



News Release



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FORMAL DECLARATION BETWEEN U.S., MEXICO GOVERNORS TO USE ATF PROJECT GUNRUNNER, ETRACE INVESTIGATIVE TOOL

WASHINGTON – The Border Governors Conference announced a significant partnership to stop the flow of illegal guns into Mexico by utilizing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) programs called Project Gunrunner and eTrace. The two programs make up the centerpiece of a new declaration of cooperation between the 10 border governors from the United States and Mexico that aims to eliminate illegal sources of weapons and bring gun traffickers and violent criminals to justice. Border governors agree to support Project Gunrunner and the eTrace programs, as legally and practically permissible, to reduce violence along the U.S.-Mexico border.

“As the primary federal law enforcement agency that investigates violent crime and regulates commerce in firearms and explosives, ATF launched Project Gunrunner to stem the illegal flow of firearms into Mexico and to reduce gun-related violence on the U.S.-Mexico border by partnering with appropriate authorities who are experts in their jurisdictions,” said Michael J. Sullivan, acting director of ATF. “By signing this declaration of cooperation, the border governors of both nations recognize the importance of tracing every crime gun recovered on the Southwest Border to help determine trafficking patterns and potential traffickers of illicit firearms.

“We continue to support Attorney General Medina Mora, Procuraduria General de la Republica (PGR), as our principle partner in our efforts to reduce the flow of firearms into the Republic of Mexico,” added Sullivan. “ATF welcomes this new, enhanced partnership with the governors in the areas most affected by the persistent and escalating illegal flow of firearms and narcotics between our two countries.”

More information on ATF and its programs can be found at <http://www.atf.gov/>.

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