



Department of Justice

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THREE ARMY RANGERS, ONE OTHER SOLDIER ARRESTED FOR CONSPIRING TO ROB DRUG TRAFFICKER

Atlanta, GA - CARLOS LOPEZ, 30, DAVID RAY WHITE, 28, RANDY SPIVEY, 32, all active-duty Army Rangers, and STEFAN ANDRE CHAMPAGNE, 28, an Army medic, all stationed at Camp Frank D. Merrill, a United States Army Ranger mountain training facility in Dahlonega, Georgia, have been charged with conspiring to possess with intent to distribute five or more kilograms of cocaine and using firearms in connection with that conspiracy. LOPEZ, WHITE, and CHAMPAGNE were arrested without incident yesterday in Sandy Springs by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Special Response Team. SPIVEY was arrested today at the Dahlonega training facility.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the case, "It is a sad day when members of one of America's most elite corps of soldiers, the Army Rangers, are alleged to have become involved in criminal activity. These men were trained to defend the people and principles of this country, not to use their skills to steal cocaine from drug dealers at gun point."

"We are thankful to have been in a position to thwart this criminal activity," said Scott Sweetow, Acting Special Agent in Charge of ATF's Atlanta Field Division. "These are grown men - all of them non-commissioned officers. They came into it heavily armed and with their eyes wide open. While the alleged actions of these men is very troubling, this should not be taken as a commentary on the brave men and women who proudly serve with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces."

LOPEZ, WHITE, and CHAMPAGNE made their initial appearance before a United States Magistrate late this afternoon, and will remain in custody pending a bond hearing on Wednesday, January 30, 2008, at 3 p.m. The defendants are charged in a complaint alleging violations of federal drug and gun laws. These charges carry a minimum mandatory sentence of ten years in prison for the drug conspiracy and an additional five years, consecutive, for the weapons allegation.

Members of the public are reminded that the complaint contains only allegations.

Defendants are presumed innocent; it will be the Government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case is being investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives assisted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID). Further assistance was provided by the Sandy Springs Police Department's Tactical Special Operations Group.

Assistant United States Attorneys Zahra Karinshak and Robert McBurney are prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.