



United States Attorney's Office District of Connecticut Press Release

**September 14, 2009 THREE MEN CHARGED WITH TRAFFICKING IN STOLEN
MILITARY EQUIPMENT**

Nora R. Dannehy, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, today announced that a federal grand jury in New Haven has returned an Indictment charging three individuals with trafficking in equipment stolen from the United States Navy. The Indictment was returned on August 5 and was unsealed today following the arrest of one of the defendants, and the guilty plea of another of the defendants.

The Indictment alleges that **WILFRED J. BOUTON**, 29, of Oak Harbor, Washington, was a gunner's mate, first class, in the United States Navy, assigned to the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station in Oak Harbor. BOUTON had access to gunsights, including Advanced Combat Optical Gunsights ("ACOGs") manufactured by *Trijicon, Inc.*, which he stole and sold to **ARKRADANI VIRANUVATTI**, 30, of Sanford, Florida. VIRANUVATTI sold the gunsights to **CARL WILLIAMS**, 39, of Savannah, Georgia, who then re-sold them to buyers in the United States and overseas.

It is alleged that, from September 2007 through June 2009, BOUTON stole more than 50 ACOGs from the U.S. Navy.

"Illegal weapons trafficking endangers the lives of our military servicemen and servicewomen overseas, and this office and our federal law enforcement partners are committed to ensuring that sensitive military technology does not wind up in the wrong hands," stated U.S. Attorney Dannehy.

BOUTON, WILLIAMS, and VIRANUVATTI have been charged with one count of conspiring to traffic in stolen Government property. BOUTON also is charged with one count of trafficking in stolen Government property. Each count carries a maximum term of imprisonment of five years and a fine of up to \$250,000.

On July 22, 2009, BOUTON was arrested by agents with the Defense Criminal Investigative Service and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. He currently is being transported to Connecticut by the United States Marshals Service. BOUTON was discharged from the Navy on August 11.

VIRANUVATTI was arrested this morning by ICE agents in Florida. He appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Gregory J. Kelly in Orlando and was released on bond. VIRANUVATTI is scheduled to be arraigned before United States Magistrate Judge Donna F. Martinez in Hartford on October 14, 2009.

This afternoon, WILLIAMS pleaded guilty before Judge Martinez in Hartford to one count of conspiring to traffic in stolen Government property. WILLIAMS is scheduled to be sentenced by Chief United States District Judge Alvin W. Thompson in Hartford on November 30, 2009.

As part of his guilty plea, WILLIAMS admitted that he purchased approximately 20 stolen ACOGs and, in November 2008, he shipped five ACOGs to an individual in Germany.

Following his guilty plea, WILLIAMS also was released on bond.

“Today’s guilty plea and the arrests demonstrate the continued commitment of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service and fellow agencies in proactively identifying individuals and groups intent on acquiring U.S. military hardware and technology,” stated Ed Bradley, Special Agent in Charge of the DCIS Northeast Field Office. “Too often these sensitive items find their way into the hands of adversaries and therefore present a potential threat to America's Warfighters, whom we are sworn to protect.”

“Enforcing U.S. export laws is a critical component of ICE’s national security mission and is a top priority of the agency,” stated Bruce M. Foucart, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Office of Investigation in Boston.

U.S. Attorney Dannehy stressed that the indictment is not evidence of guilt. BOUTON and VIRANUVATTI are entitled to a fair trial, at which it will be the Government’s burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case is being investigated by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service of the United States Department of Defense, Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the United States Department of Homeland Security, and the Office of Export Enforcement of the United States Department of Commerce. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Edward Chang.

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