

# Middle Island couple, Shawdale Frederick and Janet Lewis, accused of gun trafficking

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MIDDLE ISLAND - A Suffolk couple along with a Georgia man are expected to face gun trafficking charges today.

Janet Lewis and Shawdale Frederick, of Middle Island, and Joshua Galbert, of Georgia, are accused of bringing illegal guns from Georgia into Suffolk County.

The Suffolk district attorney is expected to display more than 50 guns, bulletproof vests and a silencer.

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COUNTY OF SUFFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

THOMAS J. SPOTA DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## Three indicted for Georgia-to-Suffolk gun trafficking

Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota announced today the arrests of a Long Island couple and a Georgia man for gun trafficking following a six-month investigation by the DA's Gun Suppression Team.

Shawdale Frederick, 32, and Janet Lewis, 33, both of Middle Island and their codefendant, Joshua AKA "Butch" Galbert, 31, of Marietta, Georgia pleaded not guilty to criminal sale of a firearm and criminal possession of a weapon charges. All are in custody in lieu of bail.

Frederick has a long criminal record who has served upstate prison time because of multiple narcotics-related convictions, Janet Lewis has been incarcerated in state prison twice, for a felony sale of drugs and a prior weapons conviction, and Georgia resident Joshua Galbert has prior convictions for weapons trafficking and grand larceny. Galbert is also wanted by law enforcement in Georgia for a weapons possession charge. "As we quickly discovered," DA Spota said, "Galbert -despite his many convictions- was able to get his hands on a seemingly unlimited supply of handguns."

Gun Suppression Team detectives, using electronic and telephonic investigative methods as well as video and human surveillance, purchased 53 handguns, five rifles, two bulletproof vests and a silencer in 11 transactions during rendezvous' at the LaQuinta and Holiday Express Hotels, in Bohemia and Stony Brook respectively, and at a Yaphank Shell gas station.

Among the handguns purchased was a "Desert Eagle", a .50 caliber handgun, a handgun so powerful "it has the capacity to pierce and go through an engine block," District Attorney Spota said. "Also purchased by an undercover detective was a loaded Smith & Wesson .22 caliber handgun with a silencer."

"What do you use a .22 caliber handgun with a silencer for? Executions", Spota answered. "You use it to kill people. That's what silencers are for."

The Desert Eagle, the silencer outfitted .22, and an FN five-seven pistol, the same model of handgun used in the Fort Hood military base shooting where 13 died and 29 were wounded, were sold to an undercover Gun Team detective from defendant Janet Lewis for \$9,200.00.

The Gun Suppression Team, established by DA Spota in 2005, is comprised of veteran DA Squad detectives. During the investigation, team members encountered several

strategies used by the defendants to avoid detection by law enforcement, including changing cell phones twice a month, changing cars, alternating sale locations, and not showing up at agreed upon gun sale meetings.

“Our county has the most active and aggressive gun team in the country. Partnered with our ADA’s in the Special Investigations Bureau, we are focused on disrupting the transport and sale of handguns to criminals on Long Island,” DA Spota said.