



## News Release



Seattle Field Division

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### **ATF SEATTLE EXECUTES NUMEROUS SEARCH AND ARREST WARRANTS IN OPERATION BLACK RAIN**

SEATTLE – Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Acting Special Agent in Charge Douglas R. Dawson today announced that the Seattle Field Division executed four search warrants and one arrest warrant in both Oregon and Washington on members of the Mongols Outlaw Motorcycle Gang. The enforcement actions today were conducted without incident, and were in connection with the Los Angeles Field Division’s three year undercover investigation, Operation Black Rain.

Mongols members in other states are being charged with murder, attempted murder, assaults, firearms violations and narcotics violations. These violent crimes will be incorporated as predicate acts in a federal racketeering prosecution to further dismantle the Mongols criminal organization from coast to coast. No Oregon Mongols members have been charged with criminal offenses at this time. One member in Washington State has been charged and arrested.

“ATF’s primary concern is the safety of our citizens. Today’s events again showed our continued commitment to combat violent crime and take back the streets,” said Dawson. “This organization is heavily armed and violent with most of its members in Southern California, but their crimes are as far reaching as Oregon and Washington.”

“I am gratified by the results that this joint investigative effort has produced, stated Vancouver, Washington Police Chief, Clifford Cook. “The threat such organizations pose to public safety at the local, state, and national level cannot be ignored and require a concerted effort by law enforcement at every level of government. Operation Black Rain is an outstanding example of interagency cooperation and our ongoing efforts to eliminate organized criminal activity from our communities.”

Assisting agencies include the Oregon State Patrol, Springfield Oregon Police Department, Milwaukie Oregon Police and the Vancouver Washington Police Departments.

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The public is reminded that all persons arrested are only alleged to have committed a crime. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it is the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

More information on ATF and its programs can be found at [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov).

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