



# Inside ATF

May 2011

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

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Observance



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Award

## Meet ATF's Service to America Finalists

**By Katrina Masterson**  
Office of Enforcement Programs and Services

Meet ATF's 2011 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal Finalists: Special Agent (SA) Charles John Houser, chief of ATF's National Tracing Center (NTC); SA Gilberto Salinas, NTC deputy chief; and all the dedicated NTC supervisors and employees who contributed to NTC's success and helped earn this prestigious recognition!

On May 5, 2011, the Partnership for Public Service (PPS) hosted a formal Capitol Hill breakfast to announce the 34 finalists for the 2011 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals (Sammies). The finalists are contenders for eight prestigious Sammies, including Federal Employee of the Year. The NTC is a finalist in the Justice and Law Enforcement Medal category. The NTC finalists, Houser and Salinas, along with ATF's Acting Director Ken Melson; Assistant Director Arthur Herbert, Office of Enforcement Programs and Services (EPS); Deputy Assistant Director Teresa Ficaretta (EPS); and Program Analyst Katrina Masterson (EPS) attended the breakfast, which honored the medal finalists as part of Public Service Recognition Week. The final awardees will be announced at a formal gala on September 15, 2011.

According to PPS, the Sammie finalists are all outstanding federal workers who make high-impact contributions that are critical to the health, safety and well-being of Americans. The Sammies program has earned a reputation as the most prestigious award program dedicated to celebrating America's civil servants. It pays tribute to America's dedicated federal workforce and highlights those who have made significant contributions to our country. Honorees are chosen based on their commitment and innovation, as well as the impact of their work on address-

ing the needs of the nation.

The NTC's nomination earned the endorsement of the U.S. Department of Justice because the tracing center has expanded its tracing capacity with innovative technology and multi-language capabilities to help solve national and international violent crimes committed by gangs and serial offenders during the eligible time period. By processing more than a million crime gun trace requests to provide investigative leads in more than 300,000 cases annually, NTC has given national and international law enforcement unique crime-fighting tools and services.

During the consideration period for the Sammies (2008–2010), the NTC achieved the following:

- Performed more than 1.1 million firearms trace requests;

*Sammies Finalists, continued on page 3*



**NTC Chief Charles Houser (left) and NTC Deputy Chief Gilberto Salinas attended the Partnership for Public Service breakfast on May 5, 2011. The NTC Team was among 34 finalists for the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals, which were announced during the breakfast. Photo by Carolyn J. Wallace, ATF Visual Information Services**

# What Kids Think

*What do your kids think you do at work?*

*We want to hear from your kids! Have your child (or grandchild, niece or nephew) write down what they think you do at work and then send it in to the editor. Please do not correct their spelling or edit the answer in any way. Children too young to write can tell their parents their answers; parents can transcribe for them. Please keep answers brief. They may also draw (on plain white paper, in ink, felt-tip pen or pencil) how they picture you.*

## ***Inside ATF*** Newsletter Goes Electronic

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To send photos: A JPEG attachment can be used, but photos must be scanned in at 300 dpi or higher.

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**Note:** *We reserve the right to edit submissions. We cannot guarantee the use of all submissions. Photographs and/or artwork will be returned only upon request.*

*Sammies Finalists, continued from page 1*

- Performed approximately 20,000 urgent firearms trace requests;
- Processed more than 30 million “out of business” records;
- Processed more than 30,000 obliterated serial number trace requests;
- Brought the total number of eTrace users to 21,250;
- Brought the total number of participating agencies to 3,275;
- Brought the total number of participating foreign countries to 31; and
- Reduced the average urgent trace from two days to less than one day.

The narrative that accompanied NTC’s award nomination also highlighted the tracing center’s full complement of crime-fighting services:

- Publishes the “Police Officers Guide to Recovered Firearms”;
- Publishes timely articles in journals such as *Police Chief* magazine (the International Association Chiefs of Police);
- Supports real-time monitoring of trace progress by 21,250 eTrace users and enables them to query firearms trace data and retrieve completed results;
- Maintains the Spanish version of eTrace to fa-

ilitate new international partners; and

- Introduces new eTrace partners to its services, trains users and provides ongoing technical support.

Sammie finalist Houser seldom settles for the status quo, and his commitment to excellence leads him to rethink and revamp the way the NTC does business to respond to ever-growing demands. Houser refuses to compromise performance despite staffing and fiscal constraints. His strategic and innovative thinking has secured NTC funding from scarce reserves, and he shifts resources and workloads to get the job done.

The NTC’s selection as a Law Enforcement/Justice Sammie medal finalist acknowledges NTC employees’ ongoing role in helping to solve violent crimes, as well as their efforts to improve efficiency, effectiveness, accuracy, and timeliness. NTC employees work to increase the tracing center’s value to federal, state, local, and international partners and to remain on the crime-fighting front lines. As a Sammie finalist, the NTC leadership hopes to inspire a new generation of Americans to public service. In fact, the NTC is an inspiration and a benchmark for excellence to those of us right here at ATF. Congratulations to the NTC team! 🍀

*The author recognizes George Fodor, writer-editor in ATF’s Office of Management, for helping to coordinate NTC’s Sammie award nominations and for his assistance in preparing this article. During the past two years, Fodor has revamped ATF’s awards program and has expanded internal and external award opportunities available to ATF’s employees.*

*For more information about the Sammies, visit <http://servicetoamericamedals.org/SAM/finalists11/jlm/houser.shtml>.*

# ATF Heroes: Gone, but Never Forgotten

By Joy M. Kiser

Office of Public and Governmental Affairs

The atmosphere of somber pageantry filled the auditorium as ATF personnel gathered to honor our fallen heroes during the 15th Annual ATF Memorial Observance on May 12, 2011. Among the special members of the audience were former ATF directors John Magaw and Carl Truscott, as well as the relatives of William Louis Pappan, a previously unknown ATF investigator whose name had just been added to the ATF Memorial Wall and to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. The commemoration included agents standing post in front of our memorial wall, a wreath laying, the precision movements of a color guard, and the poignant wail of bagpipes.

