

**Suspect Organizations and Individuals Possessing
Long-Range Fifty Caliber Sniper Weapons**

Prepared for:

**Rep. Rod R. Blagojevich
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on National Security,
Veterans Affairs, and International Relations
Committee on Government Reform**

**Rep. Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member
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**Minority Staff Report
Committee on Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Long-range fifty caliber rifles are powerful and dangerous weapons. They also are easily obtained by criminal organizations and individuals, including alleged assassins, survivalist groups and militias, a mentally ill cop killer, international drug cartels, and terrorist organizations. This minority staff report provides details about these organizations and individuals and the manner in which they obtained these weapons.

Two previous minority staff reports examined the availability within the civilian market of fifty caliber weapons and their armor piercing ammunition.¹ To supplement this information, Rep. Rod R. Blagojevich, Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs, and International Relations, and Rep. Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Government Reform, requested the Office of Special Investigations within the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) to conduct an investigation into possible connections between these weapons and criminal activity. GAO's briefing paper is included as Appendix A to this report.

As part of its investigation, GAO contacted the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) to obtain a list of semi-automatic fifty caliber weapons for which law enforcement agencies had filed trace requests. GAO found that there had been 27 trace requests regarding semi-automatic fifty caliber weapons. GAO reported that the vast majority of traces led directly to weapons in the possession of organizations or individuals suspected of criminal activity.

This minority staff report summarizes GAO's investigation, as well as the results of additional investigation by the minority staff. It finds that fifty caliber sniper weapons have been involved in an assassination attempt that was foiled before it was executed, a standoff in which a federal ATF agent was shot, and multiple homicides at a shopping center in Littleton, Colorado. It also describes how the traces reviewed by GAO revealed sales to individuals with criminal records, a sale to an apparently mentally ill individual who killed a police officer, second-hand sales among conspirators, and weapons stolen from legal purchasers.

The concerns in this report are heightened because of a new type of fifty caliber weapon that has been advertised on the internet. On its website, First Defense International Group is promoting the world's first compact fifty caliber sniper weapon.² The Windrunner, as it is called, has a removable barrel and an adjustable sliding stock so it can be broken down quickly to fit into a small carrying case. The company advertises this weapon as "discreet," as well as "compact for transportation" and "rapid deployment."

¹See *Long-Range Fifty Caliber Sniper Weapons* (May 3, 1999); *Fifty Caliber Armor Piercing Military Ammunition in the United States Civilian Market* (Revised) (June 18, 1999).

²See http://www.firstdefense.com/html/arms_new_50_caliber.htm. A printout of this website is attached as Appendix B.

I. CASTRO ASSASSINATION PLOT

Fifty caliber weapons were part of an alleged attempt to assassinate Cuban President Fidel Castro. In October of 1997, seven Cuban-American suspects allegedly conspired to assassinate President Castro at the Seventh Iberian American Summit, a meeting of Southern Hemisphere leaders.³ The Summit was planned for November 7-9, 1997, and was to take place at a resort on Isla Margarita off the coast of Venezuela.⁴ Four of the suspects set sail in mid-October from a private dock in Coral Gables, Florida, aboard a 46-foot Bertram pleasure cruiser, “La Esperanza.”⁵

During the eight-day trip through the Caribbean, the boat was badly damaged, forcing the suspects to give up their mission and head back to Miami.⁶ On October 27, the U.S. Coast Guard intercepted the boat off the coast of Cabo Rojo in northwest Puerto Rico. Coast Guard officials became suspicious when the suspects gave conflicting stories about their destination, one saying they were headed towards Miami and another that they were headed towards St. Lucia.⁷

Once in Puerto Rico, officials boarded the boat and conducted a search. In a secret compartment, they discovered a stash including two semi-automatic fifty caliber assault rifles.⁸ Also found were seven boxes (70 rounds) of ammunition capable of stopping armored vehicles and aircraft, high-powered gun sights, night-vision goggles, walkie-talkies, camouflaged clothing, survival equipment, Global Positioning System satellite navigational equipment, and navigational charts plotting a course toward Isla Margarita.⁹

³In addition to information provided by GAO, supplemental details were obtained from various press accounts. See, e.g., Larry Rohter and Ann Louise Bardach, *Cuban Exile Leader Among 7 Accused of Plot on Castro*, New York Times, A3 (Aug. 26, 1998); Mark Fineman and Mike Clary, *In Shift, U.S. Indicts Crew of Leaky Boat for Castro Plot*, Los Angeles Times, A1 (Sept. 8, 1998); Gerardo Reyes and Juan O. Tamayo, *7 Cuban Exiles Indicted in Plot to Kill Castro*, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, A5 (Aug. 26, 1998).

