



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
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ATF CO-HOSTS GANG SUMMIT FOR FOREIGN CHIEFS OF POLICE *Chiefs From Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico To Attend*

LOS ANGELES – Chiefs of police from Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, the director of the Mexican Federal Police and several chiefs from the United States open a three-day international summit today focusing on transnational gangs.

The objective of the summit, co-hosted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), is to give U.S. law enforcement and its Latin American partners the opportunity to strengthen their multilateral efforts against transnational gangs. The meeting aims to develop methods of information sharing, case development and gang intervention, as well as provide a forum to discuss gang prevention and rehabilitation techniques.

“ATF is committed to working with our federal, state, local and international law enforcement partners to curb the threat of gang violence,” ATF Assistant Director Michael Bouchard said. “Through the Project Safe Neighborhoods and the ATF-led Violent Crime Impact Teams initiatives, we identify, arrest and help prosecute violent criminals, reduce homicides and other violent gun crimes, and make our communities safer.”

ATF will offer presentations on its Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program and the Gang Target Enforcement Coordination Center (GangTECC). The G.R.E.A.T. program is designed to provide students the skills they need to avoid gang pressure, youth violence and avoid destructive behaviors. GangTECC is a multiagency initiative that provides intelligence for use in gang investigations from the nationwide databases of each participating agency.

ATF’s International Training Branch is responsible for coordinating and administering advanced and specialized training programs for foreign law enforcement agencies. The programs provide the opportunity for interaction between ATF and countries participating in the Criminal Justice Managers Training Program (CJMTP) at the U.S.-funded International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA). One of the four ILEAs is in San Salvador.

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The presentations provide mid-level managers with the opportunity to share and acquire specialized investigative information. ATF presentations cover such areas as how to investigate firearms trafficking cases, post-blast explosive scene investigation techniques utilizing ATF's "100 step method," criminal activities of violent gangs in the United States, and how law enforcement should work with school systems to teach young people how to avoid joining gangs.

More information on ATF and its programs to reduce violent crimes is at www.atf.gov.

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