



For Immediate Release:

Date:

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Day Book Information On Wednesday, May 17, 2000, at 7:00 p.m., the first presentation of Project CARGO (Communities Addressing Responsible Gun Ownership) will be held in St. Petersburg at Baypoint Middle School, 2151 62 South Ave., St. Petersburg, Florida. This initiative, a first of its kind in the nation, aims to curb gun violence in schools and at home through an aggressive campaign of education and enforcement, capitalizing on the resources and expertise of the participating agencies.

The program originated as a result of a partnership agreement, between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), All Childrens Hospital, Bayfront Medical, the Pinellas County School Board, St. Petersburg Police and Fire and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. The seminar runs for precisely one hour.

The ATF will provide education and training on gun safety issues, and will work with school and local law enforcement officials to trace and investigate the origin and source of firearms recovered on school property and/or in the possession of juveniles. Medical personnel from the trauma centers

will provide statistical information, as well as realistic depictions of the consequences of gun violence. School board officials will provide information on detecting signs of aggressive and potentially violent behavior patterns.

At the conclusion of each presentation, participants will receive a complimentary trigger-lock.

Approximately 20,000 flyers were distributed by the Pinellas County School Board to students, parents and the community announcing this presentation.

The ATF Public Information Officer, Pinellas County School Board officials, and medical personnel from All Children's Hospital and Bayfront Medical Hospital will be available before and after the presentation for any media inquiries.

Project CARGO is endorsed by the National Association of School Resource Officers, the Broward County Trauma Management Agency, the Florida Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, the Broward County Crime Commission, the Broward Safe Kids Coalition, and the Florida Committee on Trauma.

For further information about Project CARGO, contact Dan DeCoursey at (954) 467-8979/E-Mail

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<http://www.atf.gov/press/releases/2000/05/051700-atf-day-book-information.html>