⁴*Id.*

⁵*Id.*

⁶Gerardo Reyes and Juan O. Tamayo, *7 Indicted in Plot to Kill Castro*, Miami Herald, 1A (Aug. 26, 1998); David Adams, *In Leaky Boat on Deadly Mission?*, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, A4 (Sept. 14, 1998).

⁷*Id.* See also Michelle Faul, *7 Aging Cuban Exiles Indicted in Plot to Kill Castro*, Buffalo News, 5A (Aug. 26, 1998).

⁸*Id.* See also *A Package of Caribbean News Briefs*, Associated Press (Apr. 21, 1999); Michael J. Sniffen, *7 Indicted in Plot to Kill Castro*, Associated Press (Aug. 25, 1998).

⁹*Id.*

At this point, one suspect, Angel Manuel Alfonso-Aleman, began describing a plot to kill President Castro. Mr. Alfonso-Aleman, 58, is a textile firm manager from Union City, New Jersey, who had spent over 18 years in Cuban prisons.¹⁰ An official magistrate's report later stated that "Alfonso protested in a loud and angry voice and said that the weapons were his . . . [and] that his sole mission was to assassinate Fidel Castro."¹¹

Apparently, the group began implementing its plan in 1995.¹² Two years later, on October 17, 1997, the group allegedly visited Isla Margarita to scout out a location for the killing.¹³ They selected a precise geographical location on a hilltop overlooking the airport and entered the coordinates in the Global Positioning Unit later found on board the boat.¹⁴ Their plan was to shoot President Castro directly from long range or to shoot down his aircraft with the fifty caliber weapons.¹⁵

All the suspects have pleaded innocent to the charges of conspiracy to assassinate an internationally protected person.¹⁶ Their case is still pending.

II. MURDER OF POLICE OFFICER IN LITTLETON, COLORADO

According to press accounts, a fifty caliber weapon was used to kill a police officer in Littleton, Colorado, on April 28, 1995.¹⁷ The subject used a bolt-action fifty caliber sniper weapon (rather than a semi-automatic model) and three other firearms to kill several individuals, including the police officer.¹⁸

¹⁰Ann Louise Bardach and Larry Rohter, *A Plot on Castro Spotlights A Powerful Group of Exiles*, New York Times, A1 (May 5, 1998).

¹¹Fineman and Clary, *supra* note 3, at A1.

¹²*Id.*

¹³Reyes and Tamayo, *supra* note 4, at 1A.

¹⁴*Id.*

¹⁵*Id.*

¹⁶Deborah Ramirez, *3 Miami Men Plead Innocent to Castro Plot*, Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel, 13B (Sept. 3, 1998).

¹⁷See Peter G. Chronis and Marilyn Robinson, *.50-Caliber Rifle Killed Officer; Huge Gun Among Many in Jeffco Suspect's Arsenal*, Denver Post, B2 (May 3, 1995) (citing court documents). According to officers involved with the case, this event occurred less than ten blocks from Columbine High School.

¹⁸Lynn Bartels, *Suspect Failed Handgun Check*, Denver Rocky Mountain News, 5A (May 2, 1995).

