

**Southwest Border Initiative
(Project Gunrunner)**

Biweekly Update

February 22, 2010

The following is a biweekly update on significant events related to the Southwest Border Initiative. The information is collected from the different ATF offices involved in this initiative and intended for ATF use only.

FIELD OPERATIONS

DALLAS FIELD DIVISION

Investigations:

El Paso Field Office

781035-09-0031 Operation Birdcage: The debrief of [ATF] on 2/16/2010 revealed [ATF] [ATF] as an individual who trafficked firearms from the United States to Mexico. [ATF] is currently facing a possible life sentence for drug charges stemming from an OCEDTF Strike Force investigation.

[ATF] is a member of the Juarez Cartel who provided multi-kilo quantities of cocaine to the MARQUEZ Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO). [ATF] was identified as a person who purchased guns from an unknown individual in Midland, TX, FNU LNU. Both [ATF] are involved in a conspiracy to traffic firearms to prohibited people in El Paso, TX and to traffic firearms to Juarez, MX.

[ATF] is in jail for 10 years on drug charges for association with the MARQUEZ DTO. [ATF] would traffic firearms to Sonora and Sinaloa. [ATF] would associate with [ATF]

[ATF] who also supplied weapons to prohibited people in El Paso, TX. [ATF] is an associate of the [ATF] an associate of the [ATF] DTO, sold [ATF] a 9mm handgun at [ATF] house in 2008. This firearm was purported to have been trafficked to Mexico.

781035-10-0004 [ATF] DEA seized 330 lbs of marijuana pursuant to an on-going Title III investigation. ATF Special Agents are assisting in this investigation.

781035-10-0017 Operation Bear Trap: On 2/05/10, [ATF] met with a high level member of the Mexican Mafia. [ATF] was promoted within the organization and tasked with increasing narcotics sales in the El Paso, Texas and West Texas area.

On 02/14/10, [ATF] attended a Mexican Mafia Church meeting in order to inform the members of the El Paso, Texas local area of the new hierarchy as dictated 1

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by higher level members,

781035-10-0018 [ATF] On or about 01/25/2010, an ArmaLite, model RA-50, 50 caliber rifle was recovered south of Juarez, Chihuahua, MX by the Mexican military. Tracing and subsequent interviews of the original purchaser and secondary purchasers indicate this firearm was possessed by [ATF] [ATF] a twice-convicted drug trafficker, in September 2009. [ATF] is believed to be employed as a mobile home mover in the El Paso, TX area and has a commercial driver's license. This investigation is continuing.

Fort Worth Field Office

781040-08-0110 FIRE AND ICE: On 02/04/10, Task Force members located fugitive [ATF] and placed him under arrest. During an interview, [ATF] confirmed information previously received about co-defendants. [ATF] case will be presented to a Grand Jury later this month.

No other significant events or information have been received on this case in the last two weeks. [ATF] will be installed on a suspect's residence on 02/18/10. This suspect is believed to be involved in the transportation of money, narcotics and guns. Investigation continues.

HOUSTON FIELD DIVISION

Investigations:

Houston Group IX

782095-09-0026 [ATF] a three-time convicted felon had [ATF] purchase five FN, Model five-sevenN pistols from Gilbert's Guns in Frankfort, Kentucky. These FNs were transferred to a Houston area FFL. [ATF] then took possession of the 5 FNs and were subsequently arrested by ATF. ATF has identified [ATF] the financier for a group of straw purchasers, through bank subpoenas and interviews.

Laredo Field Office

782080-10-0030 [ATF] On February 10, 2010, the USMS requested the ATF Laredo Field Offices' assistance in the investigation of [ATF] who was arrested on that date, by the USMS and Laredo Police Department on state arrest warrants for domestic violence. A pistol was discovered in the toolbox of the pickup truck that [ATF] a previously convicted felon, was driving. Members of the ATF Laredo Field Office interviewed [ATF] on that date. Two other firearms, as well as a quantity of ammunition, have also been taken into custody.

