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Federal Bureau of Investigation

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**FBI VIOLENT CRIME CRIMINAL TASK FORCE ARRESTS
SCHOOL TEACHER & POLICE OFFICER
ON GUN TRAFFICKING CHARGES**

Newark - Joseph Billy, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of the New Jersey

Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced that the FBI arrested William Mayes, age 41, a Newark school teacher, his wife Cynthia Owens-Mayes, age 27, a Irvington Police Officer, both of Irvington and Jed Smurda, age 43, of Bethlehem, PA early this morning without incidence.

All three were arrested by members of the FBI's Violent Crime Criminal Task Force which is responsible for all reactive violent crime in the tri-county area. and is comprised of officers from the Essex County Prosecutors Office, Essex County Sheriff's Department, Hudson County Sheriff's Department, East Orange Police Department, Irvington Police Department, Newark Police Department and the United States Attorney's Office. The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms (BATF) also assisted in the investigation. Smurda was arrested by the Philadelphia Division of the FBI Allentown Resident Agency and transported to Newark. Both William Mayes and Jed Smurda were charged in a federal complaint charging them with conspiracy to willfully engage in the business of dealing in firearms without having a licence. Cynthia Owens-Mayes was charged by the State of New Jersey with numerous counts of illegally possessing an assault rifle, official misconduct and child endangerment. At the time of his arrest William Mayes had in his possession a 9mm handgun as he prepared to leave for his job as a 9th grade Newark school teacher.

Jed Smurda purchased five Izmash, Saigi 7.62 x 39 mm assault rifles in

Pennsylvania and illegally transported them to Irvington, New Jersey where William Mayes in the presence of his wife Cynthia Owens-Mayes sold these assault rifles to a FBI undercover agent over four separate transactions for over \$10,000.

SAC Billy stated that next to fighting terrorism the FBI's top priority is getting illegal firearms off the street. It is a sad day when we arrest individuals who hold positions of public trust and are responsible for the education of our children with grave crimes such as these. United States Attorney Christopher J. Christie stated this is an alarming combination -- a high school teacher and his wife, a police officer, involved in gun trafficking in Irvington. These are people, who by their professions, are supposed to be part of the solution, not part of the problem with guns and violence.

William Mayes and Jed Smurda will have their initial appearance at approximately 2 pm this afternoon at United States District Court, District of New Jersey, Newark in front of a United States Magistrate Judge .