
FY 2003 Highlights

- Became a Bureau under the U.S. Department of Justice. The Homeland Security Bill of 2002, signed by President George W. Bush on November 25, 2002, split the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) into two entities, with the newly created Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) remaining at Treasury to regulate and collect revenue from the alcohol and tobacco industries. ATF acquired additional responsibilities for regulating explosives under a provision in the Homeland Security Bill titled the Safe Explosives Act (SEA).
- Implemented the provisions of the SEA. As the most significant enhancement of agency responsibilities related to Federal explosives since 1970, the SEA is intended to reduce the availability of explosives to felons and other prohibited persons, and to require that all persons obtaining explosive materials obtain a Federal permit. ATF:
 - issued an additional 3,500 explosives permit applications, which included screening all individuals responsible for explosives operations and every explosives possessor;
 - developed and deployed two major information systems initiatives to ensure compliance with the Act; these systems support ATF's issuance of the new Explosives Limited Permit to intrastate users of explosives; and
 - trained 313 special agents, 526 inspectors, 14 attorneys, and 76 specialists on the new law.
- Opened 33,693 criminal cases (up from 30,616 in FY 2002), recommended 16,704 persons for prosecution (up from 11,875 in FY 2002), and indicted 8,880 defendants (up from 6,920 in FY 2002).
- Conducted 744 gang investigations. Sample results: four ATF-led investigations in nine states resulted in 95 arrests, 118 search warrants, and the seizure of 1,001 firearms and \$90,000 in currency.
- Currently conducting 295 investigations involving the trafficking of illicit or counterfeit tobacco products. ATF has confirmed ties to terrorist organizations in four of these investigations.
- Through its investigations of illegal firearms trafficking, assisted in separate cases in the prosecution of defendants who were illegally exporting weapons overseas in violation of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), selling weapons without a license, assault, and aiding and abetting. In FY 2003, ATF assisted in the conviction of 6,169 defendants.
- Conducted 7,883 explosives inspections of which 2,721 were compliance inspections and 5,162 were application inspections. Detected or corrected over 1,165 explosives industry public safety violations.
- Completed 6,380 requests for crime gun data from ATF personnel and other law enforcement personnel, up from 3,934 in FY 2002.
- Completed 3,772 forensic laboratory cases, up from 3,204 in FY 2002 (a 17 percent increase).
- Received 64,336 Brady National Instant Criminal Background Check System's (NIC's) referrals and sent 9,787 to field offices for investigation/follow-up.
- Developed and implemented Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) via ATF's Integrated Violence Reduction Strategy (IVRS). PSN/IVRS promotes partnerships with law enforcement agencies and prosecutors. Agencies develop focused enforcement strategies

to investigate, arrest and prosecute violent offenders, prohibited possessors of firearms, domestic and international firearms traffickers, and others who illegally attempt to acquire firearms. ATF provides assistance and leadership within the law enforcement community to effectively solve violent crimes through the use of specialized resources, technology and training. More than 6,500 law enforcement officers and prosecutors have received PSN training.

- Through the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Program, installed automated ballistics comparison equipment in all participating forensic laboratories in the continental United States and its territories, a total of 228 sites. ATF is currently deploying software within the NIBIN network to give State and local law enforcement agencies the ability to compare data within the continental United States.
- Worked in partnership with the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) to promote the “Don’t Lie for the Other Guy” campaign to educate the industry and the public about illegal firearms purchases.
- Developed a standardized policy for issuing adverse actions when violations of firearms laws and regulations are found during the inspection of Federal firearms licensees (FFLs). The Bureau also established a review process for monitoring adverse actions and ensuring that they are implemented consistently across the United States.
- Provided funding to 260 different agencies to support their participation in the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program. The program certified 659 new G.R.E.A.T. officers in the G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training course. Over 1,993 agencies have 6,505 officers certified to teach the program. During FY 2003, G.R.E.A.T. officers nationwide taught approximately 304,842 school children.
- Completed construction of and moved into the new 176,000-square-foot National Laboratory Center (NLC). Located in the same area and opened at the same time was the new National Fire Research Center. The relocation from the facilities in Rockville, MD, to the new facilities located in Ammendale, MD, was completed in February 2003. All personnel and equipment were successfully relocated, and business operations were kept up and running throughout the move.
- Launched *learn.atf*, ATF’s virtual learning center, which offers a variety of high-quality e-learning courses, reference tools, and performance support services to ATF employees. The creation of *learn.atf* supports the President’s Management Agenda e-Training initiative. From the December 2002 launch through the end of FY 2003, there were a total of 3,809 registrations for both non-mandatory and mandatory courses, with 2,693 completions.
- Implemented web-based systems for filing applications to import firearms and ammunition, for explosives permits under the SEA, and for firearms trace requests.
- Implemented its IT Capital Planning and Investment Control (CPIC) processes for choosing and managing IT investments and ensuring that they are aligned with the Bureau’s Strategic Plan (SP). The intent of the CPIC is to meet legislative mandates for managing capital investments, and to meet the public’s growing demand for a government that offers web-based solutions for doing business with the government. The majority of these investments support new and innovative web-based solutions for doing business with ATF.