



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

Tampa

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VOLUSIA COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL EXPLOSIVES CHARGE

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill and ATF Special Agent In-Charge Tampa Field Division, Virginia O'Brien, today announced that Neal Culter Elder, a 69-year-old resident of Lake Helen, Florida, pleaded guilty to one count of possession of an unregistered destructive device. The maximum penalty that Elder faces is 10 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, three years of supervised release, and a special assessment of \$100. A sentencing hearing has been set for June 26, 2008, before the Honorable Anne C. Conway, United States District Judge.

According to the plea agreement, in 2006, a confidential source provided agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) with information that Elder had hand grenades in his Lake Helen residence. On June 21, 2006, federal agents executed a federal search warrant at Elder's home and recovered numerous plugged grenade hulls, grenade pieces, fuses, black powder explosive, and sealant. Laboratory analysis subsequently confirmed that these components formed a combination of parts that could be used to manufacture a destructive device in the form of a hand grenade. ELDER ultimately admitted to the agents that he had made hand grenades in the past. A records check by ATF confirmed that Elder has never had any such devices registered to him as required by federal law.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar,
Jr.

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