



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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Manassas Man Arrested by ATF on Federal Weapons Charges

(Alexandria, VA) – Christopher S. Compton, 41, of Manassas, Virginia, was arrested today, and a criminal complaint was filed charging him with possessing and transferring machineguns in violation of federal law. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Edgar A. Domenech, Special Agent-in-Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), Washington Field Division, made the announcement after his initial appearance before United States Magistrate Judge Theresa C. Buchanan. A detention hearing has been set for December 21, 2007 at 2pm.

According to court documents, on or about April 12, 2007, an undercover agent with ATF purchased four unregistered machineguns from Compton at Compton's residence, which was then located in Ashburn, Virginia. During the undercover purchase, Compton spoke about having manufactured and converted the weapons. On or about December 11, 2007, an undercover agent with ATF met with Compton at his residence in Manassas and purchased two unregistered machineguns, one unregistered short barrel rifle, and one unregistered silencer. A search was conducted today by agents at Compton's residence in Manassas and Compton was arrested without incident.

The investigation was conducted by the ATF. Assistant United States Attorney Patricia Giles is prosecuting the case on behalf of the United States.

Criminal complaints are only charges and not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed to be innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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