

ATF EXPLOSIVES Industry Newsletter

Second Quarter 2001 (issued September 2001)

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Branch Chief - Rhonda Trahern

Explosives Technology Branch (ETB)

Branch Chief - Mark Murray

Violent Offender Branch (VOB)

Branch Chief - Phil Durham

A Message from the Chief, Arson and Explosives Programs Division (AEPD)

Although the recovery and disposal of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) garners the most media coverage, increased hazards exist to public safety officers during the recovery and disposal of abandoned or improperly stored commercial explosives. Injuries and death have occurred this past year during such operations, a sad reminder of the daily risks taken by our public safety officials. Just as we have continually asked for industry's cooperation in working to prevent thefts and to report them promptly to ATF, we also ask that industry members promptly report information on any deteriorated explosive materials to public safety officials and ATF.

With regard to our responsibility as administrators of the Federal explosives laws, ATF has available trained and experienced special agent certified explosives specialists (SACES) and explosives enforcement officers (EEOs) authorized to dispose of hazardous explosives after recovering them from both land and from under water. We have encountered instances where explosives are disposed into bodies of water by persons hoping that the material would not be discovered, creating a potential public safety hazard for the recreational fisherman, boater, and swimmer. ATF provides State and local Training (SLT) and is committed to sharing

these disposal techniques through training of State and local bomb technicians in the Advanced Explosive Destruction Techniques course, utilizing "lessons learned" by ATF, State, and local instructors. ATF's Training Directorate has partnered with the Edmond (OK) Police Department in the development of a comprehensive Underwater EOD Recover course that allows graduates to work in black water conditions to search for, and recover, explosive materials and devices.

Working together, ATF and the professionals of the explosive industry and public safety agencies of this nation can safely mitigate hazardous explosives situations.

Changes in Arson and Explosives Programs Division

Gail Hosey Davis Returns to Public Safety Branch

On September 3, 2001, the Public Safety Branch welcomes back Gail Hosey Davis as its new chief. Gail replaces former Branch Chief Richard Van Loan, who has been promoted to the position of Director, Industry Operations, in the Seattle Field Division.

Gail worked in the Public Safety Branch as a specialist for five years, during that time, the branch's explosives functions were combined with firearms programs, and the Branch was known as the Firearms & Explosives Operations Branch. Gail began her career with ATF as an inspector, serving three years in the Detroit Field Division, Flint Post of Duty. Gail's career includes a three-year term as a specialist in the Distilled Spirits & Tobacco Branch. She then went to the Firearms & Explosives Operations Branch, and from there she was promoted to the position of Program Manager, Public Information Division. After serving a six month period in a public affairs capacity, Gail spent the next year and a half in the Office of Legislative Affairs as a Congressional Liaison Specialist. From there, she served as Chief of Staff, Office of Science and Technology, for a year and a half.

"I am excited to be returning to the world I love," Gail said. "My various roles in ATF have provided me with a well-rounded experience and an acute sensitivity to the importance of maintaining solid relationships with the members of the regulated industry. The explosives industry is so filled with creativity, innovation, art, and science. There are few commodities that have such an amazingly broad representation of industries. I look forward to playing a role in the Bureau's mission to protect the public while at the same time striking a balance and avoiding undue burden on those industries as much as possible."

Gail continues to encourage the industry's input into this newsletter and looks forward to answering questions and addressing any concerns. She can be contacted at 202-927-7930.

New Address for A & E Programs, and Public Safety Branch

The Arson and Explosives Programs Division recently moved their operations. Although they are in the same building, they have moved to the 7th floor. Please note the address change below. The phone and fax numbers remain the same as before.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
Public Safety Branch
800 K Street, NW, Room 710
Tech World South Building
Washington, DC 20001

INTERNATIONAL EXPLOSIVES ASSISTANCE

ATF personnel from the Arson & Explosives Programs Division provided assistance to Botswana, Columbia, and the Czech Republic during the spring of this year. Assistance was provided on explosives related matters to other U.S. officials and host government agencies.