ATF Assistant Director James McDermond, Public and Governmental Affairs, who served as Master of Ceremonies, welcomed the audience. "By annually participating in National Police Week, we pay tribute to our fallen heroes and reaffirm our enduring commitment to remembering all they have given to protect others," he said.

U.S. Capitol Police officer Melissa Gibson sang the national anthem; ATF Chaplain Robert Johnson provided the invocation; and the DC Regional Police Piper Band played "Amazing Grace." The names of the 186 ATF personnel killed in the line of duty were read aloud, punctuated at intervals by a tolling bell.

In a special presentation, Acting Director Kenneth Melson delivered a moving account of the life and death William Pappan, saying, "It is a fact, that uncommon valor is a common virtue in ATF. Our men and women who have given their lives for the safety of their community did so because they believed in public service, they believed in personal sacrifice, and they believed in defending the right of every American to live in a free, just, and secure community." William Pappan was, "...a proud member of a federal investigative regulatory agency who was doing what he loved the most, serving the public and enforcing the law. And that commitment to the American people, common to all of us here in ATF, is larger than any single one of us."

The theme of remembrance was continued by guest speaker Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole, who said, "It has been my experience that ATF is there whenever called upon. You continue to come through, show up and do a job many cannot even fathom doing. You have courage and steadfastness in the face of great danger and stress. That willingness and ability to show up is ATF's legacy, and that legacy is carved onto your memorial wall, one name at a time. Each of you is carrying on that legacy today, and I give my thanks, respect, and honor to you and those who have come before you."

The solemn event was brought to a fitting close with the playing of "Taps," rendered by retired U.S. Capitol Police Sergeant Richard Pasciuto. 🇺🇸

## ATF Honors ATF Investigator William Louis Pappan

On May 11, 2011, at ATF Headquarters, ATF Acting Director Kenneth Melson recognized William Louis Pappan, the first American Indian ATF investigator killed in the line of duty. Pappan, whose name was discovered in research done by Barbara Osteika, ATF's Historian, was killed December 4, 1935 (just after prohibition), in a gunfight in a bar in Tulsa, Oklahoma, while inspecting liquor licenses.

Pappan was a tribal member of the Kaw Nation and a first cousin of Charles Curtis, the former Vice-President of the United States under President Herbert Hoover. A story about Pappan ran in the November 2010 issue of *Inside ATF*.

ATF's unveiling of Agent Pappan's name was in conjunction with National Police Week activities and included a presentation of colors, a wreath-laying ceremony, taps, and an American Indian blessing. Pappan's 82-year old son, Steven, who was six years old at the time of his father's death, was present, as were his granddaughter, Claudia Hof, and his great-grand-niece, Erin Blackshere Poupbrit, who performed the Native American blessing at the ATF Memorial Wall. Acting Director Melson and Mike Dillinger, President of the National Native American Law Enforcement Association (NNALEA), presented the family a flag that had been flown over the United States Capitol. The Pappan family joined the ATF family at the Annual ATF Memorial Observance the next day, and Acting Director Melson and Acting Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole presented the family a framed photograph of William Louis Pappan's name placement on the memorial wall.

## ATF Memorial Observance, Pappan Recognition in Photos



At left, ATF Special Agents stand vigil at the ATF Memorial on May 12, 2011: Timothy J. Carroll (left) and Theron T. Jackson of the Office of Public and Governmental Affairs. Below, Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole addresses those who attended ATF's 15th Annual Memorial Observance. Photos by Carolyn J. Wallace, ATF Visual Information Services



On May 11, 2011, ATF recognized the sacrifice of William Louis Pappan, the first American Indian ATF investigator killed in the line of duty, in a ceremony that included Pappan family members and representatives of the Kaw Nation and the National Native American Law Enforcement Association. Pappan's name was on the ATF Memorial when it was unveiled during the ceremonies. Clockwise from above, Acting Director Kenneth Melson speaks to the gathering at ATF Headquarters. Next, Erin Blackshere Poupprit, Pappan's great-grand-niece, performs a Native American blessing at the ATF Memorial Wall. At right, Pappan's son and other family members gather next to his name on the Memorial wall: from left, Poupprit, Mrs. Steven Pappan, Steven Pappan (Louis Pappan's son), and Claudia Hof (Louis Pappan's granddaughter). Photos by Carolyn J. Wallace, ATF Visual Information Services



# ATF's Firearms Expert Vasquez Awarded for Role in Historic Piracy Case

**By Frank P. Mintz**  
Firearms Technology Branch

On April 13, 2011, Assistant Chief Richard Vasquez of ATF's Firearms Technology Branch (FTB), received a Public Service Award from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk, for his part in bringing the "Somali piracy case" (U.S. v. Mohammed Modin Hasan, et. al.) to a successful conclusion on March 14, 2011, when five life sentences were handed down to the defendants. This historic case began in April 2010, when five heavily armed Somali nationals attempted to plunder and hijack what they thought was a civilian cargo vessel in East African waters. To their chagrin, the ship turned out to be a U.S. Navy frigate, the USS Nicholas. Following a brief skirmish onboard with Navy personnel, the gunmen fled but were pursued and captured. They were detained to face justice U.S. District Court when the frigate docked in Norfolk—the first U.S. piracy trial in more than 100 years.

