

ATF's complex tax collecting, regulatory, and enforcement missions are interwoven. For management and budgetary purposes, the Bureau combines all criminal and regulatory enforcement activities into the four major program areas of firearms, explosives, alcohol, and tobacco.

Industry Regulation and Partnership

ATF has been reaching out to strengthen and develop new working relationships with regulated industry members and consumers.

ATF and members of the explosives industry collaborate to develop ways of preventing future tragedies where explosives are used illegally. ATF conducts seminars to provide current information on the laws and regulations pertaining to explosives. Seminar attendees normally include industry officials, licensees and permittees, as well as State and local law enforcement and fire officials.

ATF's expertise is well recognized by the enforcement community and regulated industry members nationwide. The industry routinely assists ATF by referring suspicious activity, and in helping ATF trace firearms found at crime scenes. These partnerships have developed over the years since the 1968 passage of the Gun Control Act.

During FY 1995, ATF published updated regulations under the Federal Alcohol Administration Act. This act designates ATF as the responsible agency for ensuring market and product integrity of alcohol beverages. This update was the first revision to the trade practice provisions since 1980. The revisions, based on recent judicial decisions and ATF efforts to modernize the regulations, reduce the alcohol industry's regulatory burden.

Industry Seminars Held

- ⇒ 11 alcohol seminars
- ⇒ 186 firearms seminars
- ⇒ 38 explosives seminars

Federal Firearms Regulations Reference Guides are distributed to federal firearms licensees, trade groups, and law enforcement officials, and an updated guide was published and distributed during FY 1995. In addition, ATF holds seminars to keep firearms industry members and State and local law enforcement personnel current on Federal firearms laws and regulations.

FIREARMS PROGRAM

ATF recognizes the role that firearms play in violent crimes and pursues an integrated regulatory and enforcement strategy. Investigative priorities focus on armed violent offenders and career criminals, narcotics traffickers, narco-terrorists, violent gangs, and domestic and international arms traffickers. Sections 924(c) and (e) of Title 18 of the United States Code provide mandatory and enhanced sentencing guidelines for armed career criminals and narcotics traffickers as well as other dangerous armed criminals. ATF uses these statutes to target,

Firearms

- ⇒ 4,708 firearms cases forwarded for prosecution
- ⇒ 8,612 defendants recommended for prosecution
- ⇒ 6,917 defendants convicted

Note: Statistics do not have a relationship in the same fiscal year since time period from the investigation being initiated until sentencing may span several years.

investigate and recommend prosecution of these offenders to reduce the level of violent crime and to enhance public safety. ATF also strives to increase State and local awareness of available Federal prosecution under these statutes.

To curb the illegal use of firearms and enforce the Federal firearms laws, ATF issues firearms licenses and conducts firearms licensee qualification and compliance inspections.

In addition to aiding the enforcement of Federal requirements for gun purchases, compliance inspections of existing licensees focus on assisting law enforcement to identify and apprehend criminals who illegally purchase firearms. The inspections also help improve the likelihood that crime gun traces will be successful, since inspectors educate licensees in proper record keeping and business practices. Compliance inspections target licensees likely to divert firearms from legitimate trade to criminal use and dealers with a history of poor compliance.

Achilles and Violent Offenders

ATF has been in the forefront of the law enforcement community in its programs that target the most violent career criminals nationwide. One key element of ATF's national firearms enforcement

Achilles

- ⇒ 2,587 new investigations initiated
- ⇒ 3,064 cases forwarded for prosecution
- ⇒ 4,567 defendants recommended for prosecution
- ⇒ 1,543 defendants indicted
- ⇒ 3,315 defendants convicted
- ⇒ 617 defendants sentenced
- ⇒ 6,139 years total sentences
- ⇒ 573,000 future crimes avoided¹
- ⇒ \$1.3 billion in crime related costs avoided¹

Note: Statistics do not have a relationship in the same fiscal year since time period from the investigation being initiated until sentencing may span several years.

