



ATF Media Advisory

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Philadelphia Field Division

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ATF ARRESTS COLLEGE STUDENT ON EXPLOSIVES CHARGES

PHILADELPHIA – Mark W. Potter, Special Agent in Charge of the Philadelphia Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Mary Beth Buchanan, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, announced today the arrest of Michael Blattner, 18, on charges of unlawful possession and manufacture of destructive devices.

ATF's Pittsburgh Field Office and California University of Pennsylvania campus police received information on Dec. 5 regarding a college student who may be in possession of explosive devices. University police had been initially notified by a local Home Depot store that a suspicious individual had purchased pipe and end caps consistent with the makings of a pipe bomb.

ATF agents responded and interviewed the individual and conducted the scene examination in conjunction with the Allegheny County Bomb Squad. Several suspected devices as well as additional components consistent with the suspected devices were discovered. All of the devices and components were safely removed and were sent to the ATF National Laboratory for further analysis. After full analysis, it was determined that items recovered were destructive devices, i.e., pipe bombs.

On Dec. 14, 2006 an arrest warrant was issued for Blattner and he was arrested by ATF agents.

“We take very seriously incidents involving destructive devices. These devices pose a concern for ATF and all law enforcement agents who enforce explosives laws. ATF will continue to work with our partners to keep illegal devices off our streets and out of our community,” SAC Potter said.

More information on ATF can be found at www.atf.gov.

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