This case began with domestic strife between a husband and his estranged wife who filed for divorce. Albert Petrosky, Jr., 35, was described by his Littleton landlord, Crista Kapp, as a violent, unpredictable man who lived by the creed “I’ll get even.”¹⁹ She stated, “He is very, very scary. If you could just hear his voice, it would give you the creeps.”²⁰

During the week prior to the incident, Mr. Petrosky’s 37-year-old wife Terry had told him that she was involved with someone else. In response, Petrosky beat her and forced her to sign a quit-claim deed on their home.²¹ Although she later obtained a restraining order against her husband, authorities were unable to locate him.²²

On the morning of April 28, 1995, Mr. Petrosky waited in the parking lot of the Albertson’s supermarket where his wife worked with a Grizzly big-bore bolt-action fifty caliber shoulder-mounted rifle, a 7.62 mm SKS semi-automatic rifle, a Smith & Wesson 9 mm semi-automatic pistol, and a .32 caliber revolver, all of which he fired during the subsequent incident.²³ He wore a military flak jacket and had ammunition belts strapped across his chest.²⁴

Immediately after his wife walked in to begin her shift at about 9:30 a.m., Mr. Petrosky walked into the store, approached the customer service counter, and shot her several times.²⁵ When store manager Dan Suazo, 39, attempted to aid her, Mr. Petrosky also shot and killed him.²⁶ Reportedly, employees celebrating an office birthday party were stunned by gunfire and screams and customers crouched in the aisles shielding their children.²⁷ According to interviews with investigating officers, Mr. Petrosky apparently walked calmly backwards out of the store and across the parking lot to a van where he reloaded his weapons, set up the bipod-equipped fifty caliber weapon, and waited to ambush authorities responding to 911 calls.

¹⁹Lynn Bartels, *Suspect ‘Very, Very Scary,’* Denver Rocky Mountain News, 5A (Apr. 29, 1995).

²⁰*Id.*

²¹Guy Kelly, *Supermarket Gunman Kills 3, Hurts 1,* Denver Rocky Mountain News, 4A (Apr. 29, 1995).

²²Lynn Bartels, *A Lethal Love,* Denver Rocky Mountain News, 49A (May 7, 1995).

²³Chronis and Robinson, *supra* note 17, at B2.

²⁴Kelly, *supra* note 21, at 4A; *see also* Mark Eddy, Renate Robey, and Ann Schrader, *3 Slain at Supermarket,* Denver Post, A1 (Apr. 29, 1995). Authorities interviewed by minority staff indicated that Mr. Petrosky also possessed armor piercing ammunition and armor piercing incendiary ammunition.

²⁵Eddy, Roby, and Schrader, *supra* note 24, at A1.

²⁶*Id.*

²⁷*Id.*

As Sergeant Timothy Mossbrucker of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department drove into the parking lot in his police cruiser, Mr. Petrosky "was blasting away at the police car," according to witness Kerry Kayton.²⁸ Several shots from the fifty caliber apparently went directly into the car and through the windshield, striking Sergeant Mossbrucker in the abdomen.²⁹ According to Jim Parr, a spokesman for the sheriff's department, "it appears that Sgt. Mossbrucker never saw Mr. Petrosky."³⁰ Sergeant Mossbrucker was 36 and had been with the Department for 13 years. He was married and had five children.³¹ The sergeant's wife, Lynn, had learned the day before that she was pregnant with their sixth child.³²

Police later determined that Mr. Petrosky had made several attempts to purchase the fifty caliber weapon in the days before the incident. Sheriff's investigators discovered that Mr. Petrosky first attempted to purchase a fifty caliber weapon by telling one dealer that he needed it right away, offering to pay \$1,000 above the selling price of \$2,000.³³ The dealer declined, however, because he thought Mr. Petrosky was agitated.³⁴

Mr. Petrosky later paid \$2,500 cash for the weapon to Northglenn gun dealer Dick Sandbom.³⁵ The dealer was surprised to see the gun on the news the following day. When police initiated a trace on the weapon, they discovered it was purchased without a background check because rifle sales were not covered under the Brady law until 1998.³⁶ "I was kind of in shock," the dealer stated. "It's a little traumatic for me. I feel real bad about what happened."³⁷

²⁸Kelly, *supra* note 21, at 4A.

²⁹*Id.*

³⁰Peter G. Chronis and Steve Boland, *Slain Officer Was to be Dad 6th Time*, Denver Post, A1 (Apr. 30, 1995).

³¹*Id.*

³²*Id.*

³³Charlie Brennan, *Authorities Investigate Gun Sale*, Denver Rocky Mountain News, 4A (May 1, 1995).

³⁴*Id.*

³⁵Lynn Bartels, *Suspect Failed Handgun Check, But Man Held in Albertson's Killings Was Able to Buy Rifle Not Covered by Brady Law's Background Check Provision*, Denver Rocky Mountain News, 5A (May 2, 1995).

