

“Make no mistake: Gun traffickers are funneling guns to lawless youth. We know how they operate, and we intend to shut them down...”

President William Clinton

“Reducing the number of gun-related injuries and deaths must become a national priority. At the federal level, and especially at the state and local level, we must implement comprehensive strategies that address not just the consequences of violence, but also its underlying causes.”

**Attorney General
Janet Reno**

“The IACP has a significant role to play in reducing firearm violence and illegal firearm trafficking. I call on our members--police leaders across the country—to work within their communities to implement the recommendations of this summit.”

**IACP President
Mike Robinson**

“Firearm violence has become an epidemic problem for urban America, especially among its youth. More teenagers die from gunshot wounds than all other causes combined.”

IACP Summit Report

“Law enforcement agencies are the key to stopping firearm violence by getting guns off the streets. Firearm interdiction, while a difficult task, must be a priority for all police agencies in the U.S.”

**IACP Sixth Vice President
Chief MaryAnn Viverette**

“We will continue to build federal-local firearms enforcement partnerships, and to expand comprehensive crime-gun tracing to fully support these partnerships and provide the information needed to make sound firearms policy decisions.”

**Undersecretary for Enforcement
James E. Johnson
U.S. Department of the Treasury**

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The IACP would like to sincerely thank our keynote speakers, Treasury Undersecretary for Enforcement James E. Johnson, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Assistant Director James Wooten. We also gratefully acknowledge our special guests, presenters, facilitators, and breakout group leaders:

- John Badowski, Manager, Gander Mountain Firearms
- Sheldon Greenberg, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Interdisciplinary Programs, Johns Hopkins University
- Scott Pickett, Chief, Crime Gun Analysis Branch, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
- Glenn Pierce, Ph.D., Center for Criminal Justice Policy Research, Northeastern University
- Jack Simpson, Lieutenant, Maryland State Police
- Robert Stewart, Director, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- Joseph J. Vince, Jr., President, Crime Gun Solutions LLC
- Mary Ann Viverette, Chief, Gaithersburg, MD Police Department and IACP 6th Vice President

Finally, the IACP is most indebted to the summit participants who worked so diligently and productively to fashion the recommendations that appear in this report. Each one is personally acknowledged later in this report. It is our hope that we have synthesized and conveyed their contributions faithfully and accurately.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Firearms and Violence

Firearm violence has become an epidemic problem for urban America, especially among its youth. More U.S. teenagers die from gunshot wounds than all natural causes of disease combined, in particular within metropolitan cities. The Centers for Disease Control studied firearms-related deaths for children under the age of 15 in 26 countries and found that 86% of those types of deaths occurred in the United States.¹ Today, more United States teenagers die from gunshot wounds than all natural causes of disease combined, particularly within our larger metropolitan areas. Studies of assault and homicide incidents indicate that attacks with firearms lead to the death of the victim far more frequently than attacks using other types of weapons typically available to assailants.² Just as incredible is the burden to our citizenry of the cost of medical treatment for gunshot victims, which is estimated to be \$112 billion yearly.³

Only recently have law enforcement organizations begun to recognize that for enforcement officials to be successful in decreasing violent crime, the availability of firearms to criminals and others who have a propensity for violent acts must be reduced. Law enforcement agencies must move beyond expending investigative resources solely on the apprehension and incarceration of armed violent offenders and include identifying and interdicting illegal firearm traffickers.

Illegal firearms trafficking in the U.S. and other countries has become a vast and profitable business. The job of interdicting the movement of weapons is also made extremely difficult by the overlapping and often interweaving of legal and illegal weapon transactions carried out by illegal traffickers and other unwitting or involved parties.⁴ While local law enforcement knows that interdiction of illegally trafficked firearms is a key role for all police agencies, the ability to locate potential crime-guns traveling via sophisticated illegal trafficking mechanisms is limited. Further, the demands of local policing make it extremely difficult for small, medium and even large police agencies to gain a high degree of expertise in crime-gun interdiction.

The concept of the Crime Gun Interdiction Summit was to bring together diverse parties from the firearms industry, academic community, firearm advocate groups, and law enforcement representatives to discuss, debate, and develop action and policy recommendations to enable communities to reduce the flow of illegal firearms to criminals and juveniles. The Summit also was designed to establish a basis for future dialogue among the parties.

Call for an Action Plan

Summit participants unanimously agreed that for communities to achieve firearms related violence reduction they must create cooperative partnerships, design an intelligent and organized plan and possess strong leadership to direct the endeavor. It was agreed that law enforcement is well positioned to build the cooperative partnerships by cultivating community support as well as establish a working relationship with the firearms industry, legislatures, and academic scholars. An action plan for law enforcement must include:

- Collection of crime-gun information in accessible electronic formats
- Analysis of the collected data to determine the exact crime-gun problems
- Development of a crime-gun strategy involving all partners
- Development of an enforcement implementation plan
- Evaluation of enforcement efforts and accomplishment of strategy objectives

Core Elements of the Action Plan

A most significant outcome of the summit was the identification of three core elements of a viable crime gun interdiction effort in any jurisdiction:

- Information technology** to control, analyze and share crime gun information and support interdiction decision-making
- Partnerships** among concerned parties to strengthen interdiction efforts
- Effective policies** that support and improve perception of interdiction efforts

The summit produced 52 specific recommendations to help jurisdictions achieve the three core program components. The categories are summarized below and detailed later in this report.

Information Technology

For law enforcement agencies to implement a crime-gun interdiction strategy successfully they must impose a focused approach on identified criminals and the firearms related violent crime. Information is the key to the approach. Properly managed, information can significantly improve law enforcement's ability to identify gun-related crime problems, focus and coordinate resources, and help prioritize an appropriate response to a solution. Agencies must *collect, access, analyze, manage, and disseminate information* in an effective manner.

