



Fact Sheet

Public Affairs Division - Washington DC



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ATF Frontline

Leveraging Partnerships with State and Local Law Enforcement to Reduce Violent Gun Crime

Protecting the American people from violent crime is a core priority of the Department of Justice (DOJ). ATF, the primary component within DOJ devoted to reducing violent crime committed with firearms, concentrates its efforts in the following four areas:

- Illegal firearms trafficking and criminal use of firearms
- Criminal groups and gangs
- Criminal misuse of explosives
- Fire and arson

ATF's Frontline Business Model

Frontline is ATF's collaborative and intelligence-driven approach to accomplishing its law enforcement and regulatory mission. Importantly, Frontline relies on ATF's highly valued partnerships with state and local law enforcement agencies to be effective in fighting violent crime. Under this collaborative approach, ATF's Frontline business model ensures ATF's limited resources are focused on the most violent offenders in a community, where the strong penalties associated with federal violations represent the most appropriate sanctions. To ensure ATF's resources are aligned to produce maximum impact, Frontline requires ATF field divisions to conduct annual domain assessments to identify the law enforcement and regulatory priorities specific to their respective areas of responsibility.

Intelligence-Driven Enforcement

Intelligence-driven policing within ATF is a collaborative effort that results in identification of those responsible for criminal activity by analyzing firearms-related intelligence. This intelligence may come from a variety of sources, including from partner agencies and through ATF assets, such as the National Integrated Ballistics Imaging Network (NIBIN) and trace data. By leveraging the firearms-related intelligence, ATF can identify the locations, opportunities, and offenders responsible for the most significant firearms-related violent crime in an area, and work to develop strategies to combat it. ATF shares its full information and intelligence resources with state and local law enforcement through a variety of means.

Violent Crime Reduction Partnerships (VCRP)

As a coordinating mechanism, VCRPs are a vital element of the Frontline business model. Building on ATF's proud history of partnering with federal, state and local law enforcement, the basic premise of the VCRP is to bring together law enforcement leadership in a specific area of operation to coordinate and leverage resources to fight violent crime issues. Recognizing that other regional or local coordination mechanisms already exist in many

jurisdictions, such as those focusing on drug trafficking and terrorism, VCRPs are designed to specifically focus resources on violent crime in a non-duplicative, intelligence-driven manner that complements, rather than competes, with other coordination bodies. VCRPs facilitate the discussion of respective missions, strategies, tactics, resources and intelligence regarding violent crime through regular interactions between the United States Attorneys, ATF Special Agents in Charge, and local, state, and federal local law enforcement leaders. VCRPs provides a platform for communication, collaboration and de-confliction through which ATF and partner law enforcement agencies can coordinate resources to combat firearms-related violent crime, while also fostering effective partnerships with non-law enforcement agencies, industry, community leaders and organizations to integrate prevention and reentry programs with enforcement strategies.

Resources for State and Local Law Enforcement

Through the Frontline business model, ATF works to leverage its limited ATF resources to impact violent crime in partnership with state and local law enforcement. Resources available to assist in that effort include:

- **Crime Gun Intelligence** - ATF's unique investigative capabilities, combined with NIBIN technology, are available to support local law enforcement by identifying shooters in real time, allowing law enforcement to strategically intervene with the shooters to prevent further violence. These assets also enable ATF to identify traffickers supplying the crime guns to the jurisdiction.
- **Crime Gun Tracing and Information Sharing** - ATF's eTrace offers state and local agencies the ability to electronically input and receive trace results and query firearms trace-related data. ATF's eTrace includes analytical capabilities for firearms trace information and a referral list capability allowing participating agencies to learn if the purchaser, possessor, licensed place of sale, or recovery location have been identified in other traces by any other law enforcement agency tracing firearms. ATF's new collective data sharing initiative enables local law enforcement agencies to share trace information with other participating in-state law enforcement agencies in support of gun trafficking and other investigations. ATF industry operations resources can be leveraged to respond to tracing data, ensuring that commercial sources of crime guns are compliant with regulatory requirements.
- **Training, Technical Assistance, and Outreach** - ATF supports federal, state, local, tribal and international agencies by providing training and technical assistance in a variety of areas aligned with ATF's mission. Most significantly, ATF's National Center for Explosives Training and Research (NCETR) provides training on explosives and post-blast investigations support, and experienced ATF special agents provide national and localized training on firearms investigative techniques. ATF provides training and technical assistance on our gun tracing and ballistics identification capabilities and technologies. ATF also supports community outreach through the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program.
- **Forensic Services** - ATF provides state-of-the art forensic services for our state and local law enforcement and fire service partners. These services are strategically placed throughout the country for timely responses in support of ATF's mission. ATF's laboratories employ world-class forensic scientists and engineers who specialize in the analyses of firearms, explosives, fire debris and fire scene reconstruction scenarios with a

full complement of DNA, latent print, trace evidence, and document examination. The specialized skills and expertise of our forensic auditors provide a full range of financial investigative services to examine and document financial motives and profits, as well as document financial criminal charges, i.e., money laundering, RICO, tax evasion, mail, wire, bank and other frauds committed in arsons, firearms trafficking, and tobacco diversion.

- **Joint Investigations** - ATF collaborates with local agencies through joint investigations, often supported through the ATF Task Force Officer Program (TFO). TFOs work hand-in-hand with ATF on criminal investigations and have direct access to ATF electronic and information resources, furthering our combined efforts and effectiveness.
- **Enhanced Enforcement Initiatives (EEI)** - Cities or regions identified by the Frontline assessment – which includes input from local law enforcement agencies -as experiencing a disproportionate firearms-related violent crime problem or a sharp escalation in such crime are considered for an Enhanced Enforcement Initiative or EEI. An EEI provides enhanced strategic and tactical support tailored to address the identified violent crime problem and the framework to sustain a comprehensive, integrated and intelligence-driven enforcement effort.

For further information on ATF's Frontline business model, VCRPs, or ATF resources, state and local law enforcement agencies should contact their local ATF office.

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