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# Message from the Chief Financial Officer

**E**ach year seems to bring new and more complex challenges to our doorstep. This accountability report seeks to clearly present how we have confronted change and leveraged opportunity. Though we ended one relationship with the Treasury Department, we embarked on a new one at the Department of Justice. I am pleased to report that this transition was accomplished as a seamless and efficient evolution that did not interrupt our vision of exceptional performance.

An unstated component of our fiscal year 2003 performance is the ongoing value of prior year investments in the human and technology resources at ATF. Without these components we would not have been able to achieve the results that are catalogued in this report. In previous reports I have focused on our pride in meeting every standard of both internal and external accountability. In today's environment, being accurate, accountable and timely is merely an honest starting point. Our goal is to demonstrate how these fundamentals support our core mission of reducing violent crime and protecting the public.



Our mission takes our personnel to the most violent, complex and sensitive sectors of society. We achieve the goals of our Federal mandates by recruiting and training an exceptional staff, reaching out to the community, and measuring our performance. This is a report of that performance. Please take a moment to explore the expanded library of information about ATF, both here and on our website [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov). I know you will find reflected here an agile and resourceful organization, dedicated to making this a safer Nation in which to live and prosper.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William T. Earle".

William T. Earle  
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