
Message from the Chief Financial Officer



Our summary of the fiscal year past comes with the specter of a closing month that has changed our lives forever. The staff of our 6 World Trade Center New York Field Division demonstrated the values and training that allowed them to survive the terrorist attack without the loss of life or serious injury. ATF responded with distinction to New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. Our accomplishments catalogued here serve as a reminder of the important work that must continue to keep our nation strong and resilient.

Our accomplishments over the past year have been examples of new thinking about ongoing needs. As we welcomed new political leadership, we looked to this change as an opportunity to reemphasize excellent programs and innovative solutions. We were the first Government bureau to pilot Pay.Gov, a paperless method for taxpayers to pay monthly excise taxes. We piloted six tobacco companies, who paid \$1.9 billion in excise taxes for fiscal year 2001. We plan to make all of our public use forms available through Pay.gov.

Late this fiscal year, we expanded our use of new plastic card technologies to include on-the-spot awards to employees, eliminating the paper form. An award recipient uses the card to withdraw cash from an ATM without waiting for the funds to be deposited in his/her account.

Fiscal year 2002 will include a bureau-wide upgrade of all computer equipment.

After ATF's six straight Unqualified Audit Opinions, the Secretary of the Treasury requested, and was granted, a waiver from the CFO Audit process for ATF. KPMG will perform a review of the annual financial statements. Even without the prospect of an audit, our skilled and dedicated employees continued the drive toward excellence that has served us so well in the past.

This annual report is more than a collection of workload statistics and dollar signs. It is the continuing story of ATF's family of talented and dedicated men, women, and even a few canines; all striving to keep America safe and sound. The various media have continued to chronicle our achievements this past year.

Please read and enjoy our story. We are very proud of our accomplishments and humbled by the trust that you have placed in us to manage your resources.

e-mail address: wtearle@atfhq.atf.treas.gov

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Earle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.