782080-10-0031 [ATF] On February 11, 2010, the Laredo Police Department Narcotics Unit was conducting surveillance at the Home Depot for individuals purchasing large amounts of packaging material commonly used in narcotics trafficking. They observed a subject (later identified as [ATF] [ATF] an alien illegally in the United States) leave the store with two large packing rolls of cellophane. The investigators followed [ATF] to an address in

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Laredo. While applying for a search warrant, they observed ATF trying to leave the residence through a back window. Believing that ATF had observed the officers and was attempting to flee, the officers detained ATF told the officers that he had a large amount of marijuana inside the house and some firearms. ATF gave written consent to search the residence and the officers located approximately 17 bundles of marijuana weighing approximately 595.5 pounds. Two firearms were also recovered: SWD pistol, model M11, 9mm and a Bryco pistol, model 59, .380 caliber. ATF stated that he was given the marijuana from a subject known only as ATF and that ATF gave him the firearms in order to protect the marijuana. ATF was arrested by ATF for alien in possession of a firearm. Further investigation determined that the SWD pistol was stolen from an FFL in 2000.

McAllen I

782055-10-0006 ATF ATF McAllen Group I is investigating ATF a subject who has recently purchased two AR-15 type rifles. ATF has admitted to purchasing the firearms for ATF

782055-10-0001 ATF ATF McAllen Group I is investigating ATF a subject who has recently purchased three pistols and five AR-15 type rifles. A surveillance operation is the next planned course of action for this investigation.

782057-09-0003 ATF

1. ATF ARRESTED
2. ATF ARRESTED
3. ATF - FUGITIVE (Subject lives in Mexico)

ATF both admitted to purchasing AR-15 rifles for an individual named ATF admitted to purchasing two rifles in 2007 and ATF admitted to purchasing four firearms in 2007 as well. Both subjects stated that ATF gave them the money and instructed them on which weapons to purchase. ATF stated that he witnessed ATF smuggle the weapons back into Mexico on several occasions. ATF stated he was paid \$100 for each rifle he purchased and ATF was paid \$200 per rifle and \$100 per pistol. This case is also tied into ATF Case 782055-09-0010 ATF where ATF admitted to purchasing nearly 20 rifles for ATF in 2008. On a few occasions, ATF was present and witnessed ATF smuggle the firearms back into Mexico. ATF stated that he was paid \$300 for each firearm he purchased. ATF is a Mexican citizen and is last known to reside in Matamoros, Tam., MX.

782057-09-0005 ATF

1. ATF FUGITIVE (Info. Points to subject currently residing in Ohio)
2. ATF ARRESTED
3. ATF ARRESTED

ATF ATF have both admitted to purchasing firearms with and for ATF ATF All three individuals purchased an FN 3

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pistol from the Gun Show in Pharr, TX in September of 2007. [ATF] stated that all three of them [ATF] (and himself) met two unknown Hispanic individuals outside of the gun show. These individuals gave them the money, as well as \$100 for completing the purchase, and instructed them on which firearms to purchase. [ATF] purchased two firearms, [ATF] purchased two, and [ATF] purchased one.

782057-09-0041 [ATF]

1. [ATF] ARRESTED

[ATF] admitted to purchasing approximately five firearms for an individual named [ATF]. [ATF] stated that [ATF] gave him the money to make the purchases and took him to the FFLs in order to make the purchase. [ATF] stated that [ATF] would pay him in drugs instead of money after he purchased the firearm that they instructed him to buy.

782057-09-0022 [ATF]

1. [ATF] FUGITIVE

[ATF] admitted to purchasing approximately three firearms in 2007 for [ATF]. [ATF] was the individual who would give her the money and instructed her which firearms to purchase. [ATF] stated that she understood that the firearm was going to an individual named [ATF]. [ATF]

782057-09-0032 [ATF]

1. [ATF] ARRESTED

[ATF] admitted that in 2006 he was recruited by a [ATF] to make some extra money by purchasing firearms for an individual who lives in Mexico. [ATF] stated that on two occasions, [ATF] gave him cash and instructed him on which firearms to purchase and where to purchase them. [ATF] received \$300 for each firearm he bought.

782057-09-0008 [ATF] **Case was declined for prosecution by the AUSA's office in McAllen, TX.**

[ATF] had admitted to purchasing five firearms for an individual identified as [ATF]. [ATF] claimed that [ATF] threatened his life if he didn't make these purchases. On all five occasions, [ATF] met [ATF] at a FFL, provided the money and instructed him on which firearm to purchase. [ATF] purchased firearms from 2006 until 2007. TOVIAS stated that he received \$100 for each purchase.