³⁶*Id.*

³⁷*Id.*

If a background check had been required before the purchase of the fifty caliber weapon, the sale would have been stopped because Mr. Petrosky had a prior criminal record. In fact, when Mr. Petrosky attempted to purchase a handgun on October 23, 1994, from Rob's Gun Shop, he was refused because he failed a background check that revealed a 1991 arrest on assault charges.³⁸ In addition, Mr. Petrosky was arrested the previous June on charges of drunken driving and carrying a concealed .32-Magnum Harrington & Richardson pistol.³⁹

Mr. Petrosky was convicted for the shopping center homicides in 1995.⁴⁰ On May 8, 1995, he slit his wrists and hanged himself in the Denver County Jail.⁴¹

III. STANDOFF WITH MENTALLY ILL COP KILLER

Another semi-automatic fifty caliber weapon was traced to the home of an individual described by GAO as an "apparently mentally ill subject" who shot and killed a police officer in a ten hour standoff with Michigan State Police. John Charles Clark, 48, did not kill the officer with the fifty caliber weapon, according to GAO, but instead used one of the many other weapons at his home. Neighbors said Mr. Clark frequently claimed he had a large collection of guns but that nobody knew its exact size.⁴² He was described by neighbors as a disturbed man who believed the mafia was after him.⁴³

According to reports in the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*, during the morning of May 13, 1998, Mr. Clark brandished a handgun in the front yard of his home and made statements about the police being controlled by the mafia.⁴⁴ A member of a local gas line crew reported Mr. Clark's behavior, after which police surrounded the house.⁴⁵ Mr. Clark's voice was heard rising and falling within the house and he was seen waiving his arms.⁴⁶ Later, police reported that Mr. Clark brought a handgun and an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle onto his porch.⁴⁷

³⁸Chronis and Robinson, *supra* note 17, at B2.

³⁹Bartels, *supra* note 36, at 5A.

⁴⁰Joseph B. Verrengia, *From Gold Medals to the Stanley Cup: '96 a Year of Athletic Triumphs, Elections, Soaring Stock Market*, Denver Rocky Mountain News, 46A (Dec. 29, 1996).

⁴¹*Id.*

⁴²Rich Wertz and Bill O'Brien, *Gunman Kills TC Officer*, *Traverse City Record-Eagle* (May 13, 1998).

⁴³Bill O'Brien, *Neighbors Say Suspect Was Quiet and Paranoid*, *Traverse City Record-Eagle* (May 13, 1998).

⁴⁴Wertz and O'Brien, *supra* note 43.

⁴⁵*Id.*

⁴⁶*Id.*

⁴⁷*Id.*

After several hours of a tense standoff, Mr. Clark moved to the center of his porch. There, Sergeant Dennis Finch of the Traverse City Police Department talked with him to try to calm him down.⁴⁸ Gunfire erupted, however, as police rushed across the lawn and Mr. Clark sprayed semi-automatic fire at the officers.⁴⁹ As a result, Sergeant Finch suffered multiple gunshot wounds and died later that day.⁵⁰

After Mr. Clark was hit by two police bullets, officers made their final approach in armored vehicles.⁵¹ Mr. Clark was lying on the floor when police entered the house, where police found a semi-automatic fifty caliber sniper weapon and 15 other weapons.⁵² Mr. Clark was hospitalized for his injuries. He was convicted on December 11, 1998, of second degree murder.⁵³

According to GAO, ATF conducted a trace of the weapons seized at the crime scene in response to a request from the police department in Traverse City, Michigan. The trace revealed that Mr. Clark purchased all of the weapons legally, including the semi-automatic fifty caliber weapon. Reports indicated that Mr. Clark had been arrested several years earlier for vandalism and for spray-painting graffiti related to the mafia.⁵⁴ In addition, his probation officer, Tom Willson, stated to reporters from the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*, “I knew him as a probationer that was always paranoid, that somebody was after him. He would call me and say ‘Tom, they’re after me . . . the Mafia just drove by.’”⁵⁵ GAO investigators concluded that despite his apparent mental illness, Mr. Clark was able to purchase the sniper weapon because his prior convictions were not felonies.

