

### Strategic Goal: Explosives, Bombs, and Bombings (cont.)

Advance domestic and international explosives expertise to prevent, detect, and investigate acts of violent crime and terrorism and to enhance public safety.

### Performance Goal Statement:

Reduce the risk to public safety caused by bombs and explosives.

### Strategic Objective 3:

Strengthen the detection, prevention, and investigation of explosives and bombing incidents through partnerships, collaboration, and comprehensive intelligence and information sharing.

### Strategies

#### 1. Enhance Industry and Public Safety Community Outreach:

Increase awareness of potential misuse of commercially available products used to produce homemade explosives through enhanced industry and public safety community outreach programs.

#### 2. Increase Collaboration in Training and Research:

Exploit the analysis of operational data, validate best practices, and enhance training and research initiatives by sharing information with industry, law enforcement, public safety agencies, the military, and academia.

#### 3. Provide Broader Access to Information via USBDC:

Provide broader access to explosives- and bombing-related information and build a single, universal knowledge base through the USBDC and the use of ATF information-sharing tools by Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and public safety partners.

#### 4. Promote Domestic and International Partnerships:

Proactively foster domestic and international working partnerships to combat the risk to public safety caused by the illegal use of explosives.

### Explosives, Bombs, and Bombings Performance Indicators:

- ◆ Number of defendants convicted, in the given fiscal year, for violations related to explosives, regardless of the year of referral
- ◆ Number of defendants referred, in the given fiscal year, for prosecution for violations related to explosives
- ◆ Number of explosive destructions/disposals executed in the interest of public safety
- ◆ Number of explosives devices recovered
- ◆ Number of people (ATF employees and Federal, state, local and international law enforcement) trained in explosives through the National Center for Explosives Training and Research
- ◆ Number of canine teams (ATF and Federal, state and local law enforcement) trained to meet the national odor recognition standard
- ◆ Number of active Bomb and Arson Tracking System (BATS) users
- ◆ Number of BATS accounts

## STRATEGIC GOAL 4 FIRE AND ARSON

### CHALLENGES AND THREATS IN THE FIRE AND ARSON DOMAIN

**Annual Property Loss Due to Arson Remains Significant.** The loss of lives and decline in property values that result from arson cases in the United States each year remain significant. In 2007, according to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), intentionally set structure fires resulted in an estimated 295 civilian deaths and \$733 million in property damage.

**Economic downturns in the United States may lead to an increase in arson for profit.** Small business owners and other individuals may feel financial pressure to intentionally burn their properties to collect insurance. As the lead Federal agency for arson investigation, ATF investigates all significant arson cases.

### ATF'S ROLE IN INVESTIGATING ARSON

ATF's state-of-the-art technology in fire investigation and research allows the Bureau to serve as a valuable resource to Federal, state, local and tribal partners who are responsible for fire investigation and public safety.

**ATF's highly trained and experienced Certified Fire Investigators (CFIs) are our primary resource** in fire-related matters. They conduct fire scene examinations, render origin and cause determinations, and provide expert testimony on fire scene determinations. The special agents also lend technical guidance and analysis in support of field arson inves-



tigative activities. CFIs conduct arson-related training for other Federal, state, local, and tribal fire investigators, and conduct research to identify trends and patterns in fire incidents.

ATF's National Response Team (NRT) consists of highly trained special agents, forensic chemists, EEOs, electrical engineers, fire protection engineers, canine handlers, and other technical experts who can be deployed within 24 hours to major explosion and fire scenes anywhere in the United States. The NRT assists Federal, state, local and tribal officers in fire and explosives incidents by providing examinations of the scene, interviews, assis-



tance with the resulting investigations, and expert court testimony.

**The International Response Team (IRT)** investigates explosives and fire incidents outside the United States. Modeled after the NRT, the IRT also consists of ATF's most experienced investigators, technicians, and forensic experts. The IRT deploys at the request of the Department of State.



**The Fire Research Laboratory (FRL)** is a critical component to ATF's fire investigation mission. Established to support ATF's arson investigative requirements, the FRL is a unique fire testing facility that can replicate fire scenarios under controlled conditions. The FRL is an innovative resource for law enforcement, fire services, public safety agencies, industry, and academia. Our scientists and engineers use advanced scientific, technical, and educational methodologies to make ATF and its partners leaders in fire investigation science.

**ATF is a definitive source of science-based fire investigation training.** In partnership with USFA's National Fire Academy, ATF redesigned the Fire/Arson Investigations Course. This curriculum offers current science-based fire origin and cause training to state, local, Federal, and tribal investigators. ATF engineers, special agent/CFIs, and



USFA/ATF contract instructors deliver these classes to fire investigators from across the United States. To complement the new curriculum, ATF contributed significant improvements to the National Fire Academy's training facilities.

**ATF's Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs)** specialize in the analysis of physical evidence obtained from fire and explosion scenes. The three labs provide field support nationwide and leadership in the areas of fire debris and



explosives analysis. FSL expertise includes analysis of trace evidence, DNA, fingerprints, and tool marks, and is a major scientific resource in the forensic examination of fire and explosion incidents. In addition, FSL personnel provide critical support to, and share their unique expertise with, partner law enforcement organizations domestically and internationally.



ATF's Financial Investigative Services Division's (FISD) auditors, certified public accountants and certified fraud examiners identify financial incentives and motivations for arson. More broadly, these experts uncover the financial mechanisms that enable a wide range of illegal activities, including firearms trafficking and diversion of tobacco and alcohol products. FISD experts provide critical courtroom testimony that helps to explain the financial motives for crime and the movement of illegal proceeds of those crimes through criminal enterprises and banking systems.



Protecting our country and our communities from the illegal use of fire is one of ATF's key roles and therefore is one of the Bureau's strategic goals.

