

The Blasting Agent



by **William O'Brien**
ATF Explosives Industry Liaison

Over the past few years, ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives) has issued several pamphlets to help federal explosives licensees and permittees, as well as other persons who store explosive materials, with proper storage and recordkeeping procedures. These Web publications include information on topics such as explosives magazine construction; inventory requirements; using commercial records or record books; limited permittee transaction reporting; distribution of surplus materials; and manufacturing for one's own use, etc. The following publications are available at www.atf.gov/content/library/arson-explosives-publications

- ATF P 5400.17, *Explosives Magazine Construction Requirements*
- ATF P 5400.18, *Daily Summary of Magazine Transactions (DSMT)*
- ATF P 5400.19, *Recordkeeping Requirements for Explosive Material Manufacturers*
- ATF P 5400.20, *Recordkeeping Requirements for Explosives Permittees and Limited Permittees*
- ATF P 5400.21, *Recordkeeping Requirements for Explosive Material Importers*
- ATF P 5400.22, *Recordkeeping Requirements for Dealers of Explosive Materials*

This Web site also contains links to ATF P 5400.16, *Voluntary Steps to Prepare for a Pending Natural Disaster* and ATF P 5400.23, *Compliance Guidelines for Federal Explosives Licensees and Permittees*. These publications are intended as aids for compliance with statutory and regulatory



requirements - not as replacements. The federal explosives law, Title 18, United States Code, Chapter 40, provides explosive materials statutory requirements and implementing regulations at 27 CFR, Part 555, provides specific regulatory requirements.

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My Journey into Mining Part 1

by **Evan Thibaud, Mining Engineer**

Editor's Note: Nearly two years ago, I met a young man who was attending college at the Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T) studying mining engineering. He graduated earlier this year and I asked if he would share his experience with our readers and he graciously agreed. Here is Evan's story:



I remember growing up watching guys in the neighborhood light up the sky during 4th of July block parties. I was fascinated with fireworks and the power behind them. As a student in high school, I took a survey to determine what I should study in college. I answered 50 questions, and it said I should be a lawyer. It didn't take one second before I ruled that out, and I am glad I did.

A few years later, I attended a career day set up at my high school. It was a great day because many professionals from different industries came to talk and answer questions about their professions. Although there weren't any explosives engineers, there was one man who told us we should pick something we really like to do and make it our goal to find a career doing it. He asked people what they liked to do and when he asked me, I said, "I like to blow stuff up!" which made everyone laugh, but once everyone quieted down, he told me to do just that.

A year later, I read an article in the newspaper about a camp offered at a school I had never heard of. This school

offered an explosives summer camp. Dr. Paul Worsley, who is in charge of the explosives program at Missouri S&T, hosts a weeklong camp where all you do is blow stuff up! I told my mom I had to go, and once I had enough money to sign up, I was on my way.

I was instantly welcomed by the professors and staff in the mining department. I originally wanted to do demolition and fireworks, but they described how the demolition industry is an extremely hard industry to enter and fireworks are more of a hobby than a full-time job. I didn't realize 95% of explosives in the U.S. are used in the mining industry. They advised me entering the mining engineering program would be the best opportunity to get an explosives job. So, I decided to enter engineering school to study a subject I knew nothing about - mining. Neither my family nor anyone I knew had any clue what mining is like today.

It was a tough decision to attend Missouri S&T. I was from Chattanooga, Tennessee, which was ten hours and one large out-of-state tuition away from Rolla, Missouri.

There were several scholarships available through the financial aid department, so while most were taking it easy their senior year, I was working hard to make sure my grades were high enough to receive one of those scholarships. Once I reached my financial goal, I made the move to Missouri.

I was very nervous because I was going to a place where I didn't know a soul. The school and the mining department encourage campus involvement so I decided to join Kappa Alpha Order, a fraternity on campus. I moved in with a bunch of different guys and I did not know what to expect. My roommate was a junior in the mining department and he, along with the other mining guys, pushed me to get involved in department organizations.

The mining department has six major extracurricular organizations including the first and largest student chapter of ISEE (International Society of Explosives Engineers); SME (Society of Mining and Metallurgy); S&T Mine Rescue Team; S&T Mucking Team; a group promoting mining education called Women in Mining; and NSSGA (National Sand Stone and Gravel Association). There are additional honor societies and activities within the earth sciences departments as well.

The story continues next month!

