



## Alleged Drug lords targeted by Fast and Furious were FBI informants

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 10:28 AM March 23, 2012

Los Angeles Times on March 21, 2012 released the following:  
“Federal agents released alleged gun trafficker Manuel Fabian Celis-Acosta to help them find two Mexican drug lords. But the two were secret FBI informants, emails show.

By Richard A. Serrano, Washington Bureau

Reporting from Washington— When the ATF made alleged gun trafficker Manuel Fabian Celis-Acosta its primary target in the ill-fated Fast and Furious investigation, it hoped he would lead the agency to two associates who were Mexican drug cartel members. The ATF even questioned and released him knowing that he was wanted by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

But those two drug lords were secretly serving as informants for the FBI along the Southwest border, newly obtained internal emails show. Had Celis-Acosta simply been held when he was arrested by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in May 2010, the investigation that led to the loss of hundreds of illegal guns and may have contributed to the death of a Border Patrol agent could have been closed early.

Documents obtained by the Los Angeles Times/Tribune Washington Bureau show that as far back as December 2009 — five months before Celis-Acosta was detained and released at the border in a car carrying 74 live rounds of ammunition — ATF and DEA agents learned by chance that they were separately investigating the same man in the Arizona and Mexico border region.

ATF agents had placed a secret pole camera outside his Phoenix home to track his movements, and separately the DEA was operating a “wire room” to monitor live wiretap intercepts to follow him.

### Former East Alton, Ill., Police Sergeant Pleads Guilty to Abusing an Arrestee

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 9:30 AM March 23, 2012

Brent E. Wells, a former police sergeant with the East Alton, Ill., Police Department, pleaded guilty yesterday in

In May 2010, Celis-Acosta was briefly detained at the border in Lukeville, Ariz., and then released by Hope MacAllister, the chief ATF investigator on Fast and Furious, after he promised to cooperate with her.

The ATF had hoped he would lead them to two Mexican cartel members. But records show that after Celis-Acosta finally was arrested in February 2011, the ATF learned to its surprise that the two cartel members were secret FBI informants.

Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Vista), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) are investigating Fast and Furious, which allowed illegal gun purchases in Arizona in hopes of tracking the weapons to Mexican drug cartel leaders. In a confidential memo to Republican committee members, Issa and Grassley said the ATF should have known the cartel members were informants and immediately shut down Fast and Furious. “This means the entire goal of Fast and Furious — to target these two individuals and bring them to justice — was a failure,” they wrote. The “lack of follow-through” by the various agencies, they said, typified “the serious management failures that occurred throughout all levels during Fast and Furious.”

James Needles, a top ATF official in Arizona, told congressional investigators last year that it was very frustrating and a “major disappointment” to learn too late about the informants.

ATF officials declined to comment about the investigations because they are continuing.

But Adrian P. Fontes, a Phoenix attorney representing Celis-Acosta, who has pleaded not guilty, said he was concerned the federal agencies purposely did not share information.

“When one hand is not talking to the other, perhaps somebody is hiding

something,” he said. “Was this intentional?”

Emails and other records show that once the ATF and DEA realized they were both investigating Celis-Acosta, officials from both agencies met in December 2009 at the DEA field office in Phoenix.

It is unclear, however, whether MacAllister later told the DEA that she released Celis-Acosta in May 2010 and that he was headed into Mexico.

Her boss, David J. Voth, the ATF’s group supervisor for Fast and Furious, told committee investigators that the ATF realized the Sinaloa cartel members were “national security assets,” or FBI informants, only after Celis-Acosta was rearrested. He identified the informants as two brothers, and said, “We first learned when we went back and sorted out the facts.”

Douglas McNabb – McNabb Associates, P.C.’s

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The author of this blog is Douglas C. McNabb. Please feel free to contact him directly at [mcnabb@mcnabbassociates.com](mailto:mcnabb@mcnabbassociates.com) or at one of the offices listed above.



# Probation and Pretrial Services Tool Puts Clients on the Map

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 10:35 AM March 23, 2012

USCourts.gov on March 21, 2012 released the following: "The expression, 'all over the map' usually describes a number of different pieces of information widely scattered—like the multiple defendants/offenders (or "clients") under supervision that must be tracked by probation or pretrial services officers. Now, a new software application tames the map. The Probation and Pretrial Services Client Mapping Application (Version 1.0), for use by federal probation and pretrial services offices, is slated to roll out at the end of March.

