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CALIFORNIA MAN INDICTED FOR THEFT OF OVER 700 POUNDS OF EXPLOSIVES IN 2002

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and ATF Special Agent-in-Charge Stephen Martin announced today that a federal grand jury returned a three-count Indictment against LARRY ST. CLAIR, 34, of Yreka, California. All three counts of the Indictment allege ST. CLAIR possessed and transported stolen explosive materials, including dynamite, boosters, safety fuse, blasting caps, and shock tube delays between April 7, 2002, and July 25, 2006.

The case is the culmination of an extensive investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF"), the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Jason Hitt, who is prosecuting the case, ST. CLAIR was indicted today for his alleged involvement in stealing over 700 pounds of dynamite from the remote Gumboot Mine in Scott Bar, California, located in Siskiyou County. According to the Indictment, ST. CLAIR stole the explosives and transported them from the Gumboot Mine shortly after April 6, 2002. The theft was discovered on May 18, 2002, by an operator at the Gumboot Mine. In response, ATF, FBI, and the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department launched a large-scale investigation into the theft. On July 26, 2006, agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") and the Siskiyou County Interagency Narcotics Task Force served a federal search warrant based upon alleged violations of federal narcotics statutes at a residence associated with ST. CLAIR in Yreka, California. During the search, narcotics agents seized explosive materials. These materials are alleged in the Indictment to have come from the Gumboot Mine.

If convicted in this case, ST. CLAIR faces a maximum of ten years in prison on each of the three counts. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

ST. CLAIR was previously indicted in a separate federal case on July 13, 2006, on charges of marijuana cultivation and various firearms violations. ST. CLAIR has been detained in federal custody on that case since July 26, 2006. ST. CLAIR will be arraigned on today's explosives theft Indictment in Sacramento federal court at a later time expected to be in the next three weeks.

The charges in the Indictment are only allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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