BUNKER EXPLOSION IN ARKANSAS

ATF Activates CIMRT Team to Investigate Explosion

On April 28, 2001, an explosion occurred at the Highland Industrial Park Complex located in Camden, Arkansas. The explosion involved a bunker that was leased by a Federal explosive licensee. Approximately 142,000 pounds of assorted high explosives and smokeless propellants were stored in the bunker. The explosion totally destroyed the bunker and

damaged surrounding bunkers, leased by various Federal explosives licensees and permittees, up to a half-mile radius.

A view of the crater resulting from the explosion in the magazine graphically depicts the violent nature of the event.



As the aerial picture below depicts, the spacing between the bunkers functioned as designed, preventing any further detonations in the adjacent magazines. This clearly illustrates why proper distancing between magazines is such an essential feature of the Table-of-Distance (TOD) requirements.



Aerial view of bunker complex

Highland Industrial Park owns and manages approximately 600 explosives bunkers located on a 1500-acre facility. The bunkers were built by the military in the 1950's and were sold to Highland Industrial Park in 1961.

Immediately following the explosion, ATF responded to the scene and began an investigation of the cause. In addition to the initial investigation, ATF activated a CIMRT (Critical Incident Management Response Team) along with the Department of Defense; Arkansas State Fire Marshal's Office, Arkansas State Police,

and the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office. The objectives of this operation were to determine the cause of the explosion and to inspect the explosive storage facilities of Federal explosives licensees/permittees with respect to compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This major effort was an excellent example of teamwork utilizing a wide variety of personnel from New Orleans and Dallas Field Divisions as well as the Arson & Explosives Division.

Although explosives compliance inspections of explosive licensees and permittees are routinely performed for compliance with Federal explosives law and regulations, the concentrated effort at the Highland Park Complex was a direct result of the explosion that occurred on April 28th. The concentrated operation began on June 4, 2001 and concluded June 8, 2001. A total of more than 50 ATF Special Agents, Inspectors, Explosives Enforcement Officers as well as support personnel were involved in the inspections of 248 bunkers being used for the commercial storage of explosives by 42 Federal explosives licensees. Several licensing, recordkeeping, and storage violations were disclosed. Follow-up inspections were conducted during the week of August 27, 2001, to ensure that corrective action is being taken regarding violations of 27 CFR Part 55, Explosives. The New Orleans Field Division will continue this effort, until all violations have been resolved.

ADVANCED EXPLOSIVES DESTRUCTION TECHNIQUES

ATF Provides Training for State and Local Bomb Techs

The ATF State, Local & International Training Division, State & Local Training Branch, has developed a course for bomb technicians on the safe destruction or disposal of explosive materials. The Advanced Explosives Destruction Techniques (AEDT) course was developed as a response to the high number of injuries and deaths to bomb technicians that have occurred in recent years. More accidents have occurred while disposing of explosives than during "render safe" (disarming a bomb or explosive device) operations. In the last year and a half, ATF has worked with State & local bomb technicians from around the country, along with representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and others to develop the course. The goal was to provide a training course that would cover the safety, legal, logistical, operational, and health facets of explosives disposal or destruction operations. The

course consists of in-depth discussions and information exchange regarding the destruction of explosive materials. It does not cover render safe or disruption techniques covered in other courses.

The AEDT course developers are proud to say that AEDT is a course "for Bomb Techs, by Bomb Techs." Some of the topics covered in the class include:

- EPA laws and regulations and their impact on destruction operations
- Explosive classifications NFPA 921
- Incident command
- Destruction range operations
- Fireworks and pyrotechnic hazards
- How to handle a variety of explosive range destruction scenarios
- Destruction techniques for most types of explosives, including ammunition

Students receive intensive classroom instruction, reinforced by two days on the explosives range practicing the techniques they have learned in the classroom. Students also take a written pre-test at the start of the course, as well as a final exam on the last day of class.

Since mid-2000, more than 200 State & local bomb technicians have attended the two-week training sessions. Classes are conducted in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and nearby Fort A.P. Hill. A total of 8 classes have been scheduled during FY 2001, and there are plans to expand the number of classes to 12 in the next fiscal year.

For further information on attending these classes, please contact the Program Manager, Special Agent Don Robinson, at (202) 927-3122.