Twelve information technology recommendations were produced in three major categories:

- Gathering* the information needed to control illegal gun trafficking and firearms-related violent crimes
- Managing and sharing* information to optimize its value to law enforcement and also the public
- Identifying* the best methods for using and disseminating information

Partnerships

Law enforcement has realized that crime reduction is not achieved merely by apprehending and incarcerating criminals. True crime reduction is sustainable over a long period of time and involves all stakeholders in communities and endeavors to alter conditions that allow crime to flourish. Valuable resources necessary for successful interdiction are available but many times go untapped when partnerships are not explored.

Twenty two partnership recommendations were produced to help organizations and communities collaborate. They cluster in four categories:

- Identify* crime-gun problems (community specific)
- Examine* partnership strategies of other jurisdictions
- Develop* a partnership strategy based on local crime-gun data
- Evaluate* progress toward goals and objectives of the partnerships

Effective Policies

To be successful, a crime gun reduction plan must be made based on carefully formulated policies. Agency, local, state or federal policies to address firearm-related violent crime play a significant part in achieving objectives. Policy formulation depends on resources, public perception, circumstance, and commitment to achieving the stated results. Eighteen policy development recommendations were produced in the following areas:

- Enhance public education and awareness
- Develop and disseminate “Best Practices” guide
- Encourage all law enforcement agencies to establish aggressive crime-gun interdiction programs
- Promote continual study of the crime-gun problem
- Explore need for additional legislation
- Fund crime-gun interdiction training for police

There is no single solution to the complex issue of crime gun interdiction. Summit participants were confident that the 52 recommendations provide a comprehensive approach to effective interdiction. The remainder of this report details how each of these recommendations can be implemented at the local level.

SUMMIT BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Firearms Violence

During the 1980's, firearm violence rose to an epidemic level in American cities. As the country entered the last decade of the century, crime and violence further escalated. Although the level of violence has declined from the peak of the early 1990's, firearm violence remains a serious problem for the nation's youth as well as our urban centers. The Centers for Disease Control studied firearms-related deaths for children under the age of 15 in 26 countries and found that 86% of those types of deaths occurred in the United States.⁵ Today, more United States teenagers die from gunshot wounds than all natural causes of disease combined, particularly within our larger metropolitan areas. Studies of assault and homicide incidents indicate that attacks with firearms lead to the death of the victim far more frequently than attacks using other types of weapons typically available to assailants.⁶ Just as incredible is the burden to our citizenry of the cost of medical treatment for gunshot victims, which is estimated to be \$112 billion yearly.⁷

Illegal Firearm Trafficking

The Bureau of Justice Assistance and other concerned criminal justice research organizations have noted that the business of illegal trafficking in firearms plays a key role in the arming of America's criminal element. Firearms trafficking in the U.S. and other countries has become a vast and profitable business. The job of interdicting this movement of weapons is also made extremely difficult by the overlapping and often interweaving of legal and illegal weapon transactions carried out by illegal traffickers and other unwitting or involved parties.⁸ Thus, while local law enforcement knows that interdiction of illegally trafficked firearms is a key role for all police agencies, the ability to locate potential crime-guns traveling via sophisticated illegal trafficking mechanisms is limited. Furthermore, the demands of local policing issues make it extremely difficult for small and medium size police agencies to gain a high degree of expertise in crime-gun interdiction.

In recent years, the Department of Justice and other federal law enforcement agencies have become vital sources of advice, information, training, and technical assistance to assist local police agencies in improving their ability to interdict crime-gun traffickers.⁹ The IACP, through its many avenues of information exchange, has been able to spotlight many of the crime-gun trafficking interdiction strategies and programs, as well as make them available to local police agencies.

IACP Firearm Summit

In every recent policy formulation effort conducted by the IACP, including the 1993 Violence Summit, 1994 Murder Summit, 1996 Summit on Youth Violence, 1997 Family Violence, 1998 Hate Crime In America, and 1999 Summit on Victims of Crime, the link between weapons and violence has been undeniable and dramatic. Law enforcement executives, community leaders, teachers, students and health officials continue to express their conviction that the growing availability of guns correlates with an increase in violent crime in the United States. Dr. Carolyn Block, the noted homicide researcher, states in her monographs on lethality that today's offenders are increasingly armed with more lethal firepower than has ever been experienced. She goes on to point out that this increase in lethal firepower results in escalating confrontations between offenders and victims and a greater likelihood of death.

The IACP is now in the third year of its Crime Gun Interdiction and Investigation Technical Assistance Project to respond to firearm trafficking. As an extension of this project, and in collaboration with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the IACP Crime Gun Interdiction Strategies for 21st Century Summit was held to further increase the transfer of crime-gun trafficking interdiction training and information to all law enforcement agencies in the U.S.

To achieve the goals set forth for this summit, IACP brought together members of the firearms industry (manufacturers, importers, wholesalers, and retail firearms dealers), federal and local law enforcement representatives, legal experts, academics, and advocate groups. The purpose of assembling this diverse group was to discuss, debate, and develop action and policy recommendations to reduce the flow of illegal firearms into the hands of criminals and juveniles and to identify strategies to effectively prosecute illegal gun dealers.

"The desired outcomes of the summit were 1) a fuller understanding of the perspectives and positions of those attending; 2) consensus on issues/strategies; 3) a comprehensive set of recommendations to reduce violence; and 4) identification of issues that require further discussion at a future gathering."

