

**Southwest Border Initiative  
(Project Gunrunner)**

**Biweekly Update**

**March 22, 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**

781035-07-0026 [ATF] Murder of three persons with connections to the U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. On March 13, employees of the U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, attended a birthday party at a private residence with their family members. At approximately 2:30pm, several families departed from the party. Two of these families were pursued by assassins and attacked.

One of the families consisted of a [ATF] all U.S. citizens. [ATF] was an employee in the American Citizen Services Section of the U.S. Consulate. [ATF] was an El Paso County Sheriff's Deputy who worked in the El Paso County Jail. As they made their way to the Port of Entry in downtown El Paso, they were attacked by assassins and shot to death. [ATF] was unharmed.

The second of these two families left the party in two vehicles, [ATF] in one vehicle and [ATF] who is an employee at the U.S. Consulate in the Visa Fraud Section, was in the second vehicle trailing the husband. This family consisted of Mexican citizens. [ATF] was then attacked by assassins, who boxed in his vehicle and proceeded to shoot him to death. [ATF] in the vehicle with [ATF] were wounded during the incident.

The El Paso Field Office received Intel as to which criminal organization was likely responsible for the murders and is currently searching for leads as to the identity and location of the responsible persons. The suspected criminal organization has strong ties to groups on both sides of the international border. Further, the El Paso Field Office is working on leads pertaining to

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

intelligence information regarding the possible purchase of large quantities of ammunition by rival cartel hit squads. ATF has been coordinating efforts with FBI, DEA, and ICE. Investigation continues.

781035-10-0022 - 831 Camp North East, Fabens, TX Firearm Seizure (SWB): Seizure of ten AK-47 rifles, to include one field tested machine gun and five short barreled rifles, in Fabens, Texas. On March 16, 2010, ATF was contacted by a member of the Metro Narcotics Task Force in El Paso, Texas, regarding the discovery of ten AK-47 rifles in Fabens, Texas. ATF responded and identified six of the ten AK-47 rifles as potential NFA weapons. One of the rifles field tested as a machine gun and five had barrel lengths shorter than 16". The firearms were located in a shed in the back yard of a residence, after Metro Narcotics Task Force Agents received consent to search the property. The Task Force Agents received information that some firearms were located at the residence and that they were to be trafficked to Mexico that same day, March 16, 2010.

Two females were identified and questioned at the residence. One male, who is believed to be involved in the acquisition of the firearms was not present at the scene but was identified. No arrest was made at this time, but all ten firearms and other evidence related to potential federal firearms violations were seized. (See 3/16/10 SIR.)

**Fort Worth Field Office:**

781040-08-0110 Fire and Ice: The Task Force continues to monitor the pole camera placed near the residence of the suspect in Johnson County. The Task Force has established a pattern of the suspect's activity and is going to [ATF] Defendant [ATF] was taken into custody and his bond was revoked due to narcotic violations. Task Force Officers were given the name of a subject attempting to purchase firearms for the Gulf Cartel. The subject was identified as [ATF] DEA attempted to gain additional information on [ATF] but was unsuccessful [ATF] broke communications with the Task Force's source. No further action was taken.

781040-10-0038 [ATF] On March 15, 2010, the ATF Fort Worth Field Office was contacted by an employee of Cheaper Than Dirt, Fort Worth, TX and advised that an unknown individual was purchasing five AK-47 style assault rifles with cash. Special Agents with the Fort Worth Field Office established surveillance at Cheaper Than Dirt and made contact with the employee, who identified the unknown female, who was purchasing the five AK-47 rifles. Agents followed suspects and witnessed an unknown female exit the front passenger seat and meet with an unknown Hispanic male.

Agents followed the two vehicles as they drove to a residential area where they stopped in the middle of the street, exited their vehicles and began transferring the firearms in boxes from the target vehicle to the vehicle belonging to the Hispanic male. Agents followed the Hispanic male in the maroon Ford F-150 and initiated a vehicle stop. The other suspect vehicle containing the firearms purchasers was at the traffic light in front of the maroon Ford F-150 and was stopped also. The driver of the red Jeep, and the purchaser of the firearms, was identified as [ATF] a convicted felon, was the front seat passenger and [ATF] [ATF] was sitting in the rear seat driver's side. The Hispanic male was identified as [ATF] a convicted felon.

