

**Southwest Border Initiative
(Project Gunrunner)**

Biweekly Update

November 1, 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 – Gunrunner

781035-10-0065 [ATF] Recovered stolen firearms are being printed. AUSA will indict [ATF] next month (November) for Title 21 841(a)(1), Title 18 922(g)(1), and 924(c)(1)(A).

781035-10-0057 [ATF] On July 28, 2010 SA [ATF] initiated a firearms case involving [ATF] SA [ATF] to place monitored phone calls to [ATF] [ATF] has numerous contacts in Mexico and the El Paso, Texas area. [ATF] identified [ATF] from a booking photograph. [ATF] utilizing an UC agent's Push to Talk phone, contacted [ATF] so that [ATF] would be in direct contact with the UC agent. [ATF] believes that the UC agent is a Mexican Federal Officer buying firearms to be transported to Mexico. On September 10, 2010, UC agents contacted [ATF] agreed to set up a meet with UC agents and [ATF] On September 10, 2010, UC Agents met with [ATF] and discussed the purchase of assault rifles and an automatic firearm. [ATF] informed the UC agents to contact him if they wanted to purchase the automatic firearm for \$500.00. On September 14, 2010, UC agents purchased a firearm from [ATF] was under indictment at the time of the purchase and has since been convicted of Possession of Marijuana greater than five pounds but less than or equal to fifty pounds. Further conversation has transpired between the UC agents and [ATF] for the purchase of firearms. On October 25, 2010, an ATF UC agent purchased an AK-47 from [ATF] This is an on-going investigation pending future firearms purchases from [ATF]

781035-10-0004 [ATF] (SWB) (OCDETF–Operation Get in the Zone): A Grand Jury is set for 11/03/2010, for [ATF] for two counts of 18 USC 924(a)(1)(A) – Providing False Information to be kept in the records of an FFL.

781035-10-0075 [ATF] (SWB): In 1

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September 2010, an investigation was opened on [ATF] based on information received by Texas DPS and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. [ATF] (a target in an ongoing identity theft investigation) allegedly used a false id and stolen check to purchase an M-4 type and AK-47 type rifle. On October 14, 2010, a search warrant was executed on [ATF] address. Agents found materials for manufacturing methamphetamines, evidence of identity theft, stolen mail and the M-4 purchased under false pretenses. [ATF] is a convicted felon. The investigation continues in an effort to locate the AK-47.

Oklahoma City Field Office

781060-10-0071 [ATF] Another proffer is being scheduled with [ATF] to clarify issues raised during the proffer with [ATF] his co-defendant. Additionally, investigation continues into [ATF] [ATF], and another possible co-conspirator who was identified from information provided by [ATF]

HOUSTON FIELD DIVISION

Investigations:

Austin Field Office

782010-10-0057 [ATF] & Associates: On October 15, 2010, [ATF] was sentenced to 12 months and 1 day incarceration in the Bureau of Prisons for his role in a conspiracy to falsify firearms transaction documents to acquire 10 "AR15" rifles bound for Mexico. Co-conspirators, [ATF] and [ATF] were previously sentenced on conspiracy charges on September 21, 2010. [ATF] received 12 months and 1 day incarceration and [ATF] received 24 months incarceration. All three defendants were fined \$3,600.00 each and will be placed on three years' supervised release after completing their prison terms. 10 "AR15" rifles, 20,000 rounds of ammunition and over 100 ammunition magazines were seized by ATF relative to this case.

Houston VIII

782025-08-0062: Operation FN Traficador; [ATF] was found guilty by a jury for Conspiracy to Possess/Deliver 17.8 kilos of Heroin and for Conspiracy to import controlled substance over one kilogram into the U.S. He pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a non-U.S. citizen. This was the end result of Operation Traficador (Trafficking of firearms to Guatemala and Mexico). Two additional straw purchasers already pleaded guilty to purchasing approximately 100 weapons. [ATF] believed to be the money person, was also implicated on an unrelated ICE drug case along with the main straw purchaser in this case.

