

Future Developments

ATF special agents, in cooperation with State and local enforcement authorities, are making trafficking cases from crime gun trace and related investigative information. Also, the ATF National Tracing Center and Crime Gun Analysis Branch are continuing to develop new techniques to analyze crime gun traces. Future developments will include the following:

Additional ATF Special Agents to Follow Up Trafficking Leads. ATF plans to assign additional new agents to YCGII sites to follow up on investigative leads generated by comprehensive tracing, Project LEAD, and other investigative activity.

On-Line Project LEAD. ATF will be providing Project LEAD on-line to ATF field offices in April, 1999. This will greatly increase access to Project LEAD by local gun enforcement task forces and facilitate the development of cases against illegal traffickers.

Expansion of Comprehensive Tracing Support and Trace Analysis Reporting. ATF plans to provide comprehensive tracing support and trace analysis reporting through YCGII to all cities with populations of 250,000 or more and to other jurisdictions with special firearms crime problems.

Development of New Training Tool. ATF is developing a CD-ROM that provides training in how to trace firearms accurately. The program will address common problems of misidentification of firearms. Initially, ATF will train representatives from all YCGII cities in the use of this program, who can then provide the police departments roll call training. Eventually, the training will be provided to all ATF field divisions.

Reports on Crime Guns Traced to Multiple Purchases. In the future, information on crime gun traces associated with multiple purchases will be included in crime gun trace analysis reports.

Additional Training and Reports on Crime Guns With Obliterated Serial Numbers. As more trace requests are submitted involving crime guns with obliterated serial numbers, the YCGII Report will include more extensive reporting relating to these firearms.

Analysis of Crime Guns Stolen from Federal Firearms Licensees. The NTC is developing analyses to determine how stolen firearms enter trafficking networks, and to improve methods available to the firearms retailing industry to prevent thefts.

Information About Illegal Traffickers and Their Trafficking Patterns. ATF has begun analyzing case reports for statistical information about traffickers and their trafficking patterns. This information will be reported in the future.

State and National Level Crime Gun Trace Information. With annual trace requests approaching 200,000, ATF is preparing to issue trace analysis reports by State and at the national level.