



Department of Justice

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RUSSELL COUNTY RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY TO EXPLOSIVES AND CONSPIRACY CHARGES

Montgomery, Alabama - A Russell County resident, Christi Barbara Gregory, age 23, of Smiths, Alabama, pled guilty to conspiring to barter, sell, and dispose of stolen explosive materials; to possessing unregistered grenades; and to bartering, selling, and disposing of stolen explosive materials that she knew or had reasonable cause to know were stolen, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. 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 and pay a tax.

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. On each count, Gregory faces a maximum punishment of 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000.00. A date for Gregory's sentencing has not yet been set. He is currently in federal custody awaiting the sentencing date.

Three other defendants, Dustin Martin, Timothy Ryan Tart, and Roscoe Thomas were charged in the same indictment with Gregory, and their cases are scheduled for trial on August 31, 2009, at the federal courthouse in Opelika, Alabama.

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 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. According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, "The illegal possession and transfer of explosives and grenades in our community is a serious matter. Gregory has pled guilty to these charges and now faces sentencing by a federal judge. However, the case remains pending against her co-defendants who will have their day in court later this summer."

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 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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