Laredo Field Office

782080 -11-0004 [ATF] (new): On October 20, 2010, the Laredo Field Office conducted operations in which [ATF] met with a [ATF] a previously convicted felon and member of the HPL prison gang, who is attempting to purchase weapons to be taken to Mexico on behalf of an unknown group of individuals. [ATF] further stated he would meet with the other unknown individuals to further discuss what types of weapons they were willing to

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purchase and would be in contact. The investigation will continue.

San Antonio III

782090-10-0044 [ATF] Investigation continues into a trafficking scheme involving the acquisition of AK-47 style rifles from the San Antonio and Austin areas. The investigation has revealed that rifles were collected in San Antonio in batches of 25 and the serial numbers were removed. Rifles would then be transported on a weekly basis to Eagle Pass and from there would be shipped to Mexico. This organization consisted of over 20 individuals. ATF San Antonio has arrested the top four persons in this organization and has arrested one other person who drove one of the load vehicles to Eagle Pass. ATF San Antonio has identified and interviewed approximately 15 other persons who purchased firearms in this case. To date, ATF San Antonio has seized 49 firearms and documented 75 AK-47 firearms purchased on ATF F 4473s in this case.

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

Liaison, Training, Media and Other SWB Interaction:

On October 20, 2010, El Centro RAC [ATF] and IRS [ATF] attended the monthly Grupo Local Binacional de Seguridad Fronteriza y Seguridad Publica (Local National Border and Public Security Group) at the Calexico, CA West Port of Entry (POE). The meeting covered issues of safety, border crime incidents, mechanism to fight border violence and coordinating efforts between the law enforcement institutions of the United States and Mexico.

As per representatives from Centro de Investigación y Seguridad Nacional (CISEN), the following stats were provided for the Imperial Valley, CA and Mexicali, B.C., Mexico region from 01/01/2010 to 10/10/2010;

Number of Seizures:

- 938 Narcotics
- 1,430 Firearms (1,086 long firearms and 344 short guns)
- 346 Grenades
- 261,124 Rounds of Ammunition
- 354 Vehicles
- \$143,571.87 in U.S. Currency

Investigations:

San Diego Field Office

784045-10-0006 [ATF] On October 25, 2010, ATF San Diego was contacted by ICE Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) concerning information received that [ATF] had informed [ATF] that he was able to acquire large quantities of firearms and take them into Mexico. [ATF] also stated that he currently had a shotgun for sale for \$1,000.00 and a rifle for \$2,500.00 and that these prices reflected delivery to Mexico. [ATF] is currently in negotiation on the price and sale of these firearms in an effort to facilitate future, larger quantity firearms purchases from [ATF] utilizes multiple mailboxes in the San Diego area, but 3

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is believed to currently reside in Tijuana, Mexico.

784045-10-0027 [ATF] This is a joint investigation between ATF, DEA and NCIS. To date, through the [ATF] agents have purchased three assault rifles, one pistol and made 9 cocaine purchases totaling over 10 ounces from [ATF] Agents identified [ATF] gun source, a former [ATF] named [ATF] and a resident of Yuma, AZ. [ATF] purchases firearms from Arizona firearms dealers and gun shows using straw purchasers and money sent electronically to him from [ATF] then transports the firearms to [ATF] in San Diego, CA. On October 26, 2010, Yuma ATF agents identified one of [ATF] straw purchasers as [ATF] also a Yuma, AZ resident. [ATF] was driven by [ATF] to two different gun dealers where ATF agents witnessed him purchase two firearms. On this same date, ATF San Diego purchased these two firearms during an undercover operation [ATF]

784040-10-0052 [ATF] On October 5, 2010, ATF San Diego agents served a federal search warrant on the residence of [ATF] ATF personnel located and seized an Arizona ID card and an Arizona Driver's License, both in the name of [ATF] During a subsequent interview of [ATF] he admitted that he was not a resident of Arizona, but had used two different addresses in Arizona to purchase firearms in that state. He claimed that he no longer possessed the aforementioned firearms because he had sold them to gun shops in Yuma, Arizona and in San Diego, California over the past few months. The information provided by [ATF] was forwarded to Assistant United States Attorney Michael Merriman for prosecution.