⁴⁸*Id.*

⁴⁹*Id.*

⁵⁰*Briefly: Jury Convicts Man for Shooting Cop*, Detroit News, C10e (Dec. 11, 1998).

⁵¹Wertz and O’Brien, *supra* note 43.

⁵²*Id.*

⁵³*Briefly, supra* note 51, at C10e.

⁵⁴O’Brien, *supra* note 44.

⁵⁵*Id.*

IV. STANDOFF WITH LOUISIANA TAX PROTESTER/WHITE SUPREMACIST

In 1996, FBI agents engaged in a standoff with Lynn Truman Crawford, a tax protester and white supremacist in Louisiana. When the agents went to Dr. Crawford's home to arrest him for failure to pay child support and fleeing across state lines, Dr. Crawford confronted the arresting agents with a shotgun, according to GAO. A six-day standoff ensued, after which Dr. Crawford eventually surrendered. Agents recovered over 40 firearms from his residence, including a fifty caliber semi-automatic weapon and a fifty caliber bolt action weapon.⁵⁶ The FBI seized all of these weapons, in addition to a stockpile of armor piercing ammunition.

It appears that the weapon soon will be resold to the public. In conversations with the FBI agent who handled this case in Shreveport, minority staff learned that the IRS had placed a levy on the weapons to fulfill Dr. Crawford's outstanding taxes. When the court awarded possession of the weapons to the IRS, the IRS could have had destroyed them, removing them from the stream of commerce and ensuring that no future crimes could be committed with them.

Rather than destroy the weapons, however, the IRS chose to withdraw its levy on the weapons. The FBI, which has physical custody of the weapons, has now entered into an arrangement with Dr. Crawford's ex-wife to sell the weapons through a local pawn shop. This sale has not yet taken place, however, and is scheduled to occur shortly at River City Pawn in Shreveport.

There does not appear to be any sound rationale for the resale of the fifty caliber weapons. The IRS and the Department of Justice have policies against selling guns to civilians. If the goal is to provide funds for Dr. Crawford's ex-wife, this could be accomplished by selling several valuable automobiles seized from Dr. Crawford, including a Pantera, a Maserati, a Jeep Grand Cherokee, and a Jaguar.

V. STANDOFF WITH BRANCH DAVIDIANS

Fifty caliber weapons were used by the Branch Davidians during their 1993 standoff with the ATF. Indeed, there have been reports that fifty caliber weapons were used against law enforcement agents during the execution of a search warrant against David Koresh at his compound in Waco, Texas. According to Robert Hast, Acting Assistant Comptroller General for Special Investigations at GAO: "We know that the weapons were fired at law enforcement officers at Waco and we have anecdotal information that some of the agents were hit, but we are still trying to confirm that with ATF."⁵⁷

⁵⁶According to the FBI agent in Shreveport, one of these weapons was used in the film *Robocop*, although it is unclear how Dr. Crawford obtained it.

⁵⁷Testimony of Robert Hast, Acting Assistant Comptroller General for Special Investigations, General Accounting Office, before House Committee on Government Reform (Democratic Hearing), *Long-Range .50-Caliber Sniper Weapons*, 106th Cong. (May 3, 1999).

In its report on traces, GAO stated that, because of suspicions that Mr. Koresh had acquired fifty caliber weapons, ATF requested from the Department of Defense several Bradley Fighting Vehicles believed to have sufficient armor to withstand fifty caliber fire. GAO reported that ATF did not ultimately use the armored vehicles, instead opting to use cattle carts as subterfuge.

In light of the fact that four agents were killed and several more injured in the Waco standoff, Rep. Waxman wrote to the Director of ATF, John W. Magaw, on July 23, 1999, requesting further information on the use of fifty caliber weapons against federal agents. That letter is included as Appendix C. ATF is in the process of investigating this issue.

VI. ADDITIONAL CASES

A. Montana Doomsday Religious Cult—“Church Universal and Triumphant”

The GAO investigators found a 1989 case in Montana in which members of a “doomsday religious cult” had stockpiled many weapons, including several fifty caliber weapons. The cult is called the “Church Universal and Triumphant” (C.U.T.), and its leader is Elizabeth Clare Prophet. The cult was in the process of building underground bunkers to prepare for the end of the world. This investigation began because Ms. Prophet’s husband and another cult member used birth certificates of deceased individuals to obtain driver’s licenses so they could purchase and stockpile weapons.