The prosecution team of 18 that assisted in the conviction of these international scofflaws during the trial, which began in November, consisted of seven FBI agents and forensics specialists and one supporting New York Police Department detective; nine U.S. Navy prosecutors, investigators and *USS Nicholas* officers; and Vasquez.

Although Vasquez joined the proceedings later than

other prosecution team members, "he quickly plowed through the reports and other documents and offered riveting testimony at trial, which Vasquez punctuated by the actual use of AK-47s and an RPG [Rocket Propelled Grenade] as demonstrative exhibits at the trial," according to narrative that was submitted with the award nomination. The narrative also noted that "Vasquez's knowledge of firearms and destructive devices was unparalleled."

Recalling his part in the prosecution, Vasquez is confident that his presentation of the RPG and vivid explanation of how this weapon functions was crucial in demonstrating to the jury the terror capability of these pirates, making the prosecution's case even more compelling. This view, he noted, was shared by the Assistant U.S. Attorney leading the prosecution. He reflected that the teamwork was outstanding, everyone being gracious and accommodating and that even the defense attorneys commended his work on behalf of their adversaries in the case.

The Eastern District of Virginia describes the Public Service Award received by Vasquez and the other 17 team members as an honor bestowed to federal, state and local law enforcement agents and officers, as well as members of the public, for extraordinary efforts on behalf of cases handled by the District during the prior calendar year. 🇺🇸



*FTB Assistant Chief Richard Vasquez flanked at ceremonies on left by Assistant U.S. Attorney (USA) Ben Hatch, Eastern District of Virginia, and on right by Neil McBride, USA, Eastern District of VA and ATF Assistant Director Arthur Herbert, Office of Enforcement Programs and Services. Photo by Chief John Spencer, FTB*

# The Silent Partners: ATF Explosive Detection Canines

By Special Agent/PIO Chris Bombardiere  
Newark Field Division

## Origins

Following the success of the Accelerant Detection Canine Program, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); the U.S. Department of State; the Office of Antiterrorism Assistance; and the Connecticut State Police started a program to provide trained explosives detection canine teams to combat terrorism in foreign countries. In January 1995, Charlie, ATF's first Explosive Detection Canine (EDC) to be assigned to a special agent handler, graduated from a 5-month-long training academy in Connecticut. Charlie exhibited remarkable detection capabilities by locating a 130-year-old cannon ball in January 1997 at a Manassas battlefield. Charlie later amazed his Special Agent Canine Handler (SACH) Grace Reisling by finding explosive evidence outside the immediate search area and hundreds of yards from where a bomb had destroyed a Georgia abortion clinic. This evidence was a piece of metal fragmentation from an ammo can and was later determined to be a device component in the Eric Rudolph bombing. Charlie has the distinction of being the first explosive detection canine to get a federal search warrant based on an alert. Routinely tested, Charlie was able to detect

even the minutest traces of explosives.

## Training

Each EDC must endure a 16-week training program at the National Center for Explosives Research Canine Center in Front Royal, Virginia. Here the canine is exposed to countless explosives odors and training repetitions and scenarios, while also forming an unbreakable bond with its new handler. Once the team has certified and graduated from the program, the training continues and evolves into a full-time operational readiness mission. The food reward—passive alert system ensures the canine is exposed to various explosive odors seven days a week, 365 days a year. It allows for unlimited number of repetitions, enhancing the working drive of the canine while ensuring the canine be operationally ready at all times.

## SACH

SACHs are criminal investigators who are willing to endure a 7-day work week. SACHs must be available to be deployed at a moment's notice to anywhere in their respective divisions and potentially nationwide. SACH teams have been deployed to hostile territories outside the United States, serving numerous tours of duty in Iraq at the height of the insurgency to protect ATF, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and U.S. military assets abroad. ATF SACHs are unlike any others in the nation.

*Special Agent Canine Handler Steve Gillis and K9 Carly (right) assist the Kentucky State Police with vehicle searches at the World Equestrian Games in Lexington. Photo by Special Agent/PIO Chris Bombardiere, Newark Field Division*



*On September 1, 2005, SACH Rich Clabeaux and K9 Archie locate a murder weapon (above) in a wooded area of Herndon, Virginia, that had been discarded in May 2004. Photo by Special Agent Rich Clabeaux, Washington Field Division*



*On September 27, 2008, an ATF SACH team deploys to Cranbury New Jersey, to investigate a vehicle explosion (left). ATF K9 Ithaca alerts at numerous locations on the vehicle. Lab tests come back inconclusive for explosive residue. Suspect later states the cause of the explosion was 5 gallons of concentrated hydrogen peroxide on the vehicle's front seat. Photo by Special Agent/PIO Chris Bombardiere, Newark Field Division*

Each SACH position must receive extensive explosive training, including the following mandatory courses:

- Post blast investigations,
- Advanced explosive destructive techniques,
- Hazmat training,
- Chemistry of pyrotechnics,
- Certified Explosives Specialist basic training and
- Improvised explosives devices school.

SACHs are also trained to present courtroom testimony, arrest and tactical deployment techniques and can be readily available to assist with several facets of an operation or investigation with their diverse experience and training. SACHs are some of the most requested assets in the ATF arsenal because they can work side-by-side with and for other law enforcement agencies at both big and small events with the ATF canine.