784045-10-0043 [ATF] In August 2010, [ATF] [ATF] was later identified as [ATF] was arrested in September 2010 after selling the UC large quantities of meth. and cocaine and a sawed-off shotgun. Prior to his arrest, [ATF] was negotiating the sale of several firearms to the UC [ATF] has since stated that his source of supply for drugs is in Tijuana, MX and his source of supply for firearms is in the South Bay area of San Diego. [ATF] is facing a 10 year minimum mandatory federal sentence and is to be proffered in the near future in order to further the investigation related to his source for firearms.

El Centro – Gunrunner

784095-11-0001 [ATF] On Oct 8, 2010, ATF El Centro was contacted by DEA Imperial following a \$163,000.00 bulk cash seizure which also contained a Walther, Model PPK, .380 caliber pistol. The firearm was traced by ATF El Centro and found to have been part of a stolen shipment of 133 firearms from Conway Transport Company in Billings, Montana. Contact has been made to the Billings ATF Office and investigative efforts are ongoing.

784095-11-0007 [ATF] On October 27, 2010, ATF El Centro was contacted by U.S. Border Patrol-El Centro Sector regarding the arrest of an illegal alien with a prior felony found in possession of a stolen firearm. The subject was interviewed by El Centro ATF Agents and admitted to crossing the border illegally, stealing the firearm, and getting into a physical altercation with the firearm. The subject provided additional information regarding firearms and narcotics trafficking. The case is ongoing and the subject is facing three federal gun charges.

784095-11-0008 [ATF] On October 11, 2010, ATF El Centro met with Imperial Valley BEST regarding the recovery of a Remington, Model 552, .22 caliber rifle from an individual identified as [ATF] [ATF] a two-time convicted felon. The firearm was discovered at [ATF] residence subsequent to a consent search for illegal immigrants. [ATF] was interviewed regarding the firearm and admitted to possession of the firearm. Charges are pending. Investigative efforts are ongoing.

784095-10-0027 Arizona Gun Show: On October 23-24, 2010, ATF El Centro and LAFD Glendale I attended the Crossroads of the West Gun Show held in Glendale, AZ. During the show, LAFD El Centro and Glendale I office assisted in the investigation of two prohibited individuals purchasing firearms and gathered intelligence on a number of individuals that traveled from California to purchase firearms. All intelligence gathered is being analyzed by the El Centro IRS to develop potential investigative leads.

784095-10-0026 [ATF] A State of California Search Warrant was executed on [ATF] residence in Ramona, California by the El Centro ATF Field Office and CA DOJ Agents, which resulted in [ATF] arrest for possession of short-barreled shotguns, cultivating marijuana and possession of marijuana for sale. ATF shared intelligence based upon a Multiple Sales Report that [ATF] purchased two firearms that are illegal in California. An ATF Blue Jacket/Recommendation for Prosecution was completed and will be submitted to the County of San Diego District Attorney's office, along with CA DOJ reports.

PHOENIX FIELD DIVISION

Liaison, Training, Media, and Other SWB Interaction:

On October 23-24, Phoenix Industry Operations Groups III and VI conducted outreach at the Cross Roads of the West Gun Show located in Glendale, Arizona. Information provided to the industry and general public included *Don't Lie for the Other Guy* and *Project Gunrunner*. A total of 425 Federal Firearm Licensees participated in this event, drawing over 10,000 attendees.

Investigations:

Phoenix II

785045-10-0023 Operation 602 Exchange: The goal of this storefront, placed in a high crime, gang intense area of Phoenix, is to reduce violent crime by identifying violent criminals, gang members and their associates and purchasing firearms and other contraband evidence. ATF special agents have purchased more than 116 firearms, including, NFA weapons and stolen firearms. It is currently anticipated that 140 suspects will face charges in violation of Title 18, Title 26 and Title 21 for crimes involving firearms and narcotics.

78545-11-0009 Crossroads of the West Gun Show: Phoenix ATF special agents, with support from the Glendale Police, Phoenix Police Gun Squad and Luke Air Force OSI worked the Crossroads of the West Gun Show on October 23-24, at the University of Phoenix Stadium. This was the first time the stadium was used as a venue. The ATF El Centro Office participated in the surveillance and enforcement activities and several California vehicles were pursued for further investigation. At least three stops involved straw purchasers who abandoned the firearms. One stop involved a

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prohibited purchaser in a wheelchair. At least two FFLs were identified as participating or allowing a straw purchase to occur as a result of agent surveillance.

