

2001 Highlights

Reduce Violent Crime

- ‡ ATF and the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) partnered to create a two-pronged educational campaign, entitled “Don’t Lie for the Other Guy,” in an effort to prevent prohibited individuals from obtaining firearms. This campaign is intended to discourage people from illegally purchasing firearms on behalf of others who are unable to legally possess them. Moreover, it heightens awareness of these illegal sales among licensed dealers. The campaign involves the mailing of kits to firearms retailers that contain posters, pamphlets, and other printed material provided by the NSSF, and a series of educational seminars in several locations for Federal firearms licensees conducted by ATF and the NSSF.
- ‡ Since October 1, 2000, the Office of Management’s Recruitment Center hired 367 special agents, 184 inspectors, and 310 support personnel, from internal and external candidates, for a total of 861 hires.
- ‡ During FY 2001, ATF initiated approximately 18,500 criminal investigations and recommended 10,206 individuals for prosecution to the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Thus far, there have been 5,956 convictions.
- ‡ ATF expanded its Integrated Violence Reduction Strategy in conjunction with the administration’s “Project Safe Neighborhoods.” These comprehensive firearms enforcement strategies are tailored to the needs of individual judicial districts and unique gun violence problems. This strategy calls for the creation of over 40 satellite offices nation-wide.
- ‡ More than 950 matches were produced by the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), many of which resulted in investigative leads.

One illustration of the power of automated ballistics technology comes from Boston,

where Police Department policy requires that all firearms evidence be entered into the NIBIN system. After a suspect was stopped with a handgun (a criminal offense in Boston) and the seized weapon was test-fired, links were found between the weapon and a total of 15 incidents in which 10 people had been injured. These incidents occurred in four jurisdictions in two States over the course of a year. NIBIN produced critical evidence for police investigation into these otherwise seemingly unrelated incidents.

- ‡ ATF appointed a domestic violence coordinator to implement strategies for pursuing violations of 18 U.S.C. section 922(g)(8) (firearms prohibition and protective orders) and section (g)(9) (firearms prohibitions and misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence). In collaboration with the National Center for State Courts and Department of Justice’s Violence Against Women Office, ATF developed and published informational material to present to State court judges that explains the Federal firearms prohibitions. The material, which is presented at Regional State court judge training seminars, has been very well received. In addition, ATF participated in various training workshops related to domestic violence, including regional training for clerks of the court, assistant U.S. attorney seminars, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.
- ‡ ATF participated in negotiations involving the United Nations (UN) Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts, Components, and Ammunition. ATF played a key role by providing legal and technical advice on issues such as firearms marking, tracing, manufacturing and licensing. This international treaty, aimed at assisting the United States and the international law enforcement community, was approved without vote by the UN General Assembly.
- ‡ At the UN Conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons, ATF provided legal and

technical assistance to the Department of State and Department of Defense in matters relating to the manufacture, licensing, marking, and importation of firearms. A program of action was developed and agreed upon by the United States and delegations from over 140 nations that outlines measures to be taken in combating the illicit international production and trade in small arms and light weapons. Such measures include fostering greater cooperation among nations and the criminalization of the illegal trade in firearms.

- ‡ Designed, developed, and delivered Critical Incident Decision-making Training to all division directors. Designed to address the decision-making process during critical incidents, this course reviews the significance of the relationship between overall command of an incident and the command of the tactical response functions. It includes discussions covering the role of policy and procedure in managing tactical operations and assets and principles of commanding situations of risk and their application to tactical operations. Jurisdictional, legal, and media relations issues are also addressed.
- ‡ Developed and delivered a pilot Command and Control class for GS-1811 (Special Agent) first-line supervisors. This course provides instruction on operational topics from a first-line supervisor's perspective. It focuses primarily on planning and execution of "street" operations; including search warrants, arrest warrants, undercover operations, critical incident crime scene control, on-scene command, surveillance, Title III wiretaps, and tactical risk assessment.
- ‡ Conducted two seminars for ATF Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) coordinators and their State and local counterparts. These seminars trained 150 special agents and local law enforcement officers, and have increased the awareness of and participation in comprehensive crime gun tracing by each attending agency.
- ‡ In May 2001, officially opened a state-of-the-art training facility in Front Royal, Virginia, for

accelerant and explosives detection canines for State, local, and international law enforcement.

- ‡ Developed and disseminated the InterFire training CD-ROM, a computerized virtual reality training tool for fire investigators at every level. This training CD complements the InterFire website, which provides a continuously updated resource for in-depth information on fire investigation methodologies, training and research. Also, began work on a post-blast investigation training CD-ROM similar to InterFire, which is expected to be completed and disseminated in mid-FY 2002.

Collect Revenue

- ‡ Collected \$14.1 billion in revenue generated from Federal excise taxes imposed on alcohol, tobacco, firearms, and ammunition.
- ‡ Investigated 217 diversion cases of alcohol and tobacco products, resulting in 43 defendants recommended for prosecution and \$1.86 million in seized property credited to the Treasury Asset Forfeiture Fund.
- ‡ Conducted 1,097 inspections at revenue producing plants, resulting in 693 violations and \$4.2 million in additional excise taxes assessed.
- ‡ Delivered a 3-week specialized training course for new revenue specialists at the National Revenue Center, Cincinnati, Ohio. This training provided them with the knowledge and skills needed to perform their duties. One class was delivered to 24 students.
- ‡ Created the e-Government Program Office with the mission to improve the Bureau's efficiency and reduce burden on customers.
- ‡ Partnered with the Financial Management Service to participate in the Pay.Gov pilot program, allowing six tobacco manufacturers to file tax returns electronically under a pilot program.
- ‡ Processed 11 offers-in-compromise resulting in \$514,939 being paid.

