



# Department of Justice

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## **THIRD RUSSELL COUNTY RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY IN STOLEN EXPLOSIVES CASE**

*Montgomery, Alabama* - Dustin Shelly Martin, age 26, of Smiths, Alabama, pled guilty on July 29, 2009, to three counts which charged him with conspiring to barter, sell, and dispose of stolen explosive materials; with possessing unregistered grenades; and with bartering, selling, and disposing of stolen explosive materials that he knew were stolen, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. Martin is the third Russell County resident to plead guilty to federal charges involving stolen explosives. 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, Martin faces a maximum punishment of 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000.00. Martin will be sentenced by a United States District Court Judge on a date to be determined and remains in federal custody awaiting his sentencing.

A total of five defendants have been charged in the investigation related to the stolen explosives. Martin is the third to plead guilty. Christi Gregory, of Smiths, Alabama, and Roscoe Thomas, of Phenix City, Alabama, have already pled guilty to similar charges. Gregory will be sentenced on August 6, 2009, and Thomas on September 15, 2009, in federal court in

Montgomery. The other two defendants, Timothy Ryan Tart and Anthony Miles, both of Phenix City, Alabama, are pending trial. Tart's trial is set for August 31, 2009, and Miles' trial for September 21, 2009, at the federal courthouse in Opelika, Alabama.

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 investigation and prosecution of individuals who illegally possess stolen explosives is a matter of great importance to the safety of our community and we will continue to seek the stiffest sentence allowed by law."

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 789<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Company (EOD) from Ft. Benning, Georgia. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Shepherd.