The client mapping application is part of the Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System (PACTS). Its mapping feature is familiar to anyone who has used online maps to pinpoint and get directions to a location. But the application does more than just give probation and pretrial services officers driving directions

Matt Rowland, Acting Assistant Director of the Office of Probation and Pretrial Services, notes that all sorts of case information can now be displayed geographically. For example, the application can highlight on a map which offenders have been convicted of certain types of offenses, which clients are subject to a given type of supervision condition, and display offenders by the degree of risk they present for recidivism. Supervisors can use the map when

## Pennsylvania- Based Eusa Pharma (USA) Inc. to Pay U.S. \$180,000 for Allegedly Submitting Inflated Claims to Medicare

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 11:36 AM March 23, 2012

EUSA Pharma (USA) Inc. has agreed to pay the United States \$180,000 to resolve claims that it violated the False Claims Act by allegedly encouraging doctors to submit inflated claims to Medicare for imaging scans.

## Financial Intelligence Center: Getting Ahead of Crime

fbi (White-Collar Crime)

Submitted at 8:00 AM March 23, 2012

Our Financial Intelligence Center

assigning new cases and take into account both the nature of the case and the location of the officer's existing cases. Districts, county lines, and even zip codes can be highlighted on the map, with offenders' locations superimposed.

The application gives officers a street level view of any location a client might give as his or her home address. That makes it easier for a supervising officer to scan the neighborhood for identifying landmarks—and ask questions that verify the offender actually resides at the location.

The client mapping application also works with current Blackberry devices to let officers stand at a location, such as an offender's home address, and get the GPS coordinates—the latitude and longitude. The coordinates are written back to the PACTS database and linked to information about the offender.

The mapping application may increase officer safety. Officers can see if a colleague has a client in the vicinity and arrange to conduct field work together to promote safety and add a second set of eyes to the case. The application optimizes the travel route of two officers traveling together, showing the best route for home visits by both officers. The application also launches an application to email the itinerary to a colleague or supervisor, letting them know where officers will be traveling, which aids communication in the case of an emergency.

## Future functionality is planned that will allow the application to work on any Lockheed Martin Corporation Reaches \$15.85 Million Settlement with U.S. to Resolve False Claims Act Allegations

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 10:13 AM March 23, 2012

Lockheed Martin Corporation has agreed to pay \$15,850,000 to settle allegations that it mischarged perishable tools used on numerous government contracts.

provides a clearer picture of criminal activity.

mobile device, and also locate nearby clinics and halfway houses, proximity to schools, treatment centers, sheriffs offices, and even street closures. Also, in a future version, the client mapping application will help officers with the requisite travel forms, automatically filling in the log of where visits were made, who was visited, and other information.

For officers, the mapping application will be a valuable planning tool because, "it helps officers make more home visits in less time and be better prepared for them," said Rowland."

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## Defense in Mich. militia trial say feds withheld key info; prosecutors prepare to rest case

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 10:23 AM March 23, 2012

Washington Post on March 21, 2012 released the following:

"By Associated Press

DETROIT — Attorneys for seven members of a Michigan-based militia charged with plotting to overthrow the government asked a judge to declare a mistrial Wednesday, claiming they should have been told earlier about a previous case handled by the FBI agent who infiltrated the group.

The defense attorneys found out only this week that agent Steve Haug was the FBI handler for a New Jersey man who was paid to collect information on white



## DEFENSE

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supremacists and hate groups, starting in 2003. The informant, Hal Turner, was a right-wing radio host and blogger who made threats against critics and public officials while on the FBI payroll.

Under federal law, the government is required to turn over material that could aid a defendant or impeach the credibility of a witness. William Swor, attorney for Hutaree militia leader David Stone, said prosecutors failed to meet their obligation.

Hateful, anti-government speech is a key part of the case against Stone and six other members of the militia, who are charged with conspiring to commit rebellion against the government, first by killing a police officer and then attacking the funeral. There was no slaying or attack.

Swor said the defense deserved to know sooner about Haug's past work with a controversial informant, even if the information would never have been used on cross-examination.

"We were cut off from a whole line of investigation," Swor told U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts.

Prosecutors denied any violation had occurred and said the information was not relevant. Roberts didn't immediately rule on the request for a mistrial.

Turner of North Bergen, N.J., had no role in the Michigan militia investigation.

He was an FBI informant for four years until 2007. In 2010, he was convicted of making threats against three federal judges in Illinois in retaliation for a decision supporting gun control. He is serving a 33-month prison sentence

The government was expected to rest its case Wednesday, but arguments about Haug's previous work lasted two hours. Prosecutors will try to finish Thursday. The trial started Feb. 13 and is expected to stretch into early April.

The final evidence of the day was video of a federal agent firing machine guns at a gun range. The weapons were seized when militia members were rounded up in March 2010."

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