782057-09-0029 [ATF] **Case was declined for prosecution by the AUSA's office in McAllen, TX.** [ATF]

stated that while he was living in Mexico in 2008, he came in contact with an individual named [ATF] who beat him up and took his ID info. Two months later, [ATF] contacted him and had him buy five firearms for him over the next few months. [ATF] stated that [ATF] indicated that if he didn't do this he would kill him and his family.

782057-09-0035 [ATF] **Case was declined for prosecution by the AUSA's office in McAllen,**

TX. [ATF] admitted that he purchased a 4

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firearm for [ATF] informed [ATF] that the firearm was for an individual who lives in Mexico. [ATF] stated that he was paid \$200 for making the purchase.

782055-10-0010 [ATF] On February, 4, 2010, [ATF] was found guilty by jury trial of three counts of Felon in Possession of a Firearm and one count of Harboring an Illegal Alien. On October 28, 2009, a property owned by [ATF] was searched in conjunction with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) case, ATF investigation 782055-09-0086. During the search, agents found two firearms, two hundred rounds of ammunition, and an undocumented alien from Mexico. Sentencing is set for March. Agents continue to pursue the IED investigation.

San Antonio II (IO)

During a firearms compliance inspection at Dawson Precision located at 3300 CR 223, Florence, TX, 76527 in Williamson County, an IO Investigator found a purchase of a STI pistol, model Eagle, S/N CM13594 in a .38 caliber. The purchaser of the firearm is [ATF] DOB [ATF] in Plainview, TX. Subject resides in Brownsville, TX. An e-Trace query indicated that the Subject purchased an additional three pistols from a dealer located in Temple, TX. The three pistols purchased are considered WOC: one 5/7 and two Beretta 92FS pistols. The local IO office contacted A/S for McAllen II to determine if any other referrals of information have been submitted for the Subject. The office responded that there have not been any other referrals regarding the subject, but IOIs have found two additional purchases by the Subject in the local area near the McAllen Field Office.

San Antonio III

782090-10-0019 [ATF] Using On-line Lead, it was determined that [ATF] had been involved in the purchase of 138 mainly WOC firearms from July 2006 to March 2009. [ATF] had previously attempted to obtain an FFL, but could not due to his HOA homeowner restrictions. ATF San Antonio III special agents interviewed him in March 2009 and learned that he had been selling these firearms to individuals without an FFL. In April 2009, [ATF] was served with a Cease and Desist letter by ATF and advised not to engage in the business of selling firearms. From May 2009 to January 2010, it was determined that [ATF] had purchased an additional 16 WOC firearms. Attempts will be made to locate where he is selling the firearms and U/C purchases will be planned accordingly. One of the previous [ATF] firearms has been recovered in San Antonio during a narcotics arrest in July 2009.

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

No new updates provide for this period.

PHOENIX FIELD DIVISION

Investigations:

Phoenix Group I

785041-10-0010 [ATF] et al: On February 12, 2010, the Yuma Satellite Office detained four persons (two men and two women) and seized six AK-47 type firearms, as well as \$1,329.00 cash. Interviews and investigation led to the money that was to be payment for the straw purchase of the six seized firearms. Admissions by the suspects included making the purchases for money, being unemployed and currently residing in Mexico. One of the men also admitted to prior straw purchases of AK-47 type firearms.

Phoenix Group VII

785115-09-0003 [ATF] This approved ATF OCDETF investigation is being worked jointly with the DEA as part of the OCDETF Strike Force, in Phoenix, Arizona. On February 17, 2010, ATF and DEA, along with other assisting agencies, arrested two suspects. These suspects arrived at an ATF location to meet with two undercover ATF special agents to deliver ten pounds of methamphetamine in support of further negotiations to procure weapons and explosives. The ATF SRT team III arrested these two suspects without incident and recovered the ten pounds of methamphetamine in their possession. Further investigation, including information from [ATF] disclosed that the involved DTO had dispatched a large amount of currency in support of the negotiations for the weapons and explosives they sought. At approximately 10:00 pm, the same day, ATF, DEA and the Phoenix Police arrested two additional suspects and recovered approximately \$200,000.00 in U.S. currency. All four suspects are in custody and are being charged in Federal Court on narcotics and firearm violations. This investigation continues. (see 2/18/10 SIR for additional information)

785115-10-0004 [ATF] et al: This case is a large-scale conspiracy of over a twenty interconnected straw purchasers. This group has purchased over 850 firearms; most of which are the AK-47 variant 7.62 assault rifles and or the F.N. Herstal 5.7 mm pistols. Approximately 150 firearms have been recovered in Mexico or near the Mexico Border with a short time-to-crime. New straw purchasers are continually being identified as part of this investigation.

