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**FORMER METROPOLITAN POLICE OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO
ILLEGALLY TRANSPORTING FIREARMS**

Sawed the Barrel Off a 12 Gauge Shotgun

Greenbelt, Maryland - Edwin Francis Kennedy, age 36, of Chesapeake, Maryland, formerly a police officer with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) in Washington D.C., pleaded guilty today to illegally transporting a firearm and a short-barrel shotgun, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein.

According to the statement of facts provided to the court as part of the plea agreement, in January or February 2006, Kennedy recovered a 12 gauge shotgun from southeast Washington D.C. while on duty as a police officer. Kennedy took the shotgun to his residence in Calvert County, Maryland and enlisted his 15-year-old daughter to help saw off a large portion of the shotgun barrel to an illegal length of about 14 inches. Kennedy instructed his daughter not to tell anyone about sawing off the shotgun barrel. Kennedy later took the short-barreled 12 gauge shotgun back to Washington, D.C. where he arranged for the gun to be recovered by the MPD.

When Kennedy found out that he was under investigation for possessing a sawed-off shotgun, he purchased a different shotgun, sawed the barrel down to a legal length of 20 inches, and took photographs of it. On April 14, 2006, Kennedy presented the photographs of this second shotgun to officers of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, as if it were the shotgun that was the subject of the investigation. Later in the course of the April 14 interview with the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, Kennedy admitted that the pictures were of a different shotgun.

Kennedy faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count. U.S. District Judge Deborah K. Chasanow has scheduled sentencing for May 7, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein praised the investigative work performed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Metropolitan Police Department, and the Calvert County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Rosenstein also thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Michele Sartori, who is prosecuting the case.