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Federal Firearms Licensee Arrested for Sale of Firearms to Convicted Felon

(Richmond, VA) – David C. Keeter, age 47, of Waverly, Virginia, a federal firearms licensee, has been indicted on eight counts of selling firearms or ammunition to a convicted felon, and four counts of causing false statements to be made on Federal Firearms Transaction Records. Keeter made his initial appearance today in United States District Court following his arrest yesterday afternoon. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; and William J. Hoover, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, announced the indictment after it was unsealed today.

Under federal law, convicted felons may not possess firearms and dealers may not knowingly sell firearms to them. The indictment charges that Keeter, the owner of “The Gun Rack II” in Hopewell, Virginia, was knowingly selling firearms and ammunition to a convicted felon. Papers filed in court state that the sales went through a “straw purchaser,” an individual who is not prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm who agrees to purchase a firearm on behalf of an individual who is prohibited from acquiring the firearm. The indictment also alleges that Keeter knowingly and illegally permitted false representations on federal firearms purchase forms during the firearms transactions by permitting the straw purchaser to fill out the federal forms falsely claiming to be the true purchaser. The indictment specifically alleges that from June 2006 through November 2006, Keeter illegally sold four firearms, an AK-47, a 20-gauge shotgun, a 12 gauge shotgun, and a .38 caliber revolver, as well as various types of ammunition, including hollow point bullets.

A detention hearing has been scheduled for February 16, 2007. If convicted, Keeter faces up to ten years in prison on each count of illegally selling firearms or ammunition to a felon and five years on each false statement count.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and Prince George County Police Department investigated the case. Assistant United States Attorney Angela Mastandrea-Miller is prosecuting the case for the United States.

Criminal Indictments are only charges and not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed to be innocent until and unless proven guilty.