

Timeline for **ATF** investigations

June 25, 2010: The Oklahoma City II Field Office requested a copy of the Texas driver's license photo for **ATF** whose name was found in a duffel bag during an Oklahoma firearms trafficking investigation. (ATF OKC **ATF**)

July 27-29, 2010: ATF Roswell/Las Cruces opened investigation **ATF**

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August 7, 2010: Zavala County Sheriff's Department (Texas), patrolling U.S. Highway 57 two

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August 26, 2010: The Dallas Field Intelligence Group (FIG) reviewed 2,516 multiple sale handgun purchases that took place within Dallas Field Division during the months of July and August, 2010.

September 9, 2010: The restored serial numbers for the firearms recovered by Zavala County were submitted to ATF National Tracing Center. Most traces were completed at varying dates beginning in September 2010, and forwarded to the ATF Roswell/Las Cruces office. As of

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September 15-17, 2010: (La Pryor, TX firearm traces)

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September 20-21, 2010: The Dallas FIG reviewed weekly NTC reports, which disclosed **ATF**

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September 26, 2010: Dallas FIG reviewed the weekly NTC report, which disclosed **ATF**

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September 28, 2010: Dallas FIG emailed

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October 7, 2010: FFL -

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October 10, 2010:

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October 21, 2010: Dallas FIG sent an email to two Dallas III agents advising that

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November 5, 2010: ATF Laredo received information from DEA-Laredo regarding

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November 8, 2010: ATF and DEA from Laredo along with ATF Dallas arranged for the

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November 9, 2010: ATF and DEA arranged the

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November 10, 2010: Traces were initiated for the three (of the 40) firearms seized on November 9, 2010, that had identifiable serial numbers.

November 17, 2010: In an effort to facilitate tracing the remaining 37 firearms, they are entered into N-Force and sent to the ATF Lab in San Francisco, CA, for serial number restoration.

Week of November 22-26, 2010: During October and November, the Dallas FIG continued to

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November 30, 2010: Information on ATF is forwarded to Dallas Group III as a possible lead for an investigation.

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December 9, 2010: Dallas III agents initiated queries for

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January 2011: Dallas III agents contacted local ATF gathered records of firearms purchased by

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January 28, 2011: The ATF Lab advised that most of the firearms were able to be identified through serial number restoration. Traces were initiated. Most of the traces showed

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February 15, 2011: ICE Special Agent Jaime Zapata is killed and his partner is wounded in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. With the ongoing efforts by the Government of Mexico (GOM), on February 23, 2011, the GOM recovered and took into custody as evidence a ROMARM Draco

7.62 with an obliterated serial number. The GOM contacted the ATF Mexico Country Office (MCO) to conduct any and all tests, to include ballistics and serial number restoration.

February 23, 2011: Dallas agents checked the

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February 24, 2011: During *Operation Noble Hero*, led locally by the DEA, a list of individuals associated with the Los Zetas DTO was targeted for contact. DEA, ICE and an ATF agent contacted the **ATF** during a knock and talk operation. **ATF** had listed their address on ATF F 4473s when purchasing firearms. As a result, a consent search was obtained. The search revealed no probable cause for arrest, however ten (10) firearms and other firearm related documents were observed.

February 25, 2011: ATF Dallas received information from ATF MCO that a firearm purchased in the Dallas area was recovered in connection with the death of ICE SA Zapata. NIBIN testing revealed that the firearm was used during the deadly assault on the ICE agents. The firearm trace results revealed that **ATF**

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February 27, 2011: Dallas III agents obtained Federal arrest warrants for

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February 28, 2011:

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their residence. ATF seized items from the residence consistent with serial number obliteration. Also seized were six (6) firearms, five (5) of which were present during the knock and talk on February 24, 2011. Five (5) other firearms observed during the knock and talk on the previous Thursday were not located. One new rifle had been acquired since the prior Thursday. Agents interviewed **ATF**

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March 4, 2011:

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and his Probable Cause and Detention Hearings and remains in custody. **ATF** a Probable Cause Hearing and remains in custody.

March 7, 2011:

ATF

participated in a proffer at U.S. Attorney's Office in Dallas, TX.

March 9, 2011: [ATF] Probable Cause and Detention Hearings were held. The court determines there was Probable Cause to arrest and [ATF] denied bail/bond.

March 22, 2011: [ATF] were indicted by the Federal Grand Jury in Dallas, TX, for various charges, to include Conspiracy, False Statements and Possession of Firearms with Obliterated Serial Numbers; stemming from the November 9, 2010 undercover firearms deal.

April 14, 2011: [ATF]
[ATF]

April 14, 2011: [ATF]
[ATF]

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