

needed to avoid involvement in youth violence and criminal activity.

In FY 2003, ATF provided funding to 260 different agencies to support their participation in the 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. Since the program began in 1992, more than 3.6 million children have been taught.

During FY 2003, ATF continued to fund its five regional training partners in LaCrosse, WI; Phoenix, AZ; Orange County, FL; Portland, OR; and Philadelphia, PA. They conducted 41 weeks of G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training programs, including remote trainings in Texas, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Montana, Hawaii, Indiana, New Jersey, and California. In July 2002, ATF's G.R.E.A.T. Program launched the new G.R.E.A.T. Families curriculum. To date, 350 G.R.E.A.T. officers have been trained in the Families curriculum.

Fire and Explosives Investigations

In 2003, ATF initiated 4,224 fire and explosives investigations that resulted in the deaths of, or injuries to, 1,137 individuals and property losses in excess of \$825 million. These investigations range from serial arsonists who terrorize small communities to large commercial losses that are the result of arson-for-profit schemes. Whether a single pipe bomb in a vehicle to an accidental explosion at a manufacturing plant that kills or injures several employees, in each case, ATF works side by side with State and local investigators to first identify the origin and cause of a fire or explosion and then, if determined to be a criminal act, identify the perpetrator. ATF investigates the theft and criminal misuse of explosives.



ATF personnel at the scene of an apartment building gutted by a fire.

Fire and Explosives Incident Response Programs

An integral part of ATF's overall violent crime reduction strategy, ATF's arson and explosives projects are directed toward preventing the criminal use of explosives and the crime of arson, and providing effective post-incident response.

National Response Team

The National Response Team (NRT) can respond within 24 hours to major bombing and fire scenes anywhere in the United States. The NRT has developed an innovative approach to the documentation of large crime scenes through the use of Sokkia Forensic Mapping. This highly technical system is being used on all NRT activations and has been deployed to assist State and local authorities on major crime scenes. The NRT responded to 27 callouts in FY 2003, for a total of 564 callouts since the NRT's creation in 1978.

Explosives Enforcement Officers

ATF's Explosives Enforcement Officers (EEOs) have unique technical capabilities in explosives and bomb disposal. EEOs provide explosives device determinations that are used in criminal prosecutions by ATF special agents. Their duties range from constructing facsimiles of explosive and incendiary devices and conducting explosive products testing and evaluations to assisting the State Department's Diplomatic Security Service in conducting antiterrorism capability assessments outside the continental United States.

Certified Explosives Specialists

ATF's Special Agent Certified Explosives Specialists (SACES) Program consists of highly trained ATF special agents who have developed an unmatched level of expertise in post-blast analysis through years of experience and are proficient in all aspects of explosives identification, handling, instruction, demonstration, and destruction in support of ATF's Explosives Enforcement Program.



ATF agent in the process of setting up an explosives shot.

They are a field division's primary resource in explosives-related matters. They provide explosives-specific technical assistance and instruction and conduct explosives investigations.

In FY 2003, ATF had 336 SACES, based in 50 States, Puerto Rico, and Guam, providing support to the entire United States and its territories. ATF also has SACES in Canada, Mexico, and Colombia.

Certified Fire Investigators

The Anti-Arson Act of 1982 amended the Federal Explosives laws to criminalize the destruction of certain property by fire as well as by explosives. At that time, ATF directed more resources toward arson enforcement and quickly became a leader in this area. ATF realized the need for highly trained specialists with the requisite education, experience, and training to provide expert witness testimony in the area of fire origin and cause. ATF established the Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) Program over 15 years ago. Today, ATF's CFI Program is the only one of its type in Federal law

enforcement and has received national and international acclaim. CFIs provide this expertise to local, State, and Federal law enforcement and fire service organizations throughout the Nation.

In FY 2003, there were 83 CFIs in ATF. There are 16 CFI candidates currently in training. CFIs are based in 36 states and provide support to the entire United States and its territories.

Fire Protection Engineers

In addition to the SACES, ATF has a staff of nine fire protection engineers dedicated to providing more specialized technical assistance in the area of fire origin and cause analysis. They provide technical advice and support to U.S. attorneys, and testify as expert witnesses in the prosecution of criminal cases. In FY 2003, these engineers completed over 45 forensic cases and provided 198 days of on-scene investigation support. ATF's new Fire Research Laboratory, which is a 50,000 square foot facility that opened during FY 2003, will allow the scientists to carry out live fire experiments to support fire investigations.

