
From: Newell, William D. (ATF)
To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Sent: 3/30/2011 6:57:53 PM
Subject: RE: Coordination with Mexican authorities - as requested

I'm having Needles handle the HQ side of this just so they are aware. I will ensure that's done first thing tomorrow. As for the Issa letter I do not have it but can get it asap.

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From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ) [mailto:Patrick.Cunningham@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 3:57 PM
To: Newell, William D.; Needles, James R.
Subject: RE: Coordination with Mexican authorities - as requested

Bill: Very helpful. Before we forward this to Matt, do you want to share with your HQ? You may have already, and I am sure International Affairs is talking to them also.

On Thursday there may be a conference call on the Chairman Issa requests. Can you send me his letter to ATF from several weeks ago? Thanks. PJC

From: Newell, William D. (ATF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 3:46 PM
To: Needles, James R. (ATF); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Subject: Coordination with Mexican authorities - as requested

The PGR rep in Phoenix, Carlos Luque Ordonez, was briefed by the ATF Special Agent in Charge as early as December 2009, when the case first began to develop. On several occasions during the course of the following year I briefed the Phoenix PGR rep on the status of this investigation as well as other investigations we were working related to firearms trafficking to Mexico. It should be noted however that these briefings were general in nature and did not get into specifics regarding the identification of each suspect, investigative techniques, T-III intercepts, etc. I would inform him of a "large-scale" firearms trafficking investigation being worked out of Group VII and that once arrests were planned I fully expected him to participate in any interviews of Mexican nationals and/or cooperating individuals in order to obtain information that would be of value to the PGR for use in prosecutions in Mexico, if applicable.

In late 2010 as the date for indictment and arrests became more firm I began to coordinate with the Phoenix PGR rep and our ATF Mexico Country Office regarding having SIEDO prosecutors be present for the "take down" and any post-arrest interviews that might provide valuable information about the Mexico side of this firearms trafficking network. The ATF Mexico Country Office coordinated this with the UEITA office in SIEDO, OPDAT and others in the Embassy. UEITA is the group that handles Federal firearms prosecutions for

the PGR.

In preparation for this expected visit of Mexican prosecutors the following meetings/briefings took place:

On December 3, 2010, during a Phoenix "GC Armas" meeting at the ATF Phoenix Field Division office, I arranged for the case agent and supervisor to brief our Acting Country Attaché and the head of UEITA on the "Fast and Furious" investigation and what our plans were once the indictments were received and arrest operation planned. In this meeting an invitation was extended to UEITA to send personnel they deemed most appropriate to participate in post-arrest interviews of cooperating individuals. It was agreed in this meeting that once a firm date for the "take down" was secured that UEITA would send two prosecutors to participate in any post-arrest interviews in which those detained were willing to cooperate.

On December 15, 2010 at PGR HQ in Mexico City, in a meeting sponsored by OPDAT (see attached), this investigation was briefed to several Mexican counterparts including David Najera from SRE, Yessica de la Madrid from PGR International Affairs, as well as CENAPI and SIEDO reps. This was not an in-depth briefing but did discuss that two large-scale firearms trafficking cases out of Arizona (Fast and Furious and Wide Receiver) and that Fast and Furious was coming to a close in the Phoenix area. The purpose of this meeting was to coordinate bi-lateral investigative and prosecution efforts and it was explained that ATF Phoenix was looking to cooperate fully with our Mexican counterparts to turn over information gleaned during this case in order for them to follow-up on their end.

On January 23, 2011, UEITA prosecutors Sacnite Ruiz and Armando Lopez Hernandez traveled to Phoenix for the initial arrest phase of this investigation.

On January 24, 2011, an operational briefing was held for all U.S. law enforcement personnel assisting in the arrest phase of this investigation. Both UEITA prosecutors were present for this briefing.

On January 25, 2011, the initial arrest phase took place. The two UEITA prosecutors, in the presence of ATF personnel and with cooperating defendants, conducted two interviews. In one interview they obtained a confession. The Phoenix PGR rep was present for these interviews conducted by UEITA.