



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOUNT VERNON MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF STOLEN EXPLOSIVES

Military Explosives had been Stolen from Base

JAMES RAY JONES, 22, of Mount Vernon, Washington, was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge Robert S. Lasnik in U.S. District Court in Seattle to five months of incarceration, five months of electronic home monitoring, and three years of supervised release for Unlawful Possession of Stolen Explosives. On April 13, 2007, a caller to 9-1-1 reported that JONES had offered to sell explosives stolen off a Navy base. Investigators found other witnesses who had seen the explosives in JONES bedroom. A judge authorized a search of the home, and a brick of military explosives was found in a safe in JONES' bedroom.

According to documents filed in the case, JONES told investigators he purchased the explosives from two Everett men who told him they had been stolen off a military base. Investigation revealed that the explosives had, in fact, been manufactured for the U.S. Military at the Joliet Arsenal Army Ammunition Plant in Louisville, Illinois.

JONES was arrested on September 7, 2007, and pleaded guilty on January 16, 2008.

Assistant United States Attorney Tessa Gorman pointed out the seriousness of the crime saying JONES "was at the very least completely reckless to the grave danger they posed in his home. Jones was under the belief that the explosives could blow up two city blocks, yet he carelessly stored them in his home, where they posed a risk to all those around him."

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF), the FBI, and the Mount Vernon Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Tessa Gorman.

For additional information please contact Ms. Gorman at the U.S. Attorney's Office at (206) 553-7970.