PRE-SUMMIT SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

All persons invited to the summit were sent a survey prior to the meeting. Survey objectives were 1) to gather the perspectives and concerns of the participants for use at the summit and 2) to have participants begin constructing their ideas and thoughts concerning crime gun interdiction. Pre-summit survey results were used to frame and design the summit agenda issues.

1. What is your personal vision for how this country can best address firearm violence over the next 10 years?

Responses divided into two themes: 1) decrease the availability of firearms to criminals, and 2) vigorously prosecute those who illegally use firearms. During the summit these two points of view permeated the discussions and the recommendations. All participants agreed that both concepts had merit and should be a part any law enforcement strategy.

2. Who can have the most impact on reducing illegal crime gun availability?

Summit participants recognized three groups they felt could most influence and improve crime gun interdiction nationally: federal agencies, particularly the ATF, state and local police agencies, IACP, and other law enforcement organizations. Participants felt these organizations had the reach, impact and capacity to work in collaboration to achieve increased interdiction results. Results on potential impact ratings were:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Other Department of Justice Agencies	27%
<input type="checkbox"/>	State and Local Police and Sheriff's Departments	20%
<input type="checkbox"/>	IACP and Other Law Enforcement Organizations	16%
<input type="checkbox"/>	State, Federal and Local Legislatures	14%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Firearm Manufacturers, Wholesalers and Retailers	11%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Concerned Citizen Organizations	7%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Gun Owners	5%

3. What are your top issues regarding firearm violence?

Every survey form returned identified the fact that firearms-related violence is a major problem in the United States that needs to be addressed aggressively by

law enforcement. Although a consensus formed on problem recognition, responses on direction to produce the most positive results varied enormously. The replies reflected a full spectrum of beliefs regarding firearms that exists in the country today, in and out of law enforcement. Reduction of firearms-violence is paramount and everyone has a desire to find concrete solutions.

4. What top strategies would you suggest to help curb the availability of crime guns to criminals?

As with question one, responses varied with participants' perspectives. Most respondents called for increased collaboration among federal, state and local agencies to create effective interdiction programs. Survey responses to this question were openly discussed and debated during the course of the summit. Programs that were discussed included the successful violent crime reduction efforts of the police departments in Boston, MA, Richmond, VA, and Baltimore County, MD.

5. How effective is your agency's/organization's approach to crime gun interdiction or reducing the availability/demand for illegal firearms?

Participants were very forthcoming and candid in this area. They indicated that many of the programs for interdiction are relatively new, often not comprehensive in approach, and that no measurable impact could be reported as yet. Most felt that there needs to be an evaluation of the current approach and adjustment as necessary to make it more effective. Strategy recommendations became a key issue at the summit.

6. What kind of information, training, technical assistance, or programs should the IACP provide to support crime gun reduction strategies?

The survey responses fell, almost universally, into two categories. Participants desire that the IACP 1) provide assistance in acquiring the techniques to allow them to address firearm-related violence, and 2) advocate for the acquisition of the tools necessary for law enforcement to investigate and prosecute firearm offenders. The assistance requested ranged from training guides and promising strategy manuals, to providing expert consultation to legislators and law enforcement executives regarding research and procurement of advanced technology, such as the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS).

CRIME-GUN INTERDICTION ISSUES and SUMMIT RESPONSE

Summit Discussion

During the latter part of the 20th century a wide and varied body of research was developed on the issue of firearms availability and violent crime. Some research suggests that the weapon type used in violent confrontations alters the outcome.¹⁰ Other research indicates that the level of violence in a community may be related to the level of firearm ownership. In cities where firearm ownership is prevalent, research suggests that it will be easier for criminals to obtain firearms, not only through licensed dealers, but also from acquaintances, family members, drug dealers, theft, and black markets.¹¹

Besides the availability of firearms, the issue of the intent of the criminal and the immediacy with which the firearm can be obtained is relevant. Past research has found that the assailant's intent and lethality of the weapon employed can determine the likelihood of death from an assault.¹² In many cases of assault, assailants tend to reach for weapons that are readily available. Since firearms appear to be more deadly than most other types of weapons available to offenders, easy access to firearms could lead to higher levels of lethal assaults because in high gun availability environments, assailants are more likely to assault their victims with guns.

Firearm availability may also be discussed in terms of time, expense, and other costs associated with firearm acquisition.¹³ Recent research involving the examination of gun availability in six cities found that increasing the penalties for using a gun in the commission of a crime led to a reduction in firearm-related homicides in all cities studied.¹⁴ Thus, vigorous enforcement of firearm laws, especially those involving hardened or habitual criminals have shown to be effective in reducing violent crime. As was found in a study of confinement results, "Deterrence saves crimes when potential offenders, considering the risks and severity of punishment, decide to commit fewer crimes. However, the most habitual offenders who by this study have shown little remorse or even responsibility for their actions, true crime savings will only be realized through incarceration."¹⁵

The major points for law enforcement and legislative action regarding reducing firearm violence are commerce, ownership, and use of firearms. It was found that gun control strategies that exist today focus on one of four successive decision points:

- Manufacturing or Selling Firearms
- Acquiring Firearms
- Carrying Firearms
- Use of Firearms by Criminals

Regulatory activities that encompass the broadest spectrum of this issue are those that attempt to regulate commerce in firearms. These include laws that regulate the supply of firearms through limitation on the importation, manufacture, sales, and transfer of firearms. Included in these regulatory schemes (points 1 & 2) are limitations on the importation, manufacture, sale, and transfer of firearms. The third point, the carrying of firearms, is addressed by laws aimed at establishing guidelines for carrying firearms outside of one's home or place of business. These laws and regulations could be considered both preventative and self-defense measures. These types of laws and regulations attempt to reduce violent crime by giving police the ability to intervene before violence or a crime has occurred and citizens the right to protect themselves in the event that a personal crime against them does occur.