Phoenix VII – Gunrunner

785115-10-0004 Operation Fast and Furious: ATF special agents collaborated with the Peoria, Arizona Police Department on this investigation. Phoenix Group VII participated in the execution of a search warrant conducted by Peoria Detectives. Approximately 30 pounds of marijuana was seized from a known stash house connected to the CELIS-ACOSTA organization. Based on evidence found on scene, special agents believe the marijuana was being shipped to Flint, Michigan for distribution. While on-scene, ATF agents contacted and arrested an ATF fugitive. The subject was allegedly involved in aiding and abetting the distribution of marijuana, in Michigan. Group VII special agents submitted this case to the District of Arizona United States Attorney’s Office for prosecution.

785115-10-0030 [ATF] This case was initiated by Phoenix Police Department Officers who recovered 51 firearms while executing State of Arizona search warrants. ATF special agents and task force officers conducted further investigation into the original purchasers of the firearms and through their investigative efforts were able to identify 14 co-conspirators/straw purchasers. ATF has submitted the case report for the 14 defendants to the District of Arizona United States Attorney’s Office for prosecution.

785115-10-0036 [ATF] This case was initiated by ATF Group VII after receiving a call regarding suspicious firearm purchases. Investigation led to the identification of suspected straw purchaser, [ATF] Based on ATF Form 4473 Firearms Transaction Records and [ATF] statement to ATF agents, [ATF] is responsible for the straw purchase of 24 firearms within a two-week period. ATF Group VII has submitted this case to the District of Arizona United States Attorney’s Office for prosecution.

Tucson IV – Gunrunner

785130-11-0004 [ATF] has identified suspect [ATF] a twice convicted felon on probation, as being responsible for the coordinating the smuggling of drugs and trafficking of firearms for drug trafficking organizations operating along the border. [ATF] is in the process of arranging for an undercover ATF agent to meet and negotiate the unlawful transfer of firearms allegedly bound for Mexico.

785130-11-0005 [ATF] is a former U.S. Border Patrol agent who resides in Nogales, Arizona. Within the last few months, [ATF] has purchased 12 firearms. He has made multiple purchases of AK-type rifles. Additional investigation disclosed [ATF] makes numerous crossings into Mexico and has associations with Mexican Nationals. He has been traveling to Phoenix to make his firearm purchases. ATF is conducting surveillance and monitoring his activity.

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION

Significant Events Occurring This Period:

Largest Marijuana Seizure in Mexico's History - On October 20, Mexico City *Cadena 3* in Spanish reported the largest confiscation of marijuana in the history of Mexico took place in Baja California State. Shipments that amounted to 134 tons of the drug were intercepted at four different locations after a clash between police officers and criminals in the city of Tijuana. Authorities revealed the shipments were destined for California, United States and may have belonged to the criminal organization led by **ATF**. A total of 11 persons were detained in the operation. Doctor Alejandro Poire, technical secretary of the National Security Council, confirmed this is the largest shipment of marijuana to have been seized in the country.

Nearly 25 Weapons Fired in Massacre of Eight Police Officers - On October 20, Culiacan *Noroeste* reported that a total of 25 weapons were used to kill eight police officers last week on the Benito Juarez Freeway, aka, "La Costera" (coastal highway), in Culiacan, Sinaloa State. The State Attorney General's Office (PGJE) reported that the killers used 14 AK-47s, 7 AR-15s, 1 .38 Super pistol, 2 .9mm handguns, and 1 G-3 assault rifle.

Organized Crime Easily Obtains Cheap Grenades in Central America; Device Fails to Explode at Monterrey Police Station; 2 Monterrey Cops Wounded in Shooting - On October 20, Monterrey *El Norte* reported that while law enforcement officials have increasingly been confiscating firearms, grenade attacks are on the rise, particularly in Nuevo Leon State. According to Eduardo Valiente Hernandez, Federal Police commissioner in Nuevo Leon, organized crime groups can obtain grenades for about 80 pesos (\$6.50 USD) from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Belize. He added that it is easy for gangs to bring the devices back to Mexico. The article notes that a grenade was thrown but failed to explode the previous night at the Monterrey Police west precinct on Ruiz Cortines Avenue in the Valle Verde area.

