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# Former Army sergeant accused of passing secrets to East Bloc

## FBI continuing spy investigation

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**Washington** — FBI agents arrested a former Army sergeant in Tampa, Fla., Thursday night on charges he conspired to pass sensitive information about the defense of Europe to Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the Justice Department said.

Roderick James Ramsay, 28, worked in West Germany directly under Clyde Lee Conrad, a retired U.S. Army sergeant who was convicted of treason by a West German court and given a life sentence earlier this week. Ramsay was arrested without incident, the FBI said.

Ramsay was accused of conspiring to gather and deliver defense information to a foreign government, the FBI said. The Justice Department said in a news release that the information included sensitive plans for the defense of Central Europe and the use of tactical nuclear weapons by U.S. forces and NATO allies.

"We can't give details, but it's fair to say the information would have been very useful to the Soviet Union," U.S. Attorney Robert W. Genzman said at a late-night news conference in Tampa.

Ramsay was held at an undisclosed location in the Tampa area and will appear before a federal magistrate today, Genzman said.

Neither Guzman nor FBI agents would say how many people overall were involved in the alleged spy

ring, and the Justice Department's announcement referred to the investigation as "continuing."

Court papers filed in the case in Tampa charge that for \$20,000 Ramsay gave Conrad the documents as well as technical manuals about military communications technology and material about the coordination of NATO forces.

The material was passed to the Hungarian and Czechoslovakian intelligence services, according to the court papers.

An affidavit filed in court and made available in Washington noted that in January 1986, Conrad visited Ramsay and gave him a cow bell. Conrad told Ramsay that anyone displaying a similar cow bell was involved in the spy ring, the affidavit said.

### Search warrants

The Justice Department said that several search warrants were being served by FBI agents in conjunction with Ramsay's arrest.

Ramsay served from 1983 through 1985 in the 8th Infantry Division G-3 plans section in Bad Kreuznach as the assistant document custodian. The G-3 section of a division is in charge of the military operations of the unit.

His duties included safeguarding all classified and military documents and he held a top secret clearance, working directly under Conrad.

The affidavit charged that in December, 1985, Ramsay videotaped hundreds of documents and made them available to Conrad for their eventual sale to the Czechs and Hungarians.

The case was an outgrowth of the investigation of Conrad, the FBI said.

FBI Director William S. Sessions

said the investigation was one of the most complicated of its kind ever undertaken by the bureau, and the information passed on was "extremely sensitive."

Conrad was arrested in August 1988. The trial judge in his case said his offense, passing secrets to Hungary and Czechoslovakia from 1975 through 1985 in return for \$1.2 million, "endangered the entire defense capability of the West" and could have led to "a breakdown in the defenses of the western alliance," and to "capitulation and the use of nuclear weapons on German territory."

In reporting Wednesday night that Ramsay had been targeted by the FBI, ABC News said the Conrad-Ramsay espionage ring had smuggled computer parts from the United States to the East Bloc through Canada.

But a top official in the chief federal prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe, Alexander Prechtel, said Thursday that Conrad had turned over "defense strategic papers." He denied that smuggling of computer parts was involved.

The documents concerned NATO and American troops in Germany and Europe, Prechtel said, but he would not elaborate.

"Normally everything goes to the Soviet Union, but we can only prove the way to Czechoslovakia and Hungary, and the rest is speculation," Prechtel said.

According to court records, Conrad was introduced to the Hungarian secret service in late autumn 1975 by his supervisor in the 8th Infantry Division, former U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Zoltan Szabo.

Szabo, who was convicted of espionage in Austria in 1989, received a 10-month suspended sentence.