The remaining point discussed at the summit concerned laws that cover criminal misuse of firearms. Many criminal-use laws commonly referred to as "enhancement enforcement" statutes, impose an additional prison term for those who carry and use a firearm to perpetrate criminal acts. Participants desired to see criminals who misuse firearms vigorously prosecuted and believe the trace information of the firearms possessed by these criminals should be used to identify the source of the weapon.

Gun-related violent crime and for that matter all types of violence in the United States cannot be addressed as a simple issue that will have simple solutions. America did not reach the current state overnight and it will not correct its course overnight. An examination of America's perception of itself and how others see it is vital to reaching a proper conclusion on enforcement strategies.

The summit participants noted that from the beginning of U. S. history, violence of some type has been a part of the nation's culture. Early violent times and other similar events that are both legend and myth may have led to a tradition that accepts violence as an acceptable method for the resolution of conflicts. This very well may be why youths turn to violence very quickly to resolve differences or other problems. Combine this predisposition towards violent acts with a wide availability of firearms throughout the country and fatal incidents are a foregone conclusion. Such violence has become so prevalent within American society that minor traffic altercations too frequently escalate into fatal shooting incidents.

The Summit participants also discussed what part the public's perception of violent crime has on identifying the real firearms-related violent crime problems. In a free society it is the media's job to educate the public on issues and allow them to draw their own conclusions. This informational process should be based on accurate facts without hype, hysteria or misinformation. Thus, law enforcement should work with the media

and must justify and support their agency's enforcement efforts with accurate information dissemination programs for public consumption.

Greater use of public service announcement airtime featuring anti-violence, anti-gang, and conflict resolution announcements such as those produced by the National Crime Prevention Council can have a positive impact on violence reduction. Use of billboards to market and publicize enforcement efforts has the potential to shape behavior and opinions. As part of the overall partnership strategies, marketing and communication of goals, objectives, and successes needs to be given serious consideration along with the cultivation of partners in marketing, advertising, radio, television, and newspapers. In the spirit of cooperation and unity of purpose the media should be included in the process as a full partner. A better-informed media will better inform the public of the issues and what is being done to reduce gun violence.

In order to stimulate summit discussion facilitators presented a series of questions, such as: "If the nation limits the access of firearms to its citizens, will it make itself a safer place for those same citizens?" "What about the constitutional rights of law abiding citizens 'to keep and bear arms'?" "The nation has established a continuum of drugs, guns and violence, that is unprecedented in modern times; how will we break this cycle/connection?" As these questions were presented to the participants a lively discussion followed with the following salient points:

- Society must be held accountable for its moral standards and the education of its young people. Changes will only occur when its citizens, in conjunction with the institutions of the nation, both civic and religious, become accountable for what is the acceptable norm in the society.
- Manufacturers, distributors, and retail dealers of firearms should be held accountable for ensuring that they employ business practices that best minimize the possibility for access to firearms by criminals and other prohibited persons.
- Information regarding the manufacture, distribution, and sale of firearms needs to be accessible to all enforcement agencies.
- Firearm laws and enforcement cannot be the total solution.
- State and local jurisdictions cannot rely solely on federal systems/sources of information to solve their crime-gun interdiction problems.
- Easy access to handguns by criminals and juveniles must be eliminated.
- Courts that give light sentences for firearms offenses hurt state and local efforts. State and local jurisdictions need to "market" good prosecutions and "advertise" the successes.

- ❑ Law enforcement at all levels needs to target repeat violent offenders who use firearms and thus present a disproportionate threat to the community.
- ❑ All jurisdictions must rise to the challenge that firearm-related violence poses or else the criminal element will just migrate to the more lenient locations.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE CRIME GUN INTERDICTION

Participants were divided into three groups with a breakout group leader to help the group answer a set of key questions and cover three broad areas believed to support the endeavor to build crime gun interdiction strategies:

- Role of Information Technology
- Role of Partnerships
- Role of Policy Development

Collectively, the recommendations from the three groups constitute an action agenda to enable law enforcement agencies, political leaders, civic leaders, and industry members to formulate strategies and successfully implement them. The summit produced a total of 52 recommendations to accomplish this objective.

I. Role of Information Technology

The Information Technology Group was tasked with making core idea recommendations that focused on law enforcement records, reports, and information systems. They were given the following list of questions to address:

- How can business and law enforcement use information technology in the next century to effectively reduce crime-guns trafficking?
- How can additional intelligence information be developed involving gun trafficking?
- How would intelligence information best be utilized? By who?
- What are the roles for industry, state, local and federal law enforcement agencies and neighborhoods/communities in collecting and sharing information and intelligence?
- How should gun trafficking information be stored, maintained, and retrieved?
- How can crime-gun trafficking information management/systems be improved?

Information Technology Recommendations

In order for law enforcement agencies to be successful in implementing a crime-gun interdiction strategy they must utilize a focused approach on identified criminals. Information is the key to accomplishing this task and agencies must *collect, access, analyze, manage, and disseminate information*. Properly managed, information can significantly improve law enforcement's ability to identify gun-related crime problems, focus and coordinate resources, and help prioritize their response to a solution.

