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Inside RATF

FOR THE EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES OF THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ATF SRT Serves Warrants--By Fast Rope

By SA Jim Balthazar, Special Response Team 3

In November 2012, ATF's Special Response Team (SRT) conducted a tactical operation in a way that very few SWAT teams ever have: by fast roping out of Blackhawk helicopters. This search and arrest warrant service in rural Mississippi was the first time in ATF's history that an ATF SRT deployed from helicopters into a non-permissive environment, or "hot zone," directly outside the suspect's residence. This operation required extensive planning and training. Ultimately, it demonstrated the broad range of capabilities maintained by the SRT in order to support ATF field operations.



ATF SRT conducting helicopter deployment training with U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Air and Marine Unit, preparing for a warrant operation. SRT personnel in 1st helicopter: Blake Boteler, Christian Ladner, Bill Flanery, Sam Cohen, Sonny Dunlap, Brandon Chenault, Tim Fitzpatrick and Jack Grabowski. SRT personnel in 2nd helicopter: Scott Adams, Brad Kaufman, Dave Millen and Jeff Kunz with K-9 Nash. (Photo courtesy SA Jim Balthazar)

In the summer of 2012, SA Christian Ladner, Division Tactical Advisor (DTA) for the New Orleans Field Division, began coordinating between the ATF Field Office in Jackson, Mississippi, and Special Response Team 3, in Dallas, Texas, to prepare for a possible search and arrest warrant operation in rural Mississippi. The main suspect in the case led a criminal organization which was responsible for nearly all of the methamphetamine trafficking in the state, as well as for firearms trafficking, assaults and homicides. The suspect's residence was one of several structures on a five-acre property in rural Mississippi.

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Special Agent L.C. Cheeks, the ATF case agent, informed DTA Ladner that the only road leading to the suspect's property ran through a small town that was overwhelmingly friendly to the suspect and his associates. Any long caravan of police vehicles headed toward the suspect's residence would be seen by local residents and that information would probably be relayed, as a warning, to the suspect. Therefore, the SRT needed a way to quickly approach and deploy onto the suspect's property, but without alerting the local population and compromising their approach.

The SRT considered numerous tactical options, but ultimately decided to use helicopters to deploy the team. This would allow the team to rapidly approach the target and deploy onto the property without providing any advance warning to the suspect or his associates. Blake Boteler (SRT 3 Team Supervisor), Jeff Brouse (SRT 3 Forward Observer Team Leader) and DTA Christian Ladner assembled a plan encompassing three tactical elements: an advance element, an air element and a ground element. This plan was reviewed and approved by the leadership of both the New Orleans Field Division and the Special Operations Division.



Prior to the operation, the ATF SRT conducted extensive training with air crews from U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Air and Marine Unit.
(Photo courtesy SA Jim Balthazar)

The SRT personnel arrived in Mississippi two days prior to the operation to conduct mission-specific training. Three air crews from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) also arrived that day from Louisiana and south Florida to assist in the training. For two days, all of those personnel trained as one team, preparing meticulously for the operation. They rehearsed both primary and secondary deployment options as well as numerous contingencies. At the end of two hard days of training, the SRT, USCBP and New Orleans Field Division personnel conducted their pre-operational briefings and handled all final arrangements for the operation, scheduled to begin before sunrise the next day.

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On the morning of the operation, all personnel were staged and ready at 4:00 am. The first element to deploy was the advance element consisting of six forward observers (FOs), divided into three separate two-man teams. Other SRT and field division personnel drove the six FOs to the woods near the suspect's property and dropped them off at 4:30 am.



SRT Tactical Canine Handler Jeff Kunz deploys from the USCBP Blackhawk helicopter with K-9 Nash. (Photos courtesy SA Jim Balthazar)



These units moved covertly through the woods, covering 500 yards, to get into their final positions surrounding the target. They were there to provide real-time intelligence on activity at the location prior to the arrival of the rest of the SRT, and also to provide lethal cover for the entry team as they deployed from the helicopters.

SRT operators Dave Millen, Brad Kaufman, Scott Adams and Jeff Kunz with K-9 Nash.

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The second element to deploy was the air element. This element, which would be the entry team, consisted of 12 tactical operators (including one tactical medic) and one tactical canine. They deployed via fast ropes from two USCBP Blackhawk helicopters, quickly cleared and secured both residences on the property, and located and arrested the main suspect. The original plan had been for the helicopters to land but, due to recent rainfall and the instability of the landing zone, the decision was made on the morning of the operation for the SRT to deploy via fast ropes.

