



Department of Justice

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Tampa Orlando Jacksonville Ocala Fort Myers
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ARMED DRUG TRAFFICKERS SENTENCED

Tampa, Florida - U.S. Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces that U.S. District Judge Elizabeth A. Kovachevich yesterday sentenced Francisco Vidal Solis Torres (age 44), Jorge Matute Castillo (age 38), and Gilbert Aragon Eberet to (age 19) to 17 years and six months in federal prison, and Liz Sandro Funes (age 28) to 14 years. All four defendants had plead guilty to conspiring to transport five kilograms or more of cocaine while on a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

According to court documents, the defendants were on boat a go-fast vessel that was interdicted by the United States Coast Guard on March 18, 2009, in the Eastern Caribbean, after a 45 minute pursuit by the Coast Guard. At the time of the interdiction, the Coast Guard seized 1114 kilos of cocaine and three AK-47 weapons from the go-fast vessel.

This case was investigated by the Panama Express Task Force which is a joint effort between U.S. Navy, U. S. Coast Guard, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the U.S. Marshals Service. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Maria Chapa Lopez.