A related item from *El Norte* notes that the State Public Security Secretariat (SSPE) also shares the building with the Monterrey Police. Ten minutes after the failed grenade attack, two city police officers were wounded by gunfire at the corner of Cedro and Rosa streets in the Moderna neighborhood of Monterrey. Neither was seriously injured, and officials have not released the names of the officers.

Suspects Launch Grenade in Veracruz, 2 Police Officers Injured - Mexico City *Proceso* on reported on October 20 that that officers from the Poza Rica-Tihuatlan Inter-Municipal Police ordered the occupants of a white Gran Marquis vehicle to stop at the corner of Adolfo Ruiz Cortines and Petromex Avenues in Poza Rica, Veracruz. A chase ensued, and in the 27 de septiembre neighborhood of Poza Rica, the occupants of the vehicle launched a grenade at officers, wounding two. Sergio Lopez Esquer, public security secretary, confirmed that there was a chase but denied that anyone had been injured.

U.S. National Guardsman Shot to Death in Ciudad Juarez - On October 21, Ciudad Juarez *El Diario.mx* reported that **ATF** a member of the U.S. National Guard stationed in El Paso, Texas, was gunned down yesterday afternoon at the corner of Elisa Griensen and Luis Gutierrez streets in the Revolucion Mexicana neighborhood of Ciudad Juarez. Rafael Ramirez Reza (42) was killed along with him.

Grenades Thrown at Police Station in Nuevo Laredo, Military Base in Matamoros - Monterrey *El Norte* in an afternoon update on 20 October reports that a grenade was thrown the night of 19 October at the Municipal Police station in Nuevo Laredo, causing damage but no 7

injuries. The city government usually uses its Facebook and Twitter accounts to notify the citizenry of incidents like this and the possible risks involved. However, the article notes, those pages had been temporarily shut down after being hacked. The following afternoon, there were a series of carjackings followed by several roadblocks on major thoroughfares in the city. These "narco-roadblocks" have occurred frequently in neighboring Nuevo Leon State.

A related item from Tampico *Milenio Diario de Tampico* on 21 October reports that the military base on Gonzalez Avenue in Matamoros was damaged by a grenade blast the previous morning. The device was thrown from a passing vehicle and wounded [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED]. The article does not indicate whether the victims were civilians or military personnel, though it does note that they were taken to a local hospital, not a military clinic.

Update on Ciudad Juarez VBIED - On October 22, Mexico City *Cadena 3* in Spanish reported that more than three months after the car bomb explosion in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua State, in which four people died, including a police officer, the Public Security Secretariat (SSP) presented [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] to the media. The attack took place on 15 July and was claimed by the criminal group known as La Linea, the armed wing of the Juarez Cartel. [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] was allegedly the Juarez Cartel lieutenant who controlled Chihuahua and the mastermind behind the explosion. Authorities reported he made the cellular telephone call that set the explosive device off. Along with [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] 11 more members of La Linea were apprehended. Authorities were very careful not to call the explosion a "narco-terrorist" attack. Luis Cardenas Palomino, chief of regional security of the Federal Police, reported authorities are close to completely disbanding La Linea, as most of its leaders have been apprehended. He said authorities only need to capture three or four more important members of that group, which he called a cartel, for them to completely obliterate La Linea.

Large Seizure in Tabasco - On October 23, Mexico City *Cadena 3* reported the Federal Police seized an arsenal in the border between Tabasco State and Veracruz State. Authorities reported the arsenal belonged to Los Zetas and consisted of 79 long-range firearms, two pistols, 12 grenades, one grenade launcher, and 3,000 rounds of ammunition. It was hidden inside a trailer truck. The police officers also seized 2 kg of cocaine. Only two individuals were apprehended

Arrest of [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] - On October 23, according to Mexico City *Cadena 3*, Sedena reported the apprehension of [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] the alleged leader of Los Zetas in the Monterrey, Nuevo Leon State *plaza* (territory). The arrest of [REDACTED] ATF [REDACTED] and six other accomplices was a result of intelligence work. He was behind the kidnapping of five soldiers and the attack against the public security chief of the Garza municipality, Juan Arturo Esparza.