This is an approved ATF OCDETF investigation. ATF is continuing to receive data from five pen registers as part of this investigation which overwhelmingly show the connection amongst these straw purchasers and the FFLs. ATF has submitted the affidavit for a T-III audio intercept to the USAO for review as well as a search warrant affidavit for text message data. (see 2/22/10 SIR for additional information)

Las Cruces Group I

785095-10-0010 [ATF] On December 16, 2009, special agents from the Las Cruces Field Office and DEA conducted surveillance on [ATF] During the surveillance, [ATF] was observed picking up four AK-47 type rifles and ammunition from a Las Cruces FFL. [ATF] then transported the rifles and ammunition to a residence in El Paso, Texas. Since May of 2009, [ATF] has purchased a total of 16 AK-47 type rifles. All of these rifles have been submitted as suspect guns but no recoveries have been reported yet. ATF Las Cruces has been notified that [ATF] is having at least three additional AK-47 type rifles shipped to a Las

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Cruces FFL. Special Agents are currently in the process of obtaining [ATF] bank records.

Tucson Group II

785085-10-0013 [ATF] DTO Tucson Strike Force: In a joint investigation with the Tucson Strike Force, DEA agents identified a marijuana transportation cell operating on the Tohono O’Odham Reservation. This reservation extends into Mexico with no official port of entry. The leader of the cell, [ATF] [ATF] coordinated the transportation of marijuana from the reservation to Tucson and Phoenix. [ATF] was arrested by the Tucson Strike Force in January 2010 and was identified as [ATF] [ATF] became a fugitive in the State of Arizona after failing to appear for sentencing upon pleading guilty to transportation of marijuana. [ATF] changed his name, date of birth and social security number after becoming a fugitive and purchased several firearms under the new identity. ATF subsequently executed a federal search warrant on [ATF] residence. As a result of the investigation, [ATF] was indicted for drug distribution, drug conspiracy, two counts of receiving a firearm while under indictment and two counts of providing false information on an ATF Form 4473.

Tucson Group III

785090-2010-0073 [ATF] dba, Ironwood Manufacturing Co.: A full compliance inspection of this Type 07 Manufacturer of Firearms yielded two suspicious transactions that subsequently resulted in referrals of SWB significance. Investigators identified a purchaser named [ATF] from Phoenix who purchased an AK-47 type assault rifle. eTrace queries disclosed [ATF] had purchased four other firearms that have been recovered in Mexico. Those crime guns were recovered with a time to crime of 18 months or less. A referral of possible firearm trafficking has been forwarded to the Phoenix FIG. Investigators identified a second suspicious purchaser named [ATF] of Tucson, who acquired an AK-47 type firearm that appeared to be incompatible to her physical size. Further investigation disclosed that the purchaser resided in low cost housing yet had paid \$1,500 in cash for the firearm. A referral was prepared detailing the suspicious nature of that transaction.

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION

Significant Events Occurring This Period:

On February 7, Ciudad Juarez Diario.com reported that officials from Coordinated Operation Chihuahua presented [ATF] to the media as a second suspect in the 31 January massacre in the Villas de Salvarcar neighborhood of Ciudad Juarez. A related item from Diario.com on 8 February reported that [ATF] have been charged with 15 counts of homicide and 10 counts of attempted homicide in the massacre.

On February 8, Morelia La Voz de Michoacan reported that the Attorney General’s Office of Mexico State presented 27 members of the “La Familia” criminal organization, including two former ministerial agents, implicated in the murders of at least 15 people.

On February 8, Open Source Center Analysis reported that President Calderon, apparently responding in part to congressional criticism of a lack of U.S. resolve in the drug war, took the unusual step of directly criticizing Washington for contributing to Mexico's violence through the U.S. demand for drugs and the illicit sale of arms. He suggested that any successful anti-drug initiative should include drug-reduction programs within the U.S. Prominent legislators recently condemned the supposed self-centered U.S. approach to drug fighting and summoned several Calderon cabinet members to a closed-door hearing on the nation's drug war strategy.

