



ATF News

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ATF ARRESTS INTERSTATE GUN TRAFFICKER FOLLOWING SIX-MONTH UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION

FRESNO, Calif. – Special Agent in Charge Stephen K. Martin of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), San Francisco Field Division, and McGregor Scott, United States Attorney of the Eastern District of California, announced today the culmination of a six-month undercover investigation that resulted in the arrest of an interstate firearms trafficker and recovery of 76 firearms.

David Gene Davenport, 36, was arrested subsequent to the service of a federal search warrant at his residence on Banyan Drive in Lemoore, Calif., Dec. 6. Among items seized during a search of the residence were 24 firearms that were offered for sale to undercover agents.

During the course of the investigation, Davenport, illegally sold undercover agents 50 firearms and negotiated to sell more. The investigation revealed 17 of the firearms sold had been transported across state lines for sale in California.

Davenport, a Kings County resident, was subsequently charged with engaging in the business of dealing firearms without a license; interstate travel in furtherance of engaging in the business of dealing firearms without a license; and possession of a firearm with altered or obliterated serial number

Special Agents from ATF, Parole Agents from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDC), Deputy United States Marshals, officers from the Lemoore Police Department, and the United States Attorney's Office worked in unison to target and arrest Davenport.

Federal firearms laws provide that only licensed dealers may engage in the business of dealing in firearms. They also prohibit interstate travel in furtherance of engaging in the business of dealing firearms without a license, and the possession of firearms that are not identified by serial number.

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“Illegal firearms trafficking is a threat to everyone in our community; that includes citizens and law enforcement,” Martin said. “Any one of these firearms could have ended up in the hands of a criminal instead of an undercover agent. Those individuals who choose to circumvent the law will be targeted and brought to justice.”

Martin praised ATF’s law enforcement partners and thanked the United States Attorney’s Office for its support throughout the investigation.

“Federal licensing of firearms dealers is integral to safeguarding against guns getting into the wrong hands,” Scott said. “This arrest and prosecution serves as a stark reminder to those who seek to bypass licensing requirements.”

Assistant United States Attorney Kimberly Sanchez is prosecuting the government’s case.

More information on ATF and its programs is available at www.atf.gov

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