



ATF News

**Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
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MORE THAN 20 ARRESTED IN ATF/SAN DIEGO SHERIFF'S UNDERCOVER OPERATION

SAN DIEGO – Davy Aguilera, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Los Angeles Field Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Capt. Glen Revell of the San Diego Sheriff's Department announced today the arrest of more than 20 people on firearms and drug trafficking violations.

Since April 2006, ATF's San Diego Field Office and the San Diego Sheriff's Department have conducted numerous undercover operations where 21 firearms were taken into custody. Four of the firearms are illegal short-barreled shotguns, one containing an obliterated serial number. Significant amounts of methamphetamine, cocaine, ecstasy and marijuana were purchased during the course of the investigation.

In addition to making today's arrests, ATF special agents and sheriff's deputies executed two federal search warrants and one state search warrant. As a result of these search warrants, an additional 14 firearms, in excess of \$30,000 rounds of ammunition and one-half pound of marijuana were taken into custody.

Four of the men arrested face a variety of federal violations, including being a felon in possession of a firearm, dealing in firearms without a license, illegal possession of a firearm by an alien, and the distribution of controlled substances. No further information will be released on these individuals as the indictments remain under court seal.

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Those arrested for alleged state violations are:

- Melissa Cruz, of Lemon Grove, Calif., for possession of marijuana for sales.
- Vincent O'Brien, 41, of Santee, Calif., for possession methamphetamine for sales.
- Sergio Peralta, 44, of Chula Vista, Calif., for possession of a stolen firearm and possession of a firearm by an illegal alien.
- Cynthia Reed, 50, of Chula Vista, Calif., for possession of methamphetamine for sales.
- Carlos Reyes, 24, of San Diego, Calif., for sales of an assault pistol and possession of methamphetamine for sales.
- Darlene Waller, of Lemon Grove, Calif., for sales of marijuana

Three additional defendants -- Jose Armador and Jesus Ortega, both Mexican nationals, and Kendrick Williams of Arkansas -- were arrested in May 2006 to prevent a violent burglary and armed robbery. During their arrests, three firearms, \$39,000 in cash, \$60,000 in jewelry and narcotics were seized. These defendants are currently facing state charges.

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department, La Mesa Police Department, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, El Cajon Police Department, San Diego County Probation, California State Parole, County of San Diego Bureau of Investigation, San Diego County District Attorney's Office, and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern Judicial District of California assisted in this investigation.

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