



# Department of Justice

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## **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL IMPORT OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE**

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill and Special Agent in Charge Susan McCormick, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) announces that Henson Chua (47, Manilla, Philippines) today pleaded guilty to a violation of the Arms Export Control Act. Chua faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

According to the plea agreement, Chua knowingly and willfully caused the temporary import into the United States of an item on the U.S. Munitions List, namely an unmanned aerial vehicle. Chua initially listed the item for sale on E-bay and then engaged in communications with undercover agents from ICE HSI, which culminated in the recovery of the item by U.S. officials.

"The unlawful import of military technology poses a serious threat to our national security," said Susan McCormick, special agent in charge of ICE HSI in Tampa. "ICE is committed to working with the U.S. Attorney's Office and military investigators to protect the American public and our military troops overseas from this kind of technology falling into the wrong hands."

This case was investigated by ICE-HSI in Tampa and Los Angeles, California, as well as the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sara C. Sweeney.