The third and final element to deploy was the ground element, with six additional tactical operators, two tactical medics and two crisis negotiators. They deployed via a caravan of police vehicles led by a Bearcat armored truck. This element provided perimeter support and assisted in searching and securing other vehicles and structures on the property.

To ensure that the air element was not compromised, the ground element timed its approach so that it did not pass the neighboring town until the air element had already deployed. As a result, the ground element did not arrive at the target location until approximately 10 minutes after the air element.

By the end of the operation, it was clear that all of the meticulous planning and rigorous training had paid off. The three SRT elements deployed as planned, the operation was smooth and efficient, and nobody (including any suspects) suffered any injuries during the operation.

This operation was demanding on many levels and demonstrated all the best qualities within our Bureau. It required the SRT leadership to think outside the box when planning the operation. It required additional training and commitment on the part of the SRT tactical operators. And, finally, it required the support of ATF leadership, who trusted in the judgment and capabilities of all the SRT members. It also highlights the benefits of interagency cooperation as exhibited between ATF and USCBP. This operation represents a milestone for the SRT program, and it showcases how our agency can achieve great things when we work together and strive for excellence.



**After two days of training together, personnel from ATF SRT and USCBP Air and Marine Unit pose for a team photo. The operation began at dawn the following day.
(Photo courtesy SA Jim Balthazar)**

SA Josey Visnovske Reaches Out To Fire Investigators Through Award-Winning Research, Individual Support

By Tampa Field Division Public Information Officer



Photo (left-right): Dr. Jeff Mitchell, SA Visnovske, Pete O’Conner. (photo courtesy Tampa PIO)

On February 23, 2013, the World Congress on Stress, Trauma and Coping honored Special Agent William “Josey” Visnovske with the “Founders Award” for his collaborative outreach in the Field of Crisis Response. From summer of 2011 through May 2012, Special Agent Visnovske conducted a major study on the effects of fatality fires on fire investigators. The study concluded that fire investigators do, in fact, suffer a variety of powerful and sometimes long-lasting stress reactions to their work with the deceased. The study clearly indicated that fire investigators desire Critical Incident Stress Management assistance, but they would only accept such services from people who they view as being trained and experienced in the same type of work as themselves.

During the time of the study and in the ensuing months, Special Agent Visnovske continuously reached out to law enforcement and fire service investigators and fire marshals in every jurisdiction he served. He listened to their stories and provided understanding, care and concern. He demon-

strated a willingness to call back and follow up with those who were hurting after a fatality fire. In one instance, he traveled to another state to provide support to firefighters who had experienced a multiple fatality fire and this support made a huge difference in their lives. For some, he became the bridge from depression, uncertainty and a loss of self-confidence, to a return to work and a resumption of their normal personal lives.

Josey exemplifies genuine care and concern for others regardless of their uniforms or the types of organizations they serve. He treats people with respect and dignity and has been a beacon of light for some who were confused and feeling lost. The Tampa Field Division is honored and proud of Josey’s contributions to others beyond the call of duty. Currently Special Agent Visnovske is a Certified Fire Investigator and prior to joining ATF he served as a deputy sheriff, a municipal police officer, a state law enforcement officer and a United States Marine.



Above: ATF RAC David Hyche and his daughter Rachel.

Below left: ATF SACH Karen Findlay, SSA/ CESBT Tim Wilson and IABTI Florida Chapter Director Larry Hostetler.

Below right: SA Brad Earman, Chief, Explosives Enforcement and Training Division, NCETR (center) and SAC Jeff Fulton (right) with Congressional staff members.



From IABTI Regional Meeting, Egg-citing Results for Kids

By SA/PIO Michael Knight
Tennessee Chapter Director, IABTI

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI) hosted a meeting of Alabama and Tennessee chapters of IABTI on March 15, 2013. The meeting was held at the National Center for Explosives Training and Research (NCETR) on Redstone Arsenal and was attended by over 100 members representing Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida. Congressional staff members also attended, along with staff from NCETR and the Hazardous Devices School. ATF Special Agent in Charge Jeff Fulton (IABTI member) stated that "IABTI's involvement in this very worthwhile project further exemplifies their commitment to public service." Another IABTI member, ATF Special Agent Brad Earman, Chief, Explosives Enforcement and Training Division, NCETR, commented that "NCETR is honored to host IABTI. At NCETR, we are committed to reducing injury and death related to the criminal use of explosives. IABTI is a partner in this effort".

