

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM G. MCMAHON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES
BEFORE THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

JULY 26, 2011

Good morning Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Cummings, and distinguished Members of the Committee. I am Bill McMahon, Deputy Assistant Director, Office of Field Operations at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Thank you for inviting me to this important hearing.

Let me be clear from the outset; as the ATF Senior Executive in charge of the Western Region, I share responsibility for mistakes that we made in the Fast and Furious investigation. The advantage of hindsight and the benefit of a thorough review of this case - clearly points me to things that I would have done differently. However good our intentions, regardless of our resource challenges, and notwithstanding the difficult legal hurdles we face in fighting firearms traffickers - we made mistakes.

But know that I am very proud of the men and woman who risked their lives investigating this case. Under tremendous pressure, they continue to work this case and many others we have in the American southwest. Please do not let our failings impact their noble deeds.

Mr. Chairman, I was the Assistant Special Agent in Charge in New York City on September 11, 2001. Our offices were in the World Trade Center. I have witnessed great human suffering brought to bear by those to whom violence is a stock in trade. This is one of the reasons I was so committed to bringing down the complex network of criminals operating in our homeland and bringing violence on both sides of our southern border. But in our zeal to do so, and in the heat of the battle, mistakes were made. And for that I apologize.

Mr. Chairman, I am also no stranger to the great and ultimate sacrifices made by my fellow law enforcement officers. I have lost friends in the line of duty. Whether it is in the rubble of the World Trade Center, on the streets of our communities, or in desert southwest; nothing hurts more than losing a fellow law enforcement officer in the line of duty. With that in mind, I want to extend my sincere condolences to the Terry family. And while the investigation into his tragic murder remains ongoing, and because of this, I may not be able to comment on that investigation, please know that I honor his great sacrifice and am truly sorry for his family's loss. With that in mind, I appear before you today of my own free will, to answer to the best of my ability questions you have regarding this Operation and my role in it. Thank you.



U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

William G. McMahon
Deputy Assistant Director
Office of Field Operations (West)
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives



On June 17, 2008, Mr. McMahon was selected by the Acting Director of ATF to fill the position of Deputy Assistant Director (DAD), Office of Field Operations (West) in Bureau Headquarters. In this position, Mr. McMahon oversees the day to day operations of the seven (7) western most ATF Field Divisions as well as the Bureau's International Affairs Office. Prior to obtaining this position, Mr. McMahon served as the Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the New York Field Division. This division encompassed the state of New York and northern New Jersey and was responsible for the primary enforcement of the Federal firearms, explosives and arson laws, as well as the illegal diversion of contraband alcohol and tobacco products.

Mr. McMahon began his career with ATF in 1987 as a Special Agent in New York City. During the early stages of his career, Mr. McMahon was tasked with being ATF's main point of contact with other law enforcement agencies during the crack cocaine epidemic in the City. He oversaw ATF's "Project Uptown," ATF/NYPD Task Force targeting armed narcotics traffickers, and was the case agent on a number of significant criminal investigations.

In 1995, Mr. McMahon was promoted to the position of Resident Agent in Charge of the ATF Fresno, California Field Office, overseeing ATF's law enforcement operations in the central valley of California, where he remained for three years.

In 1998, Mr. McMahon was transferred to ATF Headquarters in Washington, D.C., where he was assigned to the Office of Inspection, Investigations Division. In this position, he oversaw and managed sensitive integrity investigations as well as the coordination and investigation of all ATF related shooting incidents.

In June 2000, Mr. McMahon was appointed Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Division where he oversaw the day-to-day operations of the ATF/NYPD Joint Firearms Task Force in addition to the NY/NJ Crime Gun Center.

In January 2003, Mr. McMahon assumed the position of SAC of the New York Field Division and was subsequently appointed a member of the Senior Executive Service.

Mr. McMahon graduated from Pace University's Lubin School of Business in New York City with a B.A. Degree in Business Administration. He is a native New Yorker.