



David P. Gonzales, United States Marshal

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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U.S. Marshals Arrest Georgia Fugitives Connected To Hotel Explosion

Tucson, Ariz. – Early yesterday morning, Deputy U.S. Marshals arrested Anthony E. Wideman, age 54, and Julia C. Mitchell, age 36, both of whom are wanted in the State of Georgia for the manufacturing of methamphetamine and criminal damage.

In April 2015, Wideman and Mitchell were allegedly manufacturing (cooking) methamphetamine in their hotel room at the Cartersville North Inn located in Cartersville, Georgia. While cooking the methamphetamine, an explosion occurred causing substantial damage to the hotel as well as requiring hazardous material teams to respond. It is believed a resident of that room sought medical attention at a local hospital, but left before law enforcement authorities were notified. Investigators with the Bartow County Sheriff's Office obtained arrest warrants on Wideman and Mitchell for manufacturing methamphetamine and criminal damage to property. The U.S. Marshals Service led Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force located in Atlanta was requested to assist with locating and apprehending Wideman and Mitchell. The investigation determined both subjects fled to the Republic of Mexico and were residing in the area of San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico.

Deputy U.S. Marshals in Atlanta provided this information to the U.S. Marshals Service led Arizona WANTED Violent Offender Task Force who then began coordinating with law enforcement authorities in Mexico. Late Thursday night, authorities in Mexico established surveillance on Thomas

and later detained him at a convenience store in San Carlos. Further investigation led to the location of their residence where Wideman was taken into custody a short time later.

Early yesterday morning, Deputy U.S. Marshals took custody of Wideman and Mitchell after both subjects were formally deported to the United States from Mexico through the Grand Avenue Port of Entry in Nogales, Arizona. Both subjects were booked into the Santa Cruz County Jail and will await their extradition to the State of Georgia.

David P. Gonzales, U.S. Marshal for the District of Arizona said, "Wideman and Mitchell placed many people in danger while manufacturing meth in a Georgia hotel room. The crude process they were using, known as "shake and bake", did not go well resulting in an explosion. Although the vast majority of meth in the U.S. is manufactured or "cooked" in Mexico, crude labs can be set up anywhere. Furthermore, I would like to thank the authorities in Mexico, who we work with on a daily basis, for their assistance in the arrest of Wideman and Mitchell."

The United States Marshals Service is the nation's oldest federal law enforcement agency. Annually, U.S. Marshals arrest more than 50 percent of all federal fugitives and serve more federal warrants than all other federal agencies combined. For more information on USMS Top 15 fugitives and USMS Major Cases, go to www.usmarshals.gov.

See attached internet link:

<http://www.wsbtv.com/news/news/local/crews-investigate-explosion-cartersville-north-inn/nk6Cw/>

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