### **Putting the Trained ATF Canine to Work**

The ATF EDC has the ability to detect over 19,000 explosive odors combinations, including fireworks, peroxide based and homemade explosives and specializes in both trace and large quantities of explosive odor recognition. Some of the uses and applications of these highly trained canines are as follows:

**Investigative Applications** - One of the most fascinating capabilities of the ATF EDC is the ability to detect explosive residue on a post blast scene. After an explosive event, the canine can be deployed to search the area to determine if the event was caused by explosives and to look for possible device components and other evidence if needed. Firearms and shell casings are the two most located evidence items by the ATF EDC. The canine has the ability to locate both firearms and shell casings in various settings and locations. The ATF EDC, over the past 15 years, has impacted the way law enforcement now searches for evidence. Canines are now used every day by law enforcement personnel to search for evidence. High profile investigations and the success of the ATF EDC program and training methods, has led other agencies and departments to deploy canine teams in the same manner. An area where the ATF EDC excels is in the trace or residue search. The ATF EDC has

the ability to detect minute amounts of materials that is essentially almost impossible to measure even with today's technology. Several documented cases where the ATF EDC has exhibited this ability have led to the arrest and convictions of numerous defendants over the past 15 years. The ATF EDC has unlimited potential when used for investigative applications. They are usually only limited by safety concerns, where the canine can be injured, and the experience of the EDC team.

### **Public Protection**

In the past 15 years, the ATF EDC has worked almost every high profile event in the United States. Requests for the ATF EDC to work major events usually come from a state or local police department that does not have the assets to ensure public safety. Here the team is deployed to conduct protective sweeps or searches of the venue to ensure no explosive materials or improvised devices are present at the event. Events such as the Presidential Inauguration, professional sporting events, dignitary gatherings, political conventions, are just some of the many deployments the ATF EDC has worked. Regardless of the size of the event or venue, the SACH makes every effort to respond to assistance requests from our state and local law enforcement partners. A second major deployment for the ATF EDC is bomb threat locations. Whenever bomb threats are made to schools, office buildings, municipal and state government offices, courthouses, public venues etc, an EDC is usually a first responder to the location. An experienced ATF SACH can both coordinate and assist in the searching of venues that have been subjected to bomb threats. The EDC is the most expedient tool in searching for explosives and or improvised devices in large areas and venues.

### **Historic Investigations**

Since the days when Charlie began his partnership with Grace Reisling in the early 1990s, the ATF EDC has made some ground-breaking strides and remarkable finds in both ATF and non-ATF criminal investigations. Some of the notable success stories were done in very high-profile criminal investigations, where the canine either directly found or led investigators to a particular piece of evidence or suspect unknown before the canine's deployment.

***The Eric Rudolf Investigation:*** The ATF EDC played a major role in the investigation of Eric Rudolf. From the initial alert of Charlie on a piece of a metal ammo can at the Georgia Abortion Clinic post-blast scene, to

the canine alert on video tapes containing explosive residue rented by Rudolf, to nine alerts inside Rudolf's residence that were swabbed and later tested positive for explosives, the ATF SACH and EDC provided enough information to arrest and convict Eric Rudolf.

**DC Sniper Investigation:** In October 2002 Lee Malvo and John Muhammad held the Washington, D.C., metropolitan (DC Metro) area hostage with a shooting spree that killed 10 innocent people and critically injured three others. During this tragic period, the ATF EDC was dispatched to assist with the evidence collection at the crime scenes.

*10/03/02:* After an individual was shot in the DC Metro area, a SACH team is deployed to search for evidence after 3 days of rain. ATF canine Cascade alerts 75 yards away from the victim on a stone wall. After extensive testing, the ATF lab found residue amounts of nitroglycerin embedded in this section of the wall. The residue was consistent with the .223 ammunition used by the sniper. It is believed this was the location where the shot originated.

*10/07/02:* A 13-year-old boy was shot in front of his middle school in Maryland. The scene was worked by ATF SACH and EDC teams. A shell casing is recovered approximately 75 yards from the victim in a thickly grown area of woods. A tarot card was also recovered from this scene.

*10/19/02:* A man was shot as he exited a restaurant in Ashland, Virginia. An ATF SACH coordinated a multiple-agency canine search of the area. Approximately 15 minutes after SACH Neely and canine Garrett began their search, Garrett alerted on an area approximately 60 yards from the victim. Investigators later determined that the area was where the shot had originated. SACH Neely then directed Garrett to the right rear of this location, where he alerted on a spent .223 shell casing. The lab linked the casing ballistically to the other shootings. Investigators located a tarot card and a note left by the

snipers.

**FY2010:** In Fiscal year 2010, ATF SACH/EDC teams were responsible for alerts and recoveries that rival some of the past historical investigations. With a maximum of 35 SACHs in the field, here are just some of the statistical accomplishments from FY2010:

- Firearms Recovered: 110;
- Search Warrants: 151;
- Investigative searches: 529;
- Pro-Active sweeps: 2,562;
- Estimated spectators at events where a SACH team was deployed: 26,628,602;
- Demonstrations/Public Relations events: 473.

The past and current success of the ATF EDC program was given one of its highest accolades in August 2004 when the Office of the Attorney General issued a ruling in memorandum form regarding the coordination of explosives investigations. This memorandum outlines the coordination of explosives investigations by DOJ law enforcement component: "As soon as practicable, all Department components that use explosives detection canines shall use only canines certified by ATF." Today, the ATF EDC teams are routinely requested by other federal agencies as well as state and local departments to assist with numerous enforcement and event operations. It is in no small part that these hard-working, ever-ready silent partners bring about so much recognition and productivity for a small federal agency with such an important mission.

