



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
San Francisco Field Division

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ATF SENDS BAY AREA RAPID RESPONSE LABORATORY TO SUPER BOWL XLII

SAN FRANCISCO – Donna J. Read, laboratory chief of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), San Francisco Laboratory, announced today that a mobile forensic laboratory – identified as a rapid response laboratory (RRL) – will be deployed to Glendale, Ariz., to support law enforcement agencies at Super Bowl XLII.

The mobile laboratories are designed to provide preliminary on-scene forensic examinations using a wide variety of analytical techniques. Based upon the nature of an incident, the laboratory can be outfitted with discipline-specific instrumentation and equipment, customized to meet the needs at each particular crime scene.

The Walnut Creek RRL has supported the west coast for the past six years. It was instrumental in assisting ATF's National Response Team in the scene investigation of the \$100 million Vallejo wine warehouse fire.

ATF RRLs are used at major crime scenes across the nation. Also, they have been activated as on-site forensic facilities for special events, including the Olympics, the G-8 Summit, the Governor's Convention and the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, as well as incidents like the D.C. sniper investigations. In addition to being able to support a wide variety of analytical instrumentation, the RRLs can function as a darkrooms and mobile command centers with incoming voice/data lines to accommodate voice, fax and internet communications. The RRLs are also equipped to function in remote crime scenes.

There are three mobile laboratories currently in service by ATF, with one stationed at each of the three ATF Forensic Science Laboratories: Atlanta, Ammendale, Md., and Walnut Creek, Calif. A forensic chemist from the San Francisco laboratory will also be deployed with the RRL. For further information on ATF and its support of special events, visit www.atf.gov.

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