SHOCK TUBE STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

We frequently get questions regarding the storage requirements for "shock tube" used in the initiation of non-electric detonators, or blasting caps. Shock tube or line, which contains a minute coating of high explosives on the inside lining of the tube, may not be stored with detonators in the same magazine unless they are an integral part of an initiation system. Shock tube classed by the U.S. Department of Transportation as 1.4 explosives may be kept in a type 4 magazine, constructed in accordance with the requirements of a low explosives storage magazine found in Section 55.210 of the Federal Explosives Regulations. Any further questions on

this topic should be addressed to the Public Safety Branch in ATF Headquarters.

LICENSE AND PERMIT SIMPLIFICATION

Questions have been raised regarding the numerous types of explosive licenses and permits currently available. ATF recognizes that there are many different types of activity involved in the overall explosives industry and the need to identify by classification the many different segments of the industry. This procedure, however, has resulted in much confusion as to exactly what type of license or permit is needed for a particular operation. We are in the process of reviewing the overall scheme of explosives licensing, and we hope to simplify this procedure in the near future. ATF will reach out to the explosives industry as we explore various options for modifying the licensing and permit format.

BOMBING CASE IN VIRGINIA SOLVED

Joint Effort by Federal and State Officials Results in Conviction

At approximately 4:30 a.m. on December 3, 1997, Tammy Lynn Baker picked up a metal cash box that had been placed at the base of her apartment steps in the town of Louisa, Virginia. Ms. Baker, who was about eight months pregnant, was killed instantly when the box exploded. ATF special agents and Virginia State Police, along with Louisa County Sheriff's Office personnel immediately worked the crime scene, collecting hundreds of pieces of bomb debris. Additional interview teams were dispatched throughout the following days, following up on the many leads that were developed. Chemists from ATF's Forensic Lab in Rockville, Maryland, analyzed the recovered evidence and determined that the bomb that had killed Ms. Baker consisted of two galvanized pipes bombs, which had been initiated by commercially available model rocket motors. A pressure release switch triggered the bomb. A former boyfriend of Ms. Baker was identified as a possible suspect, but despite the identification of the bomb components and the local distribution outlets from where they had come, none of the forensic evidence could directly tie the former boyfriend to the bombing.

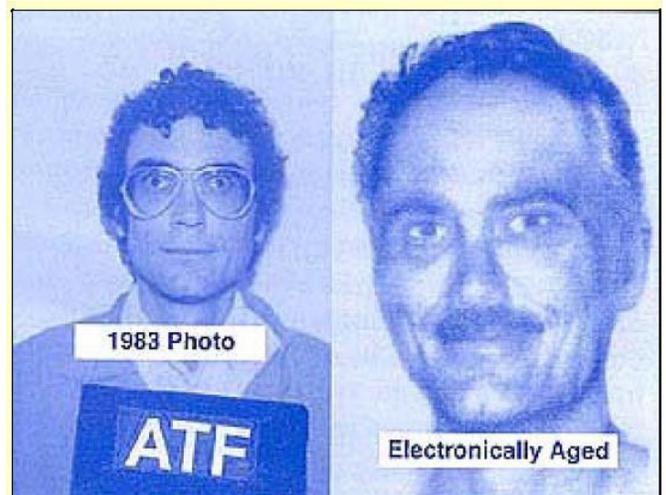
Nearly two and a half years of arduous investigation followed, involving hundreds of interviews, use of a Federal investigative grand jury, undercover contacts, and surveillance. Finally, the former boyfriend, identified as Coleman Leake Johnson, was indicted in U.S.

District Court in Charlottesville, Virginia, on charges of violations of 18 U.S.C. 844(i), Murder by Bombing. The investigation revealed that Johnson's motive for the bombing was his refusal to pay child support for the unborn child.

Johnson was brought to trial in May 2001, after a trial lasting approximately three weeks, he was found guilty on the murder charge. The conviction was the result of hard work by ATF, State and local law enforcement, and two outstanding Assistant U.S. Attorneys from Roanoke, Virginia, who prosecuted this case.

Fugitive Corner

Wanted by ATF



STEPHEN CRAIG CAMPBELL

For Violation of Federal Explosives Law

Campbell is wanted for attempted first-degree murder and manufacture and possession of a destructive device. He has been spotted in the Virgin Islands. He may be using an alias and possibly living in the Houston/New Orleans area.

