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SECOND RUSSELL COUNTY RESIDENT SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON IN STOLEN EXPLOSIVES INVESTIGATION

Montgomery, Alabama - Roscoe Thomas, age 55, of Phenix City, Alabama, was sentenced on September 15, 2009, to serve 24 months in federal prison for unlawfully possessing stolen explosives and hand grenades, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. Thomas is the second Russell County resident to be sentenced to federal prison for his involvement in a case involving stolen hand grenades and explosives. Federal law prohibits possessing stolen explosives or destructive devices such as hand grenades that have not been registered with the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. Thomas previously pled guilty on June 8, 2009, to possessing stolen C-4 explosive and to possessing hand grenades without registering them.

The investigation revealed that Thomas possessed five U.S. Army issue M-67 hand grenades and approximately 1.25 pounds of C-4 explosive, which were recovered from his residence. Also located at Thomas's residence were four M-84 stun grenades and two blasting caps. In addition to serving two years in prison, Thomas will also have to serve three years on supervised release under the supervision of a federal probation officer.

A total of five defendants have been charged in the investigation related to the stolen explosives and hand grenades. All five have pled guilty. Christi Gregory and Dustin Martin, both of Smiths, Alabama, and Timothy Ryan Tart, of Phenix City, Alabama, 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. Martin and Tart are both scheduled for sentencing on November 10, 2009. Each faces a maximum sentence of up to ten years in prison. The fifth defendant, Anthony Miles, of Phenix City, Alabama, was charged in a separate indictment with firearms and related explosives charges. Miles pled guilty to the firearms charges as part of a plea agreement on September 11, 2009. He also faces a maximum sentence of ten years in prison and will be sentenced on November 16, 2009. 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, "All of these defendants possessed or trafficked stolen explosives and grenades which pose a danger to everyone in the community. The community has been made safer by the recovery of these items and the ongoing prosecution of those involved."

This case was investigated through the joint efforts and cooperation 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"), the 789th Ordnance Company (EOD), and the Ft. Benning Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Shepherd.