



ATF News

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

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LEADER OF ALABAMA FREE MILITIA ARRESTED FOR ILLEGAL MACHINEGUN POSSESSION

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— Special Agent in Charge James Cavanaugh of the Nashville Field Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Alice Martin, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama announced today that William James Hudson, 56, of Birmingham, Ala., was arrested late yesterday afternoon without incident for a federal firearms violation.

Hudson, known to be a self-appointed Colonel of the Alabama Free Militia was charged in a criminal complaint for violating Title 26 of the U.S. Code, Section 5861(d), to wit possession of an unregistered machinegun. Earlier this week a search warrant was conducted at Hudson's residence leading to the recovery of the machinegun.

Hudson's arrest follows several search warrants and the arrest of five additional members of the Alabama Free Militia in April of 2007. The warrants led to the recovery of evidence including homemade hand grenades, improvised explosives devices, a machinegun, short barrel shotgun, silencers and more than 100 marijuana plants.

"The arrest of Hudson was the result of our ongoing investigation into the Alabama Free Militia, a case involving a great deal of illegal explosives devices and other weapons," stated Cavanaugh.

Hudson appeared yesterday in Birmingham before U.S. Magistrate Judge Paul Green. Hudson is currently in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service pending a detention hearing scheduled for July 2, 2007. If convicted Hudson faces up to 10 years in federal prison and up to a \$250,000 fine. There is no parole in the federal prison system.

Hudson's arrest was a joint operation by ATF, the Alabama State Fire Marshals Office, U.S. Marshals Service, the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office and Birmingham Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Whisonant.

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

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