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WOODWORTH MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO LYING ON FEDERAL FIREARMS FORM

Firearms purchased were intended for Mexican drug traffickers

ALEXANDRIA, La. – United States Attorney David C. Joseph announced that Jerry A. Morgan, 30, of Woodworth, Louisiana, pleaded guilty Tuesday before U.S. District Judge Dee D. Drell for making a false statement on a federal firearms transaction record, known as an ATF Form 4473.

According to the guilty plea, Morgan completed an ATF Form 4473 when he purchased 10 AR-15 style rifles from a licensed firearms seller in Lecompte, Louisiana, on November 29, 2017. On the form, Morgan said he was purchasing the firearms for himself, but in truth he was purchasing them for another individual, co-defendant Dagoberto Yanez, 26, of New Mexico. Yanez gave Morgan approximately \$4,300 to cover the cost of the firearms purchase.

Yanez pleaded guilty on August 19, 2019, for conspiring to make false statements to a licensed firearm dealer. According to Yanez's guilty plea, Yanez intended the guns to go to a drug-trafficking organization in Mexico.

Morgan faces five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine. **Judge Drell set Morgan's sentencing for December 17, 2019. Yanez is scheduled to be sentenced on November 22, 2019.**

The ATF investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian C. Flanagan is prosecuting the case.

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is the centerpiece of the Department of Justice's violent crime reduction efforts. Project Safe Neighborhoods is an evidence-based program proven to be effective at reducing violent crime. Through PSN, a broad spectrum of stakeholders work together to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in the community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. As part of this strategy, PSN focuses enforcement efforts on the most violent offenders and partners with locally based prevention and reentry programs for lasting reductions in crime.

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