[ATF] were transported to the ATF Fort Worth Field Office where they all waived their rights per Miranda and agreed to speak with

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

arresting agents. [ATF] all admitted to the conspiracy to straw purchase the firearms and [ATF] admitted to possessing the firearms while they were felons. During the interviews, it was determined that the firearms were to be smuggled to Mexico and trafficked to members of the Zetas organization. It was also determined that [ATF] was part of an ongoing ring involved in the trafficking of drugs and firearms. (See 3/15/10 SIR.)

**HOUSTON FIELD DIVISION**

**Investigations:**

**Corpus Christi Field Office**

782020-10-0031 [ATF] The defendant in this investigation, [ATF] was arrested for lying on an ATF F 4473 regarding his place of birth. [ATF] is currently out on bond and is unaware of the ongoing investigation regarding firearms trafficking. To date, approximately 5 straw purchasers are cooperating in the investigation, and have stated that [ATF] has bragged openly regarding his connection to [ATF]. According to EPIC, [ATF] cell phone has hit on 6 different DEA investigations including a priority DEA target believed to be the number two person with [ATF]. A series of search/arrest warrants will be executed within the next few weeks.

**Houston Group VIII**

782085-09-0026 [ATF] On March 4, 2010, [ATF] was arrested and transported to a Federal Detention Center in Houston, Texas. He is charged with 924 (a)(1)(a), making false statements to FFL.

782025-08-0062 (Operation Traficador): On March 11, 2010, members of ATF Houston Group 8, ICE, DEA, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and Houston Police Department executed three search warrants and three arrest warrants in this investigation. A search/arrest warrant was executed at the residence of [ATF] and [ATF] pursuant to violations of narcotics and firearms laws. The search warrant revealed numerous documents depicting firearms purchases and sales to individuals in and outside of the United States. On the same date, a search/arrest warrant was executed at Nation Wide Imports, where [ATF] believed to be financing the purchase of firearms, was placed under arrest. A search of [ATF] residence and business produced 2 firearms, numerous records and 600-800 rounds of ammunition.

This is the result of a two-year investigation into a Drug Trafficking Organization involved in the acquisition of 100 weapons or more, valued at over \$100,000. At least 47 of the firearms were recovered in Guatemala and a few others in Mexico. [ATF] are cooperating with government agents. In addition, [ATF] and [ATF] are linked to a 17 kilogram heroin case from Brownsville, TX. (See 3/11/10 SIR.)

**Laredo Field Office**

782080-10-0038 [ATF] On March 01, 2010, Agents with ATF were contacted by officers with the Laredo Police Department in reference to an individual they identified as [ATF]. [ATF] Officers stated that while working routine bus interdiction at Omni Bus Station (it should be noted that the Omni Bus line is commonly used by

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

individuals traveling from the interior of the U.S. into Mexico) located at 1020 Santa Ursula, Laredo, TX, they made contact with [ATF] who granted consent to search of his luggage. Officers located what appeared to be a short barreled rifle with approximately 14 magazines. At that time, officers stated that they advised [ATF] of his Constitutional Rights to which he stated he understood. [ATF] advised officers that the rifle was his and that he had brought it for a hunting trip. Agents identified the firearm as a DSC .223 caliber rifle; model STAR-15, SN# D0008832. The rifle had a barrel measuring approximately 10 1/2 inches in length, instead of the legal requirement of at least 16 inches. In addition, the rifle field tested as a machinegun and will be sent off for further determination. ATF attempted to interview [ATF] who requested legal counsel. The U.S. Attorney's Office was contacted and a criminal complaint was authorized. The following ATF investigation will continue. (See 3/2/10 SIR.)