These canines are rewarded for their efforts by a handful of food and a pat on the head. They have no idea nor do they care about how an important and reliable investigative tool they have become. They are a very large part of the most successful canine training program in the United States and their lives are dedicated to the service of the American people. 🐾

# ATF's Telework Coordinator Receives 2011 Tele-Vision Award

**By Debbie L. Gunther**  
Office of Human Resources and Professional Development

ATF's Telework Coordinator, Rosanne Russo, is being awarded the 2011 Tele-Vision Award as the 2011 Driver by the Telework Exchange. Telework Exchange is a public-private partnership focused on demonstrating the tangible value of telework and serving the emerging educational and communication requirements of the Federal teleworker community. This organization facilitates communication among Federal teleworkers, telework managers, and IT professionals.

On November 18, 2010, President Obama signed into law the landmark bill—Public Law 111-292, the Telework Enhancement Act, a bill that improves and expands teleworking in federal agencies by requiring them to establish a policy under which eligible government employees are approved to telecommute. The bill also instructs federal agencies to notify their workers of their eligibility to telework, and it establishes a Telework Managing Officer to develop and

implement the program.

Under Ms. Russo's leadership and guidance, ATF has been very proactive in the area of telework, with management understanding and fully appreciating the benefits of using telework as a workplace tool. Prior to passage of the Telework Enhancement Act, she spearheaded efforts to examine the agency's entire telework program, including re-evaluating all of the agency's non-mobile workforce positions. She developed and disseminated appropriate guidance to supervisors who were tasked with examining their positions and staff members to determine their suitability for telework. During the past year, Ms. Russo's efforts lead to significant increase in the number of positions deemed telework eligible and the number of teleworkers (from 23% eligible to 75%; and from 540 participants to 1275).

Much of the success of telework at ATF is due in large part to the leadership and guidance provided by Ms. Russo. She is known throughout the agency for her tenacity, attention to detail and commitment to expanding telework with ATF. Congratulations, Roe! 🍀

## May ATF Special Agent Line of Duty Deaths

<i>Special Agent</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>Special Agent</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>
Holmer L. Everett	May 2, 1931	Charles Bintliff	May 13, 1927
John Watson	May 3, 1921	Dano M. Jackley	May 14, 1929
Johnny Alvin Masengale	May 6, 1992	John R. Foster	May 14, 1936
James C. Capen	May 10, 1928	Bert R. McMichael	May 23, 1924
Clyde L. Taylor	May 11, 1929	Thomas B. Lankford	May 26, 1926
Remus W. Buckner	May 12, 1926	William J. Sheenan	May 31, 1955

# ATF Helps National Gun Retailer Stand-up Hundreds of New Locations

**By Patricia Power**  
Chief, Federal Firearms Licensing Center

In September 2010, Wal-Mart, the holder of more Federal Firearms licenses than any other company in the U.S., notified ATF it would soon forward 526 new license applications for processing. The list of stores and desired opening dates spanned several months and virtually every ATF field division.

Wal-Mart's corporate office in Arkansas worked with the Offices of Field Operations and Enforcement Programs and Services to facilitate an effective solution to a tight schedule. Legal Instruments Examiner Marsha Wadsworth of the Federal Firearms Licensing Center is the sole application reviewer responsible for the Wal-Mart account, and she took immediate ownership of this challenge. Marsha pursued the initiative in a dedicated and professional manner by remaining in constant contact with Wal-Mart, organizing and planning the workload, coordinating with each affected ATF field office, and preparing regular status reports to track ATF's overall progress on the initiative. Marsha ensured that all necessary Wal-Mart employees cleared mandatory background checks, reviewed and archived incoming field recommendations, and ensured that licenses were issued according to Wal-Mart's requested store opening dates.

Marsha received support from countless ATF employees in the field and at the Licensing Center. For example, Supervisor Marla Mason assisted with the entry of hundreds of NICS transaction numbers into the Firearms Licensing System (FLS) database and fellow Examiner Sarah Fravel helped manage without interruption or delay the simultaneous flow of renewal license applications from Wal-Mart's already operating store locations. The entire team exhibited a positive attitude and spirit of collaboration, qualities needed to meet the challenge successfully.

This project was an example of ATF's service to a wide range of national firearms retailers with special service requirements, such as the continual clearance of constantly changing corporate officers, directors, and store managers who have authority over firearms sales. These ATF activities are an important component of the Bureau's efforts to prevent criminal access to and diversion of firearms.

Wal-Mart recognized Marsha's dedication to excellent customer service by bestowing its own "Striving for Excellence" award, presented by AD (EPS) Arthur Herbert on April 18, 2011, after the last new license was issued. FFLC Chief Patricia Power also accepted a Wal-Mart award on behalf of all those who contributed to the success of the effort. 🇺🇸



**FFLC Examiner Marsha Wadsworth (second from left) receives Wal-Mart's customer service award from EPS Assistant Director Arthur Herbert. Also pictured are FFLC Chief Patricia Power (left) and FFLC Supervisory Examiner Marla Mason (right). Photo by Jodie Trovinger, FFLC**

# Blood Trail in New Jersey Leads to Federal Gun Charges

**By Special Agent/PIO Chris Bombardiere**  
Newark Field Division

On July 25, 2010, Newark (New Jersey) police officers responded to reports of a shooting that occurred near Littleton Avenue. Upon arriving at the scene, officers encountered two men with gunshot wounds. Both men were bleeding—Davion Jackson had a gunshot wound to his arm, and his brother Rashan Jackson had a gunshot wound to his leg.