Profilers

ATF has three behavioral profilers and one geographic profiler assigned to the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA. The ATF behavioral profilers analyze behavior characteristics of serial arsonists and bombers and provide investigative suggestions to case investigators. The ATF geographic profiler uses a relatively rare investigative methodology that tracks the locations of connected crimes in an attempt to pinpoint the most probable area where the offender would live. Although the emphasis of the ATF agents engaged in criminal investigative analysis (profiling) is in the jurisdictional area of bombings and arsons, they have assisted in a wide range of violent crimes, including homicide, kidnapping, child abduction, and national security cases. They have provided assistance to investigators from other countries, and training for ATF and FBI agents and other Federal, State, local, and foreign law enforcement and fire investigation agencies.



ATF personnel at the scene of an apartment building gutted by a fire.

The profilers consulted with law enforcement investigators in over 150 cases in FY 2003.

Explosives and Accelerant Detection Canines

In 1997, ATF began training explosives detection canine teams for State, local, and other Federal agencies. Currently, there are 88 ATF-certified explosives detection canine teams working throughout the United States. Thirty-two of these teams include ATF special agent canine handlers, and 56 are explosives detection canine teams for State, local, and other Federal agencies. In 1992, in conjunction with the United States Department of State, Office of Anti-Terrorism Assistance, ATF began training explosives detection canine teams for foreign police departments. To date, 300 explosives detection canines in 13 countries have been trained. In FY 2003, ATF trained 61 explosives detection canines.

ATF trains accelerant detection canines for State and local fire departments, police departments, and State fire marshal offices. Currently, 60 of these teams are used in fire investigations to help identify potential points of origin started by ignitable liquids. During FY 2003, ATF conducted six check-backs of accelerant detection canines to review the performance of the teams.

International Response Team

ATF's International Response Team (IRT), through an agreement with the Department of State, deploys in support of Diplomatic Security Service and foreign government requests and investigates explosives and arson incidents.

National Church Arson Task Force

Since its inception in 1996, the National Church Arson Task Force (NCATF) has coordinated the efforts of all Federal law enforcement participants to investigate fires, bombings, and attempted bombings at the Nation's places of worship. ATF was designated as the lead Federal agency to investigate the cause and origin of these incidents, and, in conjunction with Federal, State, and local partners, the task force has continued to be a model of interagency cooperation.

Arson and Explosives National Repository (AENR)

The AENR contains over 100,000 arson and explosives incidents. This information is obtained from Federal, State, and local fire service/law enforcement incident reports, bomb technicians, and explosives investigators. The principal Federal partners in the data collection effort include ATF, the FBI, and the United States Fire Administration (USFA).

In FY 2003, ATF fielded the Explosives Intelligence System (XBase). XBase was developed in partnership with the New Scotland Yard Bomb Data Center and is already in use in the United

Kingdom. Embassies in Mexico City, Mexico, and Bogota, Colombia, are equipped with XBase, as are several law enforcement agencies in those countries, to help combat the terrorist misuse of explosives worldwide.

ATF also developed and deployed the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS), which is a free, web-based system for other Federal, State, and local agencies involved in the investigation of arsons, bombings, and other explosives incidents. ATF developed BATS to allow law enforcement agencies to not only track their own investigations, but also to share information with other jurisdictions easily and quickly to help solve arsons and bombings, and determine national trends and patterns. BATS also allows users to graphically display incidents with GIS mapping capabilities and generate reports. BATS is scheduled to be officially released nationwide in early FY 2004.

Interagency Counter-terrorism Mission Partnership

ATF maintains an aggressive Critical Incident Management exercise program consisting of two annual multi-division field-training exercises (FTXs). During these FTXs, ATF field divisions respond to scenario-driven events designed to exercise the Bureau's response to critical incidents. These exercises focus on command and control; Federal, State, and local cooperation; and ATF's role in the interagency counter-terrorism mission. Additionally, ATF was an active participant in TOPOFF 2, conducted in May 2003. TOPOFF 2 was a national-level interagency weapon of mass destruction (WMD) counter-terrorism exercise and involved the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, and a multitude of other Federal, State, and local agencies. ATF is also a participant in the Policy Coordinating Committee for Counter-terrorism Exercise Subgroup and in a multi-agency task force directed by the White House to develop a National Response Plan and a National Incident Management System.