

---

## Director's Message



While tragic events have occurred which have changed us, we continue to move forward as a country and as a Bureau, and this annual report gives an accounting of our programs and policies. ATF continues to strive for and achieve excellence. Through a number of programs encompassing the mission of reducing violent crime, collecting the revenue, and protecting the public, ATF works hard for the American people on a daily basis.

Through congressional funding, we have broadened our base of agents and inspectors and are better able to enforce the laws and regulations as they pertain to alcohol, tobacco, firearms, arson, and explosives. Two crucial programs, the Integrated Violence Reduction Strategy and the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative enabled us to be even stronger partners with other Federal, State, and local agencies.

In Fiscal Year 2001, as before, ATF is forging a path for e-government and e-commerce, assisting the tax paying community in filing timely. In addition, the talents of the regulatory and enforcement components have been brought to bear in a strong show against tobacco smuggling and other regulatory related criminal enterprises.

The buildings that will house ATF employees in the Washington Metro area are moving forward in their construction. The ATF National Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, and our Headquarters in Washington, DC, are progressing and will be known for their state-of-the-art construction encompassing safety, functionality, and beauty in design.

This year has brought to bear many successes for the Bureau, but they cannot stand without acknowledging the dedication and hard work of ATF employees. It is the commitment of every person in this Bureau that enables us to move forward as an agency, and carry out our critical mission throughout the United States and the world. The employees of ATF make this agency what it is. I am proud to serve as their Director.

*Bradley A. Buckler*