

Strategic Goal: Illegal Firearms Trafficking

Reduce violent firearms crimes by strengthening firearms trafficking intelligence gathering, analysis, inspection, and investigative activity.

Performance Goal Statement:

Reduce the risk to public safety caused by illegal firearms trafficking.

Strategic Objective 2:

Lead the advancement of illegal firearms trafficking intelligence capability through comprehensive information management and research in emerging technology.

Strategies

- 1. Establish a Comprehensive Firearms Tracing Program:** Improve our ability to detect and investigate firearms traffickers through a coordinated and comprehensive firearms tracing program.
- 2. Modernize and Integrate Firearms Databases:** Improve our ability to detect, investigate, and deter traffickers by improving the accessibility and accuracy of the ATF firearms-related data through the modernization and integration of our firearms databases.
- 3. Increase Participation in State Fusion Centers:** Expand our ability to identify leads for criminal investigations and inspections through strengthened partnerships with state and local law enforcement, utilizing State Fusion Centers.
- 4. Enhance Partnerships with Academia:** Enhance our partnerships with academia to improve program performance through program review and the development of innovative performance measures.
- 5. Increase Research and Development in Firearms Technology:** Continually build our industry and investigative expertise through research and development in existing and emerging firearms technology. Exploit those technologies with the potential to improve business practices, our ability to regulate industry, and our ability to solve crimes.

Illegal Firearms Trafficking Performance Indicators:

- ◆ Number of defendants referred for prosecution, in the given fiscal year, for violations related to firearms trafficking
- ◆ Number of defendants convicted, in the given fiscal year, for violations related to firearms trafficking, regardless of the year of referral
- ◆ Estimated number of firearms trafficked
- ◆ Number of traces submitted
- ◆ Percent of domestic law enforcement agencies with an e-Trace account
- ◆ Number of people (ATF employees and Federal, state, local and international law enforcement) receiving firearms investigation training
- ◆ Percent of firearms traces completed within ten days
- ◆ Number of NIBIN hits
- ◆ Number of items entered into NIBIN

STRATEGIC GOAL 2 CRIMINAL GROUPS AND GANGS

CHALLENGES AND THREATS IN THE CRIMINAL GROUPS AND GANGS DOMAIN

Criminal groups and gangs affect communities across the country. Once found principally in large cities, violent street gangs now affect public safety, community image, and the quality of life in communities of all sizes in urban, suburban, and rural areas. While



many gangs have members in a number of states and worldwide, the vast majority of gangs operate on local or regional levels.

Gangs remain key distributors of narcotics in the United States and are sophisticated and flagrant in their use of firearms for violence and intimidation. Because gangs frequently use firearms, ATF uses its expertise in illegal firearms trafficking deterrence and enforcement to address violent crime and gang activity.

Violence is not the only form of gang-related criminal activity that threatens the welfare of the public. There is evidence of a link between criminal groups trafficking tobacco and those engaging in acts of terrorism.

ATF'S ROLE IN DISMANTLING CRIMINAL GROUPS AND GANGS

ATF works to reduce violent crime by targeting and dismantling those criminal groups and gangs that pose the greatest threat to public safety and national security. Through collaboration with Federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies, ATF helps remove violent criminals from our streets. These partnership programs include the following:

Violent Crime Impact Teams (VCITs) are ATF-led, geographically focused enforcement groups composed of Federal, state and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors that remove violent criminals and criminal organizations from the community.



VCIT uses innovative technologies, analytical investigative resources, and an integrated Federal, state, and local law enforcement strategy to identify, disrupt, arrest, and prosecute the criminals and gangs responsible for violent crime in targeted hot spots.



Beyond VCIT, there are numerous other ATF-sponsored inter-agency task forces, which work to disrupt gang activity in communities across America. ATF personnel serve critical roles on these

teams, as they work with other law enforcement partners to coordinate anti-gang efforts. ATF is a managing partner at the National Gang Targeting, Enforcement, and Coordination Center (GangTECC) which serves to coordinate multiagency, multistate gang investigations throughout the country. ATF fully supports the sharing of gang intelligence through the National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC).

ATF agents investigate the trafficking of contraband tobacco products that deprives state governments of tax revenue and in some cases is linked to the funding of terrorist organizations. ATF enforces the Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act (CCTA), which focuses on detecting and disrupting tax evasion at the state and excise tax levels. The CCTA is a tool to deprive criminal groups and terrorist organizations of the financial assets gained through the illegal trafficking of cigarettes. ATF's FSLs analyze con-



traband tobacco products to determine their authenticity. ATF trains counterparts in the Department of the Treasury on these analytical techniques where they are used to determine proper classification of tobacco products and applicable tax rates.



The prevalence of criminal groups and gangs means that they are a strategic goal for ATF. Strategic objectives and strategies to dismantle these groups are listed below.

