



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Louisville Field Division

Contact: ATF PIO Craig W. Roegner
Office: (502) 753-3556
Cell: (502) 773-2614
Email: LouisDiv@atf.gov

For Immediate Release
September 18, 2007

“SADDLE GATE” ARRESTS KICK OFF OPENING OF THE ATF SATELLITE OFFICE IN SOUTHERN INDIANA

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — During a press conference today, Floyd County (Ind.) prosecutor Keith Henderson praised the contributions of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) special agents as he announced the arrest of three individuals – Gerald D. Weddle, 40, Cynthia K. Long, 37, and Tana S. Leasor, 26 – who were responsible for a multiple-jurisdiction string of burglaries. The effort, dubbed “Saddle Gate,” was a result of a seven-month investigation of the burglary ring, which allegedly was responsible for hundreds of burglaries and the theft of more than 51 horse saddles, multiple firearms, and other personal property valued in excess of \$40,000.

In addition, ATF Special Agent in Charge Paul J. Vido of the Louisville Field Division, along with Henderson and Floyd County sheriff Darrell Mills, jointly announced the establishment of the ATF Southern Indiana Satellite office, which is co-located with the Floyd County Sheriff’s Office in the City-County Building, 311 Hauss Square, New Albany, Ind. The two ATF special agents assigned to the satellite office will cover eight counties (Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Jefferson, Scott, Switzerland and Washington) in southern Indiana.

“The Louisville Field Division is grateful for Sheriff Mills’ offer to secure work space at his department for the assigned ATF agents,” said Vido. The two agents who live and work in southern Indiana will coordinate with state and local law enforcement agencies to share their anti-gun crime expertise, investigate violent crime by conducting firearms investigations, and to expand the tracing of recovered firearms in southern Indiana. The concerted effort is to remove armed career criminals, violent offenders, and drug traffickers from the local communities in southern Indiana.

“For law enforcement to truly be effective, federal, state and local agencies must work cooperatively and share information. Establishing an office in southern Indiana is the realization of one of my primary goals since coming to Louisville in April 2006,” said Vido.

Investigator Wayne Kessinger of the Floyd County Prosecutor’s Office said, “Having ATF right at my fingertips was the leverage we needed to solve these previously unsolved burglaries and recover these stolen firearms.”

More information on ATF and its programs is at www.atf.gov.

###