammunition rounds and an M371E1 High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) round. Approximately 104 firearms were also documented to initiate or verify trace information. This seizure is possibly linked to the Los Zetas Drug Trafficking Organization.

On July 10, 2010, ATF reported that consulate personnel in Monterrey, Mexico heard a large explosion nearby. U.S. personnel from the Monterrey Consulate Office discovered that the Monterrey Police Department was attempting to arrest several suspects suspected of 40 robberies of local businesses at a hotel approximately 2 miles from the U.S. Consulate. The Mexican military arrived at the hotel and were met with gunfire and hand grenades. Several vehicles, six AK-47 type rifles, two AR-15 type rifles, five handguns (9mm, 45 caliber, .40 caliber), and six hand grenades were seized. On July 13, ATF personnel responded to a request from the State Ballistic Examiners Office for assistance in examining and tracing the firearms and explosives.

**Tijuana**

**Investigative Assistance:**

On July 7, 2010, the ATF Tijuana office reported that the Baja California State Attorney General's Office Police seized what the media reported as a .50 caliber Barrett rifle and a .223 rifle in Tijuana. On July 8, the ballistics technician from the Mexican Attorney's Office contacted the ATF personnel from the Tijuana Consulate Office to assist in determining if the Barrett was indeed a .50 caliber. It required careful follow up, due to it having a .223 lower receiver and what appeared to be a .50 caliber upper receiver that did not fit a .50 caliber bullet for testing. Upon reinspection, it was determined by ATF Tijuana personnel that the rifle had a .416 caliber upper receiver manufactured by Barrett. The weapon has the capability to function with a .223 type receiver and can be used as a sniper rifle. This clarification will allow Mexican Attorney General Prosecutors to properly charge the individuals and minimize the possibility of losing the case due to an improperly classified rifle.

**Ciudad Juarez**

No new updates provided for this period.

**OFFICE OF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

No new updates provided for this period.

**ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

No new updates provided for this period.