



History

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ATF's History

Effective January 24, 2003, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) was transferred under the Homeland Security bill to the Department of Justice. The law enforcement functions of ATF under the Department of the Treasury were transferred to the Department of Justice. The tax and trade functions of ATF will remain in the Treasury Department with the new Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.

In addition, the agency's name was changed to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to reflect its new mission in the Department of Justice.

- ▶ [Elliot Ness](#)
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From The Archives

A Buried Injustice: Deputy Collector William Henderson Foote, ATF's Legacy Treasury Agent, Killed in the Line of Duty, December 29, 1883, Yazoo City, Mississippi

April 23, 2012

ATF has recently discovered that during the mid to late 1800s, as many as 40 deputy collectors were killed in the line of duty while serving with the Department of Treasury's Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), one of ATF's legacy agencies. While most were killed by well-armed moonshiners, one was not. [More »](#)

ATF's Special Response Team (SRT) Tactical Canine Training Program

May 1, 2011

A CBS News Sunday Morning story takes an inside look at ATF's Special Response Team (SRT) tactical canine training program. [More »](#)

Arson: The Business of ATF

December 12, 2009

ATF's early arson jurisdiction is embedded within explosives legislation dictated by two critical Acts: the Gun Control Act of 1968 and the Explosive Control Act of 1970. [More »](#)

ATF Transfers Historic Alexander Hamilton Letter To National Archives

November 1, 2009

Another small piece of American history was preserved for posterity on September 24 when Acting Director Kenneth Melson transferred, to the National Archives, a 219-year-old letter written by Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton. The document had been in ATF's possession for more than three decades. [More »](#)



ABOUT ATF

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CAREERS

Special Agent
Industry Operations Investigator
Professional Technical
Internship

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