

From:
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ATF

Tuesday, March 29, 2011 12:28 PM
Phoe-Group VII
Please read, enough said
Chait memo, 3-28-11.pdf

ATF

Group Supervisor
Phoenix Group VII

ATF

From: ATF
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 12:31 PM
To: ATF
Subject: RE: Please read, enough said

Good thing we never did this in Fast and Furious and violated policy.

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From: ATF
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:28 AM
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ATF
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Phoenix Group VII

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U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

Assistant Director

Washington, DC 20276

www.atf.gov

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MEMORANDUM TO: All Special Agents
Office of Field Operations

FROM: Assistant Director
(Field Operations)

SUBJECT: Guidance on Firearms Trafficking Investigations

This memo serves to reinforce the importance of adhering to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Department of Justice (DOJ) policy on firearms trafficking investigations and to reiterate the DOJ-wide position that component law enforcement agencies must not plan or conduct undercover operations in which firearms are crossing the U.S. border. DOJ guidance further requires that if a law enforcement official has any knowledge that guns are about to cross the border, he/she must take immediate action to prevent that from occurring, even if doing so will jeopardize an investigation.

ATF guidance is contained in the Firearms Enforcement Program Order, ATF O 3310.4B; in the Firearms Trafficking Investigation Guide, ATF P 3317.1; and in the September 2010 document entitled "Project Gunrunner – A Cartel Focused Strategy." ATF O 3310.4B outlines policy and discusses a number of investigative techniques consistent with the DOJ-wide guidance. ATF P 3317.1 contains, among other resources, an investigative checklist for international trafficking-in-arms cases in Section X, as well as a detailed outline of firearms trafficking indicators in Section V. "Project Gunrunner – A Cartel Focused Strategy" notes practical considerations that may require bringing investigations to a conclusion or dictate a change in investigative tactics prior to the identification of persons directly affiliated with drug trafficking organizations. Field Special Agents in Charge are also reminded that they must closely monitor and approve high volume trafficking investigations and must assess the associated risks. Lastly, field divisions should continue to coordinate with the U.S. Attorney's Offices for the districts in which they conduct operations to ensure a mutual understanding of the criteria for both prosecutions and seizures.



Mark R. Chait

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