Three Wounded in 2 Grenade Blasts in Monterrey - Monterrey *El Porvenir* on 24 October reported that a grenade was thrown the previous night at a house near the corner of Raul Rangel Frias and Aztlan avenues in the Aztlan subdivision of Monterrey. An unnamed woman was wounded during the attack. Later, a grenade was thrown at the Monterrey Police station on the city's west side. Two persons were wounded, though the article does not indicate whether they were police officers or civilians.

All Officers Resign in Los Ramones After Attack on Police Station - Monterrey *El Norte* in a late morning update on 26 October reports that all 14 of the police officers in the Los Ramones municipality resigned this morning after attackers unleashed gunfire and grenades

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last night at the police station, according to Mayor Santos Salinas. The new police building had been opened just three days ago at the corner of Luis Garza and 13 de Septiembre streets in the Progreso neighborhood; it had been relocated from city hall due to fears of an attack. The gunmen fired more than 1,000 bullets and threw six grenades while six officers tried to fight them off. All 14 officers indicated that they had not received any threats.

Fourteen Killed, At Least 17 Wounded During Massacre of Youths in Ciudad Juarez; Los Aztecas Gang Suspected - Monterrey *El Norte* on 23 October reports that a group of gunmen interrupted a party the previous evening in Ciudad Juarez and killed at least 12 persons and wounded another 16. Many of the victims were minors or young adults.

An updated item from Ciudad Juarez *El Diario.mx* on 24 October reports that the death count from the massacre has reached 14, including four minors and six women. The location of the house is ATF in the Horizontes del Sur neighborhood of Ciudad Juarez.

Gunmen Kill 13 at Tijuana Drug Rehab Center - Monterrey *El Norte* on 25 October reported that a group of gunmen entered the El Camino AC drug rehabilitation center in Tijuana the previous evening, opening fire and killing 13 residents. The clinic is located on Isla de Tiburon Street in the city's Matamoros neighborhood. The article observes that local and military officials had warned of repercussions for the 18 October seizure of 134.24 metric tons of marijuana in Tijuana and Playas de Rosarito. The implication is that last night's massacre could be such a repercussion.

Gunmen Attack Ciudad Madero Police Station, Wound 7 Officers - Mexico City *El Universal* in a late morning update on 27 October reported that a group of gunmen opened fire at the Ciudad Madero Police station (Tamaulipas State), wounding seven officers and a nearby shoe shiner. The attackers threw four grenades at the building, two of which detonated. Ciudad Madero has seen an eventful month of crime: on 8 October, residents of the Unidad Habitacional neighborhood reported five grenade blasts during a 40-minute shootout. Four days later, government offices were evacuated due to threats that were phoned in anonymously. The city's recent spate of violence has led to a cutback in school hours and training courses for teachers to prepare for possible attacks.

Trace Requests for Mexico Recoveries:

FY 11 Trace Requests Thus Far:

There were 314 trace requests for Mexico that were submitted between October 1, 2010 and October 25, 2010, of which 163 are pending completion. These numbers do not include 7 duplicate traces.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

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Mexico City - Gunrunner

Liaison, Training, Media, and Other SWB Interaction:

On October 16, 2010, personnel from the ATF Mexico office, including an ATF Explosive Enforcement Officer (EEO), traveled to Guadalajara, Mexico, to trace 117 firearms (rifles and pistols) and several explosives, to include thirteen hand grenades, seven 40 mm grenades, and two M72A3 LAW rockets. These items were seized by the Mexican Army (SEDENA). Government of Mexico (GOM) personnel assisting were prosecutors from the District Attorney's Office, SIEDO, UIETA, CENAPI and intelligence analyst [ATF]

[ATF]

Tijuana - Gunrunner

Liaison, Training, Media, and Other SWB Interaction:

During this reporting period, personnel from Tijuana Consulate office and the Regional Security Officer (RSO) agreed to provide a basic explosives recognition course to the Tijuana Consulate staff on November 9-10, 2010. The training will be organized by ATF Tijuana agents and conducted by an ATF EEO officer from the Los Angeles Field Division.

