

A Resolution Offering Support for the Maintenance of  
The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

Offered by:  
International Association of Arson Investigators

Whereas, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is a federal law enforcement agency whose mission is to protect communities from violent criminals, criminal organizations, the illegal use and trafficking of firearms, the illegal use and storage of explosives, acts of arson and bombings, and acts of terrorism;

Whereas, by virtue of its statutory authority under Title XI of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, the ATF initiates investigations and assists in state and local fire service and law enforcement agencies in bomb and arson investigations;

Whereas, for over 40 years, the ATF has developed scientifically proven investigative capabilities, expertise, and resources that have positioned the ATF as the Nation's primary source for explosives and fire investigative knowledge and assistance;

Whereas, the ATF Fire Research Laboratory (FRL) is the world's largest research laboratory that is dedicated to fire scene investigations;

Whereas, the ATF National Response Team (NRT) assists state and local fire service and law enforcement agencies by providing ATF explosives and fire investigative resources and expertise on large scale incidents, and on more complex investigations due to the size, scope, or number of victims as a result of the incident, and on line-of-duty death investigations;

Whereas, the ATF International Response Team (IRT), the result of an agreement between ATF and the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service (DSS), provides assistance to foreign governments and law enforcement agencies in investigating large-vehicle bombings; provides technical support in the disassembly of improvised explosive devices; and provides investigative oversight in large-scale fires that resulted in a massive loss of life and/or property loss;

Whereas the ATF has partnered with state and local agencies in the fight against the crime of arson by offering advanced level training in arson and explosives investigations for state and local investigators and prosecutors;

Whereas, the ATF has formed many strategic and tactical partnerships with state and local fire investigators through task forces to combat arson and explosives crime at the local level;

Whereas, abolishing the ATF will harm the efforts of the United States fire service and law enforcement agencies in combatting arson and explosives-related crimes;

Therefore, *it is resolved that the Congressional Fire Services Institute supports the maintenance of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and rejects any effort to abolish the ATF.*

Unanimously Approved on December 16, 2015