



ATF NEWS

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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ATF RAID NETS MORE THAN 300 FIREARMS IN VIRGINIA, TENNESSEE & NORTH CAROLINA *Gun Dealer and Doctor arrested in firearms trafficking scheme*

Bristol, VA: ATF Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey R. Roehm, Washington Field Division, United States Attorney John L. Brownlee, Western Judicial District of Virginia, and United States Attorney Harry S. Mattice Jr., Eastern Judicial District of Tennessee, announce the arrest of four subjects and the seizure of more than 300 firearms after a two-day ATF led enforcement operation targeting a firearms trafficking ring. The ring conducted operations in Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Those charged in this investigation were purchasing firearms and transporting firearms across state lines for sale to others at various locations to include flea markets. The penalty for conspiracy offenses is a maximum term of imprisonment of 5 years. The penalty for the remaining substantive offenses is a maximum term of imprisonment for 10 years. All offenses each carry maximum fines of \$250,000.

Beginning in the early morning hours on December 10, 2003, 30 ATF agents, state and local law enforcement officers, and other federal agencies executed three search warrants and arrested four subjects for federal firearms and conspiracy violations across Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Arrest warrants were issued for four additional subjects who are currently fugitives from justice. Because of the yearlong investigation and this enforcement action, ATF agents seized and/or purchased more than 300 firearms, including two machine guns, and \$60,000 in cash.

Included in the four arrests was Bill Wallace, age 47, a federally licensed firearms dealer doing business as Army Surplus and Variety in Mountain City, Tennessee. As a result of a search warrant at Wallace's business on December 10, 2003, more than 170 firearms were seized. Also arrested was Doctor Christopher Perry, age 38, of Bristol Chiropractic Clinic in Bristol, Tennessee. On December 11, a search warrant at Doctor Perry's residence in Kingsport, Tennessee yielded more than 100 firearms that were subsequently seized.

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Additional subjects charged in this investigation include:

- (1) Douglas Icenhour, age 34, of Mountain City, Tennessee (Arrested)
- (2) James Yates, age 35, of Damascus, Virginia (Arrested)
- (3) Coy Edwards, age 61, W/M, Blue eyes, brown hair of Sparta, NC (Fugitive)
- (4) Bobby Hoover, age 63, W/M, Dema, Kentucky (Fugitive)
- (5) Robert Saint Lawrence, age 65, W/M green eyes, brown hair of Graham, N C (Fugitive)
- (6) William Vance, age 59, W/M, green eyes, brown hair, of Beckley, WV (Fugitive)

Anyone encountering these fugitive's from justice should not attempt to apprehend them. Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of these fugitives should contact their state or local police, or the ATF Bristol, Virginia Field Office at 276-466-2727.

Assisting in this investigation are the United States Marshal's Service, FBI, Virginia State Police, Bristol Tennessee Police Department, the Washington County, Lee County, and Dickenson County Virginia Sheriffs Departments.

Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Bockhorst, Western District of Virginia, and Assistant United States Attorney Robert Reeves, Eastern District of Tennessee are prosecuting the case for the United States Attorney's Offices. The United States Attorney's Office, Western District of North Carolina, also assisted in this investigation.

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