Officers performed a security sweep of the area and observed a blood trail as well as 9-millimeter and .45-caliber shell casings leading from the sidewalk into the residence. On the opposite side of the street, officers discovered numerous spent shell casings that appeared to have been fired in the direction of the residence. Officers entered the residence and followed the blood trail into the basement and to a laundry room. Inside the laundry room officers discovered a Smith and Wesson 9-millimeter handgun and a Vulcan .45-caliber handgun in a washing machine. The blood trail then continued out of the basement, through a separate door, and back out of the residence near the front steps.

Further investigation revealed that the brothers were outside the residence when they received gunfire from several unidentified individuals who were standing across the street from the residence. Shell casings found on both sides of the car that the defendants

were driving that day demonstrate that each returned fire in the direction of the unidentified assailants.

The firearms found in the washing machine were analyzed and determined to be a positive match to the shell casings recovered on either side of the vehicle, in front of the residence and along the blood trail leading into the residence.

On February 25, Davion Jackson was arrested by members of ATF's Special Response Team (SRT) in an early morning operation that originated in Irvington, New Jersey. Jackson appeared before a U.S. Magistrate in a Newark Federal Courtroom where he was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service. Rashan Jackson had already been arrested on an unrelated matter.

Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Matthew Horace praised the SRT in the apprehension of Davion Jackson without incident and acknowledged the efforts of the Newark Field Division's Joint Firearms Task Force. This task force is a cooperative effort among ATF, the Newark Police Department, Jersey City Police Department and New Jersey State Police Department to target the illegal possession, use and interstate trafficking of firearms. SAC Horace stated that "this was a quality of life arrest" and that the residents of New Jersey were much safer after this apprehension. The investigation is continuing. 

## Special Olympics "Tip-A-Cop" Event in Southern California

*On May 5, 2011, a handful of ATF employees from the Los Angeles Field Division spent their evening hosting an annual "Tip-A-Cop" event to benefit the Special Olympics Southern California-Santa Clarita. Agents, inspectors, intelligence specialists, and administrative staff assisted the employees at the Elephant Bar restaurant with serving food, seating people, and busing tables. The ATF staff also interacted with members of the Special Olympics team and escorted them around, introducing patrons to the 2011 Special Olympics Torch Run. Last year's event, which was co-sponsored with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department employees, collected more than \$2,000. This year's event, with only ATF personnel, raised slightly more than \$1,850 for Special Olympics.*



## ATF Recognized by City of Hemet



On April 12, 2011, the City of Hemet Mayor Jerry Franchville and Hemet Police Department (HPD) Chief of Police Dave Brown presented a plaque to ATF Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) Keith Krolczyk and ATF Special Agent (SA) Clinton Kehr for ATF's role during the attacks against the Hemet Police Department and the Riverside County Regional Gang Task Force. From December 2009 until July 2010, there were a string of attacks against the HPD and Riverside County Regional Gang Task Force (RCRGTF) involving the use of booby-traps to injure and kill police officers. One of these booby-traps was a zip-gun placed on the gate of the RCRGTF that was rigged to fire when someone opened the gate. Other attacks included the arson of the HPD shooting range, arson of the HPD evidence building, and arson of two Hemet City Code Enforcement vehicles. HPD Chief Brown expressed his thanks to ATF for their assistance with expertise in the areas of explosives, firearms, and arson. He also thanked ATF for assigning SA Kehr as a full-time investigator to the Hemet Task Force, which was responsible for the arrest of Nicholas Smit, who is currently in custody on charges of attempted murder of a police officer. At left, Special Agent Karen Mory (left) joins ATF Special Agent Clint Kehr (center) and ATF RAC Keith Krolczyk with the award.

## Stepping up to the Challenge!

In March 2011, ATF employees in Seattle and their friends and family participated in the 25th Annual Columbia Tower "Big Climb" challenge. Consisting of 69 flights of stairs—1,311 steps and 788 feet of vertical elevation—the Big Climb challenge is the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) Washington/Alaska Chapter's largest fundraiser. All proceeds raised from the climb go towards LLS' mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and myeloma and to improve the quality of life for patients and their families. More than 6,000 people participated in the stair climb—including "Team A.T.F." (otherwise known as "Another Tough Fight"). Congratulations to Team A.T.F on their successful climb in support of such a vital cause! At right, "Team A.T.F": Front Row, SA Casey Xiong, SA Tanna Langu-Yarnell, IA Janet Hanemann, SA Michael Jacobi, SA Ben Hunt; Back row, Kevin Langu-Yarnell, SA Heidi Wallace, Kathy Underwood, SA Cheryl Bishop, TFO Greg Tomlinson, SA Ken Cooper, IOI Michael Hanemann. The Columbia Center (right) is 937 feet high. The LA tower is 1,018 feet. The only other higher office building west of the Mississippi River is the J.P. Morgan Chase Tower in Houston at 1,002 feet. Photos by Special Agent/PIO Cheryl D. Bishop, Seattle Field Division



# Creating a Respectful Workplace

**By Sunithi Kuruppu, MSW**  
ATF Employee Assistance Program Manager

*Conflict can arise because people care and want to do their jobs well. Unfortunately, conflict also develops from a lack of respect in the workplace. Addressing conflict proactively helps to promote a respectful working environment for everyone.*

## What Is Conflict?

Conflict is a normal part of life that provides numerous opportunities for growth through improved understanding and insight. Parties on either side of the conflict can perceive limited options and finite resources available in seeking solutions, rather than embracing the multiple possibilities that may exist “outside the box” in problem solving.

