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2015 Distinguished Law Enforcement Group Achievement Award



Cincinnati Police Department/Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Organized Crime Investigative Squad

*U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives, Cincinnati
Police Department, U.S. Attorney's
Office for the Southern District of Ohio*

Members of the Cincinnati Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) work together as the Organized Crime Investigative Squad (OCIS) task force to target gangs and illegal traffickers in firearms in southwestern Ohio.

The task force is being recognized for breaking up two violent robbery crews that were operating in Ohio and Kentucky. In the first case, after the task force received information on Oct. 28, 2014, that two men were trying to sell a stockpile of guns, the team set up surveillance. After developing probable cause, the task force moved in and detained them. Thirty-two guns were recovered immediately, and 10 more were seized later. As it turned out, the men were prohibited from legally possessing firearms.

The investigation also found evidence of a series of crimes including a home invasion, an armed bank robbery and carjacking, several burglaries, an arson and two auto thefts. Eight people were arrested in connection with the crimes. On the heels of the case, OCIS began investigating a series of armed robberies in Hamilton County. One of the suspects had a social media account featuring pictures of his associates with guns, drugs and money. The task force used that information in an investigation of the man's associates for weapons charges. The associates began cooperating with the task force in the armed robbery cases. After listening to hundreds of hours of jail calls, preserving social media data, serving search warrants, comparing DNA evidence, conducting interviews, obtaining old case files, exploiting cellphone data and mapping cellular calls, a case was built, and six suspects were arrested.