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STOCKPILE OF WEAPONS SEIZED, OWNER INDICTED ON ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS CHARGES

FRESNO – United States Attorney McGregor Scott announced that the grand jury returned an indictment charging JOHN MCCARTNEY, 57, of Caliente, California, with two counts of possessing a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence, four counts of possessing a machine gun, three counts of unlawfully possessing a silencer and twelve counts of unlawfully possessing modified grenades.

Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bakersfield Police Department, and Kern County Sheriff's Department worked together investigating this case.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Kimberly Sanchez and Stanley Boone, who are prosecuting the case, on May 23, 2007, a Kern County Sheriff's Deputy effected a traffic stop of MCCARTNEY's car in which he was the driver and sole occupant. Due to motor vehicle violations, McCARTNEY's vehicle was impounded and during the inventory of his vehicle, a machinegun was recovered.

During a subsequent search of MCCARTNEY's residence, agents recovered twelve modified grenades, three firearms silencers, and three machineguns. Additionally, agents seized over 10,000 rounds of ammunition, rifles, handguns, and an array of firearms parts and accessories. Agents also found instructions on manufacturing a Sten gun (machinegun), and the following books: "The Ultimate Sniper: An Advanced Training Manual for Military & Police Snipers;" "Silencers, Snipers and Assassins: An Overview of Whispering Death;" and "The Poor Man's James Bond."

United States Attorney Scott praised the work of the agents and law enforcement officers involved in this case stating, "the relentless efforts of these agents and deputies resulted in the seizure of a multitude of illegal firearms, and the apprehension of a suspect in this case."

Stephen K. Martin, Special Agent In Charge of ATF's San Francisco Field Division said, "the lawful possession of firearms is a right afforded to all American citizens. However, the illegal possession of machineguns can cause mayhem and

destruction to members of our communities.”

Drew Parenti, Special Agent In Charge of the FBI, Sacramento Division, said “The FBI and our partners on the Joint Terrorism Task Force were pleased to work with the ATF in this important effort to protect the public.”

The defendant faces 170 years imprisonment, in addition to a mandatory minimum sentence of 35 years imprisonment and \$5,250,000 in fines if convicted of these offenses. 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. He is scheduled to appear in court on June 8, 2007 for an arraignment.

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

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