**Strategic Goal: Fire and Arson**

Advance the science of fire investigation globally, by setting and delivering the highest standards in response, research, information sharing and training.

**Performance Goal Statement:**

Reduce the risk to public safety caused by the criminal use of fire.

**Strategic Objective 1:**

Ensure the highest possible level of investigative response, expertise, and capability at all levels of government.

**Strategic Objective 2:**

Provide the Nation with a definitive source of technical expertise, research, analysis, and data in the fire discipline using the FRL and other sources of advanced technologies.

**Strategies**

- 1. Deploy Specialized Resources:**  
Make communities safer from fires by stationing expert personnel and specialized resources in targeted areas.
- 2. Provide Ongoing Investigative Assistance at Scenes of Fires:**  
Assist Federal, state, local, and tribal fire service/public safety entities at the scenes of fires to help determine the cause(s) of fires and provide ongoing investigative support.
- 3. Enhance Training Programs for Fire Service/Public Safety Community:**  
Equip the fire service/public safety community with the most advanced knowledge and technical expertise possible by developing and delivering training programs that will advance their abilities to respond to and investigate fires.
- 4. Support the Judicial Process:**  
Ensure arson offenders are punished by supporting the judicial process, including working with Federal and state prosecutors and providing expert testimony in court.

- 1. Increase Fire and Arson Research and Development:**  
Advance the science of fire investigation by:
  - a) Conducting research and sharing the results with fire investigators throughout the United States;
  - b) Identifying and evaluating the use and impact of emerging technologies in the fire investigation discipline;
  - c) Providing expert forensic analysis of fire investigation evidence; and
  - d) Making our state-of-the-art facilities available for collaborative research with universities and the commercial sector.
- 2. Share Information with the Fire Investigative Community:**  
Bring the fire investigative community, including the private sector, Federal agencies, and local fire departments, together on a national level by capturing its collective knowledge regarding investigative data, research results, fire trends, and technical issues. Share this information in a real-time environment via the USBDC and the FRL.

### Fire and Arson Performance Indicators:

- ◆ Number of defendants convicted, in the given fiscal year, for violations related to arson, regardless of the year of referral
- ◆ Number of defendants referred, in the given fiscal year, for prosecution for violations related to arson
- ◆ Number of people (ATF employees and Federal, state, local and international law enforcement) trained to investigate and support Federal arson cases
- ◆ NRT Satisfaction Rating (%) related to arson
- ◆ Annual number of fire research activities conducted in support of criminal investigations



### STRATEGIC GOAL 5 MODERNIZATION

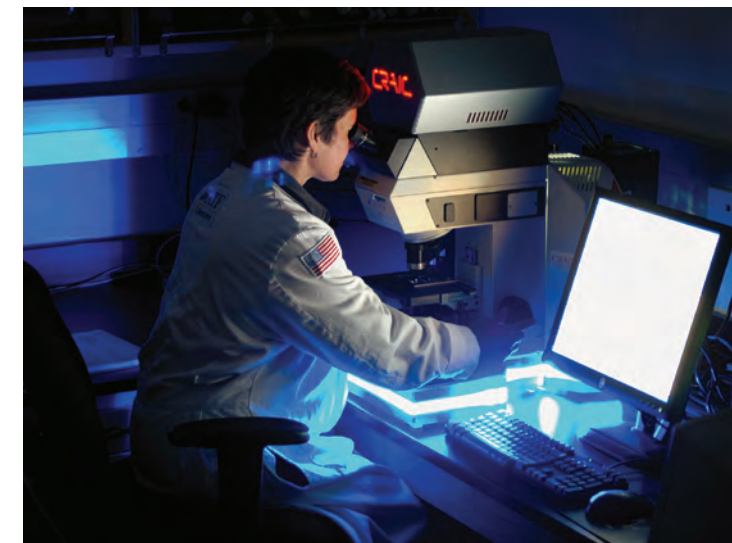
#### EXPANDED USE OF E-GOVERNMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Government agencies are pursuing and integrating cost-effective information technology into everyday business. Driven by the E-Government Act of 2002 and subsequent presidential initiatives around transparency and openness, government agencies have been directed to ensure that information technology systems are funded, developed, and operated in a manner that manages risk, provides the greatest level of performance, and offers robust services to citizens. With anticipated expansion of these initiatives and programs, government agencies must commit to continuously improving performance, service, and security. ATF is working diligently to share information and standardize information-sharing policies.

#### ATF'S CURRENT SYSTEMS, SERVICES, AND MODERNIZA- TION ACTIVITIES

ATF delivers a variety of technological services and information to its employees and to its external law enforcement and industry partners. Examples include ballistics imaging through NIBIN, firearms tracing through eTrace and the NTC, requests to import firearms using the online e-Form 6, and bomb and arson information through BATS. Additionally, ATF shares, to the extent permitted by law, information from its internal case management and intelligence-gathering system throughout the law enforcement community. Given the critical importance of this

information to the effective execution of ATF's and its partners' missions, it is imperative that these systems provide integrated, seamless, reliable, and readily available access to relevant data. Accordingly, we continuously improve our data capabilities so that timely and integrated information is available for ATF employees and, as appropriate, ATF's Federal partners, industry members, stakeholders, and the public.



**Automation and e-Government:** In expanding e-Government, ATF has upgraded BATS, using architecture that allows ATF to expand the user population in a safe, secure, and consistent manner. The expansion assisted DOJ in meeting the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) mandate to authenticate at least one public access system in FY 2006 in support of DOJ's Law Enforcement Information Sharing Program (LEISP) and OneDOJ.

**The National Tracing Center (NTC)** works with firearms manufacturers and wholesalers to decrease completion time and reduce costs associated with traces. Ongoing investments in eTrace specifically, and ATF's firearms