



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**OREGON MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR ATTEMPTING TO  
EXPORT TO IRAN PARTS USED IN HAWK SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEM**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that in El Paso this morning, 57-year-old Robert Caldwell, of Portland, OR, was sentenced to 20 months in federal prison for trying to export to Iran parts used in Hawk surface-to-air missile systems.

In addition, United States District Judge David Briones ordered that Caldwell be placed on supervised release for a period of two years and complete 150 hours of community service after completing his prison term.

On June 22, 2007, a jury convicted Caldwell of aiding and abetting the illegal export of defense articles, to wit, Hawk missile batteries. The jury found that Caldwell engaged in numerous telephone and e-mail conversations with undercover ICE agents on behalf of a co-defendant in England. Caldwell negotiated when and where he could inspect and take delivery of five Hawk Missile Batteries for export from the United States. In January 2007, Caldwell traveled from Portland, Oregon, to San Antonio, Texas, where he met with an undercover U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent to receive and pay for the batteries. After he provided the undercover ICE agent with a check for \$ 5,000, he was arrested.

Co-defendant Robert Frederick Gibson is currently serving a two-year federal prison term for his role in the scheme. Christopher Harold Tappin remains a fugitive in this case.

Assistant United States Attorney Greg McDonald prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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