



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Richard B. Roper
Northern District of Texas**

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CONTACT: KATHY COLVIN
PHONE: (214) 659-8600
FAX: (214) 767-2898

FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS AREA RESIDENTS ON ARMED BANK ROBBERY PLOT

Defendants Face Up to Life Imprisonment

FORT WORTH - A federal jury today found three area residents guilty on all counts of a superseding indictment charging them with offenses related to an armed bank robbery plot they devised, announced U.S. Attorney Richard B. Roper of the Northern District of Texas. James Edward Geske, 27, of Arlington, Texas, Kevin Michael Smith, 37, of Fort Worth, Texas and Alicia Nichole Frazier, 25, of Aledo, Texas, were each found guilty of one count of conspiracy to commit bank robbery, one count of conspiracy to use and carry a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, one count of conspiracy to possess an unregistered firearm and one count of possession of an unregistered firearm. Sentencing has been set for May 25, 2007, before U.S. District Judge John McBryde. They each face up to life imprisonment.

The government presented evidence at trial that between October 29, 2006 and November 8, 2006, the three defendants conspired together to commit the armed robberies of First State Bank, ExtraCo Bank and Mills County State Bank, all in Hamilton, Texas. Hamilton, Texas, is located approximately 110 miles southwest of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. The plot, however, was disrupted before violent acts could be committed.

On October 29, 2006, an Arlington, Texas, undercover police officer met with Geske who expressed interest in acquiring guns and explosives in order to explode several police vehicles and rob banks in Hamilton, Texas. A few days later, on November 1, 2006, the undercover officer met with Geske again and Geske told him about the bank robbery plan which included securing enough C-4 explosives with blasting caps and detonators to blow up 15 police vehicles in Hamilton, rendering them inoperable and creating a diversion for the three bank robberies he had planned. The undercover officer told Geske that he had access to the firearms and explosives through a friend (who was in fact an undercover agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)), and Geske agreed to purchase guns and explosives for cash or methamphetamine. During this meeting, Geske recruited the undercover officer and undercover ATF agent to be involved in the plot.

Further evidence presented at trial showed that on November 3, 2006, the undercover officer purchased one-half ounce of methamphetamine from Geske as a sample for the future sale of the guns and explosives. The next day, on November 4, 2006, Geske, the undercover officer and the undercover ATF agent drove to Hamilton to conduct surveillance. While driving, Geske directed them to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office where the C-4 explosives would be used to blow up the Sheriff's vehicles. Also during this trip, Geske directed them to a nearby lake where the getaway vehicle would be disposed. During this trip, Geske further negotiated with the undercover ATF agent for the sale of the guns and explosives for methamphetamine.

On November 7, 2006, the undercover officer, the ATF undercover agent, Geske and defendant Kevin Michael Smith, met with another male, "Jeff," at a hotel in Fort Worth to further discuss the bank robbery plans. Smith said that his girlfriend, defendant Alicia Nichole Frazier, would also be participating in the robberies. During this meeting Geske, Smith and "Jeff," ordered guns and C-4 from the undercover ATF agent to be used for the bank robberies. They agreed to meet the next day to exchange the guns and explosives for one pound of methamphetamine and \$15,000 of the future bank robbery proceeds. After that meeting, the undercover ATF agent phoned Frazier and they discussed her involvement in the bank robberies. She said she wanted to acquire blue prints for all the banks prior to the execution of the robberies. She also ordered two pistols equipped with silencers from the undercover ATF agent.

The next day the undercover police officer and undercover ATF agent met with Geske, Smith and Frazier in a hotel room in Arlington, Texas, to further plan the robberies and to make the exchange of methamphetamine for the guns and explosives. The defendants provided the undercover officer with one pound of purported methamphetamine, which was tested later and found to be fake. Geske took possession of the C4 explosives and a machinegun the three defendants had requested. The three defendants were arrested at that time, without incident.

U.S. Attorney Richard B. Roper praised the excellent investigative efforts of the ATF and the Arlington, Texas, Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bret Helmer.

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