**San Antonio II (IO)**

782065-2010-0193 Wal-Mart Stores Texas LLC (5-74-02989): During an inspection of Wal-Mart # 2239, San Antonio, TX on March 10-11, 2010, ATF obtained information about the [ATF] family and their recent purchases of ammunition, mostly .45 caliber rounds. Over the course of the past several months, the [ATF] family has purchased several thousand rounds of ammo at the same time. Due to a corporate limit of six boxes per customer, [ATF] and a female buyer have routinely purchased 6 boxes each totaling 18 boxes (1,800 rounds at approximately \$600) on several different occasions. [ATF] uses a Visa credit card and the other two buyers pay cash. IOI [ATF] is working with the Wal-Mart staff in obtaining additional receipts and credit invoices to facilitate a criminal referral. The IO investigation is currently ongoing and is being coordinated with ATF LE.

**San Antonio III**

782090-10-0024 [ATF] On 3/3/10, ATF San Antonio III was contacted by ICE and responded to a scene concerning an outbound traffic stop at the Eagle Pass POE. Two vehicles were stopped, one of which contained (7) AR-15 type rifles, (2) pistols, magazines, tactical vests, and handcuffs. All of the serial numbers of the firearms were obliterated. Interviews revealed that the subjects were attempting to transport the firearms to a ranch in Piedras Negras, MX, which was allegedly frequented by members of the Zetas Organization. (See 3/4/10 SIR.)

**LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION**

No new updates provide for this period.

**PHOENIX FIELD DIVISION**

**Investigations:**

**Albuquerque II**

785055-2010-0122 Zia Trading Company: A compliance inspection was conducted at Zia Trading Company (5-85-08911) located in Roswell, New Mexico. A review of records revealed that purchaser [ATF]

[ATF] purchased ten 7.62 caliber rifles from 4

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE  
INTERNAL USE ONLY  
NOT FOR DISSEMINATION OUTSIDE ATF

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

July 11, 2009 to February 5, 2010. Firearm makes/models included Romanian GP-WASRs, CAI Romanian WASRs and a Norinco NAK-90. A query of eTrace revealed [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] ATF A referral was generated and provided to the Phoenix FIG.

**Las Cruces Group II**

785120-10-0013 [REDACTED] ATF County Investigators in New Mexico relayed information to ATF that was discovered during a missing youth investigation. Investigators reported three vehicles parked in various locations without license plates. All vehicles appeared to be in above-average condition with low mileage. A visual inspection of the interior of one of the vehicles revealed a shotgun in plain view and a quantity of hard side, long gun cases. During a subsequent visit to the property, investigators observed several additional gun cases and camouflage body armor inside a vehicle. A building permit for a residence currently under construction on the property was obtained by an individual identified as [REDACTED] ATF Subsequent investigation identified [REDACTED] ATF as the owner of Gomez Trucking Company, which was investigated as part of a DEA narcotics trafficking investigation. ATF special agents are currently gathering additional intelligence and are preparing for the installation of fixed video monitoring. This investigation is continuing.

**Phoenix Group VII**

785115-09-0003 [REDACTED] ATF This approved ATF OCDETF investigation (# SWAZP0491) is being worked jointly with the DEA as part of the OCDETF Strike Force, in Phoenix, Arizona. Based on activity previously reported, all four suspects have been formally indicted on narcotics and firearm charges by a grand jury sitting in the District of Arizona.

785115-10-0004 [REDACTED] ATF et al: This is an approved ATF OCDETF investigation (# SWAZP0496) that is a large scale conspiracy of more than twenty straw purchasers. This group has purchased over 1,100 high powered, high dollar firearms paying more than \$700,000.00 in cash. More than 150 crime guns have been recovered in Mexico with short times to crime. On March 15, 2009, a Federal T-III Court Ordered Audio Intercept, for which ATF was the affiant, was signed by a Federal judge in the District of Arizona. The Phoenix and Denver Field Divisions have brought in out of town special agents to assist in this ongoing investigation.

**Roswell Satellite Office**

785096-10-0012 [REDACTED] ATF Investigation into multiple sale reporting and other activities in the Roswell area revealed at least two suspected straw purchasers of firearms. [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] ATF purchased AK-47 type and AR-15 rifles and semi-automatic pistols. At least one AK-47 type rifle, purchased by [REDACTED] ATF was recovered in Juarez, Mexico with an approximate 45 day time to crime. Interviews of the purchasers revealed that they were buying the firearms for [REDACTED] ATF and were paid for the straw-purchasing activity. There is at least one additional individual believed to have purchased for [REDACTED] ATF Efforts are underway to identify additional co-conspirators. This investigation is continuing.

