



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

June 6, 2003

HERNANDO BEACH MAN SENTENCED
IN PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS CASE
FOR MAKING A DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE

Tampa, Florida - Today KENNETH R. ROSS, age 38, of Hernando Beach, Florida, was sentenced to 33 months' imprisonment by U.S. District Court Judge Richard A. Lazzara on a three-count indictment charging various firearms violations. Count One charged ROSS with possession of an unregistered destructive device; Count Two charged ROSS with making an unregistered destructive device; and Count Three charged ROSS with being a convicted felon in possession of ammunition and a destructive device.

On March 6, 2003, ROSS entered a guilty plea in federal court and admitted that on about February 27, 2002, in Hernando County, he possessed the components to make two destructive devices. The components included: two galvanized pipes, 1 ½ inches by 5 inches with end caps with one pipe having an electric match installed within (ignitor); black & yellow lead wires extending from one end of the end cap; double "A" batteries and battery holders; additional igniters which were still in their packages; other

miscellaneous wires; one 16-ounce can of Goex black rifle powder (propellant); one 16-ounce container of Pyrodex muzzle loading powder (propellant); and a Sky Sport Futaba 4 digital proportional radio control system.

All of the components were used to manufacture a functional destructive device. The two destructive devices had not been registered to ROSS in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record as required by federal law. Also, located in ROSS' house were thirteen 20-gauge shotgun shells and thirty-nine .32 caliber pistol cartridges.

ROSS was a convicted felon who at the time alleged in the Indictment did not have his right to possess a firearm, a destructive device or ammunition restored.

This is another case indicted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). U. S. Attorney Paul Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials and calling our effort "Project Safe Neighborhoods - Operation HALT the Violence." The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns or explosives and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was investigated by ATF, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office and the State Attorney's Office for the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Florida. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John F. Rudy, III.