The Information Technology Group's recommendations fall into three major categories: 1) what information is needed to control gun trafficking and firearms crime; 2) how can information be managed and shared to optimize its value to law enforcement and also the public; and, 3) how can information best be utilized and by whom. The group recommended 12 initiatives to improve methods for addressing law enforcement's information needs. The initiatives are as follows:

1. Crime-gun tracing is a key resource for law enforcement and a primary avenue for the collection of information. Therefore, it is recommended that law enforcement agencies implement comprehensive firearm tracing for all firearms recovered.
2. To be successful, comprehensive firearms tracing requires that accurate and complete information be collected on the firearm's description; the firearm's possessor, associates of the firearm's possessor and purchaser; retail dealer; and recovery location. It is therefore recommended that all departments that participate follow a standardized format for collecting, submitting, and disseminating trace data.
3. Legislation and/or regulations should be advanced to mandate standardized unique firearm identification number for all firearms manufactured or imported into the United States. The model to follow in implementing this approach is the system presently in place for motor vehicle identification numbers (Vehicle Identification Number - VIN). In addition, serial numbers should be resistant to obliteration and appear on the frame/receiver and main sections of a gun as required by law. Consideration should also be given to the placement of a hidden serial number, which is impervious to obliteration and can only be viewed by law enforcement.
4. Parallel with implementing the recommended approach to unique firearms serial numbers, we also recommend that the ATF continue its pilot program with selected manufacturers to develop a system of virtual firearms serial numbers using the ballistics characteristics of each firearm

to uniquely identify a weapon. Consideration should be given to expanding this program with manufactures.

5. In order to improve the quality of crime gun information submitted to the National Tracing Center, larger police departments should establish central units with specialized training in firearms. In each department, these units should be responsible for the submission of firearms to the NTC for tracing and could also act as the liaison with the local ATF office.
6. A secure Internet-based submission process should be made available to all smaller law enforcement units in order to facilitate these units in submitting firearms traces requests to the NTC.
7. To facilitate the accurate and complete submission of firearms trace data to the NTC, a toll free line for a customer support help center should be established at the NTC to assist law enforcement in submitting trace requests and also in using trace data for investigations.
8. A nationwide program to educate law enforcement regarding the importance of comprehensive tracing and the value of trace and 'Project Lead' information of law enforcement efforts should be developed. The program should include in-service training, videos, and Internet and CD-ROM based training.
9. Consideration should be given to extending the ATF firearm tracing capability to include secondary market sales whenever the firearms are re-entering commerce. In particular, we recommend that NICS (National Instant Check System) checks be extended to gun show sales and that all gun show purchases and sale records be sent to ATF upon completion of the show under the rubric of the Gun Control Act, (Title 18, Section 923).
10. To acquire and collect more in-depth information on potential sources of firearms trafficking police departments should develop a process to systematically debrief all arrestees involved with a crime gun. The information obtained from the debriefing should be made a part of an overall firearms information system and made available to front line investigators.
11. The public, like government officials, are frequently uniformed concerning the nature of the crime problem facing their own communities. In some instances, incomplete or wrong information can elevate fear of crime among community residents and possibly misdirect public administrators and planners. Therefore, In order to acquire a more accurate understanding of the crime problem and in particular the crime-gun problem facing particular communities, jurisdictions should begin to regularly produce crime statistic reports for their areas that go beyond the

standard FBI reporting of Part I crimes. These reports should include community specific information that reports on crime by type-of-crime, victim/offender characteristics, circumstance, relationship, and location. These reports should also provide the public and law enforcement with basic information of the likelihood of victimization.

12. State, local, and industry data can add significant law enforcement value to NTC trace information. This data can help by identifying links between straw purchasers and possessors; provide the completeness when investigating potential secondary market trafficking; and prioritize the allocation of police and prosecutorial resources. To properly utilize these data sources, law enforcement will need to develop enhanced methods for managing the data, sharing and integrating data across levels of government and across jurisdictions, and for educating law enforcement personnel to incorporate the use of the information into their investigative activities.

To facilitate these objectives the following recommendations were made:

- States and regions should develop or continue to develop integrated criminal justice information systems.
- The IACP should set up an information sharing and coordination pilot program that would focus on the sharing and coordination of all crime-gun related information across federal, state and local levels for the purpose significantly enhancing law enforcement's ability to control firearm crime.
- A comprehensive education program to train law enforcement personnel how to best utilize crime gun related information available from all levels of government should be developed in conjunction with the proposed IACP pilot program above.

II. Role of Partnerships

The Partnership Group was tasked with making recommendations concerning the type of partnerships that have been effective in developing strategies to reduce crime-gun trafficking and with identifying ways partnerships can then be improved. They were given the following list of questions to specifically address:

- What are the recommendations for federal, state and local governments; law enforcement agencies; community organizations; and businesses to create effective partnerships in the next century to have an impact on crime-gun trafficking?
- What are nationally recognized partnerships that are in place that are working and how could they be improved? (i.e., benchmarks, best practices, etc.)
- What needs to be done to develop, establish and maintain effective partnerships?
- How should partnership outcomes be evaluated?
- What new partnerships combinations can be developed for the future?

Partnership Recommendations

Law enforcement has realized that crime reduction is more than apprehending and incarcerating criminals. True crime reduction that is sustainable over a long period of time and must involve all stakeholders in communities that endeavor to change the conditions that enable crime to flourish. Valuable resources necessary for successful partnerships are available but many times go untapped.

The Partnership Group made the following 22 recommendations in four broad topic steps in the establishment of partnerships:

Identify Crime-Gun Problem to be Addressed by Partnership

1. All parties participating in a partnership must agree that there is a need to reduce the level of violent crime involving firearms and must be ready to make the effort to find solutions to this problem and be committed to implementing them.
2. Information collection is essential in order to determine the true nature of the crime-gun problem; thus comprehensive tracing of all crime-guns must be mandatory.
3. Involvement of assigned representatives from federal, State and local law enforcement agencies is essential.
4. Partnership must overcome reluctance by police to report/trace all crime-guns.

