



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**POLK COUNTY POLICE CHIEF CHARGED WITH POSSESSING
FIREARMS STOLEN FROM THE COUNTY
& MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS TO FEDERAL AGENTS**

Rome, GA - WILLIAM "Billy" WILLS, JR., 48, the Chief of the Polk County Police Department, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of possessing stolen firearms and making false statements to federal law enforcement agents. This is the second indictment returned by a federal grand jury in the past week involving firearms illegally taken by an officer of the Polk County Police Department. WILLS made an initial appearance and arraignment before a United States Magistrate in Rome this afternoon, and was released on \$10,000 bond.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the case, "It is a sad day when the top official entrusted to enforce the law in Polk County instead is alleged to have violated that public trust. According to the indictment, Chief Wills not only possessed guns illegally taken from the police department, he then lied about having the guns when interviewed by federal agents. The public has the right to be assured of the integrity of its law enforcement officers, the vast majority of whom serve with courage and distinction. We will continue to root out corruption by officers who violate the law."

Count One of the indictment alleges that WILLS knowingly received, possessed, concealed, stored and disposed of two firearms that he knew were stolen from the Polk County Police Department. The second and third counts allege that WILLS lied to federal agents during two separate interviews concerning whether he received guns from the Polk County Police Department without following the Department's policies for the disposition of evidence and other property.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Glenn D. Baker is prosecuting the case.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only allegations.

A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), 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.