On February 8, the Public Security Secretariat reported that Federal Police detained [ATF] [ATF] and members of the criminal organization led by [ATF]. Following [ATF] detention, his [ATF] took his place as head of drug trafficking operations, with the support of the group led by [ATF] who is considered second in command within the structure. The arrests were the result of Federal Police investigations and the exchange of information with drug interdiction agencies in the United States.

On February 9, Monterrey El Norte reported that 11 alleged criminal associates of [ATF] [ATF] were captured yesterday in Tijuana, just hours after the gang's acting bosses, [ATF] [ATF], were arrested in neighboring Baja California Sur State.

On February 9, Tijuana Periodico Frontera reports that authorities have practically dismantled the gang led by [ATF] in the span of one year. The group has been in a bloody war with the Arellano Felix drug cartel for control of the flow of narcotics from Baja California State to the United States.

On February 9, Mexico City Excelsior reported that according to a report from the Deputy Attorney's Office for Special Investigation into Organized Crime (SIEDO), more than 5,000 gangs have been hired by or associated with the Sinaloa, Beltran Leyva, Juarez and Tijuana Cartels and the Zetas and La Familia Michoacana. The gangs have become more violent and are directly influenced by groups like the Mara Salvatruchas in Central America. In Ciudad Juarez, it is estimated that some 1,500 youth gangs are tied to different criminal organizations. The Juarez Cartel's executive arm, called La Linea, has absorbed gangs like Los Aztecas, Pura Raza Mexicana, and Los Lince. Gangs like Los Negros, Los Pelones, and Los Numeros work for the Beltran Leyva Cartel. La Familia Michoacana is believed to recruit evangelical youth and group them as bodyguards, without giving them an actual name. The hit men working for the Tijuana Cartel are called Narcojuniors and it is now said that Los Culiches also work for that cartel now, operating mainly in Nogales and other places along the Sonora border. In all, 20,000 young people are believed to be involved in these gangs.

On February 11, Mexicali Periodico La Cronica.com reports that Army soldiers captured 10 alleged members of the Arellano Felix drug cartel during two operations yesterday in Tijuana. (see Significant Seizure events for more information)

On February 12, Saltillo Vanguardia reported that the Federal Public Security Secretariat announced the deployment of 2,600 police officers in Ciudad Juarez, 400 of whom will work in investigation, intelligence and analysis activities. The deployment is part of a new strategy against violence that President Calderon promised the day before during a meeting in Ciudad Juarez with civil organizations, authorities and the families of murder victims. The plan, which includes 70 patrol

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cars, 50 motorcycles, two helicopters, three armored trucks and four armored light vehicles, involves patrols in areas with the highest crime rates and in school zones in Ciudad Juarez's six divisions.

On February 18, Mexico City Canal 11 reported that President Calderon welcomed U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano in the Los Pinos presidential residence. They discussed joint efforts to curb crime, particularly gunrunning and money laundering. Calderon explained the new strategy to fight organized crime in Ciudad Juarez.

On February 19, Mexico City La Jornada reported that during a meeting between Public Security Secretary Genaro Garcia Luna and U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, the Mexican and U.S. officials agreed to reinforce security along the common border. After the signature in Mexico City of a cooperation agreement between the two governments, Garcia Luna explained that progress would be made on information exchanges, in order to "detect latent threats while guaranteeing the flow of trade and of legal border crossings."

On February 19, Mexico City Canal 11 reported that Mexico extradited [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] ATF to the United States. He is [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] one of the leaders of the Sinaloa Cartel. [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] was apprehended on March 19, 2009, and faces organized crime and drug trafficking charges.

Significant Seizure Events This Period:

On February 5, the Mexican Military raided a "Safe-House" and seized an arsenal in Los Mochis, Sinaloa. Authorities seized 1 Barret .50 caliber rifle, 6 AK-47 type rifles, 2 grenades, 45 magazines, 1,401 rounds of ammunition, tactical gear and 1 armored-equipped vehicle.

