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WEST SALEM MAN CHARGED WITH WEARING UNAUTHORIZED ARMY AWARD BADGES

Madison, Wis. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced the filing today of an information charging Gary A. Spors, 26, West Salem, Wis., with knowingly wearing unauthorized Army award badges. If convicted, Spors faces a maximum penalty of up to six months in federal prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.

The information alleges that Spors, who has never served in the United States Army, wore an army uniform displaying a Major rank insignia while participating in the Maple Leaf Parade in LaCrosse on September 25, 2010. It is alleged that Spors also wore badges awarded to the members of the armed forces -- a Combat Infantryman Badge and a Parachutist Badge -- without authorization under Army regulations.

The charge against Spors is the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, La Crosse Police Department, and Onalaska Police Department. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to First Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen P. Sinnott.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.