



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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## **Former George Mason University Police Officer Sentenced to 41 Months in Federal Prison**

**(Alexandria, Virginia)** – Robert Maurice Evans, age 30, of Deland, Florida, was sentenced today to 41 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, after his guilty plea on October 18, 2006, to the charge of Unlicensed Dealing of Firearms in violation of federal law. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement after Evans was sentenced by United States District Judge James C. Cacheris. Evans had been employed by the George Mason University Police Department from 1999 to 2005.

According to the statement of facts presented to the court at his guilty plea, from October 1998 to January 2003, Evans purchased, or directed “straw purchasers” to buy, 16 handguns from licensed firearms dealers in Virginia. Evans then sold these guns at a profit to individuals who could not lawfully purchase firearms in Virginia.

Evans purchased, or caused straw purchasers to buy, one handgun in 1998, four in 1999, two in 2000, four more in 2001, three in 2002, and two in early 2003. He typically sold the handguns for a profit at or near the time he acquired them. For example, Evans sold a 9mm handgun he purchased in January 2001 at a profit to a resident of Massachusetts who could not buy a gun in Virginia. At the time of the transaction, Evans knew that he was prohibited by law from selling a firearm to an out-of-state resident. Also, in July 2001, Evans traveled to Boston, Massachusetts, where he met with the same subject and another Massachusetts resident, who paid Evans approximately \$800 for each of two firearms. Approximately one week later, Evans returned to Boston and sold two more handguns to these subjects for a profit. Additionally, in or about January 2003, Evans sold at a profit another two handguns he had recently purchased to another resident of Boston.

During the summer of 2003, law enforcement officials determined that handguns Evans had purchased, or had counseled and induced others to purchase, had been recovered from individuals who were suspected of committing crimes in Washington, D.C., and Boston. After

being made aware of the ATF investigation, Evans caused the obliteration of serial numbers on a handgun he had previously purchased and sold to an individual in Boston. Law enforcement officials subsequently arrested the subject in possession of the handgun with obliterated serial numbers.

“It is particularly appalling that a sworn law enforcement officer would traffic in illegal handguns,” stated United States Attorney Rosenberg. “We are pleased with the sentence and the message it sends.”

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms and Explosives offices in Boston and Northern Virginia. In addition, the Boston Police Department provided significant assistance during the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Patrick Stokes and Special Assistant United States Attorney John Lohrer prosecuted the case for the United States.

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