Protect the Public

- ‡ Suspended the operations of an alcohol importer for 45 days resulting from numerous wine labeling violations.
- ‡ Settled 12 labeling and advertising investigations, for a total of \$454,500 in offers-in-compromise.
- ‡ Was instrumental in negotiating a Mutual Acceptance Agreement on enological practices with the New World Wine Producing Countries, which will greatly facilitate wine trade between the participating countries once the agreement goes into effect.
- ‡ Expanded the alcohol-sampling program by selecting 23 Field Divisions and focusing on imported and cultural products, resulting in the collection of 654 samples. Tested 556 of the 654 samples selected, with 173 products found not in compliance with regulations.
- ‡ Found and corrected a total of 1,209 public safety violations during explosives compliance inspections.
- ‡ Maintained “FFL eZ Check” – an on-line Federal firearms license authenticator website - to reach out to and develop new working relationships with the firearms industry and consumers, and to strengthen existing relationships. Online “FFL eZ Check” aids the firearms industry in preventing the fraudulent use of their licenses by individuals who alter copies of licenses to illegally acquire and supply firearms to criminals and youths. The web site allows a Federal firearms licensee who is presented a copy of a Federal firearms license to verify or authenticate the license prior to shipping or disposing of a firearm(s) to the licensee. The web site verifies the information shown on the license.
- ‡ Continued developing a highly trained cadre of ATF explosives enforcement officers qualified to dive for improvised explosive devices (IEDs). They are frequently called upon by State and local law enforcement agencies and ATF agents to support criminal investigations.

Bureau-wide Programs

- ‡ Ground was broken at the new Laboratory and Fire Center in Ammendale, MD and construction is underway. The target occupancy date is December 2002.

Also, the new Headquarters Building architect presented design concepts for ATF’s new building to be located at Florida and New York Avenues, N.E., Washington, D.C. The location will provide a significant landmark for the Federal Government at a newly revitalized core development area in the city. Site work has begun, and construction will begin in FY 2002. The target occupancy date is early FY 2005.
- ‡ Transitioned the Frame Relay Network from AT&T FTS2000 to Treasury Contract-provided Qwest services. The transition included restructuring the communication hub to the new ATF data facility in Martinsburg, West Virginia. This restructuring and transition of the data network provides the infrastructure for moving the ATF Headquarters building in 2005 without interruption of service and downtime. The re-engineering effort provides backup and enhanced stability to the network, which gives ATF the ability to support many significant bureau software engineering investments as the National Field Office Case Information System (N-FOCIS), Forensics Automated Case and Exam Tracking System (FACETS), Firearms Tracing System (FTSWEB), and Online-LEAD.
- ‡ Continued Advanced Explosives Destruction Techniques training (AEDT) for State and local certified bomb technicians and ATF certified explosive specialists. This training provides advanced instruction in the areas of destruction and disposal of bulk explosives, deteriorated explosives, fireworks, ammunition, and precursor chemicals. This much-needed course was implemented following a number of fatalities to bomb technicians during disposal operations over the last 6 years.
- ‡ Distributed 100 inert explosive kits to ATF special agents throughout the United States.



A Connecticut State Police officer practices underwater search and recovery patterns with his diving mask blacked-out with aluminum foil, as part of the Underwater Explosives Recovery Specialist Course in Edmond, Oklahoma, conducted by ATF and the Edmond Police Department.

The kits will be used to educate law enforcement and civilian groups in the recognition and danger of explosives.

- ‡ The Office of Field Operations implemented the Field Flexi-Place Pilot Project, an innovative work-at-home project that enables Inspectors to perform all or part of their official duties at work sites set up in their residences.
- ‡ During the horrific events of September 11, ATF was able to glean a few “victories.” Of significant importance, was the Bureau’s safe evacuation, without accident or injury, of the employees of the New York Field Division, located in World Trade Center 6. Part of that victory was the speedy and effective relocation and restoration to full operations of that Field Division. Within hours of the attack, the Division had re-established Command Operations at an alternate site. Although New York network servers were destroyed, Division

operations were able to immediately reconnect with ATF’s nationwide network through a secure dial-up protocol.

- ‡ Another key victory was the mobilization of ATF resources in response to the attacks. Five hundred special agents and investigative assistants were provided to increase our ongoing support of the Joint Terrorism Task Force operations nationwide. Forty-five agents were detailed to the FAA Federal Air Marshal program for extended assignments. ATF activated two National Response Teams (NRTs) each to the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Pennsylvania crash sites. Special agents staffed the Strategic Intelligence Operations Center (SIOC) at FBI headquarters, the Secret Service Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and the ATF National Enforcement Operations Center (NEOC) on a 24/7 basis.

Also during this period, the ATF Explosives Canine Program employed three canine teams to assist the Secret Service with White House security and sweeps of other Federal buildings. ATF Certified Explosive Specialists (CESs) assisted the Secret Service White House Security Detail. ATF Special Agents supported the Secret Service and Capital Hill Police with security of Federal buildings nationwide. Inspectors and Special Agents from the Atlanta Field Division were assigned to assist at the FBI Investigative Lead Call Center in Atlanta. ATF focused arson and explosive investigative resources towards criminal acts specifically related to the Islamic community. ATF Inspectors continue to conduct an exhaustive effort to ensure that all explosive permittees and licensees are properly storing, securing and recording the transfer of, and reporting the loss or theft of, explosives. ATF screened files for information on the names provided on the “watch list” of potential terrorists and their associates, and focused attention on potential alcohol and tobacco products diversion in support of terrorist activities.



Artist renderings of the future Headquarters and Laboratory buildings.



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