



NEWS RELEASE

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THREE TAZEWELL COUNTY DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR STEALING EXPLOSIVES FROM PRISON WORK SITE

United States Attorney John L. Brownlee announced today that Derick R. Williams, age 25, lacy S. Milam, age 21, and Angela R. Dameron, age 30, all of Bluefield, Virginia, were sentenced to prison for stealing explosives from a prison construction site in Tazewell County.

Williams was sentenced to five years and three months in prison. Milam was sentenced to three years and five months in prison, and Dameron was sentenced to 21 months in prison.

Williams and Milam pleaded guilty to theft of approximately 1000 pounds of explosives from a new prison work site, theft of explosives from a federal explosives permittee, and possession of explosives by a person using and addicted to illegal drugs. Dameron pleaded guilty to making a false statement to law enforcement officials. All three entered their guilty pleas in January in United States District Court in Abingdon.

According to evidence presented by Special Assistant United States Attorney Dennis Lee, late on the night of September 7, 2006, Williams and Milam used equipment from the worksite of Bizzack, Inc., a company contracted to construct a road giving access to the new Pocahontas prison site, to break into a trailer containing explosives, including ANFO. ANFO is similar to the explosive mixture used in the Oklahoma City bombing.

The pair was first identified when a tip came into law enforcement indicating that Dameron was trying to sell the explosives. A search warrant was executed on September 23, 2006, on the property on which Williams and Dameron resided and approximately 500 lbs. of explosives were recovered buried in a barn. The remaining 500 lbs. was located several days later having been scattered in a remote area. A Haz-Mat team was called to remove the explosive materials.

The investigation of the case was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

Firearms and Explosives, the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office, the Bluefield Virginia Police Department, the Virginia State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigations. Special Assistant United States Attorney Dennis Lee prosecuted the case.

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