In addition to the chapter business meetings, IABTI members constructed electronic beeping Easter eggs for use with blind and visually impaired children. This project was started in Alabama seven years ago and has been adopted by IABTI and has spread throughout the nation. The National Association for Parents of Visually Impaired Children (NAPVI) helps identify groups in need of this service. The beeping eggs are used so that the kids can hunt eggs independently, which teaches independence--and is much more fun! The eggs are also used year-round by some teachers for the blind, to teach location skills for their students. The eggs constructed at this particular meeting will be used at numerous events throughout Tennessee and Alabama.



ATF Special Agents' Seminar Prepares Future Doctors to Treat Injuries from Firearms and Explosives

By SA/PIO Debora A. Seifert, Boston Field Division



On March 1, 2013, ATF Special Agents and Certified Explosives Specialists Frank “Butch” Tortorella and Phil Ball presented an overview on explosives, firearms and ammunition to an audience of undergraduate, and first and second year medical students at Harvard Medical School.

For approximately 6 years, SA Tortorella and SA Ball have spoken to students at Harvard who are enrolled in a course titled “Injury, Trauma and Violence Prevention.” During the two-hour presentation, the students learned about numerous topics, including triage scenarios involving post-blast injuries, blast pressure forces, blast physics and injury patterns and care. The students were also shown inert examples of explosives, and they learned about high and low explosives and pyrotechnic mixtures.

SA Tortorella also brought his K-9, Lucky, to class. This gave students the opportunity to learn about ATF’s explosives detection K-9 program.

An overview on firearms and ammunition was discussed as well, and the students had the opportunity to see several types of firearms and ammunition first-hand.



Above: SA/CES Ball at the podium at Harvard Medical School.

Left: SA/CES Tortorella and K-9 Lucky provided additional instruction.

(Photos courtesy SA Debora Seifert)

At DAD Marvin Richardson's Leadership Lunch and Learn (L3) Workshops, Employees Devour New Ideas Along with The Midday Meal

By Katrina Masterson

Program Manager, Enforcement Programs and Services

On January 7, 2013, Marvin Richardson, Deputy Assistant Director (DAD), Enforcement Programs and Services (EPS), kicked off his Leadership Lunch and Learn (L3) workshop series. During this series, DAD Richardson facilitates the leadership lessons from John C. Maxwell's book, *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership: Follow Them and People Will Follow You*. Maxwell, an internationally recognized leadership expert, speaker, coach, and author, has sold over 19 million books. In his book, Maxwell offers practical and applicable laws for successful leadership, as well as lively stories featuring world-renowned leaders

such as Lee Iacocca, Abraham Lincoln, Princess Diana, and Elizabeth Dole.

The book's format is perfect for Richardson's L3 style. During each lunch hour session, Richardson plays a 15-minute audio tape that covers one or more of the book's twenty-one leadership principles. Afterwards, he opens up a conversation with the participants to facilitate a deeper understanding of the book through the experiences of the L3 audience. The word has gotten out that the workshops are fun and informative. As one employee stated, "I wouldn't usually pick up and read this type of book, but the L3 format held during my lunch time is perfect for me. DAD Richardson is a dynamic speaker, and he clearly delivers the author's leadership message. These sessions have been a great opportunity for me to learn some leadership tools that will have an impact on me both personally and professionally."



DAD Richardson's leadership workshops are held at lunchtime; employees may attend in person or by phone.

Richardson has a passion for this type of learning, having facilitated a similar lunchtime learning program as the Special Agent in Charge of the Denver Field Division. When Richardson arrived at ATF Headquarters in September 2012 as the new DAD, EPS, he expressed an interest in offering something similar. When the New Year arrived, he could not wait to get started! All ATF employees are welcome to participate in the L3 sessions. Headquarters employees meet in one of the training rooms, and field employees may participate by teleconference. Each week, EPS announces the date, the time (always 11:30 am - 12:30 pm), and the conference codes. Please watch for the announcements. If you have any questions, please contact Myisha Wallace, 202-648-8557. We look forward to lunching and learning with you!

St. Paul Division Industry Operations Gun Show Outreach: Educating Federal Firearms Licensees, Sharing Knowledge with Future Industry Members

By SA/PIO Robert M. Schmidt, St. Paul Field Division

Mary Jo Hughes, Director of Industry Operations (DIO) in ATF's St. Paul Field Division (SPFD), has seen it all in her over 26 years of service with ATF. DIO Hughes has been a proponent of Industry Ops (IO) taking a proactive approach to educating the public as well as members of the industry. In addition to hosting Federal firearms licensee (FFL) seminars throughout the field division, DIO Hughes has been an advocate of ATF participating in area gun shows, with the goal of educating not only the general public, but the industry members as well.