A Federal Warrant for Campbell's arrest was issued on April 25, 1983, charging him with manufacture and possession of a bomb.

Description

Date of Birth: 7/28/48
Place of Birth: Stockton, CA
Race/Sex: White Male
Height: 6' 02"
Weight: 155 pounds
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Complexion: Fair
Driver's License: Unknown

Nationality: U.S. Citizen
 Occupation: Electrical/Chemical Engineer
 ATF Case No: (Cheyenne, WY) 93325.83.2013 C
 State ID No: WY 0032023
 FBI No:
 NCIC FPC: PI 7 1 PO PO 19 / DI PO PI PI 10
 Warrant#: CR-83-024
 Location: District of Wyoming

Campbell has used the aliases of Fred Campbell and Stephen Murphy. Anyone who has any information should contact the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms 24-Hour Enforcement Operations Center at 1-888-ATF-BOMB.

ATF NATIONAL LABORATORY PROJECT UPDATE

Construction of New ATF Lab Underway

Construction of a larger and more modern ATF National Laboratory Center continues to progress, with completion of the new facility scheduled for December 2002. The new ATF-owned lab is being built on a 35-acre site in Ammdendale, Maryland. The new lab will be twice the size of the current ATF laboratory, and will include a unique Fire Research Laboratory as part of the project. The new laboratory facility will not only allow ATF to hire additional staff and expand the Lab's capabilities, it will also provide a more efficient lab operation, especially in the processing of explosives cases. In addition, special laboratory space has been designed to specialize in cases involving incidents in which high explosives have been used. The new facility will also have a state-of-the-art unit to support ATF's expanding scientific training mission. ATF anticipates using the lab to provide state-of-the-art training to students who may come from Federal, State and local government agencies, as well as persons from ATF-regulated industries.

