

That tells us that a lot of dove hunters are crappy shots. According to Parks & Wildlife, Texas will have more than 220,000 dove hunters this year. That is a lot of lead on the ground. Of course most hunters never practice, the only time their guns are out of the safe is during hunting season. Also, do yourself a favor and buy quality shotgun shells. How many times during the course of the hunt do you see lots of feathers in the air but no dead bird. Cheap shotgun shells are no real bargain. Heavy dove and quail loads with as many shot as possible will improve your shooting, and reduce the number of soon to be dead birds flying away.

**“Fast and Furious” still under investigation**

by Johnny Kirby

With all the other things in the news lately like hurricanes, fires, floods, earthquakes, and mass shootings, the still ongoing investigation into the so-called “Fast and Furious” gun-walking operation has not received any news coverage. This is as it should be because this is now a back page story.

The US House oversight committee is still actively looking into the activities and cover-ups surrounding the 2000 shooting death of Border Patrol agent Brian Terry. For years since this failed operation has been under investigation, the committee has been denied access to the official records of the FBI and the BATFE. Even then Attorney General Eric Holder was found in “contempt of congress” for failing to cooperate with the investigation. He later was pardoned by then President Obama, but that’s another story I won’t get into now. As recently as two months ago, our current Attorney General Jeff Sessions was also denied access to these files. My question is - who in our current US government has the right and the power to deny our current AG access to these files and records? How deep did this operation go?

To refresh your memory, this operation began by allowing straw purchasers to buy guns in large numbers from US dealers and “walk” them into Mexico to sell to cartel members and other suspected drug dealers. Our own government was behind this and well aware of what was taking place. In all, over 2000 guns were moved across the border. These included semi-auto rifles and pistols. The government’s plan was to keep records of the serial numbers and trace them to the bad guys. Like the US and Mexican authorities didn’t already know who the bad guys were. As we now know, there were six ‘Bandits’ involved in the fire-fight with the Border Patrol when Brian Terry was killed. One bandit was wounded and immediately captured. Five others escaped and became fugitives. To date all but one has been arrested and four are currently serving jail time. The sixth one has still not been caught. Two of the guns found at the scene of the shoot-out were traced back to the ‘Fast

and Furious” operation. When DOJ officials tried to hide that tie-in to Agent Terry’s death, outraged BATFE agents went to members of congress and the news media.

The investigation is still ongoing by the oversight committee, but there does not seem to be a satisfactory conclusion to this.

**Texas Parks & Wildlife  
Department Game  
Warden Field Notes  
Bagged and Tagged**

Grayson County game wardens were tipped off about a white-tailed deer that was shot with a firearm in an archery-only county in November 2016. The wardens confronted the individual at his home and questioned him about the big buck. The subject eventually admitted he killed the deer with a pistol, after several shots, and then tagged the deer as being harvested in Fannin County. The deer was seized and several citations were issued. The cases are pending. The deer scored over 177 inches under the Boone & Crockett scoring system, netting a civil restitution value of over \$10,000.



*Whitetail deer and black buck antelope at 700 Springs Ranch.*

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