On February 7, the State Agency for Security announced that over the last few days they have captured 25 members of the "Familia Michoacana." Among them were two ex-policemen, one from Michoacán who was the leader of the group, and one from Zinacantepec and four ministries in the State of Mexico where they provided protection to the criminal organization linked to 18 murders in the valley of Toluca. This group was focused on kidnapping, drug dealing, vehicle theft, sales of pirated merchandise, and extortion of businesses. 54kg of cocaine, two fragmentary grenades, a large number of firearms, ammunition, magazines and six vehicles were seized.

On February 10, PGR announced seizure statistics for the State of Mexico. There were 358 arrests associated with the seizure of: 22 long arms, 84 handguns, 18kg of gunpowder, 217.4kg of fireworks, 49 magazines, 10,614 rounds of ammunition, 21,950 discs/cassettes, 16kg of marijuana and 212.42gm of cocaine.

On February 10, 2010, the Mexican military arrested 10 "Sicarios" (gunmen) of the Arellano-Felix Organization, released a hostage, and seized an arsenal in Tijuana, Baja California. Authorities seized 1 .50 caliber machine-gun, 1 .50 caliber rifle, 1 7.62 caliber machinegun, 47 rifles, 8 handguns, 3 grenades, 345 magazines, nearly 9,000 rounds of ammunition, and 10 vehicles, 5 of them armored-equipped.

On February 11, elements with the Procuraduria del Estado, State Police, along with the Mexican military, were involved in a confrontation with an armed group that left two "Sicarios" (gunmen) dead and three arrested along Amatitan-El Salvador Highway Kilometer marker #28, 9

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near Amatitan, Jalisco. Authorities seized 3 AK-47 type rifles, 3 other firearms, 3 fragmentation grenades, 800 rounds of ammunition, 1,500 kilos of marijuana, and 2 vehicles.

On February 12, Federal Police arrested four presumed kidnapers in the municipality of Cuautitlán Izcali, Estado de México. The four were members of La Familia, and were implicated in numerous kidnappings, murders of State Police, “Narcomensajes” (Drug banners), as well as the killing of the Municipal Police Chief of Ecapatepec, Mexico City on April 10, 2009. Two pistols and six cell phones were seized along with the kidnapers. Three kidnap victims were freed as well.

On February 12, in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, soldiers from the 100th Infantry on patrol in colonia La Paz received an anonymous tip that two individuals in a white Jeep Gran Cherokee would be found armed. The soldiers found the vehicle on calle Manuel Acuña near Gerrero Negro. The soldiers conducted a search with the assistance of the GT200, which registered positive for marijuana. 4 firearms, 13 magazines, 434 rounds, and 15.62kg of marijuana were seized. The vehicle, evidence, and two men were turned over to the Juárez Federal Public Minister.

On February 13, the Mexican Naval Infantry detained eight men during a raid of a residence located in the municipality of Mendoza, Tamaulipas, recovering a communication device, 12 kilos of marijuana, 5 long guns, and 2 handguns. The men, who are alleged to be members of the Gulf Cartel, were handed over to the Sub-Procuracy Specializing in Organized Crime Investigations (SIEDO) along with the guns and marijuana.

On February 15, at 2215 hours, Mexican soldiers on patrol from the 9th Infantry Battalion seized 12 long arms, 8 handguns, 7,494 rounds, 83 magazines, 4 grenades, 5 vehicles and drugs in a blue pick up at a gap in the international border. The GT200 was used in “detecting” the drugs and firearms and the information regarding the truck came from a male anonymous caller informing the MEXMIL of armed and suspicious men crossing through a gap in the fence.

On or about February 16, elements of the Mexican naval Infantry conducting patrol operations observed two suspicious persons enter a residence located on Calle Hernán Cortés, Number 48 in Matamoros, Tamaulipas to evade the marines. The marines entered the residence and detained the two men, who were found to be in possession of rifles, handguns, a sub-machinegun, shotguns, hand grenades, gas grenades, rifle grenades, a silencer, numerous magazines and nearly 4000 rounds of ammunition.

On February 18, [ATF] of the Juarez cartel (who was previously arrested in May of 2008) was arrested with 3 assault rifles, 1 grenade, 22 magazines, and 992 rounds of ammunition in Villa Ahumada, Chihuahua (south of Ciudad Juarez, north of Chihuahua). [ATF] was arrested and his Mitsubishi Montero was seized along with the firearms and ammunition.