Industry operations investigators (IOI) from throughout the SPFD are active participants in the gun show circuit, typi-

cally sacrificing a weekend to attend these shows and engaging the general public and FFLs in conversation about Federal firearms laws and regulations. Typically, 2-3 IOIs will staff a booth containing an ATF static display, and will distribute handouts and answer questions throughout the weekend. The IOIs have received an overwhelming positive response from the general public and the FFLs during these shows and the show promoters have also expressed gratitude for the participation of the ATF employees.

On February 9-10, 2013, IOIs Paul Marsolek, Steve Ring and Crystal Clardy participated in the Dakota Territory Gun Collector's Association in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



This is a premier event for the Association, with over 700 exhibitors participating in the show. Over 4,500 patrons braved blizzard conditions to attend the event, many of them visiting the ATF booth and receiving answers to their questions concerning firearms regulations.

On February 23-24, 2013, the ATF SPFD was once again represented at the Annual Pine Technical College Shooter's Association Gun Show in Pine City, Minnesota. Over 150 vendors participated in the event and approximately 2,700 patrons attended and enjoyed the show. An ATF booth was staffed by A/S Hans Hummel along with IOIs Vicky Westenhofer, Jeff Jenkins and Cindy Schoon-

**Left-right: Fargo Satellite Office IOI Paul Marsolek and Sioux Falls Satellite Office IOI Crystal Clardy at the gun show in Sioux Falls.
(Photo courtesy SA/PIO Bob Schmidt)**

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**Front row left-right: ATF IOIs Cindy Schoonmaker, Vicky Westenhofer, and Jeff Jenkins.
Back row: Two students from the Pine Technical College Gunsmith Program.
(Photo courtesy SA/PIO Bob Schmidt)**

maker. ATF was well received by the patrons and industry members.

The Pine Technical College has an active 2-year Gunsmith Certificate/Degree Program, one of only seven schools in the country offering this type of certificate/degree program. The students learn to build a firearm from raw materials and usually extend their education and gain further expertise in general manufacturing and machining including the operation of CAD equipment, 3D Printers, CNC machines, drill presses, lathes, etc. There is currently a two-year waiting list for this coveted program. Additionally, in the advanced segments, business courses are also offered on the set up of a gunsmith and/or firearms business. IOI Schoonmaker recently provided training to the students on obtaining the FFL, firearms recordkeeping and firearms manufacturing. St. Paul IO has been asked by the school to continue with

this collaborative effort, and the school intends to incorporate the ATF segments into the curriculum.

With over 7,000 FFLs and only 23 IOIs, the SPFD has the highest percentage of FFLs to IOIs in the nation. The SPFD has taken the opportunity of participating in gun shows and getting the message out to a substantial number of the general public and more importantly, the FFLs, in a short period of time at a single location. The SPFD, due to limited resources, has learned how to do more with less and effectively and creatively educated large numbers of people.

Whether there's a gun show in Southern Wisconsin or Northwest South Dakota, IOIs from the SPFD will be there, and will professionally handle any questions or concerns that FFLs and the general public have regarding firearm regulations.

The Diversity Corner

Diversity in Leadership

By SAC Robin Shoemaker, Columbus Field Division

In an ever-changing world that is continually evolving and being recreated, today's managers often find themselves in constant motion as well when dealing with Workplace Diversity. As a fact of modern-day life, these issues often challenge us in leadership roles to be cognizant of those factors which have direct impact within the workplace. In fact, there must be reaffirmation in our quest in being open to the concept of learning from others and being willing to heighten our awareness of those diverse attributes that our employees possess.

Part and parcel to this notion is the concept that today's leaders and managers must push the diversity agenda forward and further embrace this type of forward thinking. I firmly believe that it is incumbent upon all of us to open our minds to new and innovative ways in doing our jobs to further the overall mission. Within my Division, I have encouraged--and in some instances mandated--that our employees familiarize and expose themselves to positions outside their individual comfort zones. Hopefully, this broadens individual perspectives about their co-workers and encourages future productive interactions. Understanding another point of view and recognizing that there may be more than one way to accomplish a task or goal is quite healthy as we pursue our day-to-day functions.

