



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Leura G. Canary
Middle District of Alabama

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www.usdoj.gov/usao/alm

CONTACT: Retta Goss
Telephone (334) 223-7280
Fax (334) 223-7560

GUILTY PLEA AND NEW CHARGES IN RUSSELL COUNTY EXPLOSIVES INVESTIGATION

Montgomery, Alabama - Leura G. Canary, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama, announced today that another Russell County resident has pled guilty to federal explosives charges, while a fifth defendant has been charged in the continuing investigation into stolen explosives and grenades. Roscoe Donald Thomas, age 55, of Phenix City, Alabama, pled guilty to receiving, possessing and concealing stolen explosive materials and to possessing unregistered hand grenades. Also, Russell County resident, Anthony Miles, age 30, of Phenix City, Alabama, has been indicted on charges of receiving stolen explosive materials, possessing unregistered hand grenades, and being a felon in possession of firearms. Miles is the fifth defendant to be charged in the investigation, and Thomas is the second defendant to plead guilty. Federal law prohibits possessing 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. Federal law also prohibits convicted felons from possessing firearms.

Thomas pled guilty to two charges involving five M-67 hand grenades, four M-84 stun grenades, and approximately 1.25 pounds of M-112, C-4 explosive that he possessed between approximately January 1, 2009, and February 6, 2009. On each count, Thomas faces a maximum

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.

punishment of 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000.00. A sentencing date has not been set yet. Thomas is currently in federal custody awaiting the sentencing date.

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

Miles was charged in a separate three count indictment, which charges him with two counts involving receiving and possessing four hand grenades during December 2008. The third count charges Miles with possessing two firearms on December 30, 2008, after having been convicted of a felony offense. Miles is currently in state custody on unrelated charges and will be transferred to federal custody to make his first appearance on the federal charges later this summer.

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, "Thomas' guilty plea and Miles' indictment show the seriousness of these offenses involving explosives and grenades. The United States Attorney's Office and investigators will continue to prosecute fully all those who possess or traffic in illegal explosives."

This cases are being 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

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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 cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Shepherd.

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