**Tucson Group II**

785085-10-0042 [ATF] The Tucson JTTF received information that UPS driver [ATF] had been complaining about making numerous deliveries of ammunition to an apartment over the past several months. ATF and FBI interviewed the UPS driver. He stated that on one day he delivered 19 cases of ammunition to [ATF] in Tucson. [ATF] estimated that over the course the past five to six months he has delivered 200 to 400 cases of ammunition to that apartment. The ammunition was marked as "Wolf." This is a brand name often sold in 7.62x39mm rounds used in AK-47 style rifles and cases of ammunition are commonly sold in 1,000 round lots costing \$150.00 to \$250.00 per case.

The investigation led to suspects and the driver positively picked one man and one woman from two photographic line-ups. The suspects have been identified as [ATF] (DOB: [ATF] AZDL: [ATF] and [ATF] (DOB: [ATF] AZDL: [ATF]). Neither of the two has been identified as prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition. Based upon [ATF] statements and further research, it is estimated that over the past six months up to \$100,000.00 of ammunition has been delivered to this apartment. [ATF] do not appear to be gainfully employed and both have been identified as traveling together to/from Mexico. Early indication is that the ammunition may be destined to Mexican DTOs. The investigation is ongoing.

## OFFICE OF STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION

### Significant Events Occurring This Period:

On March 8, Villahermosa Tabasco Hoy reported that PGR has information to indicate that a woman, [ATF] [ATF] coordinates kidnappings and safe-house rentals for the Zetas. Juan Manuel Herrera Campos, former attorney general in Campeche, said that La Contadora coordinates logistics for the Zetas, the organized criminal group with the most firepower in Mexico.

On March 9, Milenio Diario de Tampico reported that residents of Tamaulipas State continue to upload videos on YouTube to show evidence of armed conflicts taking place in their municipalities, with at least 30 such videos now featured on the website. Civilians have taken to YouTube, Twitter and other new technology to address issues that they feel are being ignored or concealed by government authorities.

On March 10, Milenio Diario de Tampico reported that the Committee to Protect Journalists, a New York-based organization, has called for Mexican authorities to investigate the disappearance of several journalists in Reynosa, as reported in the Dallas Morning News recently. According to the report, eight journalists have been kidnapped in the past two weeks; one was killed, two were released after a serious beating, and five remain missing.

On March 10, Mexico City Reforma.com reported that [ATF] alleged financial operator of the Norte del Valle Cartel in Colombia, and three accomplices were detained by Federal Police with over \$2.8 million in cash. Ramon Pequeño Garcia, chief of the Federal Police's Drug Interdiction Division, said that the organization carried money from Mexican cartels for cocaine shipments in compact vehicles, which they exchanged in various Mexico City malls; they were

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

loaded with old file boxes which contained between \$250,000 and \$1M.

On March 11, Mexico City El Universal reported that according to PGR and SSP, the Gulf and Beltran Leyva Cartels, two of the largest and most dangerous in Mexico, are divided amongst themselves and at odds with each other, and this could benefit the cartel headed by [ATF] Federal Police say that Mexico City is feeling the brunt of the internal disputes in the Beltran Leyva Cartel. Beginning in January 2009, authorities noticed a division within the Gulf Cartel between its members and those who used to be their armed branch, the Zetas, and that dispute is being felt in Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon.

On March 11, Monterrey El Norte reported that about 40 presumed members of Los Zetas and Army soldiers exchanged gunfire for two hours at km 98 of the Monterrey-Reynosa Freeway. One gunman was killed during the incident. On March 12, El Norte reported that during the shootout, some 80 kilometers away, on the same highway, accomplices carjacked several motorists and attempted to use their vehicles to block the road and prevent more soldiers from assisting in the shootout. A similar blockade was also attempted in the Los Herreras municipality.