As we know, ATF is comprised of a wide array of talent, expertise, and knowledge. It is incumbent upon us to exploit the possibilities and extract these valuable assets across the board to deal with complexities of not only today, but to ensure that we sustain ourselves in the future. Embracing and committing ourselves to this perspective will no doubt ensure that we continue to be the "best of the best" and that we continue to prosper in all we do. Viewpoints from different diverse backgrounds only make all of us and ATF stronger.

Diversity Makes Us Better - One Mission Unites Us

ATF Task Force Officer Named Officer of the Year

**By SA/PIO Trista Frederick,
Kansas City Field Division**

An ATF task force officer was awarded the Topeka Police Department's 2012 Officer of the Year Award. Topeka Police Officer Jeralyn Wheelles, a task force officer for Kansas City Group I, recently received the award during the Topeka Police Department's annual crime strategy meeting. Police Chief Ron Miller presented TFO Wheelles with the award for her exemplary work with ATF. During the calendar year 2012, TFO Wheelles opened 32 investigations, recommended prosecution of 34 defendants and seized 47 firearms. Of the 34 defendants, 74% were previously convicted felons. Since TFO Wheelles became a task force officer, she opened 147 cases and indicted 185 defendants; 86% of which were convicted felons. She is the example of why task force officers are integral to ATF's mission to reduce violent crime. TFO Wheelles is the first female in the history of the Topeka Police Department to receive this prestigious award.

**TFO Wheelles with her Officer of the Year
plaque.**

(Photo courtesy ATF Group Sup Brent Quinn)



ATF Delivers: New Orleans Crime Commission Honors SAC Phillip Durham

By SSA/PIO Austin R. Banks, New Orleans Field Division

On February 26, 2013, SAC Phillip M. Durham received the Professional Excellence In Law Enforcement Award from the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission (MCC) for extraordinary service rendered to New Orleans through ATF's NIBIN Program.

In July 2010, a short time after arriving in New Orleans, SAC Durham, New Orleans Police Superintendent Ronald Serpas, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, and other top law enforcement officials gathered for a press conference at one of the roughest corners in New Orleans to unveil a new era in tracking down illegal firearms and those violent offenders carrying them.

During that press conference, SAC Durham said "Our goal is to work hand in hand with our other law enforcement partners to reduce violent crime in New Orleans. We will aggressively focus on removing firearms from the hands of violent offenders. ATF will provide innovative firearm technology, analytical investigative resources, and additional ATF agents as part of the team strategy."

Speaking at this year's 2013 MCC Annual Awards Luncheon to an audience of over 800 New Orleans business owners, community leaders, and State, local and Federal law enforcement stakeholders, MCC President Rafael C. Goyeneche said, "ATF continues to deliver on its commitment to working with our other law enforcement partners to make New Orleans a safer place to live."

Since July 2010, the ATF New Orleans Field Division has

facilitated NOPD in receiving a myriad of additional resources including training, equipment, logistical support and technical support to strengthen and improve the NIBIN Program. In addition to providing equipment, ATF provided for the training of three NOPD employees to become firearms examiners through study at the ATF National Firearms Academy in Ammendale, MD. Currently, NOPD has three firearms examiners who can confirm potential ballistic matches highlighted by the automated systems and can testify in court.

To date, the NOPD has generated 928 hits. Additional examiners, system upgrades, training and other resources have allowed the entries of crime guns and crime scene evidence to increase as well. NOPD has consistently been in the top five nationwide in NIBIN entries, and a past backlog is steadily being reduced. These improvements have helped to remove many groups of violent individuals from the community, and to make New Orleans safer.



Pictured left-right: MCC President Rafael C. Goyeneche, III, SAC Phillip M. Durham. (Photo courtesy MCC)

Navigating Tax Time

By Sunithi Kuruppu, MSW, ATF Employee Assistance Program
Business Health Solutions

Business Health Services (BHS) is a free and confidential service provided by ATF for you and your household members. Care Coordinators are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to speak with you about any issues you may be experiencing; just call 1-800-327-2251.

Did you know that BHS can connect you with a financial consultant to schedule a free telephonic financial review? Once connected with that consultant, you can discuss any personal financial concern, such as managing debt, planning for a child's college education, coping with monthly budgeting, or various home ownership options. With the April 15 tax deadline just weeks away, you might want to take special note of the tax-oriented suggestions and resources below.

We all tend to focus a lot of time, energy, and worry about taxes during the days and weeks just before April 15. However, you can avoid last-minute headaches, missed deductions, and possible penalties and interest—all potential tax time hazards—by making your tax planning a year-long event: planning early will significantly reduce the stress associated with paying your taxes on time and can help prevent costly errors and omissions. Borrowing, spending and investment decisions you make throughout the year will shape your tax bill well before the filing deadline.