Examine Existing Partnership Strategies

5. The foundation of partnerships should not begin by re-inventing the wheel. Law enforcement should learn each others successes and failures. (i.e., “Project Exile” – City of Richmond; “Project Surefire” – City of Chicago, etc.)
6. The IACP should take a leadership role in the formulation of model programs for cities to replicate. Model programs should be flexible enough to enable local communities to adapt them to their situations.
7. After model programs are developed, successful ideas need to be marketed and distributed to communities across the United States.
8. Model programs should be marketed starting at the grass roots to garner community support.
9. Partnerships should include members of the firearms industry including; manufactures, distributors, local firearms retailers, and advocate groups (i.e., the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, National Rifle Association, etc.). Partnerships with police and their local firearms dealers have been shown to be highly effective.
10. Strategies can and should be with community-oriented policing programs.

Strategy Development

11. The formation of a strategy must be based on accurate data from which a needs assessment can be conducted.
12. Strategy formulation need to identify short, medium, and long-term objectives and assign timeline designations.
13. Communication among all parties of the partnership at all times is critical.
14. Each partnership must have a “leader” who will/has received specialized training. The IACP should examine becoming the facilitator of this training.
15. Each participant of the partnership must agree and be committed to the program’s strategy.
16. Parties to the partnership may need government tax incentives to promote new products and/or busines practices (i.e., safety locks, training seminars, etc.).

Strategic Partnership Goals and Objectives Should be Peridoically Evaluated

17. Alterations to the original partnership plan should be made to meet the changing character of gun violence facing communities.
18. Partnership goals should also evolve to address changes in violent crime.
19. New goals and objectives should be clearly identified and should be the same for all parties of the partnership.
20. As goals and objectives evolve the partnerships’ membership should also evolve to reflect new interests and needs.
21. Goals and objectives must be tangible and quantifiable.
22. Statistical measurements should include increases in arrests, prosecutions, and a reduction in firearms-related violence.

III. Role of Policy

The Policy Development Group was assigned to focus on providing policy recommendations that would enable organizations to develop strategies that address illegal firearms trafficking. Furthermore, this group was asked to examine how law enforcement agencies can improve internal procedures that would accomplish the

conference's objective of crime-gun interdiction. As was discussed during the Summit Conference, the success of any crime reduction endeavor depends on the support and cooperation of all stakeholders within a community as well as from every tier of government, Federal, State and local. Collaboration with stakeholders should include selecting, developing, and implementing crime-gun reduction strategies. The following questions were given to the group to specifically discuss and consider in developing their recommendations:

- What are some recommended procedures for developing interdiction strategies (i.e., benchmarks, best practices, etc.)?
- Formulate recommendations on how to systematically develop a strategy for implementing an interdiction plan.
- What evaluation criteria should be utilized to properly assess the chosen strategy? Is this critical to success?
- How should an agency use published reports of "Best Practices" with regard to crime-gun interdiction strategies? Is this type of information significant enough for an agency, such as the Office of Juvenile Justice Department Programs (OJJDP), to continue to collect and publish?
- What crime-gun interdiction strategies currently have the best potential for success in the next century? Why?

Policy Development Recommendations

To be successful, any type of crime reduction plan must be made with sound direction and leadership. The development of agency, community, State or Federal government policies to address firearms-related violent crime plays a significant part in achieving objectives. The formulation of policy has a significant effect on program resources, public perception, and an organization's commitment to achieving the stated results. An observation made by the Policy Group noted that successful programs were exceptionally well organized in their planning. This in turn significantly improved their ability to implement their programs. The Policy Development Group made 18 recommendations.

Enhance Public Education and Awareness

The first step in initiating a crime-gun interdiction program, (maybe the most important), is to educate the public as well as all other stakeholders that a problem exists and that it needs to be addressed in a concerted and cooperative manner. Public interest coalitions with the assistance of law enforcement professional organizations should develop and push a public awareness agenda in the following manner:

1. Tailor educational and public awareness campaigns to address all age levels. Messages should be directed toward specified groups starting at elementary age groups all the way to senior citizens.
2. Gear messages to wide and varied audiences instead of generic presentations to the general public. It is very important to single out stakeholders that most directly effect the implementation of the strategy and for that matter the solution, such as legislators, prosecutors, judges, firearm dealers, etc.
3. Enlist the support of the media to professionally transmit information and build consensus.
4. Provide 800 TIPLINE telephone number for citizens to submit information.

Develop and Disseminate “Best Practices” Guide

Law enforcement executives have a broad range of duties and responsibilities relating to their public safety operations. It is unrealistic to believe that any leader could be subject expert in every aspect of law enforcement or always have available experts for every subject. A comprehensive guidebook regarding crime-gun interdiction strategies and programs should be made available to law enforcement officials. With regard to the development and dissemination of this guidebook:

5. The development of a comprehensive guidebook for law enforcement officials should be developed by the Justice Department, in consultation with the IACP, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, United States Attorney General’s Office, and District Attorney’s Association.
 - The guidebook should be in a detailed step-by-step format. Included in the booklet should be descriptions of successful programs from various departments across the country and program contact points to answer any questions.
 - The guidebook should cover the full cycle for creating a program to include data collection and analysis, strategy formation, planning development and implementation, and critical evaluation.

Encourage All Law Enforcement Agencies to Establish Aggressive Crime-Gun Interdiction Programs

The IACP, the Justice Department and ATF should take the lead in developing and marketing to local and State law enforcement agencies benefits of crime-gun

interdiction programs in reducing violent crime. To promote and encourage the development of crime-gun interdiction programs on a local level the IACP should:

6. Explain how crime-gun interdiction methods can be proactive.
7. Ensure that effective crime-gun strategies are identified and shared throughout law enforcement.
8. Encourage formation of State coordination committees to support and formulate policies for a statewide crime-gun interdiction program.
9. Explain the value of an appropriate evaluation process for addressing gun violence – demonstrate the value of evaluation through exemplary program such as the SARA Model Approach (Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment).

