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**From:** Smith, Jessica A. (SMO)  
**To:** Sherwood, Robert (USAAZ) <Contractor>  
**Sent:** 2/23/2011 8:08:57 PM  
**Subject:** FW: DRAFT TPs: CBS NEWS UNCOVERS GUNRUNNING SCANDAL WITHIN THE ATF

Robbie:  
Has CBS News contacted about this?  
Keep us posted if you hear anything.  
Thanks, Jess

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**From:** Thomasson, Scot L. (ATF)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 5:04 PM  
**To:** Sweeney, Laura (SMO); ATF  
**Cc:** Schmalzer, Tracy (SMO)  
**Subject:** Re: CBS NEWS UNCOVERS GUNRUNNING SCANDAL WITHIN THE ATF

Asked for specifics on grassley letter, agent terry shooting and indicted case fast and furious.

They were told agent terry is an open FBI case, fast and furious is a case under indictment and USAO in Arizona should be contacted re any questions about the case.

Sen Grassley we are not speaking about but responding to his. Letter

Scot Thomasson  
Chief  
ATF Public Affairs Division

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**From:** Sweeney, Laura (SMO)  
**To:** Thomasson, Scot L.; ATF  
**Cc:** Schmalzer, Tracy (SMO)  
**Sent:** Wed Feb 23 16:57:12 2011  
**Subject:** RE: CBS NEWS UNCOVERS GUNRUNNING SCANDAL WITHIN THE ATF  
She's traveling today so probably hasn't gotten it yet. Adding her.

Have you been asked for any general response to the story?

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**From:** Thomasson, Scot L. (ATF)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 4:56 PM  
**To:** Sweeney, Laura (SMO); ATF  
**Subject:** Re: CBS NEWS UNCOVERS GUNRUNNING SCANDAL WITHIN THE ATF

This afternoon and I called Tracy and left a message on her voice mail.  
Scot Thomasson  
Chief  
ATF Public Affairs Division

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**From:** Sweeney, Laura (SMO)  
**To:** Thomasson, Scot L.; [redacted] ATF  
**Sent:** Wed Feb 23 16:41:17 2011  
**Subject:** FW: CBS NEWS UNCOVERS GUNRUNNING SCANDAL WITHIN THE ATF  
Hi guys - did we know this was coming?

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**From:** [redacted] ATF  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 3:26 PM  
**To:** Office of Legislative Affairs  
**Subject:** fyi team....

[http://www.cbspressexpress.com/div.php/cbs\\_news/release?id=27623](http://www.cbspressexpress.com/div.php/cbs_news/release?id=27623)

02.23.2011

## CBS NEWS UNCOVERS GUNRUNNING SCANDAL WITHIN THE ATF

### Agency Secretly Endorsed Practice of Letting Guns "Walk"; ATF Agent to CBS News: "God Only Knows How Many Guns Were Used to Kill People"

[redacted] ATF

DOJ- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives  
Chief - Office of Legislative Affairs

[redacted] ATF (the CBS EVENING NEWS WITH KATIE COURIC (6:30 PM, ET), CBS News Investigative correspondent Sharyl Attkisson reports on a major scandal building within the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), one of America's top law enforcement agencies. CBS News uncovered evidence which supports the allegation that the agency that is supposed to stop border gunrunning to Mexico's drug cartels actually participated in letting it happen. Attkisson reports that these guns have turned up at the scenes of violent crimes, including the murder of a U.S. border patrol officer in Arizona.

CBS News reveals that "Project Gunrunner," an ATF operation that aims to stop the flow of weapons from the U.S. to Mexican drug cartels, has allegedly facilitated the delivery of thousands of guns into the hands of criminals. Often bought with cash, and sometimes brought in paper bags, sources tell CBS News that several gun shops wanted to stop the questionable sales, but were encouraged to continue selling by the ATF, so that they could continue gathering intelligence and see where the weapons ended up. This dangerous tactic is referred to as letting the guns "walk."

Veteran ATF agents called this strategy "insane" and "appalling," with one, speaking under a condition of anonymity, telling CBS News, "We were fully aware the guns would probably be moved across the border to drug cartels where they could be used to kill." CBS News has been told that at least 11 ATF agents and senior managers voiced fierce opposition to the strategy.

Sharyl Attkisson's full report, including a potential link between "Project Gunrunner" and the murder of U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry, broadcasts tonight on the CBS EVENING NEWS WITH KATIE COURIC.