The costs of conflict include the following: decreased



concentration, diminished productivity, poor customer service, employee turnover, increase in absenteeism, decreased performance and lost business.

## Perceptions and Communication

Individuals each have a unique perception of their own world and the people in it. Remember that communication is a critical part of resolving a conflict situation. Be aware of your body language, your non-verbal cues and your listening skills. We can reduce stress, resolve challenges and increase productivity through effective dialogue.

## Elements of a Respectful Workplace

- Employees cooperate with change.
- Employees enjoy and seek responsibility.
- Staff provides help wherever help is needed.
- Work quality is consistently high, and work is completed on time.
- Customers and clients report high marks for customer service.
- Accidents, injuries, harassment claims and workers' compensation claims are very low.
- Problems and issues are discussed openly between employees and managers.
- People express their opinions freely.

## Conflict Resolution

- Adopt a win-win approach.
- Consider needs and solutions.
- Transform problems into creative opportunities.
- Use communication to build rapport.
- Apply strategies to attack the problem, not the person.
- Respond to resistance with open-ended questions.
- Communicate emotions appropriately.
- Solve problems collaboratively.
- Broaden perspectives.
- Seek outside assistance, if needed.

- People are not afraid of disagreements.
- When something does not work, the focus is on identifying issues not on blaming people (tough on issues, soft on people).
- When someone makes a mistake, they are coached to help them understand and improve.
- Employees feel empowered to do their job and to suggest changes for improvement.

### Who Is Responsible for a Respectful Workplace?

*Source:* The person whose action offends others. If you think your behavior offends someone else, stop the behavior.

*Target:* Tell someone if their behavior offends you. Ask them to stop. Give a respectful response and avoid blaming. If the behavior continues or is seri-

ous, report the incident to the appropriate person in the workplace.

*Observer:* The person who witnesses disrespectful behavior. You are not innocent! You have a responsibility to call attention to the disrespectful behavior. Offer suggestions for more respectful behavior.

*Person With Authority:* Supervisors and managers should address disrespect immediately. Ultimately, it is the employer's responsibility to provide a respectful and harassment-free workplace.

*Business Health Services is a free and confidential program provided by your employer for you and your household members. Care Coordinators are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to speak with you about any issues you may be experiencing.*

**1-800-765-3277**  
**[www.bhsonline.com](http://www.bhsonline.com)**

## Case Closed: Recent Convictions, Sentencings on ATF Investigations

- **Tampa, Florida:** On May 23, 2011, ATF reported that the U.S. District Court sentenced a suspect to 50 years in federal prison after his conviction related to three armed robberies. ATF worked with the Tampa Police Department and Manatee County Sheriff's Office to develop a federal case against the suspect for violations of the Hobbs Act.
- **Jackson, Mississippi:** On May 19, 2011, ATF reported that a jury found a suspect guilty of murder and arson after a three-day trial in Hinds County (Jackson). The suspect had been charged with arson and murder. On January 14, 2009, the suspect lured the victim into an abandoned house and shot the victim in the head. The suspect then took the victim, still alive, put him in a bathtub, doused him with gasoline, and ignited a fire to cover up the crime. The Jackson Fire Department requested ATF's assistance in processing the scene. ATF personnel investigated the scene, analyzed evidence, and testified at the trial. The suspect was sentenced to life without parole for the murder and an additional 20 years for the arson.
- **Tallahassee, Florida:** On April 26, 2011, ATF reported that a seven-time convicted felon and armed career criminal was sentenced to 322 months in federal prison in Tallahassee. The subject had numerous prior felony drug convictions.

The subject was arrested on October 27, 2010, following a search warrant by the Tallahassee Police Department. He was found with a stolen pistol, powder and crack cocaine, and over \$11,000 in cash. The subject confessed to owning the narcotics and the firearm. The Tallahassee Police Department requested ATF assistance in the prosecution of the subject in this case due to his extensive criminal history.

- **Pensacola, Florida:** On April 20, 2011, ATF reported that an armed career criminal was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. ATF undercover special agents obtained evidence that led to a federal search warrant and recovery of a firearm. The subject has more than 10 prior felony convictions and qualifies as an armed career criminal.
- **Osage County, Michigan:** On April 17, 2011, a defendant was sentenced to 12 years in prison by an Osage County judge. The defendant pled guilty to first-degree arson charges for starting a fire in an apartment while manufacturing methamphetamine. The fire caused the death of an individual in an adjacent apartment. An ATF laboratory engineer conducted multiple tests at ATF's Fire Research Laboratory to evaluate witness statements and determine whether an electric heat gun was a viable ignition source. A second suspect in the case is awaiting trial.

# ATF RAC Recognized With Liberty Bell Award

**By Special Agent/PIO Thomas J. Crowley**  
Dallas Field Division

On May 6, 2011, Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) Ward C. Alexander of ATF's Tyler, Texas, Field Office, was awarded the Smith County (Texas) Bar Association's (SCBA) Liberty Bell Award. The SCBA recognized RAC Alexander for being an outstanding non-lawyer in Smith County whose selfless contributions strengthened the effectiveness of the U.S. justice system.

Special Agent in Charge Robert R. Champion of ATF's Dallas Field Division joined RAC Alexander and his family during the SCBA'S annual Smith County Law Day at the Tyler Rose Garden. Among the SCBA members in attendance were U.S. district judges, U.S. magistrate judges, State of Texas district judges and other dignitaries.

