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**HYATTSVILLE MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF  
DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE, BIOLOGICAL WEAPON**

**Greenbelt, Maryland** - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announces that today U.S. District Court Judge Roger W. Titus sentenced Myron Tereshchuk, age 43, of Hyattsville, Maryland to 41 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release for crimes committed in connection with his possession of ricin and improvised hand grenades at his home on March 10, 2004.

Ricin constitutes a biological weapon under federal law, and the possession of improvised destructive devices is also a federal offense. Tereshchuk is currently serving 63 months in prison in connection with his guilty plea in the Eastern District of Virginia to cyber-extortion charges. The 41 month sentence will be served consecutively to the Virginia term of imprisonment, and there is no possibility of parole in the federal system.

According to the agreed statement of facts presented to the court and an affidavit in support of a search warrant, Tereshchuk had been involved in harassing a business competitor, an intellectual property firm that produces and distributes patent and trademark information, and provides services relating to patent file histories, also referred to as file wrappers. Tereshchuk has a small file wrapper business called Potomac Filewrapper Service. FBI agents arrested Tereshchuk on March 10, 2004 on extortion charges.

According to the statement of facts, upon Tereshchuk's arrest on March 10, 2004, FBI agents searched his residence and found firearms, grenade hulls, chemicals, explosive powder, firecrackers and items suspected of relating to ricin production. Tereshchuk possessed large quantities of castor beans, from which ricin is distilled and processed, as well as tools and literature that would assist the production of ricin. Very small quantities of ricin are fatal to humans if injected into the bloodstream. Also found were 8 grenade hulls which had been modified by placing epoxy on the bottom aperture. According to FBI experts, epoxy sealed grenade bodies, smokeless powder, modified M-98 firecrackers and M-80 firecrackers, all found at his residence, could be readily

assembled into non-electric improvised explosive devices with minimal effort. Tereshchuk acknowledges that he did not have any registration which would allow him to possess the ricin and grenade components.

United States Attorney Rosenstein praised the investigative work performed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Prince George's County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team and Bomb Squad, and thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney James M. Trusty who prosecuted the case.