¹Crimes avoided and dollars saved based on 1991 ATF study "Protecting America" examining the effectiveness of the Federal Armed Career Criminal Statute and ATF's Achilles program. Cost and benefit formulas were developed from this study and are endorsed by the academic and research community and a wide cross-section of State and local law enforcement nationwide.

strategy is the Achilles Program. This program functions through task forces that are comprised of ATF special agents and inspectors and other Federal agents, often with assigned State and local officers. The task force works in targeted neighborhoods where the highest number of incidents of gang-related violence, drug trafficking, homicides, and other violent crimes occur.

The Armed Career Criminal and Comprehensive Crime Control Acts of 1984 provide the cornerstone of ATF's national firearms strategy known as "Achilles." ATF has experienced tremendous success with the enforcement of Title 18 U.S.C. sections 924(c) and 924(e), which provide for mandatory minimum sentencing of recidivist criminals and armed narcotics traffickers. The Achilles Program is particularly effective in removing the most violent criminals from our communities, and in many cases, for the remainder of their crime-producing lives. Achilles task forces have been established in 20 major cities in the United States.

Since the inception of the Achilles Program in FY 1988, ATF has forwarded 17,870 cases for prosecution involving 26,545 defendants.

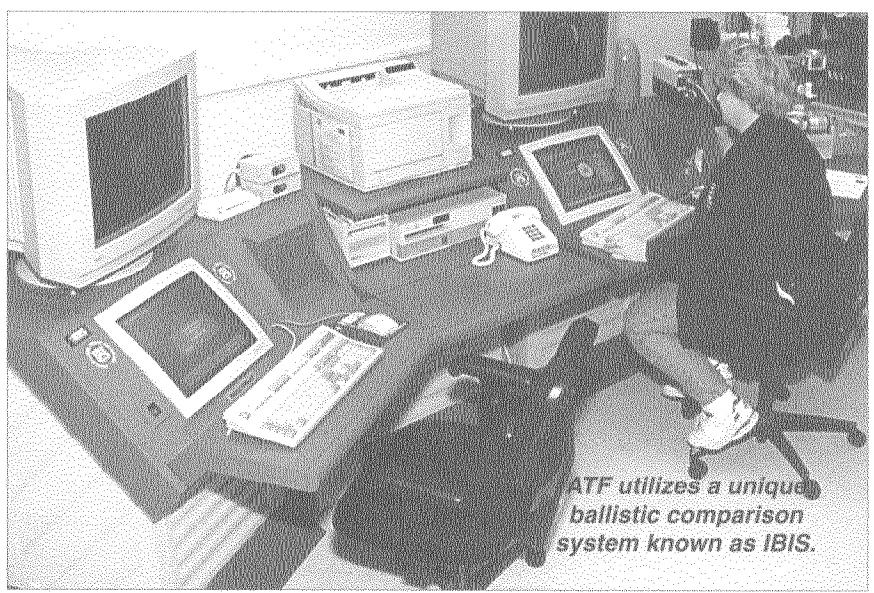
To complement the Achilles Program, and to aid other enforcement officers who may unknowingly confront violent repeat offenders during routine field encounters, the Bureau developed the Violent Offender Program. This program identifies up to 1,000 career criminals most likely to be a danger to society. Offenders meeting the program criteria are entered into the National Crime Information Center file for ATF identified violent felons. When a local

officer encounters one of these offenders and initiates a criminal history check on the individual, the computer alerts the officer to a potentially dangerous situation. If the apprehended individual is armed with a firearm, the officer is instructed to notify ATF immediately for advice and assistance.

When convicted, these predatory criminals generally receive mandatory sentencing of 15 years to life in prison, without the possibility of probation or parole.

CEASEFIRE

One of the newest developments in the Firearms Program is the implementation of CEASEFIRE, an enforcement strategy that draws upon ATF's expertise in enforcing the Federal firearms laws while utilizing state-of-the-art technology.



ATF utilizes a unique ballistic comparison system known as IBIS.

CEASEFIRE provides support to enforcement agencies in areas of the country that are experiencing high rates of violent crime involving shooting incidents. As an element of this program, ATF utilizes a unique ballistic comparison system known as the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS).

This system enables firearms technicians to digitize and automatically sort bullet and shell casing markings. This sorting process aids in providing matches

Violent Offenders
⇒ 32 subjects encountered while in possession of a firearm

at a greatly accelerated rate, thus increasing the frequency of investigative leads.