Promote Continual Study of the Crime-Gun Problem

As laws and enforcement practices make it more difficult for criminals to acquire and use firearms, the means by which criminals gain access to firearms will constantly change. In order for law enforcement to keep abreast of these changes and alter policing practices meaningful and focused studies need to be conducted. Because the issue of firearms is such a hotly debated issue, studies should be performed by academics and subject experts not affiliated with law enforcement organizations. Topics for immediate considerations are as follows: secondary source firearms market; firearms stolen during shipping; standardized tests and training for dealers; develop profile of gun trafficker; and the inclusion of State and local data to trace information. The following are the continual study recommendations:

10. Justice Department should consistently fund crime-gun studies.
11. Academics and subject experts not in law enforcement should do some of the studies.

Explore Need for Improved Legislation

Policy Development may also include exploring the need for new or additional legislation. During the information gathering stage of a strategy development with all parties participating, it may be found that new legislation can assist greatly in the successfully implementing of a crime-gun interdiction program. For example, if it is uncovered that criminals are changing their crime-gun purchasing from the retail to the secondary source firearms market because it does not require a criminal record check, legislation aimed at making those sales based on the same requirements would be in order. In addition, a diverse coalition providing a basis for suggesting new legislation or regulations would make the chances of passage more likely and would produce a better

balanced product. The group suggested examining the following recommendations for possible legislative initiatives:

12. Criminal record checks prior to sale of all firearms (i.e., gun shows, flea markets, Internet, classified ads, individual sales, etc.).
13. All used firearm sales must transmit a copy of ATF Form 4473 to the National Tracing Center.
14. Consideration given to repeal ineffective and outdated laws.
15. Uniform firearm serialization to include mandatory compression stamping depth on frame and barrel, virtual serial numbers for all firearms sold that would stored be in the ATF's Ballistic Network.

These suggested areas of legislative exploration represent the collaborative efforts of summit participants. The IACP arrives at legislative positions through membership resolutions, voted on at our annual conference. None of the above have been through that process, but they are consistent with existing IACP legislative direction toward improved background checks, firearm tracing capacities, and firearm information management.

Fund Crime-Gun Interdiction Training for Police

Success for any program must rely on personnel that have the knowledge to implement the proposed strategy. The key to providing this knowledge is training to all that are involved in the activity. It is therefore recommended that sufficient funding be made available to State and local law enforcement for training in firearm violence interdiction methods. Specifically, this training should be in the areas of: 1) collection, access, analysis and dissemination of crime-gun data; 2) investigative methodology; and management techniques.

Training should be geared for large, medium, and small departments, since each has different problems and varied resources for addressing them. Furthermore, since many agencies can not afford the luxury of losing personnel for extended periods or to be solely subject experts in one area; training should come to the department onsite or via interactive video/computer training. It is suggested that ATF initiate a tracing "Help Desk" to respond to questions from local and State law enforcement. Along with the "Help Desk," ATF should have all necessary forms accompanied by the instructions for their use, accessible to State and local law enforcement agencies online electronically. Furthermore, trace information, both transmitted to and from State and local agencies should only be in electronic format by ATF. This would vastly improve efficiency and the analysis capability of State and local agencies.

16. Funding for State and local law enforcement training in the area of:
 - collection, access, analysis and dissemination of crime-gun data
 - investigative methodology; and management techniques
17. An ATF “Help Desk” to respond to questions from State and local law enforcement.
18. Electronic exchange of trace information data between State and local law enforcement and ATF.

APPENDIX I

GUEST SPEAKERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Mr. Luke Galant
Senior Law Enforcement Advisor
Bureau of Justice Assistance
810 7th. St. NW
Washington, DC 20531
(202) 616-3211 Fax (202) 616-2421

Mr. James E. Johnson
Under Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Treasury Department
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20220
(202)-622-1162

Ms. Tammy Shelton
Crime Gun Interdiction - Project Grant
Monitor
Bureau of Justice Assistance
810 7th. St. NW
Washington, DC 20531
(202) 616-2361 Fax (202) 616-2421

Chief Mary Ann Viverette
IACP 6th Vice President
Gaithersburg Police Department
7 E. Cedar Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
(301) 258-6400 Fax (301) 258-6410

Mr. Richard H. Ward III
Deputy Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance
810 7th. St. NW RM 4422
Washington, DC 20531
(202) 616-6500

Mr. James Wooten
Assistant Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and
Firearms
650 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20226
202 927-794

APPENDIX 2

BREAKOUT GROUP-FACILITATORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Mr. Sanford Abrams
Valley Gun of Baltimore
7719 Hartford Road
Baltimore, MD 21234
(410) 668-2171 Fax (410) 668-6693

Mrs. Wendy Adler
Director of Law Enforcement Relations
Center to Prevent Handgun Violence
1225 Eye St. Suite 1100 NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 898-0792 Fax (202) 371-9615

Mr. John Badowski
Manager, Gander Mountain Firearms
5501 W. Old Shakopee Rd.
Bloomington, MN 55437
(612) 921-5238

Lieutenant Dave Buchanan
Montgomery County Police
2350 Research Blvd.
Rockville, MD 20850
(240) 773-504

Mr. Jim Chambers
Director, Government Affairs
National Shooting Sports Foundation
101 D St. SW
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 554-1610 Fax (202) 543-5865

Sergeant Mark Cowley
Baltimore County Police Department
700 East Joppa Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21286
(410) 887-6287 Fax (410) 887-6294

