

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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*ATF serves its customers and stakeholders by working with industry members, other agencies, and the American public. A bureau within the Department of the Treasury, ATF is responsible for a wide variety of programs critical to achieving a sound and safer America, through innovation and partnerships.*

*ATF redefined its planning and budgeting structure during FY 1996 into three major activities and further enhanced the structure in FY 1997 based on customer and stakeholder needs. The activities in the enhanced planning and budget structure clearly reflect the Bureau's mission to Reduce Violent Crime, Collect Revenue, and Protect the Public. Programs in each mission area implement the objectives of these activities and are discussed in the Program Discussion and Analysis section of this report.*

Programs that support the Reduce Violent Crime activity are Deny Criminals Access to Firearms, Safeguard the Public from Arson and Explosives Incidents, Remove Violent Offenders From Our Communities, and Prevent Violence Through Community Outreach. The Collect Revenue activity programs are Establish a National Revenue Center, Collect All the Revenue That Is Rightfully Due, and Use Electronic Commerce. Protect the Public activity programs are Assure the Integrity of the Products, People, and Companies in the Marketplace; Ensure Compliance with Laws and Regulations Through Education, Inspection, and Investigation; and Inform the Public.

Interwoven with the three major activities is program and administrative support, which includes all areas that support the Bureau's major activities. For example, ATF's Training and Professional Development Directorate supports and develops training not only for ATF employees, but also for state, local, and international law enforcement agencies. The following descriptions are provided that depict the Bureau's activities and programs:

REDUCE VIOLENT CRIME	COLLECT REVENUE	PROTECT THE PUBLIC
<p>Effectively contribute to a safer America by reducing the future number and cost of violent crimes through enforcing Federal firearms, explosives, and arson laws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>• Deny Criminals Access to Firearms</b></p> <p>Identifies and deters the sources of and participation in illegal firearms trafficking.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• Safeguard the Public from Arson and Explosives Incidents</b></p> <p>Identifies and pursues those who criminally misuse explosive materials and fires.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• Remove Violent Offenders from our Communities</b></p> <p>Investigates, arrests, and recommends for prosecution violent criminals who violate firearms and explosives laws in their criminal activity.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• Prevent Violence Through Community Outreach</b></p> <p>Focuses on community efforts designed to encourage and participate in the prevention of violence.</p> </li> </ul>	<p>Maintain a sound revenue management and regulatory system that continues to reduce taxpayer burden, improves service, collects the revenue due, and prevents illegal diversion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>• Collect all the Revenue Rightfully Due</b></p> <p>Ensures that all revenues eligible and due are collected.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• Establish a National Revenue Center</b></p> <p>Develop systems and processes to ensure that the revenues received and paid out are effectively and timely managed.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• Use Electronic Commerce</b></p> <p>Reduce the taxpayer burden associated with collection of the revenue and develop the ability to provide real-time data.</p> </li> </ul>	<p>Protect the public and prevent consumer deception in ATF's regulated commodities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>• Assure the Integrity of the Products, People, and Companies in the Marketplace</b></p> <p>Ensure that commodities meet safety and product identity standards and keep ineligible or prohibited persons out of the industry.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• Ensure Compliance with Laws and Regulations Through Education, Inspection, and Investigation</b></p> <p>Ensure that firearms and explosives are properly accounted for and required records on regulated commodities are kept.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• Inform the Public</b></p> <p>Educate the public on ATF's regulated commodities.</p> </li> </ul>

# HIGHLIGHTS

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- ✓ Celebrated its “25th Anniversary” as a Bureau (July 1, 1972 - July 1, 1997) and over 200 years of dedicated service to the American public.
- ✓ Revised ATF’s strategic plan based on environmental assessment surveys issued to customers, stakeholders, and ATF personnel.
- ✓ Received four Hammer Awards from Vice President Gore’s National Performance Review. The awards were given to the Partnership Formula Approval Process Team, CEASEFIRE Team, Out-of Business Records Management Team, and Project LEAD Team.
- ✓ The “Disarming the Criminal Program,” ATF’s firearms trafficking enforcement effort, was a finalist in the Innovations in American Government Awards Program.
- ✓ Issued a preliminary report by the Explosives Taggant Study Group that was established to explore the practicality of introducing tracer elements into explosives.
- ✓ Developed the Arson and Explosives National Repository which will serve as a statistical and investigative database for arson and explosives incidents. The information will be available to authorized Federal, state and local agencies.
- ✓ The National Church Arson Task Force issued a report to the President outlining the accomplishments of its first year.
- ✓ Expanded CEASEFIRE program and deployed the Integrated Ballistic Information System technology to eight new sites.
- ✓ Traced all recovered crime guns involved with the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative.
- ✓ Began the development of a joint explosives detection canine pilot program with the Federal Aviation Administration for use at Washington National Airport and Dulles International Airport.
- ✓ Undertook a major recruitment effort of special agents and inspectors. ATF received, screened, and handled approximately 4,000 special agent applications and 1,100 inspector applications. ATF is currently conducting interviews and is expected to hire approximately 96 special agents and 48 inspectors.
- ✓ Established the National Revenue Center in Cincinnati. Reduced the number of locations performing tax and permit functions to consolidate resources and improve consistency. Initiated document imaging operations to reduce storage and handling of paper files and improve accessibility of information. Began automation of industry statistical information which will enhance analytical and compliance monitoring capability.



# HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Hosted an international conference on fire research that was attended by 65 world experts on the subject. The ideas and information exchanged will enhance our development of the ATF Fire Investigation and Research Center in partnership with the academic community.
- ✓ Conducted 22 “train-the-trainer” classes with 665 police officers participating from across the United States in ATF’s Gang Resistance Education and Training Program (GREAT). The program curriculum, designed to decrease gang violence across the nation, is taught by trained, uniformed police officers and ATF special agents to children in the seventh and eighth grades. In FY 1997, 471 state and local agencies sponsored GREAT classes for over 314,000 school children.
- ✓ Deployed 1,144 desktops and laptops in the first phase of Enterprise Systems Architecture to six field divisions and 58 field offices. Enterprise Systems Architecture is a new concept in the acquisition of information technology that allows for the cyclical replacement and upgrades of technology.
- ✓ Created the Diversion Branch to deal with diversion of cigarettes and distilled spirits across state and national borders in violation of law. The new branch combines investigative, regulatory and intelligence gathering expertise to combat loss of revenue in partnership with state, international and other Federal agencies.
- ✓ Designed and commissioned the construction of a Rapid Response Laboratory that will provide versatile laboratory services directly on site at crime scenes.
- ✓ Distributed a standard hand held portable radio to each special agent and produced two mobile radio communications platforms to support critical incidents with radio communications in remote areas.
- ✓ Expanded ATF’s Internet web site (<http://www.atf.treas.gov>) with a host of information and received more than 20,000 visits per month. ATF forms were placed on the web site enabling the public and industry members to download and fill out the forms.
- ✓ Completed Headquarters restructuring, the second of a three phase approach to structure the Bureau for maximum effectiveness in developing programs and policies; and in utilizing ATF resources. Began the third phase, field restructuring.
- ✓ Completed the first phase of a procurement subsystem (Procurement Desktop) with the intention of creating an electronic desktop environment for processing all future financial transactions.
- ✓ Trained ATF employees 15, 893 times (an ATF employee may have attended one or more training sessions); and 34,824 other Federal, state, local, and international law enforcement officers, and industry personnel.

*ATF’s new mobile radio communications platform.*