CEASEFIRE provides local police with the ability to link shooting incidents that otherwise would not be connected through traditional investigative techniques and to match projectiles and shell casings recovered in seemingly unrelated occurrences. This system's information is now linked with the ATF National Tracing Center.

<p style="text-align: center;">CEASEFIRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">⇒ 77 ballistic matches were made⇒ 151 high probability ballistic matches were made, generating new investigative leads in shooting incidents <p style="text-align: center;">Firearms Tracing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">⇒ 79,777 requests for firearms traces processed, with 11.5 day average response time <p style="text-align: center;">Firearms Trafficking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">⇒ 1,232 cases forwarded for prosecution⇒ 2,655 defendants recommended for prosecution.
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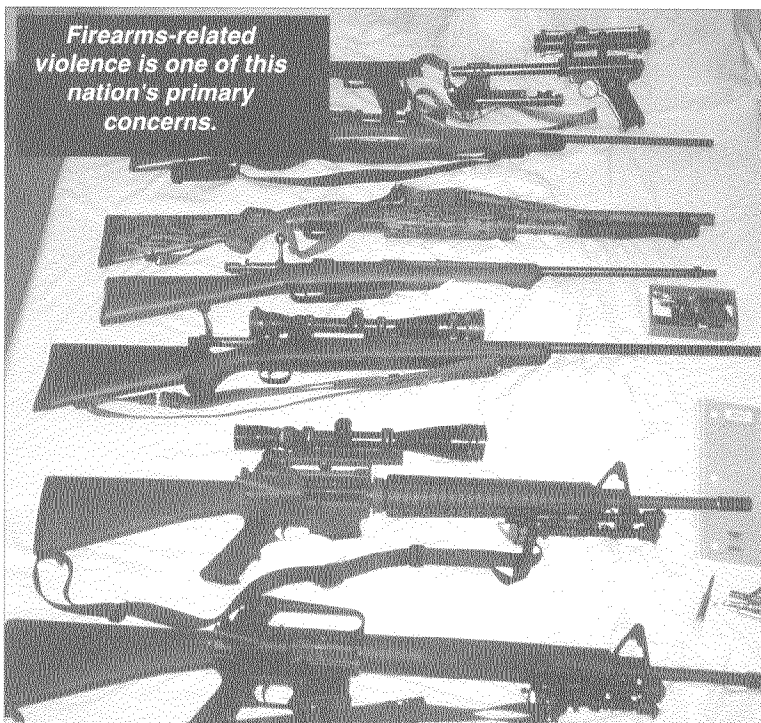
Firearms Tracing

The ATF National Tracing Center traces the origin and ownership of recovered firearms used in crimes and is constantly expanding electronic links with local law enforcement agencies. The database information, which is only from recovered and traced firearms, can be requested by Federal, State, local, or foreign law enforcement agencies. Firearms statistics are maintained for each State, and investigative leads are furnished to the law

enforcement community by identifying persons engaged in suspicious activity, such as unlicensed firearms dealers.

The National Tracing Center is also the main repository of all the records of Federal firearms dealers who are no longer in business.

ATF has established nine interconnected CEASEFIRE systems. Five metropolitan areas, the District of Columbia, Atlanta, New Orleans, Oakland, and Boston, are ATF sponsored, while four systems have been purchased by other State and local law enforcement agencies.

