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Search warrant of Central Kitsap residence leads to discovery of military hardware

Central Kitsap, Wash. – The Central Kitsap man arrested yesterday evening, and booked into Kitsap County Jail for unlawful possession of explosives, made an initial appearance in Kitsap County Superior Court this afternoon.

Appearing before Judge Leonard W. Costello the suspect, Brian Kelly Sandberg, age 38, was remanded back into custody. Judge Costello found enough probable cause to hold Sandberg on a charge of possessing explosives without a license. Bail was set at \$100,000. Formal charging is set for Friday at 3:00 p.m. in superior court.

Sandberg was detained by members of the sheriff's office SWAT Team while walking in a commercial business area adjacent to the Kitsap Mall in Silverdale, Tuesday afternoon. He was found in possession of a handgun -- not illegal as he has a valid concealed pistol license. Sandberg was detained without incident.

Following the man's apprehension, sheriff's detectives and deputies, together with special agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and explosive ordnance technicians from the Washington State Patrol inter-agency bomb squad, executed a search warrant of the man's residence, located in the 10200 block of Hamilton Place NW, west of Silverdale.

ATF explosives enforcement officers and WSP explosive ordnance technicians conducted a thorough search of the premises, locating a multitude of firearms, ammunition and military explosive devices. A partial list of illegal items includes:

- Four (4) 40 mm M-203 grenade rounds produced for the military. These rounds generate a mixture of magnesium and primer to create intense bright light used to illuminate an operational area during hours of darkness. These are considered high explosive.
- Seventeen (17) 40 mm M-212 marker rounds used by the military. Marker rounds are used to delineate a target for contact. They are considered high explosive.

- Two (2) smoke hand grenades and one riot control hand grenade containing CS gas.
- M-142 firing devices. Produced only for the military they are considered booby trap devices. The M-142 is four booby traps in one and designed to be used in four different modes: tension / tension release / pressure / pressure release. These devices are victim activated and usually attached to a grenade body.
- M-5 firing devices. The M-5 is also of a victim activated design. They are pressure release and typically used with a grenade body. They were developed during the Second World War and are manufactured solely for military usage.
- Grenade fuses / live fuses. These fuses function as a detonator; they were designed for use with training grenades, but function the same as a standard fuse. For use by military only.

During the search of Sandberg's residence numerous firearms, ammunition and other inert items were located and seized. Also found were Claymore anti-personnel mine activation devices (known as "clackers"), test kits and Claymore mine plastic bodies (without explosive elements). Three military M-136 AT-4 anti-tank launchers were located inside the house (all had been previously fired). Four M-72 light anti-tank weapon (LAW) rockets were also discovered.

Follow-up to this investigation will be to try and determine how Sandberg came to be in possession of these items and what he intended to do with them.

The investigation continues. Anyone with information about this investigation is requested to contact Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives at (360) 337-7111, or Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound at 1-800-CRIME-13.

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