U.S. Attorney (USA) John Malcolm Bales, Eastern District of Texas, introduced RAC Alexander and reminded the audience of the horrific series of church arsons that plagued the region in early 2010. USA Bales praised ATF's role as the lead agency

during the investigation and their apprehension of the two individuals responsible for the crimes. USA Bales explained that immediately following the resolution of the church fire arsons, ATF was drawn into the investigation of serial crimes involving pipe bombs, incendiary devices and hoax devices that terrorized a multi-county area. ATF efforts led to the apprehension of the individual responsible for these crimes. USA Bales praised ATF and expressed gratitude to RAC Alexander for his leadership and example during what has been labeled the largest man-hunt in East Texas history.

RAC Alexander shouldered the responsibility of ensuring all facets of these two high-profile investigations were operated in the most professional and efficient manner possible. A respected individual in the Tyler and East Texas area, he is active throughout the community. Throughout both investigations, RAC Alexander ensured that the investigations proceeded with integrity while leading the region through a traumatizing period. Through his example, RAC Alexander engendered the public's understanding and appreciation of federal arson and explosives laws and how they are enforced by ATF. 



*Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) Ward C. Alexander (center) of ATF's Tyler (Texas) Field Office was awarded the Smith County (Texas) Bar Association's (SCBA) Liberty Bell Award in May 2011. Special Agent in Charge Robert R. Champion (left) of ATF's Dallas Field Division and U.S. Attorney Malcolm Bales (right), Eastern District of Texas, were also at the Tyler Rose Garden for SCBA'S annual Smith County Law Day when the award was presented. Photo by Special Agent Russ Morrison, Tyler (Texas) Field Office, Dallas Field Division*

# A BLAST FROM THE PAST ...



## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS



### NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

### THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE

#### THE SIEGE

James D. Ellison was the head of a survivalist group known as The Covenant, The Sword, and The Arm of the Lord (CSA). This extremist group set up operations at a compound located on 224 rural acres in the mountains of Northern Arkansas. A lengthy investigation revealed that between 1979 and 1985, CSA members and associates were responsible for a multitude of crimes including murder, armored car robbery, burglary, as well as numerous federal firearms and explosives violations.



#### POLICE SILHOUETTE



During April 1985, ATF obtained an arrest warrant for James Ellison and a search warrant for the CSA compound. ATF, assisted by 12 other law enforcement agencies, surrounded the compound and, after a lengthy stand-off, Ellison and approximately 75 followers surrendered without incident.

#### IN THE ARMS OF THE LAW



#### HOMEMADE GRENADES



#### FIREARMS SEIZED

#### THE SEIZURE

- 150 Firearms
  - 35 Machinguns
- 2 Anti-personnel Mines
- 3 Anti-aircraft Rockets
- 50 pounds of Military C-4
- 300 Blasting Caps
- 2,000 feet of Detonating Cord
- 100 Destructive Devices

#### MORE "CSA" DEFENDANTS CONVICTED



#### THE PENALTY

James Ellison and nine of his followers were subsequently convicted in Federal Court of numerous firearms and explosives charges and of violating the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations act (RICO). Ellison was sentenced to 30 years in prison.



# Inside ATF

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

U.S. Department of Justice

## April Retirements

<i>Employee</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Govt. Service</i>
L.A. Bykowsky	Criminal Investigator	Miami HD TA North Field Office, FO	29 years
Josefina L. Clark	Investigative Analyst	Savannah Field Office, Atlanta FD, FO	30 years
Rick P. Johnson	Document Analyst	Forensic Science Lab, OST	23 years
Robert M. Levingston	Supvy Criminal Investigator	Seattle FD, FO	22 years
Rochelle McCann	Criminal Investigator	Advanced Investigations Training Br, FO	27 years

*Submitted by Human Resources Division, Employee Benefits Branch.*

## Moves

<i>Employee</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
Tyson Arnold	Proj Officer, Firearms Tracing Br, Natl Tracing Ctr, EPS	Chief, Firearms Tracing Br, Natl Tracing Ctr, EPS
Donald Davenport	Special Agent, New Orleans V Field Office, New Orleans FD, FO	RAC, Shreveport Field Office, New Orleans FD, FO
Carmine Downey	Div Tactical Advisor, Louisville III Field Office, Louisville FD, FO	RAC, Van Nuys Field Office, Los Angeles FD, FO
Kenneth Erickson	Explosives Enforcement Officer, Explosives Tech Br, Arson & Explosives Prog Div, FO	Explosives Enforcement Officer, NCETR, FO
Judyth Ledoux	Chief, Industry Ops Training Br, Firearms & Explosives Industry Div, EPS	Area Sup, Cleveland III Field Office, Columbus FD, FO
Daniel Machonis	Chief, Advanced Firearms & Ops Training Div, FO	Chief, Natl Canine Training & Ops Ctr, FO
Thomas Murray II	Dep Chief, Arson & Explosives Internatl Training Div, FO	Instructor, FBI Natl Academy, FO
Matthew Nollau	Special Agent, Portland I Field Office, Seattle FD, FO	Prog Mgr, ESF-13, Special Ops Div, FO
Winfred Pressley	Training Mgr, Academy Ops Br, ATF Natl Academy, HRPD	Prog Mgr, Academy Ops Br, ATF Natl Academy, HRPD
Kimberly Riddell	PIO, Columbus FD, FO	Div Ops Officer, Chicago FD, FO

## Welcome Aboard!

<i>Employee</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Previous Location</i>
Orlynn Kathleen Perez	Evidence Control Specialist	Forensic Science Lab, San Francisco (Walnut Creek, California)	4/24/2011	Drug Enforcement Admin, San Francisco