

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.

<b>Vision</b>	<p>We are ATF. A dedicated team securing America’s future by accomplishing a critical mission today.</p> <p>We Protect America. We Protect Your Community.</p>
<b>Mission</b>	<p>We are ATF. A unique law enforcement agency in the United States Department of Justice that protects our communities from violent criminals, criminal organizations, the illegal use and trafficking of firearms, the illegal use and storage of explosives, acts of arson and bombings, and the illegal diversion of alcohol and tobacco products.</p> <p>We partner with communities, industries, law enforcement, and public safety agencies to safeguard the public we serve through information sharing, training, research, and use of technology.</p>
<b>Values</b>	<p>We value our people and those we serve.</p> <p>We value professionalism, integrity, diversity, commitment, innovation, and excellence.</p> <p>We value partnerships that promote the safety of our communities.</p>

Figure 1: ATF Vision, Mission, and Values

**ATF** groups its activities into 10 core functions. Through these 10 core functions ATF reduces violent crime by enforcing federal laws and regulations related to firearms, criminal groups and gangs, explosives, arson, alcohol and tobacco. Appendix B describes how ATF measures performance in each of these 10 core functions.

As further described in this document, ATF’s Strategic Leadership Team has prioritized six of the 10 core functions and developed corresponding strategic goals.



Figure 2: ATF Core Functions

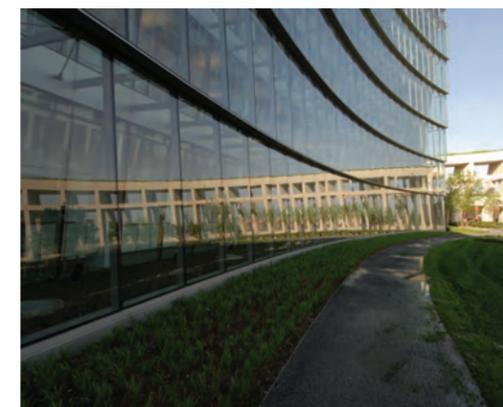
Of our six strategic goals, four strategic goals are mission activities and two strategic goals are management activities. These are:

MISSION ACTIVITIES:

- ❖ Illegal Firearms Trafficking
- ❖ Criminal Groups and Gangs
- ❖ Explosives, Bombs, and Bombings
- ❖ Fire and Arson

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

- ❖ Workforce
- ❖ Modernization



Our six strategic goals, the challenges and threats to which they respond, and our corresponding programs, strategic objectives, and strategies are described on the following pages.



Figure 3: ATF Strategic Goals: Mission and Management Activities

## STRATEGIC GOAL 1 ILLEGAL FIREARMS TRAFFICKING

### CHALLENGES AND THREATS IN THE ILLEGAL FIREARMS TRAFFICKING DOMAIN

Firearms violence associated with drug trafficking and violent crime continues to erode the quality of life in many American communities. There is widespread traffic in firearms moving in or otherwise affecting interstate and international commerce. States and cities across the country seek effective programs to reduce or eliminate violent crime by stemming the flow of illegally trafficked firearms into their communities.

Mexico's drug traffickers have aggressively turned to the United States as a source of

firearms and routinely transport firearms from the United States into Mexico. The U.S.-Mexican border is the principal arrival zone for most illicit drugs smuggled into the United States, as well as the predominant staging area for the subsequent distribution of drugs throughout the country. Firearms are an integral part of these criminal enterprises. They are the "tools of the trade" that drug traffickers use against each other as well as against Mexican and American law enforcement officials and innocent civilians on both sides of the border.

Illegal firearms trafficking via the Internet is an emerging threat. The privacy of the Internet makes it an ideal means for gang members, violent criminals, terrorists, and juveniles to traffic and obtain illegal firearms.

### ATF'S ROLE IN ELIMINATING ILLEGAL FIREARMS TRAFFICKING

The goal of ATF's illegal firearms trafficking enforcement and industry regulation is to reduce violent crime and protect national security. We investigate and arrest individuals and organizations who illegally supply firearms to prohibited individuals. ATF is the Federal law enforcement organization that regulates the firearms industry. We deter the diversion of firearms from lawful commerce into the illegal market with enforcement strategies and technology. ATF regulates and partners with the firearms industry to promote compliance, to prevent diversion, and to detect those criminals that bring violence to our communities.

ATF's illegal firearms trafficking and violent crime strategies provide state and local govern-