Where to Start?

- The IRS website, <http://www.irs.gov>, provides much information and resources, including downloadable tax forms, free electronic filing, and even smart-phone apps.

- Subscribe to receive and read the daily “IRS Tax Tips”, which can be found at <http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>. Under the banner “Subscriptions”, click on “IRS Tax Tips” to subscribe.

- Look for free tax seminars and assistance offered through your local library or bookstore.

- Don't procrastinate; you may overlook potential sources of tax savings or make errors.

Receiving a Refund?

Many people are planning for good news when it comes to tax time: a refund! But spending that refund money wisely can be a challenge. If you are getting a refund this year, consider the following:

- Paying down debt. Big balances on credit lines and charge cards seriously affect your credit rating. If you have high interest rate charge cards, paying them down or paying off the card completely is a smart financial move.

- Setting up an emergency fund. In these precarious times, preparing a nest egg to fall back on in case of job loss, a sudden illness or other family emergency can be wise. It may be a good idea to consult with a financial planner to discuss strategies for reducing your tax burden, maximizing your 401(k), and planning for retirement.

TAX FACTS

Last year, the IRS processed 143,607,800 individual tax returns. From these, it collected \$1,331,160,000,000.

The average filer receives a refund of \$2,953.

WHERE THE MILLIONAIRES ARE: The state of California had the highest number of filers with an adjusted gross income over \$1 million, with 42,090; Vermont had the lowest number, with 295.

(source: www.irs.gov)

An Ounce Of Prevention: Training for Cash America Store Managers Spreads Knowledge, Aids in Compliance

By IOI Van Ponzica
Fort Worth Field Office

On January 16, 2013, Cash America Pawn held a training class about the Federal firearms regulations in Arlington, Texas, for 48 store managers in the Dallas/Fort Worth areas. Cash America Senior Learning Consultant Jerry Huerta and Industry Operations Investigators Bonnie Bailey and Van Ponzica from ATF's Fort Worth Field Office conducted the training that entailed a thorough review of ATF Form 4473 and its instructions, along with a question and answer session. The Cash America management stressed the importance of good communication and rapport between its employees and the ATF Industry Operations Investigators. All the attendees noted that the training session will help them remain in compliance.



Cash America ATF Form 4473 training session on January 16, 2013, in Arlington, Texas.



From left to right: Senior Learning Consultant Jerry Huerta, IOI Van Ponzica, IOI Bonnie Bailey, Operations Support/Firearms Compliance Manager Randy Turner, Firearms Compliance Specialist Charles Roper, and DFW District Operations Director Jeff Phillips.

ATF Represented at American Heroes 2013 Air Show in Ft. Myers, Florida

By Tampa Field Division Public Information Officer



Many thanks to the Tampa Field Division's Group I, Ft. Myers Satellite Office, IOI/DCIP Representative Carolyn King, Technical Operations Officer (TOO) Steve Brady and Technical Surveillance Specialist (TSS) Chuck Longwell for taking the time during a holiday weekend to represent our agency at the American Heroes 2013 Air Show and Code-3 Career event that was held in Ft. Myers, Florida. Chuck and Steve set up the new ATF Mobile Command vehicle that was toured by thousands of event attendees. Group Supervisor Trenea Lewis, along with Special Agents Robert Cekada and William Filides, greeted visitors and presented information about ATF. This outreach event allowed ATF and the Tampa Field Division to educate and interact with the community.



Top: Special Agents Robert Cekada and Bill Filides answer questions from visitors.



Middle: Technical Operations Officer Stephen Brady with event visitors.

Bottom: SA Robert Cekada, TOO Stephen Brady, Industry Operations Investigator (IOI) Carolyn King, Group Supervisor Trenea Lewis, SA Bill Filides and TSS Charles Longwell with ATF's Mobile Command Vehicle.

