



## U.S. Department of Justice

### *United States Attorney Eastern District of Arkansas*

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### **RUSSELVILLE AREA DOCTOR INDICTED FOR POSSESSING GRENADES**

**LITTLE ROCK** – Jane W. Duke, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced today the indictment of Dr. Randeep Mann of London, Arkansas. Mann, age 50, was charged with possessing ninety-eight grenades, which were not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 5861(d). The single count indictment carries a possible punishment of up to ten years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

On March 4, 2009, Mann was arrested by agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives pursuant to a federal complaint issued for this same violation. According to the affidavit filed in support of the complaint, the case originated on March 3, 2009 by Pope County Sheriff's deputies responding to a call regarding military ordinances that were found on wooded property in London, Arkansas. On that date, City of London Public Works employees discovered a partially buried plastic bag in the woods. A worker dug up the bag and discovered a military canister containing military ordinances inside. These ordinances were later determined to be high explosive rounds designed to be fired from a grenade launcher.

As part of an unrelated investigation, Dr. Mann, who lives approximately 875 feet from where the grenades were found, was interviewed on February 4, 2009. During that interview, Dr. Mann showed investigators a grenade launcher he legally owned.

Armed with the discovery of the grenades, the information regarding Mann's possession of a grenade launcher, and Mann's close proximity to the location where the grenades were found, law enforcement obtained a search warrant for his house on March 4, 2009. In the course of executing that warrant, officers found five military canisters that were the exact shape, size, and color as the canister recovered from the woods, with one of the five bearing the same lot number as the canister found in the woods. Also located during the search was a box containing 45 practice rounds of ammunition for a grenade launcher, and a roll of plastic material similar to the plastic material in which the military canister was found wrapped. Finally, investigators located two grenade launchers in a safe in the basement, both of which were capable of firing the grenades found in the woods.

Although not charged in the indictment, investigators also found 110 semi and fully automatic firearms in Mann's house. Investigators estimated the value of those weapons to be in excess of \$1,000,000. Investigation revealed that the majority of those weapons were registered to Mann. A small handful of the weapons are of undetermined registry. The investigation regarding their registry is on-going.

Following Mann's arrest, a detention hearing was held by United States Magistrate Judge H. David Young. After hearing extensive testimony, Judge Young found that Mann presented a flight risk and ordered him detained pending trial. Mann has remained in custody since that time.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, along with the Pope County Sheriff's Office, and the Arkansas State Police. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael Gordon and Julie Peters.

An indictment contains only allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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