In an ATF crackdown, agents found that the cult members had illegally acquired hundreds of weapons and thousands of rounds of ammunition. Among this stockpile were ten semi-automatic fifty caliber weapons purchased with the false identifications. The cult members were convicted of illegally purchasing firearms. According to GAO, Ms. Prophet continues to lead the cult and was not charged in connection with these offenses.

B. Georgia Survivalist/Tax Protester

GAO reported that ATF combined efforts with the IRS in May of 1996 to investigate a survivalist/tax protester living in Georgia under a false identity. He had obtained a driver’s license under an assumed name with which he bought numerous firearms. This subject illegally obtained two Barrett semi-automatic weapons and 115 other firearms. In addition, he illegally converted many of these weapons to machine guns. For example, he had converted AR-15 rifles to the equivalent of M-16s. Investigators also found silencers and over 100,000 rounds of ammunition, as well as \$400,000 worth of gold Krugerrands, jewelry, and cash. The suspect was convicted of federal mail fraud and firearms violations.

C. “Sword of the Lord” Militia Group

GAO reported that, in 1996, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police recovered a fifty caliber semi-automatic weapon allegedly smuggled into Canada from the United States. The gun was smuggled by a militia group from Texas called “Sword of the Lord.” Unlike the Louisiana case

mentioned above, the Canadian officials destroyed the weapon.

D. West Virginia “Mountaineer” Militia Group

GAO investigators linked another trace request to a case in which a member of the Mountaineer Militia in West Virginia was arrested in a plot to bomb an FBI office in Clarksburg, West Virginia. Agents recovered a semi-automatic fifty caliber sniper weapon and numerous other firearms during a subsequent search of the subject’s home.

E. Various Drug Search Warrants

Other traces led to cases in which fifty caliber sniper weapons were found during the course of executing search warrants related to drug offenses. In Missouri, Indiana, and California, the authorities from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies (respectively) entered residences to execute search warrants on drug cases. Among other weapons, authorities found semi-automatic fifty caliber weapons at all of these scenes.

F. Stolen Weapon

GAO reported that ATF agents in Houston arrested a subject for possession of a stolen fifty caliber semi-automatic weapon. The legitimate owner resided in California.

VII. USE BY FOREIGN DRUG CARTELS, TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, AND PARAMILITARY GROUPS

A. Mexican Drug Cartel

One trace investigated by GAO led to multiple homicides in Mexico as a result of a shootout with members of a drug cartel. In October of 1996, the Los Angeles Police Department requested a trace for a Barrett semi-automatic fifty caliber weapon. This request was made through the national ATF tracing center in West Virginia and revealed that the weapon had been purchased in Wyoming. The ATF tracing center notified the ATF office in Cheyenne, Wyoming, which relayed this information to the Los Angeles Police Department.

Although the weapon was purchased originally in Wyoming, it made its way to the scene of a shootout involving a drug cartel in Sinaloa, Mexico, where seven people were killed. Over 100 AK-47’s were also found at the scene. This case, among others, led the GAO investigators to conclude that the accessibility within the United States of semi-automatic fifty caliber sniper weapons is becoming known worldwide.

B. Terrorist Organizations and Paramilitary Groups

Among several ongoing and classified cases mentioned by GAO are investigations by U.S. law

enforcement authorities regarding the smuggling of fifty caliber weapons to Western Europe and the Balkans for use by terrorist organizations. In at least two of these cases, the weapons were purchased legally in the U.S. and then smuggled overseas. Because of the sensitive nature of these cases, GAO was not able to provide additional details.

As a result of independent research, however, minority staff were able to discover several sources that suggest that American-made fifty caliber sniper weapons are being purchased within the United States and then transported abroad for use by various paramilitary groups. These cases are described below.

