



*Office of the United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Kentucky  
Amul R. Thapar*

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## Two Defendants Plead Guilty to Federal Firearms Charges for Robbing Drug Dealers while Impersonating Operation UNITE officers

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**LONDON, Ky.** — Two individuals entered guilty pleas to two counts of a federal indictment charging them using a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking crimes. These two individuals as well as others were charged with impersonating UNITE officers and forcibly entering peoples homes that they suspected of being drug dealers. These offenses are commonly referred to as “home invasions.”

UNITE, stands for Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment, and Education, Operation UNITE works to rid communities of illegal drug use through undercover narcotics investigations, treatment for substance abusers, support to families and friends of substance abusers, and educating the public about the dangers of using drugs and serves the 29 counties of the Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District:

James Bowling, of Leslie County, Ky., and Jeremy Brashear, of Leslie County, Ky., pleaded guilty on Tuesday, May 22, after being indicted in March of this year. Bowling and Brashear both admitted, in the course of their guilty pleas, that in August 2006, they, along with George Clark, also of Leslie, Ky., developed a plan to rob a drug dealer of meth and crack cocaine in Laurel County, and then distribute the drugs themselves. Bowling, and Brashear, admitted that they, along with Clark, went to a drug dealer’s residence and knocked on the door, identifying themselves as the UNITE officers, dressed in police clothing, and armed with AR-15 semi - automatic rifles. When the drug dealer opened the door, Clark ordered him and his girlfriend, at gun point, to lay on the floor. Clark went through the residence and stole firearms and drugs.

Later in August 2006, Clark, Bowling, Brashear and others went to one of their accomplices, in Perry County. They picked out a suspected drug dealer’s residence in Hardburly, Perry County Ky. Bowling and Brashear admitted they along with Clark forcibly entered the residence with firearms where Clark struck the alleged drug dealer in the face with the butt end of the AR-15 rifle. Bowling and Brashear admitted that Clark discharged/fired a round from the AR-15 rifle near the alleged drug dealer’s head.

Later, Bowling and Brashear were pulled over by a Perry County Sheriff’s Officer.

George Clark escaped on that day but was later apprehended.

Bowling is scheduled to be sentenced on August 27 at 11 a.m. in London. Jeremy Brashear is scheduled to be sentenced on August 27 at 1:30 p.m. in London. Both men face a minimum sentence of 32 years and up to life in prison.

Clark has been charged with committing seven home invasions and is scheduled to go to trial for his charges on August 8 in London, KY. Clark has previously been found guilty of conducting armed robberies in Whitley and McCreary County. On those occasions he impersonated a Kentucky State Police Detective. If convicted of the charges on this indictment, Clark faces up to LIFE imprisonment.

The investigation was conducted by agents from the Ashland Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATF) and the Kentucky State Police, Hazard Post. The United States was represented in the case by Assistant United States Attorney Roger West.

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