



PHOTO BY PATRICK OEHLER

Weapons confiscated by law enforcement agencies from the homes of two men.

100-plus weapons found in two homes

■ **Pair accused of keeping huge cache that included assault rifles, submachine guns, grenade launcher**

BY CHRISTINE ARMARIO
STAFF WRITER

Two men have been charged with harboring more than 100 illegal weapons, including more than 50 assault rifles, in their West Islip and Bayside homes, the Suffolk district attorney's office said yesterday.

Acting on tips from informants and electronic surveillance, District Attorney Thomas Spota said authorities searched the homes of Gregory Brozski, 56, of 65-32 223rd Place, Bayside, and John Acompora, 46, of 59 Penney St., West Islip, and confiscated the weapons: four AK-47 assault rifles, submachine guns, a grenade launcher, ammunition, and others.

The firearms were insecurely stored in sheds and garages — posing a threat to anyone who might have approached them or started a fire, officials said.

"There is no legitimate purpose to possess any of these weapons," Spota said.

Brozski was arraigned in First District Court in Central Islip on

Wednesday on charges of third-degree criminal possession of a weapon and released on his own recognizance. Acompora was arraigned in the same court on Tuesday and released on \$5,000 bail for the same charge.

Brozski and Acompora pleaded not guilty.

Both men have a prior conviction for criminal possession of a weapon, when they were caught firing arms at sand dunes in Babylon 10 years ago, Spota said. As a result, they were not allowed to possess weapons.

The investigations were part of "Operation IMPACT," a statewide initiative aimed at reducing crime and building partnerships across law enforcement agencies. Suffolk police, district attorney squad detectives and State Police investigators confiscated the weapons.

Frank Panetta, Acompora's attorney, said his client has been "very cooperative" with the district attorney's investigation.

"He's not a violent person," Panetta said.

Brozski, who does not yet

have a lawyer, could not be reached for comment.

Spota declined to elaborate on the relationship between Brozski and Acompora in relation to the arrests. He also said they did not yet know how the men had acquired the weapons or what they intended to use them for.

Brozski is a Vietnam veteran and works for New York City as a mechanic at a sewage treatment plant, Bob Clifford, a spokesman for the district attorney's office, said. Acompora, a veteran who served after Vietnam, was a machinist at National Molding in Farmingdale.

The more than 50 firearms recovered from Brozski's apartment were stored in his home and in a garage under his apartment, Spota said. Acompora's weapons were allegedly stored in a car, two unsecured sheds in his backyard and a garage. Acompora has two

children, ages 13 and 11, at home. Spota said the investigation is ongoing, but that the two men could face a maximum penalty of 25 years imprisonment each.



John Acompora and Gregory Brozski

