UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE District of Oregon

PRESS ROOM

April 19, 2007

BEND RESIDENT SENTENCED IN FEDERAL FIREARMS AND TAX CASE

Previously Convicted Felon Possessed 17 Firearms and Evaded Over \$300,000 in Income Tax

Eugene, Ore. – Morris David Frumkin, of Bend, Oregon, was sentenced yesterday to 100 months in prison by U. S. District Court Judge Michael R. Hogan. In May of 2006, Frumkin pled guilty to felon in possession of a firearm and income tax evasion. Frumkin's prison sentence will be followed by 36 months of supervised release. Judge Hogan ordered him to file tax returns for 1998 through 2002, pay related taxes and file timely returns during the supervised release period.

In 1983 Frumkin met a physician who paid him as a consultant for unknown services. Frumkin allegedly enticed the physician to send him money by fabricating a story about an overseas account containing \$4.3 million which the Government had promised Frumkin as compensation for undercover work in a drug smuggling case. The physician began making payments to Frumkin to obtain rights to these funds. Eventually, the physician learned that Frumkin had a criminal record, was under investigation for tax fraud, and had not been reporting the payments on tax returns. Nevertheless, the physician continued to send money to Frumkin. The total amount Frumkin received from the physician was \$1.4 million dollars. Although Frumkin should have paid at least \$312,000 in federal income taxes on this amount, he never filed any tax returns. Frumkin has not filed federal income taxes since 1982 and has used various means to evade taxes, including using a fake identity and enlisting others to receive payments on his behalf.

In March 2005, Frumkin was indicted for knowingly possessing a firearm after having been convicted of Unlawful Delivery of a Controlled Substance, Theft in the First Degree, and Unlawful Possession of Controlled Substance in the Circuit Court for Deschutes County. Pursuant to his plea agreement, Frumkin agreed to voluntarily abandon 17 firearms that police seized from his Bend residence on January 5, 2005. Frumkin has been in custody since May 23, 2006.

This case was jointly investigated by the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement Task Force and several federal agencies, including the IRS, ATF and FBI.

For additional information, please contact Assistant U.S. Attorney William E. (Bud) Fitzgerald at 541-465-6846.