1. Irish Republican Army

Fifty caliber weapons made in the U.S. apparently have been used by the Irish Republican Army. According to one report:

In at least two of these attacks a [fifty caliber] Barrett Model 82 heavy sniping rifle was used; capable of piercing light armour, it has a maximum range in excess of a mile. This had serious implications for the security forces patrolling the border areas: armoured Land-Rovers and soldier's body armour no longer afforded their users protection from such a weapon.⁵⁸

2. Kosovo Liberation Army

Similarly, there have been reports that the Kosovo Liberation Army (or Ushtria Clirimtare e Kosoves, UCK) have stockpiled these weapons. According to one source:

The force claims to possess 140 US-made .50-caliber Barratt (sic) sniper rifles with an effective range of almost 1 mile (1.6 km). The introduction of this weapon in such a relatively small area as Kosovo would keep Serb police from establishing the plethora of command posts with which they saturated the province to check UCK movements last autumn.⁵⁹

Other reports confirm that these weapons originated in the United States:

At a rickety table behind two round tents, young fighters gather around a prized weapon: an American-made fifty caliber sniper rifle with a

⁵⁸Adrian Gilbert, *Sniper: The Skills, the Weapons, and the Experiences*, 167 (New York 1994).

⁵⁹Tammy Arbuckle, *Unhealthy Climate in Kosovo as Guerillas Gear up for a Summer of Confrontation*, *International Defense Review* (Feb. 1, 1999).

two-and-a-half mile range. They're stacking a dozen of them against the pock-marked wall of their base, two small buildings with peeling plaster alone on the flank of this mountain just short of Albania's border with Kosovo. The rifles will be packed up with the rest of the gear.⁶⁰

VIII. CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Further detailed information regarding any of these cases may be obtained by contacting Christine Smith in the Legislative Affairs Office at ATF at (202) 927-8490. In addition, Appendix D is a list of contact information for appropriate local law enforcement personnel who handled each case.

⁶⁰Sarah Chayes, *Kosovo Liberation Army, All Things Considered* (June 14, 1999) (an audio report from the Albanian border Hamlet of Cahan where KLA fighters prepared to move into Kosovo); *see* <http://search.npr.org/cf/cmn/cmnpd01fm.cfm?PrgDate=06%2F14%2F1999&PrgID=2>.

Attachment D

Local Law Enforcement Contact Information

<p><u>Castro Assassination Plot</u> Assistant U.S. Attorney Miguel Pereira U.S. Attorney's Office San Juan, PR (787) 282-1853</p>	<p><u>Mexican Drug Cartel Multiple Homicides</u> Special Agent Dennis Butler Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Cheyenne, WY (307) 772-2346</p>
<p><u>Standoff with Branch Davidians</u> Ms. Christine Smith Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Legislative Affairs Washington, DC (202) 367-2747</p>	<p><u>Canadian Militia Group</u> Sgt. Bruce Tiboni Royal Canadian Mounted Police Customs and Excise Section Surrey, BC, Canada (604) 543-4747</p>
<p><u>Standoff with Louisiana Tax Protester</u> Special Agent John Spurgeon Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Shreveport, LA (318) 676-3301</p>	<p><u>Missouri Drug Dealer</u> Mr. Doug Dawson Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms St. Louis, MO (314) 539-7981</p>
<p><u>Standoff with Mentally Ill Cop Killer</u> Mr. Derek Sutherin Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Grand Rapids, MI (616) 922-4400</p>	<p><u>Indiana Drug Dealer</u> Lt. Jim Biddle Indiana State Police Sellersburg, IN (812) 283-6422</p>
<p><u>Multiple Homicides in Littleton, Colorado</u> Steve Davis, Public Information Officer Jefferson County Sheriff's Department Jefferson County, CO (303) 271-5305</p>	<p><u>California Drug Dealer</u> Ms. Marti McKee Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms San Francisco, CA (415) 744-7001</p>
<p><u>Montana Religious Doomsday Cult</u> Special Agent Steve Gunderson Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Billings, MT (406) 657-6886</p>	<p><u>Stolen Weapon</u> Special Agent Mike Taylor Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Houston, TX (281) 449-9089</p>
<p><u>Georgia Survivalist/Tax Protester</u> Special Agent John Killorin Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Atlanta, GA (404) 679-5001</p>	<p><u>West Virginia "Mountaineer" Militia</u> Sgt. Keith Talbert West Virginia State Police Fairmont, WV (304) 367-2747</p>