



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER CHARGED WITH UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE AND ILLEGAL DRUG USER IN POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on March 5, 2003, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a two (2) count indictment against LARO NICOL, D.O.B. January 21, 1962, of Tempe, Arizona, and employed as an air traffic controller at the Phoenix Goodyear Airport.

Count 1 of the indictment contains the following allegations:

On or about February 22, 2003, in the District of Arizona, defendant LARO NICOL knowingly possessed a destructive device, a firearm as defined in Title 26, United States Code, Sections 5845(a)(8) and (f)(1)(A), that is, one (1) pipe

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bomb consisting of a one (1) polyvinyl chloride pipe elbow sealed at both ends with a hardened sealant, explosive materials and green pyrotechnic fuse, which firearm was not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record as required by Title 26, United States Code, Section 5841.

In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Sections 5861(d) and 5871.

Count 2 of the indictment contains the following allegations:

Commencing on or about a date unknown to the Grand Jury but continuing to on or about March 4, 2003, in the District of Arizona, defendant LARO NICOL, while being an unlawful user of and addicted to controlled substances as defined in Title 21, United States Code, Section 802, that is marijuana and methamphetamine, did knowingly possess and receive seven (7) firearms, that is, (1) a Heckler & Koch, Model 91, .308 caliber rifle; (2) a Marlin, Model 336, 30-30 caliber rifle; (3) a Daisy, Model 2203, .22 caliber rifle; (4) a Savage, Model 29B, .22 caliber rifle; (5) a Maadi, 7.62 X 39mm rifle; (6) a PWA Commando, 5.56mm rifle; and (7) a FB Radom, bolt-action rifle, which had been previously shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(3) and 924(a)(2).

Nicol is presently in federal custody. Nicol's arraignment on the indictment and a detention hearing are currently set for Friday, March 7, 2003, at 3:00 p.m., at the Federal Courthouse in Phoenix, Arizona, before Federal Magistrate Judge David K. Duncan.

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Convictions for Unlawful Possession of a Destructive Device in violation of 26 U.S.C. §§ 5861(d) and 5871 and Illegal Drug User in Possession of Firearms in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3) and 924(a)(2) each carry maximum penalties of ten (10) years in prison, a \$250,000.00 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Phoenix Police Department and Tempe Police Department.

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