(Photos by TSS Charles Longwell)

“Operation Blanket Notice” Smothers CA Drug Activity

By SA/PIO Christian Hoffman, Los Angeles Field Division



Andre Birotte, U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California (back row on left), recently joined ATF Special Agent in Charge Steve Bogdalek (back row, fourth from left) at the California Narcotics Officers Association to honor law enforcement officers for their exemplary work on “Operation Blanket Notice.” This operation resulted in closure of 126 dispensaries, execution of 17 search warrants, 6 arrests and seizure of 1,185 kilos of marijuana, 3,552 marijuana plants, 8 guns, \$110k+ cash and \$189k+ in assets, along with seven real properties valued at approx. \$7.5 million seized. Pictured: Members of DEA Group 3 receive the award from U.S. Attorney Birotte. ATF Special Agent Dave Hamilton (back row, third from right) is assigned to the group. (Photo courtesy SA/PIO Christian Hoffman)

When in Rome... run a marathon? For SA Tanna Langué-Yarnell, the answer was, Si! By SA/PIO Cheryl Bishop, Seattle Field Division

ATF Special Agent Tanna Langué-Yarnell is a member of the Seattle Field Division’s Violent Gang Task Force. On March 17, SA Yarnell ran in the 2013 Rome Marathon. This was SA Yarnell’s first marathon, and she successfully completed it with a great time. SA Yarnell is pictured running past the beautiful fountains in the Piazza Navona in Rome. Congratulations to SA Yarnell on this great accomplishment!



Tulsa Special Agent Receives Meritorious Service Award

By IOI Andrew Young, PIO, Dallas Field Division



Tulsa County Sheriff Stanley Glanz presents the Meritorious Service Award to Special Agent Darrell Withem.
(photo courtesy Tulsa RAC Billy Magalassi)

On December 13, 2012, Special Agent Darrell Withem of ATF's Tulsa Field Office was awarded the Meritorious Service Award by Tulsa County Sheriff Stanley Glanz during the 2012 Sheriff's Department Awards Ceremony. Special Agent Withem was recognized for his efforts in perfecting numerous federal firearms cases resulting from his work with the Tulsa County Drug Task Force.

Special Agent Withem was honored with the meritorious service award for his successful campaign to reduce the illegal firearm and drug trade in Oklahoma. Special Agent Withem, working closely with the Tulsa Police Department and the Tulsa County Drug Task Force, has consistently used his training and expertise as a field agent and a former Tulsa police officer to disrupt and dismantle the drug trade in the Tulsa metroplex. Darrell's work with the Tulsa County Drug Task Force removed a tremendous amount of illegal narcotics and the firearms used to support that trade from the streets of Tulsa and its surrounding communities. Darrell successfully worked in conjunction with local and state law enforcement agencies to track and apprehend drug traffickers in his community. Special Agent in Charge Robert Champion noted, "Darrell's work with the Tulsa County Drug Task Force is a great example of interagency cooperation and the positive impact that can be accomplished through a concerted effort with our partners in the law enforcement community."

ATF Remembers Our Fallen Heroes: Line of Duty Deaths This Month in History

Name of Agent	End of Watch
Jacob F. Green	April 1, 1921
Harold V. Mooring	April 1, 1925
Leroy J. Youmans	April 3, 1923
Elvis W. Myrick	April 3, 1940
Robert C. Nickerson	April 11, 1935
Lamar W. York	April 12, 1930
Leonard A. Welty	April 13, 1933
William Leroy Shields	April 13, 1954
Oscar Vaughan, Jr.	April 14, 1967
Robert G. Anderson	April 16, 1923
Leroy R. Wood	April 16, 1933
Robert R. Evans	April 19, 1941
Merimon H. Barnes	April 24, 1949
Irby U. Scruggs	April 30, 1921

ATF Title III Investigation Results in Massive Latin King Roundup, Awards from Connecticut U.S. Attorney

By SA/PIO Debora A. Seifert, Boston Field Division

On Friday, March 8, 2013, in New Haven, Connecticut, ATF Special Agents Rossin Marchetti and James Hartman received awards from Connecticut United States Attorney David Fein for their dedicated effort regarding ATF Investigation Operation King Pistol. Also receiving awards were officers from the Stamford, Connecticut, Police Department, which included Lieutenant Chris Baker, Sergeant/ATF Task Force Officer Christopher Broems, Sergeant Steve Perrotta, Officer Chris Petrizzi and Officer Brett Stoebel. Operation King Pistol was a joint investigation including ATF's New Haven Field Office, the Stamford Police Department, the Norwalk Police Department, and the DEA Bridgeport Field Office. The investigation focused on the criminal activities of Latin Kings in Stamford from approximately May of 2010 to May of 2011.

Beginning in May 2010, the investigative team initiated the investigation in an effort to dismantle the gang, determine the gang's source for narcotics and firearms, identify the means in which the members and/or the organization were hiding the proceeds obtained from illegal narcotics distribution and firearms sales, and further monitor the gang's activity in relation to their involvement in acts of violence.

