



Department of Justice

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ARMY RANGERS PLEAD GUILTY TO CONSPIRING TO ROB DRUG TRAFFICKER

Atlanta, GA - CARLOS LOPEZ, 30, and RANDY SPIVEY, 32, both active-duty Army Rangers, pleaded guilty today before United States District Court Judge Beverly B. Martin to their roles in a conspiracy to rob a cocaine dealer. DAVID RAY WHITE, 28, also a Ranger, is scheduled to plead guilty tomorrow before a United States District Judge. The defendants were all stationed at Camp Frank D. Merrill, a United States Army Ranger mountain training facility in Dahlonega, Georgia.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the pleas, "Our Nation's soldiers stand willing to pay the ultimate price to protect their fellow citizens. These three soldiers, however, turned away from the honor of their colleagues, and now they will pay the price for their admitted criminal conduct."

Acting Special Agent in Charge Jeffery A. Pearce of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said, "Due to the propensity for violence, this case would have been remarkable regardless of who the offenders turned out to be. ATF's concern was that these men were predisposed to commit acts of serious gun-related violence. These guilty pleas confirm that they were ready, willing and able to execute their plan."

According to U.S. Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: In November 2007, ATF agents became aware of certain soldiers from the U.S. Army who were interested in participating in an armed robbery of purported cocaine traffickers in an effort to steal the traffickers' cocaine. Agents then acted in an undercover capacity to meet with the soldiers and learned their identities and robbery plan. The armed robbery was to take place on January 24, 2008; however, to the soldiers' surprise, the cocaine and the cocaine traffickers were in fact part of an undercover ATF operation. The soldiers were arrested without incident.

In court today, defendant LOPEZ admitted to attempting to rob a cocaine dealer of his cocaine at a purported “stash house” on January 24, 2008. This crime carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. SPIVEY pleaded guilty to concealing the existence of this criminal conspiracy from his commanding officers and law enforcement, a felony punishable by up to three years in prison. The related case against the another co-defendant, STEFAN ANDRE CHAMPAGNE, remains pending. LOPEZ and SPIVEY are now scheduled to be sentenced on August 25, 2008, before Judge Martin. In determining the actual sentence, the Court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are not binding but provide appropriate sentencing ranges for most offenders.

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 S. Karinshak and Robert McBurney prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias, 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.