



Department of Justice

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ELEVEN MEN SENTENCED IN MACHINE GUN CASE

Defendants Made, Sold & Possessed Machine Guns in Northwest Georgia

Atlanta, GA– Eleven defendants were sentenced today in federal court on charges of unlawful manufacture, sale and possession of machine guns from early 1999 through early 2004. 33 illegally made and owned machine guns were seized by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) during the course of the investigation.

"Any time we remove 33 illegal machine guns from our community, we are all safer," said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. "These convictions and sentences ensure that this group of defendants will no longer have access to firearms, and we hope that others who hear of these crimes will decide not to get involved in the unlawful making, distributing, or possessing of machine guns."

ATF Special Agent in Charge Vanessa McLemore said of today's sentencing, "These individuals demonstrated a disturbing disregard for ATF's regulatory authority and as a result, found themselves subjects of a criminal investigation. While the successful prosecution of those who possess unregistered machine guns is noteworthy in itself, we are pleased to have further disrupted an entire unlicensed, unregulated source of supply for these illegally manufactured weapons." Ms. McLemore noted that while individuals may possess and transfer machine guns lawfully registered prior to May 19, 1986, federal law prohibits the manufacture of new machine guns unless they are intended for distribution to local, state or federal agencies.

The eleven defendants sentenced today are: MICHAEL A. MILLER, 49, of Carrollton, Georgia; LARRY BUSH, 50, of Lawrenceville, Georgia; J. COREY ADAMS, 28, of Carrollton, Georgia; KEVIN BUSH, 42, of South Shore, Kentucky; HUEY HUTCHINSON, 66, of Carrollton, Georgia; JOSEPH STANLEY NABORS, 49, of Dallas, Georgia; PHILLIP SLAUGHTER, 43, of Douglasville, Georgia; BRUCE WADE WILKINSON, 40, of Columbus, Georgia; RODNEY WILLIAMS, 44, of Roopville, Georgia; JOHN ARRINGTON, 33, of Heflin, Alabama, and THOMAS MORRISON, 42, of Villa Rica, Georgia.

MICHAEL MILLER was sentenced to 1 year, one day in federal prison, and ordered to serve 3 years of supervised release.

LARRY BUSH was sentenced to 9 months in prison, and ordered to serve 3 years of supervised release.

COREY ADAMS was sentenced to serve 6 months in a halfway house to be followed by 5 years of probation.

KEVIN BUSH, HUEY HUTCHINSON, JOSEPH STANLEY NABORS, PHILIP SLAUGHTER, BRUCE WADE WILKINSON, RODNEY WILLIAMS, JOHN ARRINGTON and THOMAS MORRISON were all sentenced to one year of probation.

According to United States Attorney David E. Nahmias and the documents and information presented in court: From at least the beginning of 1999 until 2004, MICHAEL MILLER unlawfully manufactured machine guns at his home in Carrollton, Georgia, and conspired with LARRY BUSH and J. COREY ADAMS to unlawfully sell those machine guns to other individuals. During mid-to-late 2003, MICHAEL MILLER, LARRY BUSH and COREY ADAMS unlawfully sold nineteen machine guns to undercover ATF agents, who were posing as buyers.

All three of these defendants later admitted to ATF agents that they had unlawfully made and sold the prohibited machine guns, and that over the years they had made and sold other machine guns to other individuals, including KEVIN BUSH and MARK S. MILLER, the brothers of LARRY BUSH and MICHAEL MILLER. MICHAEL MILLER and MARK MILLER are convicted felons who could not lawfully possess firearms. The other defendants unlawfully received unregistered machine guns that had been manufactured by MICHAEL MILLER.

The defendants pleaded guilty to the charges in April 2006, terminating the criminal conspiracy of the core group of defendants (LARRY BUSH, MICHAEL MILLER, and COREY ADAMS) who had been manufacturing and selling the illegal machine guns, which had moved throughout Georgia, Alabama, and Kentucky. The guilty pleas also ended the criminal possession of the illegal machine guns by those who acquired machine guns.

Three other defendants convicted in this case, MARK S. MILLER, 43, of Carrollton, Georgia; DONALD WALLS, 64, of Roopville, Georgia; and, SPENCER GAY, 33, of Carrollton, Georgia, will be sentenced at a later date not yet set by the Court.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF).

Assistant United States Attorney Todd C. Alley is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>.