

## What Benefits Will eTrace Provide?

Benefits of eTrace include:

- *Significant reduction in the turnaround time required to process a trace request;*
- *Increase the overall number of crime guns traced by providing a user friendly interface for entering trace data;*
- *Improved data quality of trace related information by providing real-time data validation;*
- *Ability to monitor the status of traces;*
- *Ability to view/print/download completed trace results (all print functions are formatted for standard 8 1/2" x 11" paper); and,*
- *Ability to perform on-line analytical research relative to your jurisdiction.*

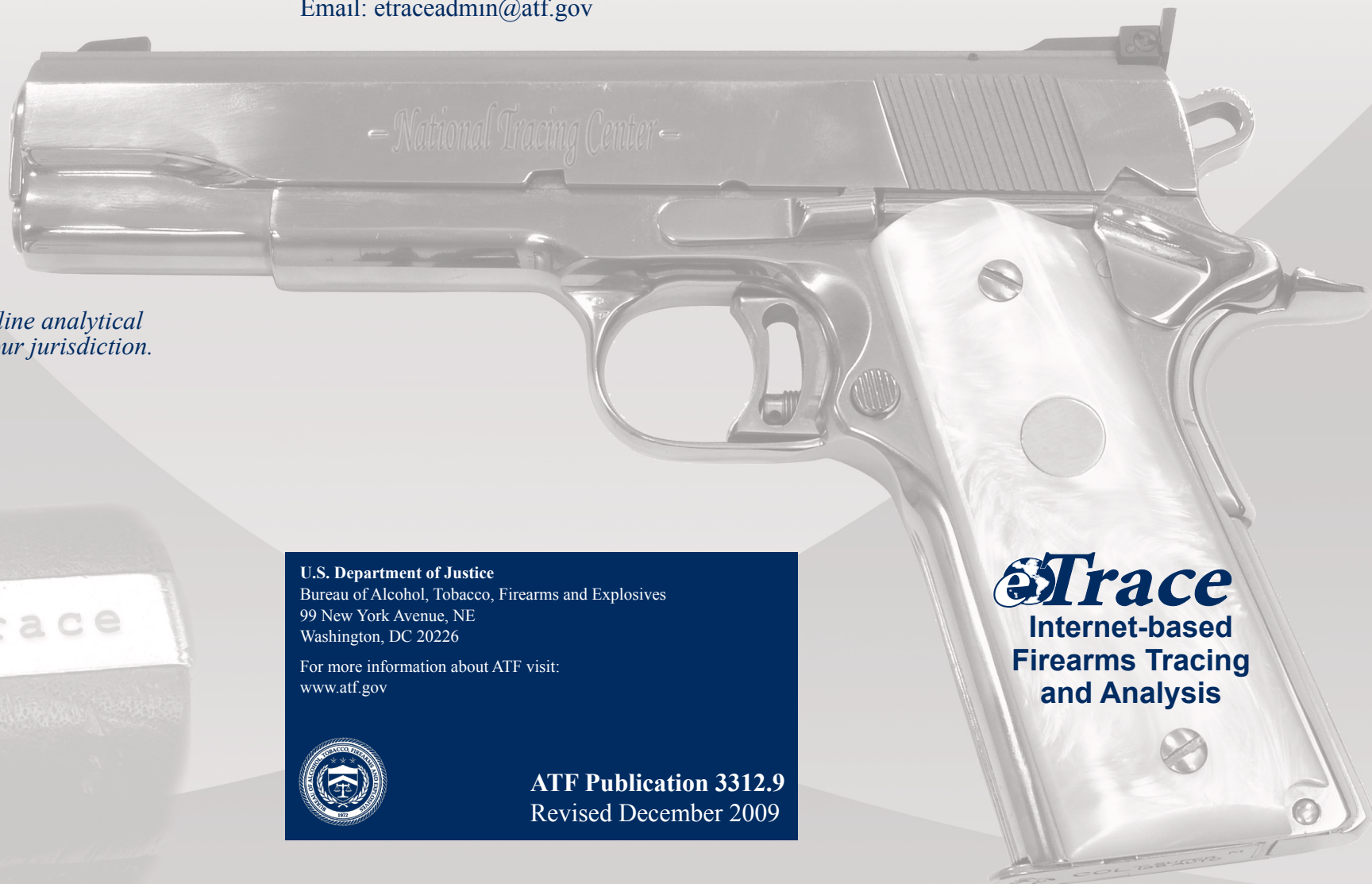
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Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
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# ATF NATIONAL TRACING CENTER DIVISION



eTrace

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ATF Publication 3312.9  
Revised December 2009

## What is the National Tracing Center Division (NTC)?

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) National Tracing Center Division (NTC) is the only organization authorized to trace U.S. and foreign manufactured firearms for international, Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies. Its purpose is to provide investigative leads in the fight against violent crime and terrorism and to enhance public safety.

## What is Firearms Tracing?

Firearms tracing is the systematic tracking of the movement of a firearm recovered by law enforcement officials from its first sale by the manufacturer or importer through the distribution chain (wholesaler/retailer) to the first retail purchaser.

## Why Trace Firearms?

- To link a suspect to a firearm in a criminal investigation;
- To identify potential traffickers, whether licensed or unlicensed sellers; and
- When sufficiently comprehensive tracing is undertaken by a given community, to detect in-state, interstate, and international patterns in the sources and kinds of crime guns.



## What is eTrace?

ATF extends its ongoing commitment to the law enforcement community by providing it with a paperless firearm trace submission system that is readily accessible through the Internet. This system, known as eTrace, provides the necessary utilities for submitting, retrieving, storing, and querying all firearms trace related information relative to your agency.

The eTrace application lets participating agencies electronically submit firearm trace requests. They can also monitor the progress of their traces and efficiently retrieve completed trace results in a real-time environment.

To access and utilize the eTrace application, the only infrastructure an agency needs is a secure computer and access to the Internet. Even agencies with limited personnel can comprehensively trace their firearms and analyze on-line data.

The focus of the eTrace application is to: enhance current trace protocols; efficiently function in a web-based environment; and, provide for the secure exchange of firearm trace related information between the user community and the ATF National Tracing Center.

eTrace also affords law enforcement agencies direct access to a historical database of its firearm trace related data, enabling a participating agency to analyze its trace related data through a broad search utility. A search for their traces can be initiated on virtually any data field or combination of data fields. This can include individual names, recovery location address, type of crime, date of recovery, etc.

eTrace also provides users with the ability to generate statistical reports regarding the number of traces submitted by their agency over time, the top firearms traced, time-to-crime rates, age of possessors, and more.

## What Functions are Available Through eTrace?

- Enter, validate, and submit comprehensive firearm trace request data;
- View a summary listing of recently submitted traces;
- View the status of a trace (In Progress, Completed, Delayed);
- View, print, and download detailed trace request and trace result information;
- Perform a “Quick Search” or a detailed multi-layer search for traces;
- Submit Urgent Trace Requests for processing;
- Update a trace (a user may only update a trace for which they were the original submitter);
- Re-open a trace to provide previously missing or invalid data;
- Online help and frequently asked questions bulletin board;
- Access to the Firearms Identification Guide (FIG); and,
- Ability to generate statistical reports (i.e., number of traces, top firearms traced, time-to-crime rates, age of possessors, etc.).