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16 bombs, arsenal col 1

# seized in raid on Southwest Dade home

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Sixteen homemade bombs, an arsenal of firearms and 30 pounds of gunpowder were seized last night in a raid on a Southwest Dade home by detectives of Metro's "terror suppression" squad.

Police arrested the occupant of the house whom they identified as John Edward Castro, 41, also known as Eddie de Castro.

Twelve rifles and about 25 handguns were confiscated and one of the investigators said the rifles were loaded.

A Metro Public Safety Department spokesman said the raid was made on a search warrant after a long investigation by members of the squad, which is a beefed-up unit within the Organized Crime Bureau, and by U.S. Customs agents.

The raiders found the bombs, firearms and 30 pounds of gunpowder, including the smokeless variety, at a house at 6833 SW 28th Ter.

Castro is an employe of the Tamiami Gun Shop, 2975 SW 8th St., police said.

Chemicals and materials used in making fuses and a telephone lineman's handset were also found in the two-story home, agents said.

One of the raiders described the bombs as "metal cylinders four inches long and an inch in diameter, packed with gunpowder, with fuse extending out one end of the device.

"This explosive device could inflict serious bodily injury."

Sources in the Cuban community said the suspect was considered a "mercenary" who did not plant the

bombs himself but sold them to terrorists.

Castro was charged with possession of explosives and possession of an illegal wiretapping device.

John Katon, owner of the Tamiami Gun Shop, said Castro had been working for him as a clerk for two or three years.

Katon said he didn't know if the rifles and handguns came from his stock.

"I'd have to check the serial numbers against my inventory records," he said, adding that with the size of his stock, he would not realize any guns were missing until discrepancies showed up at inventory times.

DUPLICATE