



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

August 31, 2011

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Issa and Senator Grassley:

This corrects and updates information provided in our original responses to Questions for the Record (QFRs) of the Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing on May 4, 2011. In particular, we would like to correct and update the information provided in our original responses to QFRs 49(a) and (b) on July 22, 2011. In addition, and in response to your letter dated August 16, 2011, we are reviewing information about the circumstances of recoveries of firearms related to Operation Fast and Furious. We will supplement this response with appropriate information as soon as possible.

Our original response to QFR 49(a) stated that, as of May 26, 2011, "ATF is aware of eleven instances where a recovered firearm associated with this case was recovered in connection with a crime of violence in the United States." That answer mistakenly combined the total number of known traces for such recoveries in the United States and Mexico, instead of providing the number for the United States alone, as the Question requested. Moreover, the response included the two firearms recovered at the scene of the tragic death of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry, even though the Question asked that those firearms be excluded. In fact, beyond these two firearms, ATF is aware of only one instance where a firearm associated with Operation Fast and Furious was traced and coded as recovered in connection with a crime of violence in the United States.

In our first response, we also erroneously included one firearm which, when recovered in the United States in connection to Operation Fast and Furious, was traced with a non-violent crime code. The error stemmed from a previous trace of the same firearm in May 2009, before

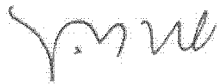
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Operation Fast and Furious began, to a purchaser unconnected with Operation Fast and Furious, which used a domestic violence crime code. The other seven traces included in the eleven firearms reported in our original answer involved recoveries in Mexico, not in the United States.

In response to QFR 49(b), ATF advises that, as of August 16, 2011, it has identified twenty-one additional firearms associated with Operation Fast and Furious that were recovered in Mexico and reportedly were associated with violent crimes. As further firearms are traced and additional analysis of recoveries occurs, ATF advises that additional firearms associated with Operation Fast and Furious may be identified.

We hope that this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Ronald Weich
Assistant Attorney General

cc:

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate