The development of a new uniform reporting system to present crime gun trace information from cities across the United States is a great challenge and an exceptional amount of hard work. It can only be accomplished through the commitment and dedication of the people who collect, research, analyze, and publish the data contained in this report. ATF would like to acknowledge the assistance of those who have made pivotal contributions in furthering the expertise and effectiveness of law enforcement and expanding the scope of public knowledge in the unique area of firearms enforcement.

The cornerstone of this effort is the wealth of information on firearms and the crimes in which they are misused. This comes solely from the ATF special agents and their police department counterparts who together have ensured that crime gun traces were submitted timely and accurately. Many worked to improve the comprehensiveness of the information systems and developed new investigative uses for trace information.

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The heart of this project is a unique partnership between ATF and members of academic institutions. Together, this team is responsible for the insight that this information provides. In addition to those already mentioned, our joint team has included Gary Orchowski, ATF, Chief, Crime Gun Analysis Branch, and from that staff: Dr. John Freeman, Jeff Heckel, Michelle Bennett Darden, Neil Troppman, Robert Burrows, Hilda Guy, Robbi Santore, and Christine Kimes Raposa.

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