



MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present ATF's Strategic Plan for FY 2010 - FY 2016, which provides broad direction to guide our organization for the next six years. It is our blueprint for the future and articulates how ATF will focus its resources to combat and reduce violent crime and meet future challenges.

ATF is dedicated to protecting our Nation from the illicit use of firearms and explosives in violent crime and acts of terrorism. ATF protects our communities from violent criminals and criminal organizations by investigating and preventing the illegal use and trafficking of firearms, the illegal use and improper storage of explosives, acts of arson and bombings, and the illegal diversion of alcohol and tobacco products.

ATF is at the frontline in the reduction of violent crime. Combating violent crime is our specialty, our niche. ATF's regulatory and enforcement missions are interwoven, providing a comprehensive approach to reducing violent crime, protecting the public, and protecting national security. The integrated efforts of our special agents, industry operations investigators, attorneys, scientists, technical experts, forensic auditors, and administrative professionals allow ATF to effectively identify, investigate, and recommend for prosecution violators of the Federal firearms and explosives laws and ensure that licensees and permittees are operating within established laws and regulations. External partnerships with other Federal, state, local, tribal and international law enforcement entities further enhance this synergy.

Our Strategic Plan defines four mission activities and two management activities as strategic goals. The mission goals in illegal firearms trafficking, explosives, criminal organizations, and fire/arson reflect our core areas of expertise, which we consistently work to strengthen. The management goals — managing our workforce and modernizing our organization — will support our mission and ensure its successful accomplishment.

ATF is committed to a strategic management framework to promote continuous assessment and improvement. The framework focuses on strategic planning, budgeting, performance measurement, and Bureau operations.

Our commitment to the security and safety of the people we serve has never been stronger. I am proud to lead this remarkable organization.



Kenneth E. Melson
Deputy Director,
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms
and Explosives



AT THE FRONTLINE AGAINST VIOLENT CRIME

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is a law enforcement organization within the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). ATF is dedicated to the reduction of violent crime, prevention of terrorism, and protection of our Nation. ATF investigates and prevents crimes that involve the unlawful manufacture, sale, possession and use of firearms and explosives; acts of arson and bombings; and illegal trafficking of alcohol and tobacco products. ATF regulates the firearms and explosives industries from manufacture and/or importation through retail sale. We screen and license entities that engage in commerce in these commodities, and specify the form and content of their business records. In the case of explosives, we have established standards for the safe storage of materials to which licensees must adhere.

ATF uses partnerships in all aspects of our regulatory, law enforcement, training, and forensic mission areas. Our partners include industry groups, professional organizations, international, Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement, other Federal and public safety agencies, academia, and the communities we serve. We work closely with all our partners to achieve our mutual goal of reducing violent crime and protecting national security. We rely on industry's support and participation to maximize our effectiveness to prevent violent crime and work with industry to minimize regulatory constraints that hinder legitimate business.