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News Release

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2 indicted for illegally possessing firearms

Two men were recently indicted in federal court on unrelated cases of illegal possession of a firearm.

In the first case, Thomas Allen Boldt, 40, St. Paul, was charged Feb. 11 with one count of possession of an unregistered firearm and two counts of felon in possession of ammunition. His indictment was unsealed Feb. 19 following his arrest.

Boldt's indictment alleges that on Sept. 11, 2008, he knowingly received and possessed a firearm, specifically a "punch gun," that was not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

The indictment also alleges that on Sept. 11, Boldt knowingly possessed one round of 12-gauge ammunition, and that on Dec. 1, 2008, he knowingly possessed eight rounds of .38 Special ammunition.

Prior to the 2008 possessions, Boldt had previously been convicted in Carlton, Dakota, Ramsey and Washington counties of felony-level crimes, including third-degree burglary (1987, 1992, 1994 and 1997), theft of motor vehicle (1992, 1994 and 2003), escape from custody (1992) and check forgery (2006).

If convicted, Boldt faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 15 years in prison on both possession of ammunition counts (potential maximum penalty of life in prison) and face a potential maximum penalty of 10 years in prison on the unregistered firearm count. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the St. Paul Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa D. Kirkpatrick.

In the second case, Ewell Dennis Nash, 29, no address, was charged Feb. 11 with one count of felon in possession of a firearm. Nash's indictment alleges that on Oct. 23, 2008, he knowingly possessed a .32-caliber Smith & Wesson revolver.

Prior to the October 2008 possession, Nash had previously been convicted in Hennepin and Ramsey counties of felony-level crimes, including first-degree criminal sexual conduct (1998), third-degree sale of a controlled substance (1998), third-degree assault (2003) and fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle (2004).

According to an ATF affidavit, the Minneapolis Police Department responded to a call of a person with a gun in the 2500 block of Chicago Avenue S.

Officers found Nash inside a nearby store. Nash ran away when police began talking to him, and officers eventually tased and apprehended him. Officers found a loaded revolver under Nash's shirt.

If convicted, Nash faces a potential maximum penalty of life in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Minneapolis Police Department and the ATF. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Clifford B. Wardlaw.

These cases are part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a comprehensive, strategic approach to reducing gun crime in America that was launched in 2001. It networks existing local programs that target gun crime and provides them with additional tools in the effort to make our streets and communities a much more safer place.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.