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PRESS RELEASE

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**13 MONTH INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF 8
IN ILLEGAL ASSAULT WEAPONS SALES**

On August 22, 2012 agents from the California Highway Patrol (Investigative Services Unit), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives as well as agents from Placer County’s Regional Auto Theft Task Force arrested four men in Placer County for their role in an assault weapons sales conspiracy. On August 29, 2012 four other men were also arrested in the conspiracy by the U.S. Marshal’s Task Force.

The 8 men arrested are Jady Chantha Mysoth, Sisouphanh Phomma, Roger Boriboune, Udom Ketphanh, Jack Jason Thammavongsa, Derrick Hardin, Jimmie Lee Jones and Panya Manivong, all of Sacramento. Still wanted for arrest is Veronica Alexis Miller, aka Powe, of Sacramento.

On August 24, 2012 the Placer County District Attorney’s Office filed a 117 count felony complaint against nine defendants. Defendants Mysoth, Jones, Thammavongsa and Phomma were arraigned in Placer County Superior Court on August 28, 2012 where they all entered pleas of not guilty. Their next court date is September 20, 2012 in Department 13 of the Placer County Superior Court.

Defendants Boriboune, Hardin, Ketphanh and Manivong will be arraigned in Department 13 of the Placer County Superior Court on September 4, 2012.

The details of the investigation reveal that from August 2011 through August 2012 defendant Mysoth met with under-cover detectives 19 times to sell 49 weapons and methamphetamine in Sacramento and Placer Counties. On these occasions Mysoth and various co-conspirators met with undercover officers and sold 14 illegal assault weapons, illegal high capacity magazines, semi automatic pistols, revolvers and rifles. Mysoth was also charged with selling a quarter-pound of methamphetamine to undercover officers.

Based on information obtained by investigators, Mysoth, Thammavongsa and Phomma were charged with separated charge of felony gang activity. All of the other defendants are charged with assisting gang members.

“ATF works to reduce violent crime by targeting and dismantling street gangs that pose the greatest threat to public safety,” stated Special Agent in Charge Joseph M. Riehl. “Gangs are sophisticated and flagrant in their use of firearms for violence and intimidation; in this case, we were successful in restricting the flow of firearms to these gang members by both arresting these individuals and seizing numerous guns during this investigation.”