Mr. Bruce Delaplaine
Department of Justice, Terrorism, Violent
Crimes Section
601 D St. Suite 6500 N.W.
Washington, DC 20530
(202)-307-2163 Fax. (202)-514-8714

Mr. Patrick Fiel
Head of Security
District of Columbia Public Schools
825 N. Capital Street Suite 9026 N.E.
Washington, DC 20002-4232
(202) 576-6962 Fax (202) 576-6593

Chief Edward A. Flynn
Arlington County Police Department
1425 N. Courthouse Road
Arlington, VA 22201
(703) 228-4040 Fax (703) 228-4127

Lieutenant John Foster
Baltimore City Police Department
601 E. Fayette St.
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 396-2020

Ms. Susan Ginsburg
Department of the Treasury
Treasury Enforcement
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. Rm. #4412 NW
Washington, DC 20220
(202) 622-1496 Fax. (202) 622-7301

Sheldon F. Greenberg Ph.D.
Chair, Interdisciplinary Programs
John Hopkins School of Continuing
Studies
201 N. Charles St. Suite 310
Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 516-0769 Fax (410) 516-4869

Captain George Kassler
Montgomery County Police
2350 Research Blvd.
Rockville, MD 20850
(240) 773-5060

Ms. Beth Lavach
Colt Manufacturer VP Wash., DC OPS
1655 North Myer Dr. Suite 1200
Arlington, VA 22209
(703) 465-4625 Fax (703) 465-4699

Mr. Bryan Miller
Executive Director
Ceasefire New Jersey
1995 East Marlton Pike
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
(609) 489-5960 Fax (609) 489-9857

Ms. Lois Mock
Grant Monitor
National Institute of Justice
810 7th St. NW
Washington, DC 20351
(202) 307-0693 Fax (202) 616-0275

Ms. Drea Morrozoff
Program Coordinator
Police Executive Research Forum
1120 Connecticut Ave. N.W.,
Suite 930
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 466-7820 Fax (202) 466-7826

Director Bubby Moser
National Sheriff's Association
1450 Duke St.
Alexandria, VA. 22314
(703) 836-7827

Lieutenant Ken O'Berry
Prince Georges' County Police
7600 Barlowe Road
Landover, MD 20785
(301) 883-6800 Fax (301) 773-7914

Ms. Nancy Oliver
Department of Justice, Terrorism, Violent
Crimes Section
601 D St. Suite 6500 N.W.
Washington, DC 20530
(202)-307-3245 Fax. (202)-514-8714

Sergeant, Gene Paluzzi
Maryland State Police
Firearms Enforcement Unit
7155 Columbia Gateway Dr.
Columbia, MD 21046
(410) 290-0050 Fax 410-290-0251

Mr. Scott Pickett
Chief, CGAB
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
National Tracing Center
2029 Stonewall Jackson Drive
Falling Waters, WV 25419
1 800-788-7133 Fax (304) 274-4162

Glenn Pierce Ph.D.
Dir. Div. of Academic Computing
Northeastern
39 Richards Hall
Boston, MA 20115
(617) 373-3702 Fax (617) 373-8600

Captain Kenton Rainey
NOBEL Fellow
Ventura County Sheriff's Dept.
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 662-6588

Sergeant David Reitz
Baltimore City Police Department
601 E. Fayette St.
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 396-2020

Lieutenant Jack Simpson
Maryland State Police
Firearms Enforcement Unit
7155 Columbia Gateway Dr.
Columbia, MD 21046
(410) 290-0050 Fax 410-290-0251

Director Bob Stewart
National Organization of Black Law
Enforcement Executives
4609 Pinecrest Office Park Road Suite F
Alexandria, VA 22312-1442
(703) 658-1529

Mr. Harold Stuart
National Center for Rural Law
Enforcement
7723 Asher Ave. Suite B
Little Rock, AR 72204
(501) 570-8064 Fax: (501) 565-3081

Mr. Andrew Vita
Assistant Director – Field Operations
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20226
(202) 927-7970 Fax (202) 927-7756

Sergeant, Michael Watts
Montgomery County Police
2350 Research Blvd.
Rockville, MD 20850
(240) 773-5060

APPENDIX 3

IACP Firearm Summit Staff

Jerry Needle
Director, Programs and Research
Directorate
International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police
515 N Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-6767 Fax: (703) 836-4543

Mr. John Firman
Research Coordinator
International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police
515 N Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-6767 Fax: (703) 836-4543

Mr. Paul Bolton
Crime Gun Interdiction-Investigation T/A
Grant Coordinator
International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police
515 N Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-6767 Fax: (703) 836-4543

Mr. Michael Breen Ph.D.
Programs and Research
International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police
515 N Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-6767 Fax: (703) 836-4543

Mr. Brannan Cass
Program Coordinator
International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police
515 N Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-6767 Fax: (703) 836-4543

Mr. David Clough - Intern
International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police
515 N Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-6767 Fax: (703) 836-4543

Lieutenant, Michael Eldridge
Metropolitan Police Dept. and IACP
Fellow
International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police
515 N Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-6767 Fax: (703) 836-4543

Mrs. Patricia Goven
Research Assistant
International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police
515 N Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-6767 Fax: (703) 836-4543

Ms. Lynne Hargest
Information and Services Directorate
International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police
515 N Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-6767 Fax: (703) 836-4543

Ms. Laura Nichols
Programs and Research Directorate
International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police
515 N Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-6767 Fax: (703) 836-4543

Mrs. Katherine Spivey
Information and Services Directorate
International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police
515 N Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-6767 Fax: (703) 836-4543

Joseph J. Vince Jr. Consultant
Crime Gun Solutions
Frederick, Maryland 21702
(301) 620-0587 Fax same

ENDNOTES

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