



Fact Sheet



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ATF EXPLOSIVES ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (EEO)

Purpose

Explosives enforcement officers (EEO) from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) have unique technical capabilities in explosives and bomb disposal. ATF EEOs are among the most highly trained and technically proficient bomb technicians in the United States.

The EEOs render bombs and other explosive devices safe, provide explosives device determinations that are used in criminal prosecutions and conduct threat assessments of vulnerable buildings, airports or national monuments. Their duties range from constructing facsimiles of explosive and incendiary devices and conducting explosive products testing and evaluations to assisting the State Department's Diplomatic Security Service in conducting antiterrorism capability assessments outside the continental United States. EEOs also provide expert courtroom testimony in support of ATF explosives investigations as well as state investigations. Approximately one-third of the EEOs are dive team members and are certified to conduct underwater crime scene investigations and evidence recovery.

Goals

The goal of the EEO program is to support ATF's work in enforcing the federal explosives laws and protecting the public from criminal misuse of explosives.

Training

Following criminal investigator basic training, EEOs take ATF courses on Post Blast Investigation, Chemistry of Pyrotechnics, Advanced Explosives Destruct Training, Advanced Explosives Investigation Training and other internationally available courses. EEOs also attend the Hazardous Devices School (HDS) at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala. HDS is a 6-week certification course required for many of the responsibilities administered by EEOs. Additionally, the majority of the EEOs previously served as explosives specialists in the U.S. military where they received one year of specialized explosives training.

ATF Resources

ATF currently has 25 EEOs and three supervisory EEOs. They are located in the cities of Beltsville, Md.; Boston, Mass.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Kansas City, Mo.; Marietta, Ga.; Fort Worth, Texas; Tampa, Fla.; Benicia, Calif.; Denver, Colo.; Phoenix, Ariz.; and Seattle, Wash. EEOs report to three Regional Offices located in Benicia, Marietta, and Beltsville. The EEO program is aligned under the Explosives Technology Branch at ATF's National Headquarters.

In addition to its EEOs, ATF contributes the expertise of its U.S. Bomb Data Center, special agent certified explosives specialists, National Response Team, three forensic science laboratories and explosives detection canines to explosives incidents and criminal investigations.

For more information on ATF programs, go to www.atf.gov.

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