
From: Sherwood, Robert (USAAZ) [Contractor]
To: Schmalzer, Tracy (SMO) (JMD)
Sent: 7/21/2011 11:36:41 AM
Subject: FW: Journalistic Query

FYI, haven't responded.
RS

From: Wkc6428@aol.com [mailto:Wkc6428@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 4:41 PM
To: Sherwood, Robert (USAAZ) [Contractor]
Subject: Journalistic Query

Robbie Sherwood,

My name is Bill Conroy, a correspondent for Narco News, an online publication that covers the drug war. I'm working on a story concerning an ATF weapons-trafficking interdiction operation called Fast and Furious.

You've likely seen quite a bit of news coverage recently about the operation. It is now the subject of a Republican-led Congressional investigation - due to allegations that the operation allowed some 2,000 weapons to "walk" (be smuggled) across the border into Mexico while the perps were under surveillance by ATF agents.

Fast and Furious was, according to a July 11 letter penned by U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley and U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa, "an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force prosecutor-led strike force case" operated out of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Phoenix. It was launched in the fall of 2009.

I am writing in an attempt to get a comment from U.S. Attorney Dennis Burke on Fast and Furious, given he served as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona at the time the operation was kicked off and would have played a key role in overseeing the OCEDTF program in his district.

Questions:

- What role, if any, did Mr. Burke play in authorizing and/or overseeing the Fast and Furious operation?
- If Mr. Burke was aware of, or played a role in overseeing, Fast and Furious, to whom did he report at DOJ and did he have any communications with the Deputy Attorney General, the Attorney General, or President, about the operation and could you provide some insight into the nature of those discussions?
- If Mr. Burke was out loop with respect to Fast and Furious, who would have been the highest-level official in his office charged with overseeing the operation and to whom did that person report to at DOJ?

I appreciate your assistance on this matter, and any response, even if it is a no comment.

Sincerely,

Bill Conroy
Correspondent
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