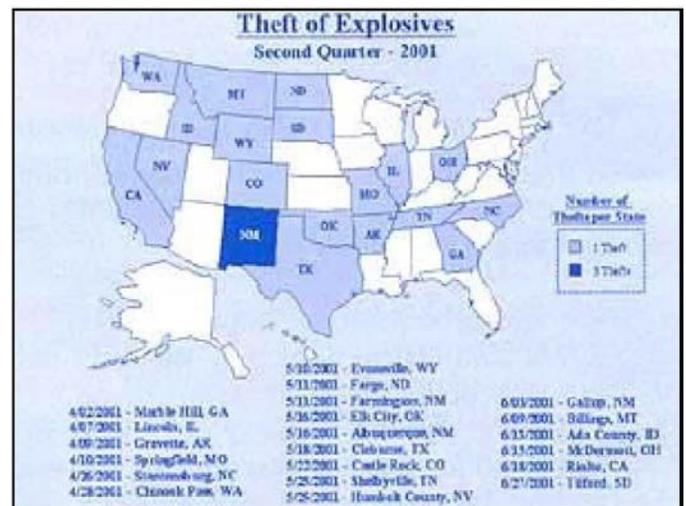


Architect's Drawing of New ATF Lab

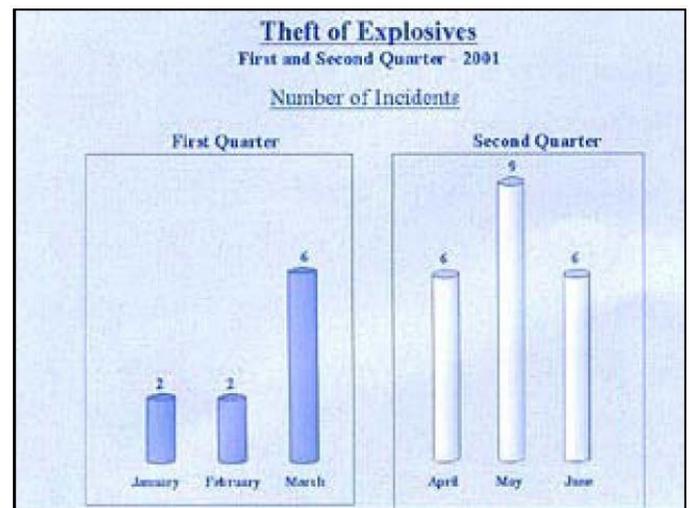
SECOND QUARTER 2001 EXPLOSIVES THEFTS

The problem of explosives thefts continues to be an issue of extreme importance. In addition to providing a summary of explosives thefts last quarter, we are exploring ways to provide additional information to the industry as to the methods used by criminals and safeguards that might be utilized to prevent or reduce thefts of explosives. As information becomes available that can be shared with the industry, we hope to include this data in the Explosives Industry Newsletter. As always, you are reminded of the need to promptly report thefts or losses of explosive materials to ATF, as well as to State and local authorities. The following is a summary of explosives thefts in the second quarter of this year, compiled by Stephanie Babin, Intelligence Research Specialist, Arson and Explosives National Repository Branch.

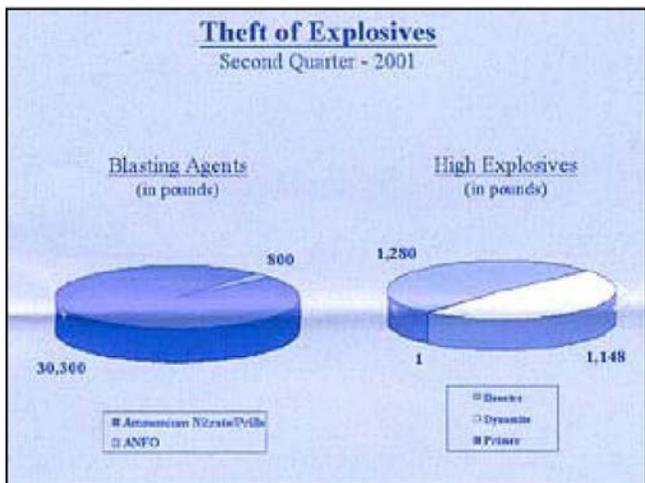
National Map, showing locations



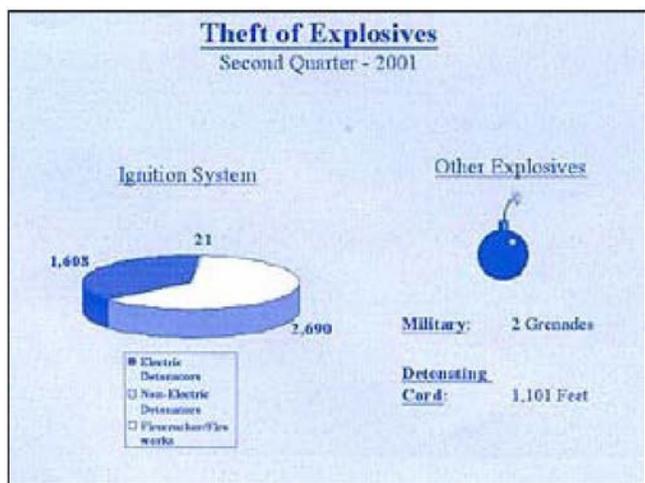
No. of incidents, 1st & 2nd Quarters



Blasting Agent & HE, in pounds



Ignition System & other Explosives



CORRECTION OF NATIONAL REPOSITORY FAX NUMBER

Recently ATF published an incorrect fax number for the Arson & Explosives National Repository Branch (AENRB). Please note that the correct Fax number is (866) 927-4570. Anyone requesting information from the AENRB may send the request to this Fax number.

QUESTIONS?

We will be distributing the Explosives Industry Newsletters on a regular basis and welcome any questions or items of discussion that you would like to have presented. To submit a topic, contact the PSB in Washington, DC, by mail phone, or fax, as follows:

Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms – Public Safety Branch
Room 710, Tech World South Building
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 927-7930 Fax: (202) 927-8887

You can also send your questions by e-mail directly to the editor:

Ebaker@CINC.ATF.TREAS.GOV

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Have you recently changed your address, or do you know someone in the industry not currently on the distribution list who may wish to receive the ATF Explosives Newsletter? If so, please notify the Public Safety Branch by phone, or Fax us the following information and we will change your address or add the new names to the distribution list. All we need is the following information:

Name: _____
 Company: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State: _____
 Zip code: _____
 Phone No. (Optional): _____
 E-mail: (Optional): _____