
From: Weinstein, Jason
To: Burton, Faith (SMO)
Sent: 3/15/2011 9:28:04 PM
Subject: AG's TPs from last week on F&F

- Fighting criminal activity along the Southwest Border – including the illegal trafficking of guns to Mexico – has been a priority of this Administration and this Department of Justice.
- The mission of ATF and other law enforcement agencies is to stop the flow of illegal weapons and drugs across the Border, and it will continue to be. The department is aware of the questions that have been raised by ATF agents. We take those very seriously, and that's why the Attorney General has asked the Acting Inspector General to get to the bottom of what happened.
- The Attorney General has made it clear to the law enforcement agencies and prosecutors working along the Southwest Border that no one in the Department should allow guns to illegally cross the border into Mexico. If we find out that guns are illegally going across the border into Mexico, we are going to stop them.
- Keep in mind, it is legal to purchase guns in this country so at any time, a law-abiding citizen can walk into a federal firearms licensee, or licensed gun dealer, and purchase one or more firearms without any special requirement from the federal government. That makes gun investigations by their very nature different from investigations into drugs.
- As we have said, our mission is to stop the illegal trafficking of guns into Mexico, but in any case, good, smart, effective law enforcement requires nuanced and difficult judgments as we try to catch and interdict people whose only goal is to evade law enforcement.

Jason M. Weinstein
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530
Office: (202) 305-9827
Cell: (202) 330-1514