Strategic Goal: Criminal Groups and Gangs	Strategic Objective 1:	Strategies
<p>Make our communities safer by expanding our efforts to identify, target, and dismantle those criminal gangs and organizations that utilize firearms, arson, and explosives in furtherance of violent criminal activity.</p>	<p>Expand ATF's enforcement efforts to identify, disrupt, and dismantle violent gangs and criminal organizations emphasizing the use of state and local intelligence to identify the worst of the worst offenders.</p>	<p>1. Expand Use of Gang Task Forces: Work with state and local law enforcement to identify gang-related cases where ATF's expertise can have a significant impact, and establish additional gang task forces in high risk areas, utilizing VCIT best practices.</p> <p>2. Leverage Investigative Technology for Complex Cases: Effectively use investigative technology to conduct long term, complex investigations. Identify and attack gang hierarchies to disrupt the command and control structure of gangs whose criminal activity is responsible for violent or firearms-related crime in a community.</p> <p>3. Increase Internal Training on Criminal Groups and Gangs: Develop and deliver specific, in-depth training on criminal groups and gangs, including a basic component for new special agents and advanced training for employees and supervisors.</p> <p>4. Partner with GangTECC for Federal Investigations: Fully participate at both the headquarters and field office level in Federal investigations of regional and national gangs via GangTECC.</p>
<p>Performance Goal Statement: Reduce the risk to public safety caused by criminal organizations and gangs.</p>	<p>Strategic Objective 2: Increase and improve coordination with our law enforcement partners by effectively gathering, managing, and sharing intelligence to support investigations of violent gangs and criminal organizations.</p>	<p>1. Develop and Share Gang Intelligence: Be a leader in developing and sharing gang intelligence by more aggressively using technology to gather, analyze, and disseminate key trends from and to internal components and external partners.</p> <p>2. Participate in Multiagency Systems and Communities of Interest: Fully participate and collaborate in multiagency environments including GangTECC, the GangNet Intelligence Database, NGIC, and communities of interest.</p> <p>3. Create Gang Intelligence Positions: Structure ATF's gang intelligence to support criminal investigations in the field by dedicating positions to gang intelligence issues.</p>

Strategic Goal: Criminal Groups and Gangs (cont.) Make our communities safer by expanding our efforts to identify, target, and dismantle those criminal gangs and organizations that utilize firearms, arson, and explosives in furtherance of violent criminal activity.	Strategic Objective 3: Connect ATF to the communities we serve.	Strategies
Performance Goal Statement: Reduce the risk to public safety caused by criminal organizations and gangs.	Strategic Objective 4: Reduce the trafficking of contraband tobacco products.	<p>1. Expand Gang Training for Our Partners: Expand efforts to provide training for our state and local partners about criminal groups, gangs, and ATF's role in gang investigations, through national conferences, local presentations, and seminars.</p> <p>2. Expand Involvement in GREAT Program: Expand involvement in the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) program by training special agents to be GREAT instructors to work with at-risk youths and prevent them from joining gangs.</p> <hr/> <p>1. Deploy Tobacco Trafficking Investigative Groups: Investigate, recommend for prosecution, and seize the assets of criminal organizations that traffic contraband tobacco products.</p> <p>2. Lead and Coordinate with Our Partners: Provide effective leadership in the area of contraband tobacco enforcement. Effectively coordinate with law enforcement and regulatory agencies, domestic and international, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the tobacco industry.</p> <p>3. Expand Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Training Programs: Improve our ability to detect and investigate contraband cigarette traffickers through the expansion and delivery of high quality, best practice training programs.</p>

Criminal Groups and Gangs Performance Indicators:

- ◆ Number of criminal group or gang related defendants convicted, in the given fiscal year, for violating laws, regardless of the year of referral
- ◆ Number of criminal group or gang related defendants referred for prosecution, in the given fiscal year, for violating laws
- ◆ Number of criminal group or gang related defendants whose cases have the active involvement of state and local law enforcement partners
- ◆ Number of students provided instruction from ATF-certified GREAT instructors

STRATEGIC GOAL 3 EXPLOSIVES, BOMBS, AND BOMBINGS

CHALLENGES AND THREATS IN THE EXPLOSIVES, BOMBS, AND BOMBINGS DOMAIN

Criminal bombings and the illegal use of explosives are a threat to our national security at home and abroad.

The Use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Violent Crime. A common trend emerging in explosives and bombing incidents is the increased use of IEDs. The Internet has made the knowledge available to a broader range of the public than ever before, including those who would use that knowledge to commit violent crimes. Many of the materials required to produce an explosive device are common household goods, available with minimal or no regulation. The law enforcement community must continually adapt our regulatory and investigative practices to address this new reality.

The Link Between Explosives and Terrorism. Terrorists aim to inflict mass civilian casualties and cause maximum losses of life and property, and explosives are typically their weapons of choice. American troops deployed abroad face the constant threat of roadside bombs and improvised explosives, and we cannot ignore the reality that these attacks could one day reach within our borders. While our understanding of terrorist tactics is growing, so do the range of tools and techniques employed by the terrorists. Therefore, it is critically important that we have effective intelligence and robust information-sharing practices, and that

we use innovative research, training, and investigative tactics to meet this evolving threat.

ATF'S ROLE IN INVESTIGATING THE ILLEGAL USE OF EXPLOSIVES, BOMBS, AND BOMBINGS; AND REGULATING THE EXPLOSIVES INDUSTRY

Approximately 99 percent of all bombings in the United States fall under the jurisdiction of ATF. ATF investigates bombings, thefts, recoveries of explosives, and the criminal misuse of explosives, and regulates the explosives industry. Since 1978, ATF has investigated more than 25,000 bombings and attempted bombings, more than 900 accidental explosions, and more than 21,000 incidents involving recovered explosives or explosive devices. The majority of these criminal bombings involved the use of IEDs. ATF also provides our explo-

