



Department of Justice

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RUSSELL COUNTY RESIDENTS CHARGED IN STOLEN EXPLOSIVES CONSPIRACY

Montgomery, Alabama - Four Russell County residents have been charged in connection with an investigation into trafficking in stolen explosives, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. Christi Barbara Gregory, age 23, of Smiths, Alabama; Dustin Shelly Martin, age 26, of Smiths, Alabama, Timothy Ryan Tart, age 39, of Phenix City, Alabama; and Roscoe Donald Thomas, age 45, of Phenix City, Alabama, have been named in a five-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Montgomery.

Three counts of the indictment allege that Gregory, Martin, and Tart unlawfully conspired together to barter, sell, and dispose of explosive materials; that they possessed unregistered grenades; and that they bartered, sold, and disposed of stolen explosive materials that they knew or had reasonable cause to know were stolen.

Thomas is charged in two counts with receiving, concealing, and storing stolen explosive materials that he knew or had reason to know were stolen; and with possessing unregistered grenades. Federal law prohibits trafficking in stolen explosive materials and requires that any person who possesses destructive devices such as grenades register them with the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only charges. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

The offenses involve five M-67 hand grenades, four M-84 stun grenades, two MDI blasting caps, and approximately 1.25 pounds of M-112, C-4 explosive. For each count, the defendants face a maximum punishment of 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000.00.

Martin made his initial appearance in federal court in Montgomery today before a United States Magistrate Judge, at which he was informed of the charges against him and an attorney from the Office of the Federal Defender was appointed to represent him. The United States Attorney's Office requested that Martin be detained without bond pending trial, and Martin was ordered to remain in custody until a hearing could be held on the request. Martin will next appear in court on Monday, April 6, 2009, for a detention hearing and arraignment. At that time, the United States Magistrate Judge will determine if Martin will be released on bond and he will plead guilty or not guilty to the charges. A trial date has not yet been set.

Gregory, Tart, and Thomas are currently being held in local custody on pending state charges. All three are scheduled to be transferred to federal court for arraignment on April 8, 2009, in Montgomery. At that time, all three will enter pleas of guilty or not guilty to the charges and a trial date will be set by the court.

The case was investigated as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods and Middle District of Alabama's Alabama ICE programs, aimed at preventing violent crime and the illegal possession of firearms.

This case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"), the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), the Russell

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County District Attorney's Office, the Metro Narcotics Task Force, the Phenix City Police Department, the Russell County Sheriff's Office, the United States Army Criminal Investigation Division ("CID"), and the 789th Ordnance Company (EOD) from Ft. Benning, Georgia. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Shepherd.

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