



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
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ORLANDO ADDED TO ATF-LED INITIATIVE AIMED AT REDUCING VIOLENT CRIME

ORLANDO, Fla. – Ralph Ostrowski, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Tampa Field Division, announced today the placement of a Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT) in the City of Orlando.

ATF is the lead federal law enforcement agency in the VCIT initiative, which uses innovative technology, analytical investigative resources and an integrated federal, state and local law enforcement strategy to identify, disrupt, arrest and prosecute the most violent criminals in 29 U.S. cities.

VCITs consist of federal agents and support personnel working with state and local law enforcement to bring together the unique, interdependent assets and cutting edge technology of all participating agencies.

The Orlando VCIT will consist of additional ATF agents and intelligence resources in conjunction with our partners in the U.S. Attorney's Office, State Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Orlando Police Department, Orange County Sheriff's Office, Melbourne Police Department and Brevard County Sheriff's Office.

“Due to the explosive growth of population and corresponding increase in firearms-related violent crime in Orlando, ATF will deploy additional manpower and resources in continued partnership with the Orlando area law enforcement community,” Ostrowski said. “ATF vows to work toward eliminating the sources of crime guns and removing those who unlawfully possess guns from society.”

U.S. Attorney James R. Klindt stated, “Reducing violent crime is a top priority. We have seen the VCIT effort work well in other places in the Middle District of Florida. ATF is a strong partner with our office and we will continue to prosecute those violent felons and others who ATF identifies, investigates and takes off the street.”

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VCIT takes a six-point approach to reducing violent crime:

- Use technology and human intelligence to identify geographic areas within 29 cities of violent firearms crime.
- Identify the “worst of the worst” violent offenders, the criminal organizations that support them and armed career criminals.
- Use criminal investigations and investigative tools and resources to disrupt and dismantle criminal activity being perpetrated by the identified individuals and organizations.
- Arrest and prosecute the individuals and their associates in the federal or state jurisdiction that lends itself to the maximum penalty.
- Work with community leaders to cultivate solid and sustained commitment between the community’s residents and law enforcement.
- Evaluate results on a regular basis to assess the VCIT’s progress toward achieving the initiative’s goals.

Since the initiative’s launch in June 2004 through the end of fiscal year 2006, VCITs have recovered more than 11,100 firearms and arrested more than 9,800 gang members, drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms and other criminals on local, state or federal charges. The arrested include more than 1,650 “worst of the worst” offenders.

More information on ATF and its programs to reduce violent crime is at www.atf.gov.

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Violent Crime Impact Teams

VCIT Initiative

ATF will lead federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in using innovative technology, analytical investigative resources and an integrated law enforcement strategy to identify, target, disrupt, arrest and prosecute the most violent criminals in areas of 29 cities with high volumes of firearms crime. Removal of those responsible for a community's homicides and violent crimes will turn that community into a safer, more desirable place to live.

Violent Crime Impact Teams (VCITs) will comprise federal special agents and support personnel working with state and local law enforcement officers.

Each VCIT will include:

- Team Leader: ATF Resident-Agent-in-Charge
- ATF Special Agents
- ATF Investigative Assistant
- ATF Intelligence Research Specialist
- State and local officers drawn from homicide, narcotics, gang and robbery units
- DEA Special Agent
- FBI Special Agent
- U.S. Marshal Service Special Agent
- State probation and parole officer
- Assistant U.S. Attorney
- State Prosecutor
- Existing ATF intelligence units

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Firearms Activity:
1-800-ATF-GUNS
(1-800-283-4867)**



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
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www.atf.gov

VCIT Initiative

Target Cities

Albuquerque, NM	Mesa, AZ
Atlanta, GA	Miami, FL
Baltimore, MD	Milwaukee, WI
Birmingham, AL	Minneapolis, MN
Baton Rouge, LA	New Orleans, LA
Camden, NJ	Orlando, FL
Columbus, OH	Philadelphia, PA
Fresno, CA	Pittsburgh, PA
Greensboro, NC	Richmond, VA
Hartford, CT	San Bernardino, CA
Houston, TX	San Juan, PR
Laredo, TX	Tampa, FL
Las Vegas, NV	Tucson, AZ
Los Angeles, CA	Tulsa, OK
Washington, DC	

**Violent
Crime
Impact
Teams**



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Violent Crime Impact Teams Initiative

29 Targeted Cities