On March 12, Milenio Diario de Tampico reported that attackers threw two grenades late yesterday afternoon at the State Police station in Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas. Minutes later, a similar attack took place ten blocks away at the Municipal Police station, where two grenade blasts damaged three vehicles. Shortly thereafter, two persons aboard a motorcycle fired several gunshots in the air outside the city's Transit Police station. The state government website reported that no injuries were reported in the three incidents.

On March 12, Mexicali Periodico La Cronica.com reported that state and city police, as well as Army soldiers, responded to the discovery of an underground tunnel late yesterday afternoon in the parking lot of the Pioneer factory near the Otay border crossing in Tijuana. The tunnel, which had caused a sinkhole in the area, was 76.5 meters long and headed towards the U.S. No arrests were reported.

On March 13, suspected drug cartel "hit teams" gunned down an American consular employee and [ATF] and killed [ATF] in a separate attack. The victims, two Americans and a Mexican, came under fire in separate locations as they were driving Saturday through Ciudad Juarez after earlier attending the same social event. The killings marked an ominous turn in the drug violence wracking northern Mexico, and prompted the State Department to announce that Americans working at six U.S. consulates in the border area could send their families home.

On March 13, Mexico City Proceso reported that some 24 people were killed in Guerrero State, including 5 police officers, 1 soldier and four people who were beheaded. In the morning, 11 people were killed in a gunfight between soldiers and assassins in the Tierra Caliente region. In Acapulco, 13 people were killed, four of whom were decapitated.

On March 14, Ciudad Juarez Diario.com.mx reported that state officials believe members of the "Los Aztecas" or "La Linea" gangs are responsible for murdering three people linked to the U.S. consulate in Ciudad Juarez.

On March 15, Mexico City The News.com.mx reported that, according to congress, Mexico's Customs Agency has become a serious problem for the economy and national security amid the smuggling of illegal merchandise, arms and illegal substances. A report 7

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE  
INTERNAL USE ONLY  
NOT FOR DISSEMINATION OUTSIDE ATF

was released by a chamber commission which estimated that one gun illegally enters Mexico each minute.

On March 16, Mexico City Proceso reported that the dispute between [ATF] over the Guerrero State drug market claimed eight more lives. Two men were murdered in a hotel in Acapulco, four were shot to death in Centro, and two more were found dead in Costa Grande.

On March 17, Monterrey El Norte reported that the Gulf Cartel recently forced Los Zetas from Tamaulipas State through a series of gunfights that caused alarm so severe that parents took their children out of school, residents stayed in their houses for days and many businesses closed their doors.

On March 18, Ciudad Juarez Diario.com.mx reported that investigators from the United States and Mexico are exploring the possibility that [ATF] was the intended target of the two attacks that killed three persons connected to the city's U.S. consulate. [ATF] of U.S. consulate employee [ATF] [ATF] was a 10-year veteran of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. The jail deputy oversaw cases involving the seizure of illegal narcotics transported to El Paso from Ciudad Juarez.

On March 19, Monterrey El Norte reported that presumed organized crime gunmen created barricades at three points on two highways in the Monterrey metropolitan area, in an effort to delay the arrival of more federal agents to neighboring Tamaulipas State. After police forces battled with armed criminals in that state, around 40 gunmen in Guadalupe and Apodaca carjacked residents and used their vehicles to create barricades on the highways to [ATF] Gunmen also blew up two vehicles on the westbound lanes of Miguel de la Madrid Boulevard. There were no arrests or injuries.

**Significant Seizure Events This Period:**

No new updates provided for this period.

**Trace Requests for Mexico Recoveries:**

**FY 10 Trace Requests Thus Far:**

Please find the requested Mexico data below. This data represents firearms submitted for tracing between October 1, 2009 and March 15, 2010.

