



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

John E. Murphy, Acting U.S. Attorney

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EL PASO FBI AGENT INDICTED ON FEDERAL FIREARMS CHARGES

John E. Murphy, Acting U.S. Attorney, announced that a federal grand jury in El Paso has indicted John Thomas Shipley on one count of dealing firearms without a license, four counts of causing a firearms dealer to maintain false records and one count of making a false statement to federal authorities. At the time of the conduct alleged in the indictment, Mr. Shipley was a Special Agent of the FBI.

The six-count indictment alleges Shipley engaged in the business of dealing in firearms from January 2005 until May 2008, while not being licensed as a Federal Firearms Dealer. According to the indictment, Shipley posted firearms for sale using an internet website more than 200 times, including multiple postings for many firearms. The indictment also states that during that three-and-a-half-year time period, Shipley purchased at least 54 firearms, then sold at least 51 of those firearms for more than \$118,000.

The indictment further alleges that on four occasions between July 2007 and May 2008, Shipley provided false information on ATF forms 4473 when purchasing firearms at local gun shops stating that he was the actual buyer, when in fact, he was not.

The indictment also alleges that on March 21, 2008, Shipley provided to federal authorities a document—a Dealers' Firearms Record Book—which Shipley claimed was his only complete and accurate listing of the firearms he bought and sold, knowing that he had another Dealers' Firearms Record Book which contained a more extensive descriptive and accurate list of firearms he bought and sold.

The indictment also includes a notice of criminal forfeiture whereby the Government is seeking the forfeiture of 17 firearms including two .50 caliber Barrett rifles; ammunition in various calibers including over 2,800 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition; one silencer; and, \$7,340 in cash seized during the execution of a federal search warrant at the defendant's residence on May 6, 2008.

Should he be convicted, the defendant faces up to five years in federal prison per charge.

This case was investigated by agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives together with agents from the U.S. Department of Justice—Office of Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney Greg McDonald is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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