



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Leura G. Canary  
Middle District of Alabama

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

## **FOURTH RUSSELL COUNTY RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY IN EXPLOSIVES AND GRENADES CASE**

*Montgomery, Alabama* - Timothy Ryan Tart, age 40, of Phenix City, Alabama, pled guilty on August 20, 2009, to unlawfully possessing hand grenades, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced. This is the fourth Russell County resident to plead guilty to a federal offense involving stolen explosives. Federal law prohibits possessing destructive devices such as hand grenades that have not been registered with the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. Tart admitted to possessing the grenades without registering them.

The offense involved approximately five M-67 hand grenades and four M-84 stun grenades. The charge was a part of an investigation which also involved stolen MDI blasting caps and approximately 1.25 pounds of stolen M-112, C-4 explosive. For the offense, Tart faces a maximum punishment of 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000. Tart will be sentenced by a United States District Court Judge on November 10, 2009, in Montgomery. Tart was remanded to federal custody awaiting his sentencing.

A total of five defendants have been charged in the investigation related to the stolen explosives and hand grenades. Tart is the fourth to plead guilty. Christi Gregory and Dustin Martin, both of Smiths, Alabama, and Roscoe Thomas, of Phenix City, Alabama, have already pled guilty to similar charges, and were all charged in the same indictment as Tart. Gregory was sentenced on August 6, 2009, to five years in federal prison to be followed by three years of

supervised release. Thomas will be sentenced on September 15, 2009, while Martin is scheduled for sentencing on the same date as Tart, November 10, 2009. The fifth defendant was charged separately and is pending trial on firearms and related explosives. The overall investigation remains ongoing.

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, "Hand grenades are dangerous weapons which are strictly regulated by federal law. Violating the law regarding possessing such weapons is a serious offense as is evidenced by this investigation and prosecution."

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.