



For Immediate Release

Contact:

February 16, 2000

Maura K. White-Cioeta, National PAL Board Member

503-823-0250 or 1-800-725-7743

John D'Angelo, ATF National Press Office (202)

927-8500

Police Athletic League and ATF's G.R.E.A.T. Program Sign Agreement to Reach More At-risk Youth

Washington DC - On Thursday, February 17, 2000, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Director Bradley A. Buckles and National Association of Police Athletic Leagues (PAL) Board President Ralph Giardina will sign a partnership agreement thereby committing ATF's Gang Resistance Education and Training Program (G.R.E.A.T.) curriculum to PAL's after-school and summer hours outreach programs. The signing will take place at a breakfast meeting from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., at the Washington Court Hotel (Ballroom #2), 525 New Jersey Avenue NW., Washington, DC, telephone number, (202) 628-2100.

The breakfast will feature remarks by Arlington, VA, Police Chief Ed Flynn, Giardina, Buckles, National PAL Vice President C.A. Robertson, and PAL Board Member Maura White-Cioeta who directs a G.R.E.A.T./PAL pilot program in Portland, Oregon.

PAL is a non-profit organization that oversees more than 300 individual PAL chapters across the nation. The organization provides after-school and summer programs to youth which foster positive communication among kids, cops and the community. Nearly 1.5 million young people participate in PAL every year.

"ATF is committed to making our streets safer for our youth through crime fighting and outreach," said Buckles. "This new partnership between G.R.E.A.T. and PAL will allow us to reach more young people than we could have on our own. We are very pleased to join forces to provide more at-risk children with our positive message and practical skills."

The partnership will bring G.R.E.A.T. instructors to hundreds of PAL centers to teach at-risk youth the importance of conflict resolution, resisting peer pressure, building life skills, and goal setting. The program will reinforce PAL's objective to prevent juvenile crime and violence by providing education, training and resources in sports and activities to local police athletic/activities league chapters across the country.

"PAL officers know that keeping kids involved in positive programs keeps them out of harm's way. Working with G.R.E.A.T. officers will enhance our efforts to serve youth," said Giardina.

The partnership signing coincides with the PAL's annual Winter Training, which is taking place in Washington, DC for the first time in PAL's 80-year history. Other key programs this week include:

- *The Latest Statistics on Why Early Intervention Works*, by Deputy Director Brendan Fitzsimons, Fight Crime Invest In Kids program, Thursday, February 17, 10:30-Noon, Washington Court Hotel;
- *Coordinating Drug Demand Reduction Efforts with the National Guard* by Brigadier General William F. Doctor, Friday, February 18, 2000, 0930 a.m., Washington Court Hotel;
- A keynote luncheon address by Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Director Tom Frazier,

Friday, February 18, 11:30 a.m. at the Washington Court Hotel;

- And various individual workshops. For more information about getting involved in a PAL chapter near you, please contact the National PAL Office at 1-800-725-7743.

Related Site:

[Remarks by Director Bradley A. Buckles Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms at the Police Athletic League/G.R.E.A.T. Certificate of Agreement Signing](#)

[BACK](#)

This was last updated on February 18, 2000