On February 18, a gun battle between a kidnapping ring, the police and Mexican Army resulted in the deaths of two policemen and four kidnapers. Four other policemen were wounded. Seven members of the kidnapping ring (3 men and 4 women) were captured after being severely wounded. The battle took place at the kidnapper’s safehouse, located at [ATF] in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas. The police recovered 3 AK 47-type rifles, 6 AR 15-type rifles, 1 shotgun, 3 pistols, 3 fragmentation grenades, 3 kilos of explosives, and 40 rounds of ammunition at the safehouse.

This reporting period:

- 49 Mexican seizures identified in Open Sources/Seizure Files Open
- 7 Suspect Guns

(Contact EPIC for details on the above information.)

Trace Requests for Mexico Recoveries:

FY 10 Trace Requests Thus Far:

There were 34,012* trace requests submitted involving Mexico recoveries between October 1, 2009 and February 15, 2010, of which 525 are pending completion. The break down by agency is as follows:

- Total Trace Requests by ATF 229
- Total Trace Requests by DHS 292
- Total Trace Requests by Mexico 33,488
- Total Trace Requests From Other Agencies 3

*These numbers do not include 11,440 duplicate traces.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

Mexico City

Liaison, Training, Media, and Other SWB Interaction:

On February 10, MCO personnel met with personnel assigned to the SSP International Affairs Office and technical experts to discuss several topics including the connectivity of eTrace with Plataforma Mexico, the identification of an ATF Special Agent who will be the Point of Contact at SSP, manuals and other documents for the SSP ballistic and forensic laboratories, training courses available to SSP personnel and a meeting between ATF laboratory personnel and the Scientific Police.

Investigative Assistance:

On February 10, the military conducted a series of search warrants on suspected stash houses of **ATF** **ATF** Over 10 members of the **ATF** organization were arrested, over 50 firearms and hundreds of rounds of ammunition were seized. ATF Tijuana Field Office examined the firearms and submitted the information

to the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) Gun Desk for tracing.

On February 8, Tijuana Field Office agents assisted Tijuana DEA in identifying five firearms seized from houses tied to the arrest of [REDACTED] ATF in La Paz, Baja California, and submitted the information to the EPIC Gun Desk for tracing.

On December 31, 2009, a U.S. Citizen, [REDACTED] ATF and his Mexican [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] ATF were in a Gomez Palacio, Durango pool hall when he and five other Mexican citizens were taken by a group of armed individuals. The bodies of the 6 abducted persons were found later that day. The murder is reportedly credited to the Sinaloa Cartel. The ATF Monterrey Field Office is assisting in the investigation through the examination of shell casings found at the crime scene. ATF Monterrey is requesting the technical assistance of the ATF National Lab in casing and bullet comparisons.

Tijuana

Liaison, Training, Media, and Other SWB Interaction:

On February 3, Tijuana Field Office agents met with Mexican Army General Duarte, Commander of the 2nd Military Region, at their headquarters to discuss eTrace and the need to properly identify and trace firearms. The General showed interest in having ATF conduct a firearms and explosives identification course. Furthermore, he expressed his desire to work with ATF since he already has a good relationship with ICE and DEA. His staff also provided ATF with photos of a recent .50 caliber seizure and will provide identifiers upon receipt.

Investigative Assistance:

On February 7, DEA, U.S. Marshals and the SSP vetted team based in Mexico City conducted an operation in La Paz, Baja California, arresting [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] ATF who are now in charge of operations in Tijuana, after [REDACTED] ATF was arrested last month. The military is receiving intelligence from suspect interviews which may glean stash houses in Tijuana that are stocked with numerous firearms and possible narcotics. The military has agreed to notify ATF of any seizures and allow ATF agents to examine and inspect the firearms at their military base.

Ciudad Juarez

Liaison, Training, Media, and Other SWB Interaction:

On February 5, Ciudad Juarez personnel provided four hours of Spanish eTrace training to two PGR firearms laboratory technicians at their Ciudad Juarez office.

Investigative Assistance:

On February 1, [ATF] an assassination group leader employed by the Juarez Cartel, was killed in a confrontation with soldiers in Ciudad Juarez; he was in possession of an FN57 pistol. Juarez personnel traced the firearm and sent a referral to the Oklahoma City Field Office, which is conducting an investigation on the firearm purchaser.

OFFICE OF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

No new updates provide for this period.

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

No new updates provide for this period.