Investigative Assistance:

On October 5, 2010, ATF reported that [ATF] were arrested by the Baja State Preventive Police (PEP) after receiving information from ATF and FBI Tijuana personnel. The FBI Chicago office had previously concluded a gang/drug operation and had arrested 51 members of the "Los Ambrosios" gang in Chicago, Illinois. [ATF] fled before he could be arrested and [ATF] was released pending trial because she was pregnant at the time. A post arrest interview conducted by personnel from the FBI and ATF Mexico office led to the possible identification of another fugitive, currently living in Mexico and wanted in the U.S. for murder. The information was provided to PEP Commander [ATF] who is conducting a follow up investigation of this allegation. [ATF] [ATF] are all United States Citizens and currently being removed by Mexican immigration authorities through the Calexico, California Port of Entry to be turned over to United States authorities.

On October 12, 2010, personnel from the Tijuana Consulate office met with a Phoenix AUSA in reference to a Phoenix firearm trafficking case and the current gun trafficking situation in Northern Mexico. The Sinaloa Cartel is battling for drug trafficking zones (referred to as "Plazas" by the DTOs) in the states of Baja California, Sonora, Sinaloa and Chihuahua. The fight for the "plazas" has created an enormous demand for firearms, ammunition and ballistic and tactical gear. ATF Tijuana personnel have examined six different seizures of firearms that have been traced back to subjects of this case. The majority of the examined weapons that traced back are AK-47 variants, some of which were originally sold as semi-automatic rifles but had been converted to fire fully automatic when they were recovered in Mexico. The Phoenix AUSA advises that he will only charge the firearms that have been physically

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observed in Mexico by a United States law enforcement officer with violation of Title 22 USC, Section 2778, which is the arms export/ neutrality act violation of federal law.

On October 13, 2010, special agents from the Tijuana Consulate office and FBI debriefed an SOI in Rosarito Baja California, regarding several residences in the east side of Rosarito. According to the SOI, these residences are interconnected, and have been used in the past by [REDACTED] **ATF** (Sinaloa Cartel cell head operating in Rosarito) to escape from the Mexican military, by moving from one residence to another during enforcement operations. [REDACTED] **ATF** also told agents that each time the military is going to conduct enforcement on his residences, Rosarito police agents provide him with protection by alerting him of their presence. This information will be further analyzed by Tijuana agents before providing it to the government of Mexico for enforcement purposes.

On October 14, 2010, personnel from the Tijuana Consulate office and FBI traveled to Mexicali, Mexico to meet with ATF in El Centro, California. El Centro agents requested a meeting with ATF Tijuana to provide information on a stash house in Mexicali that is alleged to contain a large cache of firearms and ammunition. Agents then met with a reliable law enforcement source to provide them with the address in Mexico of the location. If the location appears to be operating as a stash house, the Tijuana Field Office will provide the address to the Mexican government officials for enforcement operations.

Ciudad Juarez - Gunrunner

No new updates provided for this period.

Merida - Gunrunner

On October 15, 2010, an ATF special agent began his duty assignment as the Assistant Attaché at the United States Merida Consulate office. This office was established to reduce the trafficking and criminal use of firearms and explosives and to assist in reducing violent crime. His primary responsibility is to provide technical and investigative assistance to Mexican law enforcement agencies and support to the United States government at post. ATF plans on adding an additional agent to the ATF Merida Consulate office in the near future.

OFFICE OF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

No new updates provided for this period.

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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On October 14-15, 2010, personnel from ATF provided instruction at the Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training Anti-Gang Program. Approximately 30 students from Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Belize, and El Salvador attended the class. Class discussion focused on the current initiatives of the ATF Regional Firearms Advisor and basic course instruction on firearms tracing and eTrace.

In cooperation with the International Affairs Office, a representative of the Firearms Technology Branch will be conducting training in Mexico as part of its anti-terrorism conference. The conference will be held November 2-6, 2010, and the presentation will be on firearms identification.