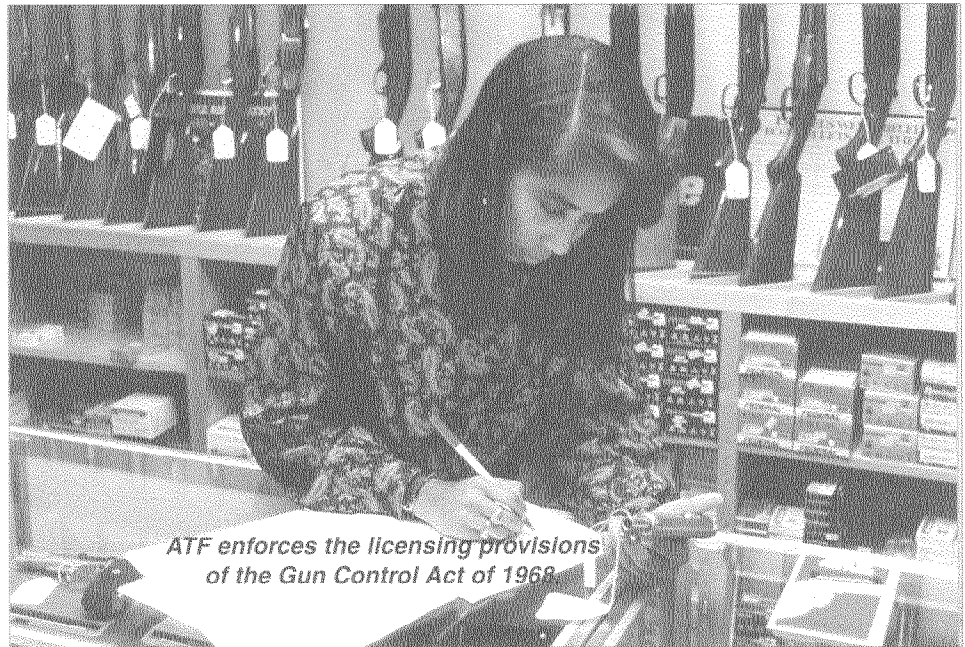


Disarming the Criminal

Firearms-related violence is one of this nation's primary concerns. Illegal firearms trafficking investigations often exceed the jurisdictional boundaries, expertise and resources of other State, local and Federal agencies. In response to this problem, ATF has developed a comprehensive national firearms trafficking strategy. This strategy will reduce armed violent crime by investigating and prosecuting those individuals who are illegally supplying firearms to the violent criminals responsible for perpetuating the increasing numbers of firearms-related crimes.

To assist in targeting illegal firearms traffickers, ATF developed Project Lead, an automated illegal firearms trafficking information system which analyzes unique information gathered by ATF's National

Tracing Center during the course of firearms traces conducted on crime-related firearms. When crime-related firearms are traced, information concerning when the firearm entered the hands of a criminal and who provided that firearm to a criminal can be gathered. Project Lead can identify recurring patterns thus identifying potential illegal firearms traffickers. Eliminating the flow of firearms to the violent criminal will reduce the overall violent crime rate.



ATF's firearms trafficking strategy works on an international level as well. When foreign countries trace crime-related firearms through our National Tracing Center, Project Lead can identify those individuals located in the United States who are illegally trafficking/smuggling firearms to other countries. In short, ATF's illegal firearms trafficking strategy will reduce armed violent crime, both in the United States and abroad, by prosecuting the illegal firearms traffickers themselves thus eliminating the violent criminal's source of firearms.

In response to increasing violent crimes involving America's youth, ATF continues to support the Juvenile Firearms Violence Initiative. This high priority initiative traces firearms recovered on school property and from juveniles who use firearms to commit violent crimes. The initiative targets reducing the frequency of juvenile firearms violence; identifying and stemming the illegal flow of firearms to juveniles and other criminal users; and apprehending and prosecuting adults who violate firearms laws by trafficking firearms to juveniles.

Public Housing Enforcement Efforts

Initiated as the congressionally funded "Project Uptown" in 1990, this program has enabled the residents of many public housing developments to reclaim their homes and communities from drug traffickers and violent criminals. ATF is a partner with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and other Federal, State, and local agencies to help residents rid their neighborhoods of drugs and crime.

Licenses and Inspections

The Gun Control Act of 1968 mandates that every manufacturer, importer or dealer in firearms obtain a Federal Firearms License. ATF conducts application inspections of license candidates. During these inspections, ATF inspectors explain the Federal firearms laws and regulations, determine if the applicants are bona fide candidates for a license, and provide an initial supply of forms.

Once engaged in business, the licensee is required to comply with Federal laws and specific record keeping regulations. ATF enforces the licensing provisions of the Act by conducting on-premises inspections. As of September 30, 1995, there were 191,495 Federal Firearms Licensees.