PRESS RELEASE

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★★ *Alberto Franz, Chief of Police* ★★

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 8, 2012
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Suspect Arrested in Connection with Destructive Devices Found in Palm Springs

The Palm Springs Police Department, working in collaboration with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Riverside County Sheriff's Department Hazardous Device Team, Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), the Coachella Valley Violent Crime Gang Task Force (CVVCGTF) and Post Release Accountability and Corrections Team (PACT) Task Force, is pleased to announce that an arrest has been made as a result of an ongoing investigation into the series of destructive devices that were found throughout the City of Palm Springs during May of 2012.

On Wednesday, May 9th, 2012 at approximately 1:56 PM, a citizen dropped off what was later determined to be a live destructive device or "pipe bomb" at the Palm Springs Police Department. Several adjacent roadways were closed and access to the lobby of the Department was restricted as a safety precaution while members of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department Hazardous Device Team responded to investigate. The lobby and roadways were reopened to the public at approximately 5:00 PM that same day.

On Thursday, May 10th, 2012 at approximately 7:52 AM, the same subject that found the destructive device that had been dropped off at the Palm Springs Police Department the day prior called to report that he had located another similar object on San Rafael Drive east of Indian Canyon Drive. Investigators immediately shut down roadways in the area as a precaution. During the response to that location, investigators found an additional three destructive devices in the immediate area. Members of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department Hazardous Device Team responded to investigate and render the devices safe, at which point the roadways were reopened to the public.

On Saturday, May 12th, 2012 at approximately 9:51 AM, a citizen located an additional device in the 2700 block of Verona Road in Palm Springs. The Riverside County Sheriff's Department Hazardous Device Team assisted Palm Springs Police Department personnel with the investigation into this sixth destructive device. Once again, the roadways in the area surrounding the device were closed to through traffic for safety considerations until the device was rendered safe.

"During this investigation, members of the Palm Springs Police Department worked tirelessly alongside representatives with several local, county, state and federal agencies", said Palm Springs Police Department Chief Alberto Franz. "Their collaborative efforts led directly to the identification and arrest of the suspect. I would like to thank all those involved for their hard work and commitment to keeping our community safe."

Edward Costa, 47, of Desert Hot Springs, CA was arrested on June 7, 2012 on a federal charge of possession of an unregistered destructive device. The investigation in this case is continuing. Costa is currently in Federal custody and is expected to make his initial court appearance Friday afternoon in United District Court in Riverside, CA. No photograph of Costa is available.

A joint investigation being conducted by the ATF, FBI and JTTF remains ongoing. Anyone with any information regarding the destructive device investigation is asked to contact 1(888)ATF-BOMB (283-2662). Any media inquiries should be directed to Thom Mrozek, the Spokesman for the US Attorney's Office, at (213)894-6947(o) or (213)494-9261(c).

ALL PERSONS ARRESTED OR NAMED AS SUSPECTS ARE ASSUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY IN COURT