



ATF News

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For Immediate Release
March 16, 2007

MAN ARRESTED IN ALASKA FOR ARSON OF RESORT AT PORT LUDLOW

PORT LUDLOW, Wash. – Kevin Graesser, a fugitive in Alaska, has been arrested on a federal complaint filed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in connection with the Dec. 2, 2004, arson that caused approximately \$4 million in damages to the Resort at Port Ludlow.

After determining Graesser's whereabouts, ATF and Jefferson County investigators coordinated with the U.S. Marshal's Service and the Alaska State Troopers for assistance to apprehend Graesser on March 7.

"Arsons are complex investigations. From the very beginning we carefully processed the scene and then continued with a diligent and thorough investigation. We never gave up on efforts to solve this crime," said Jefferson County Undersheriff Tim Perry.

"We view arson, in particular this crime at Port Ludlow, as a crime of violence," said ATF Special Agent in Charge Kelvin N. Crenshaw. "As such, I must commend the hard work and tenacity of the investigators for taking a complicated crime of this magnitude, developing a suspect, and tracking the suspect 1,500 miles from the scene of the crime."

This was a joint investigation by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and ATF. The case will be prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office in federal court in Tacoma, Wash.

Graesser is still in custody in Alaska, pending his transport to Washington. If convicted, he could be sentenced to from five to 20 years in federal prison.

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