



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**FORMER NAVY LIEUTENANT PLEADS GUILTY TO SELLING
WEAPONS-MOUNTED INFRARED LASER-AIMING DEVICES
STOLEN FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that DAVID RAYMOND CARMEL, formerly a United States Navy lieutenant, pleaded guilty this morning before United States District Judge WILLIAM H. PAULEY III to conspiracy to steal property of the United States. The charge arose out of his involvement in a scheme to steal military equipment including AN/PEQ-2A weapons-mounted infrared laser-aiming sources ("PEQs") from the United States Department of Defense ("DOD"), and then sell those stolen PEQs over the Internet. According to the Superseding Indictment to which he pleaded, other documents filed, and statements made in Manhattan federal court:

CARMEL served as a lieutenant in the United States Navy on active duty as an officer on the USS Shrike, a minesweeper stationed at the Naval Station in Ingleside, Texas. In that position, CARMEL had access to inventories of the supply depots of United States armed forces worldwide. CARMEL caused the USS Shrike to purchase hundreds of PEQs, night vision goggles, and various machine gun parts through the Naval supply system, though the USS Shrike had no need or use for such equipment.

PEQ devices are weapons-mounted infrared laser-aiming devices manufactured by Insight Technology, Inc., for military and law enforcement use only. Pursuant to DOD policy, when PEQ devices are no longer in military use, they are to be rendered inoperable. On three occasions between approximately May 2006 and February 2007, CARMEL sold PEQ devices he had stolen from the Navy to an undercover law enforcement agent in New York.

CARMEL, 33, was arrested in May 2007 in the vicinity of his residence in Gilman, Wisconsin. A search of his property uncovered a large stash of weapons and related material, including multiple PEQ devices; numerous firearms, including machine guns and tripods; hand grenades; a grenade launcher; a shoulder rocket launcher; a silencer; and ammunition. In addition to the criminal charges pending in the Southern District of New York, CARMEL is currently serving a term of imprisonment arising out of federal weapons charges brought in the Western District of Wisconsin.

On the count to which he pleaded guilty, CARMEL faces a maximum prison term of five years. Sentencing is scheduled for January 16, 2009, before Judge PAULEY.

This case is being handled by the Computer Hacking/Intellectual Property Group of the Major Crimes Unit of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. Assistant United States Attorneys ROSEMARY NIDIRY and MARCUS ASNER are in charge of the prosecution.

Mr GARCIA praised ICE and DOD-OIG/DCIS for their work in this case.

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