There were 34,977\* trace requests submitted involving Mexico recoveries between October 1, 2009 and March 15, 2010, of which 229 are pending completion. The break down by agency is as follows:

- Total Trace Requests by ATF 231
- Total Trace Requests by DHS 402
- Total Trace Requests by Mexico 34,341
- Total Trace Requests From Other Agencies 3

\*These numbers do not include 11,516 duplicate



traces.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

### Mexico City

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

On March 5, ATF MCO personnel and a representative from the Defense Attaché Office, met with officials from CENAPI, Secretariat of National Defense (SEDENA), SEMAR (Mexican Navy) and the PGR laboratory at CENAPI Headquarters to discuss current and projected deployments within Mexico and the United States. The meeting was chaired by the CENAPI Chief, who introduced the CENAPI Intelligence Chief, and the Acting GC-Armas Chief.

#### *CEIT specific topics were as follows:*

Since ATF Mexico Office did not have an Explosives Enforcement Officer (EEO) available to examine hand grenades being stored in five locations in Mexico, SEDENA had to destroy the hand grenades in Aguas Calientes (1), Guerrero (6), Mazatlan (5), Monterrey (15), and Nogales (8). As of March 11, Mexican authorities have seized hand grenades in Chihuahua (14), Guadalajara, Jalisco (4), Acapulco-Chilpancingo, Guerrero (5) and Sinaloa (3).

If CENAPI can secure a Navy aircraft, the CEIT will deploy on March 17 to McAllen, TX, to photograph and document hand grenades seized in San Juan, TX, in November 2009. These grenades are similar to those seized in Monterrey in October 2009 (IN: 701500-10-0003). The team will return to Mexico City on March 18.

The EEO will train several new CEIT members from SEDENA, CENAPI, SEMAR and the PGR laboratory. The EEO will use his equipment (X-ray, spin-out, documentation, and photograph) to conduct the training. CENAPI will forward the names of these individuals so that the vetting processing can be conducted.

During the week of March 8, ATF offered informal eTrace training for UEITA personnel which was warmly received by Chief of UEITA. According to the Chief of UEITA, there are approximately 34 personnel assigned to UEITA who should receive the training. MCO recommended that an individual from the Center for Planning, Analysis, and Information Combating Organized Crime (CENAPI) provide the instruction with MCO personnel present to ensure that the training is conducted properly. This would also allow MCO personnel to assess the tracing capabilities of CENAPI personnel. The Chief of UEITA will discuss the matter with the Chief of the Deputy Prosecutor's Office of Investigation Specializing in Organized Crime (SIEDO) to coordinate this training.

On March 10, MCO personnel, along with Consul General Bruce Williamson of the U.S. Consulate in Monterrey and members of the U.S. Consulate Law Enforcement Team, met with the Governor, Attorney General, the Laboratory Services Director, as well as 9

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

the PGR Delegate and Sub-Delegate for the State of San Luis Potosi and the State of Zacatecas. ATF personnel provided an overview of Spanish eTrace, ATF firearms trafficking initiatives and ATF's mission in Mexico. The Attorney General signed two eTrace MOUs and identified laboratory technicians who will trace all crime guns seized in the State of San Luis Potosi and the State Zacatecas.

On March 10, ATF Mexico Office met with the Chief of UEITA, and a UEITA prosecutor, to discuss the status of two firearms seizures and the status of receiving a counterfeit M203 rifle and a homemade .223 caliber rifle, which will be sent to the United States for examination and metallurgy tests.

The Chief of UEITA, and a UEITA prosecutor requested certified copies of all information pertaining to the firearms trafficking activities of [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED]. Regarding the counterfeit and homemade rifles, they requested that Colt certify a document explaining the differences between an actual Colt M203 and the counterfeits being manufactured. This certified document would then be given to ATF for the Department of Justice to deliver to Attorney General (PGR) Representatives at the Government of Mexico Embassy in Washington, D.C. The document will then be transferred to UEITA for their review/action.

**Investigative Assistance:**

During the week of March 8, ATF MCO personnel met with Chief of UEITA in reference to the two significant seizures in Culiacan, Sinaloa, and Navajoa, Sonora (107 and 75 firearms, respectively). The Chief of UEITA indicated that these are state, and not federal cases. Therefore, the MCO will have to contact the delegates in each state to coordinate the availability of each seizure for ATF personnel to examine and photograph each firearm.

