



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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FORT MYERS MAN CHARGED WITH FOUR ARMED BANK ROBBERIES

Fort Myers -- Paul I. Perez, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, announced today that Robert Leroy Blango, age 26, of Fort Myers, Florida, was indicted by a federal grand jury on four counts of armed bank robbery and four counts of using a firearm during a violent crime. Blango is charged with having robbed the Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union on October 14, 2004, and the Bank of America on October 19, 2004, November 2, 2004, and November 16, 2004. If convicted on all charges, Blango faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 82 years' imprisonment up to life in prison.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Lee County Sheriff's Office, the Fort Myers Police Department, and the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative. United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with

federal, state and local law enforcement officials and calling our effort “Project Safe Neighborhoods - Operation HALT the Violence!” The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Lee County Sheriff’s Office, Fort Myers Police Department, and the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey F. Michelland.

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