Through the use of confidential informants, surveillance, post-arrest interviews, and other law enforcement techniques, the investigative team was able to garner information about the illegal activities conducted by the Stamford

Latin Kings. The investigation began with proactive efforts to infiltrate the gang through the use of controlled purchases of narcotics and firearms, initially focusing on one member of the gang. Beginning in January of 2011, the investigation led to the initiation of wiretaps, which spanned five target telephones.

In May of 2011, a twenty-one-count indictment charged fifteen defendants with one or more Federal violations, to include Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute 500 Grams or More of Cocaine, Possession and Transfer of Machineguns and Unlawful Dealing in Firearms. The arrest warrants, as well as a number of search warrants, were executed in May of 2011 and resulted in the arrest of all fifteen indicted individuals and one summary arrest. The search warrants executed this same date resulted in the seizure of over one hundred firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition. Law enforcement officers also located and dismantled a workshop utilized in the manufacturing of machineguns.

In total, under this investigation, law enforcement officers seized or purchased: handguns (55), long guns (63), machineguns (19), ecstasy (1829 pills) and cocaine (164 grams).

All sixteen defendants entered guilty pleas in U.S. District Court and have been sentenced.



Inside ATF

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

U.S. Department of Justice

Recent Retirements

<i>Employee</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Govt. Service</i>
James N. Bowks	Supervisory Telecommunications Specialist	OST Communication Services Branch	26 years
Jane E. Heffner	RAC, Worcester Field Office	Field Operations	28 years
Marnita E. Hoggatt	Field Operations	Atlanta IV Special Agent	26 years
Donald L. Illig	Field Operations	Cleveland I Field Office, Special Agent	28 years
Nancy Kay Oliver	Chief Counsel	Division Counsel – Baltimore	16 years

Submitted by Human Resources Division, Benefits and Workforce Flexibilities Branch

Moves

Employee	From	To
Benedict, Ashan M	Deputy Chief, Legislative Affairs, PGA	Chief, Liaison Division, PGA
Collins, Matthew T.	Special Agent, Honolulu Field Ofc, Seattle FD	RAC, Honolulu Field Ofc, Seattle FD
Delvecchio, Michael P.	ASAC, Atlanta Field Division	ASAC, San Francisco Field Division
Dowd Holbrook, Kathleen	RAC, Boston II Field Office, Boston FD	Division Operations Officer, Boston FD
Lomax, Justin B.	Industry Operations Investigator, Portland	Area Supervisor, Portland, Seattle FD
Newman, James D.	ASAC, Washington Field Division	Deputy Chief, ATF National Academy
Nollau, Matthew J.	Program Manager/Ops Officer, Asset Forfeiture	Branch/Unit/Team Chief, Asset Forfeiture
Ortiz, Aladino	Program Manager/Ops Officer, ESF 13 Branch	ASAC, Atlanta Field Division

Submitted by Human Resources Information Center, Systems Administration Branch

Congratulations, Academy Graduates!

Employee	Graduate of	First Assignment
Arnett, Kevin B.	Special Agent Basic Training	Detroit
Barnes, Daniel Z.	Special Agent Basic Training	Billings
Grafton, Graham R.	Special Agent Basic Training	Chicago
Hamm, Shannon L.	Special Agent Basic Training	Detroit
Harb, Anton Jr.	Special Agent Basic Training	Detroit
Horn, Michael J.	Special Agent Basic Training	Miami
Keen, Thomas D.	Special Agent Basic Training	Stockton
Llorens, Alain C.	Special Agent Basic Training	Pensacola
O'Connor, Anita A.	Special Agent Basic Training	Orlando
Orta, Eric J.	Special Agent Basic Training	Trenton
Rodriguez, Keith	Special Agent Basic Training	Fairview Heights
Sanchez, Nathan E.	Special Agent Basic Training	Oakland
Sexton, Mickel B.	Special Agent Basic Training	Fresno
Yun, Daniel H.	Special Agent Basic Training	Sacramento

Submitted by the ATF National Academy

New Hires, Welcome to ATF!

Employee	To	From
Buckley Jr., William F.	Attorney Advisor, Office of the Chief Counsel	Federal Election Commission
Rivera, Heriberto	Emergency Management Specialist, OPRSO	U.S. Department of Commerce
Schroeder, Karen C.	Procurement Analyst, Office of Management	U.S. Marshals Service

Submitted by Human Resources Information Center, Systems Administration Branch