**Monterrey**

**Investigative Assistance:**

On March 1, ATF Explosives Enforcement Officer and an Agent from the Monterrey Consulate Office assisted with the identification of hand grenades recovered from Gulf Cartel attacks on five Municipal Police Stations in the Monterrey metropolitan area on February 27. Follow up and disassembly of the hand grenades will occur at a later date.

During the week of March 8, ATF agents from the Monterrey Consulate Office continued to assist the Nuevo Leon State Laboratory regarding the murder investigation of a U.S. citizen in Palacio, Durango. The ATF agents from the Monterrey Consulate Office are attempting to coordinate the delivery of the ballistics impressions currently stored in the Integrated Ballistics Information System in Monterrey to the ATF National Laboratory for the expert examination.

**Tijuana**

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

10

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE  
INTERNAL USE ONLY  
NOT FOR DISSEMINATION OUTSIDE ATF

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

During the week of March 8, ATF personnel from the Tijuana Consulate Office met with the Director of the Baja California (PGR) State Laboratories to discuss the details of Spanish eTrace implementation. During this meeting, ATF personnel requested statistics on firearm-related violence, as well as firearms, explosives and ammunition seizures for the past 5 years. This data will be used to request additional IBIS equipment for the State of Baja California. The funding request will be sent to the Narcotics Affairs Section. The Baja California PGR requested the machines to start working on the large backlog of casings and bullets the state laboratory has had in its inventory since the late 1990s.

On March 10, ATF personnel from the Tijuana Consulate Office along with liaison members of the San Diego Police Department and the Border Patrol met with the commander of the Tecate, Baja California area, at the Tecate military base. ATF Tijuana personnel provided a general overview of ATF programs and mission in Mexico. The General agreed to contact ATF personnel from the Tijuana Consulate Office when the military conducts enforcement operations and seizes firearms and explosives. To support this mission, the General requested firearms identification and improvised explosive device recognition training for their officers.

**Ciudad Juarez**

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

During the week of March 8, ATF agents from Tijuana Consulate Office received the trace results regarding the rifle seized from [ATF] a U.S. Marine from Yuma, AZ, by authorities in Mexicali, Baja California in January 2010. The trace results revealed that [ATF] was the last retail purchaser of the rifle, which was acquired in Yuma. According to [ATF] testimony to the PGR, he had never seen the rifle and was not aware of how it was found in the trunk of his car. The PGR requested that the trace results be forwarded via MLAT procedures through the PGR representative in San Diego, CA, for inclusion in their investigation. An ATF Special Agent based in California will contact the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) to inquire if [ATF] statements can be used by NCIS against him in the United States.

**OFFICE OF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

No new updates provided for this period.

**ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

On March 5, the CEIT team met at CENAPI

11

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE  
INTERNAL USE ONLY  
NOT FOR DISSEMINATION OUTSIDE ATF

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

headquarters to set a date for movement to McAllen, TX, to plan for an examination of the grenades by Mexican authorities. (ATF IN: 782055-09-0086). EEO [ATF] contacted ATF Case Agent [ATF] and AUSA Trevino for authorization to photograph and disassemble the grenades.

On March 8, EEO [ATF] received a call for assistance in Monterrey, Mexico for a recovered IED that partially functioned (low ordered). This IED utilized a cell phone in the firing system. The Country Attaché did not authorize travel unless the Mexican government provided investigators as part of the CEIT response. EEO [ATF] made determinations based on photos. EEO [ATF] may examine the recovered parts in the future.

On March 12, EEO [ATF] attended a meeting with ATF Assistant Country Attaché [ATF] and FSN [ATF] [ATF] met with ATF Country Attaché [ATF] to discuss the following three priorities of ATF/ETB Mexico:

- Request six names from the Mexican Government to be trained and equipped for remote removal and disassembly of IED grenades.
- Meet with Mexico City, MX Distrito Federal (DF) Bomb Squad (which is responsible for response to the U.S. Embassy) to assess training level, needs and equipment. EEO Green will meet with DF Bomb Squad in the coming weeks to re-evaluate status.
- Re-focus on CEIT mission.

No response by ATF-EEO will take place until after the McAllen, TX mission is complete and the Mexican government can start providing assets for future responses.