

Weapons trader accused of selling to Iran

by UPI

SAN FRANCISCO - A weapons trader accused of selling sensitive technology to Iran was held in San Francisco Friday pending a detention hearing, ABC News reported. Laura Wang-Woodford allegedly earned millions from her deals but had eluded U.S. law enforcement until her arrest Dec. 24 at the San Francisco International Airport. She had reportedly just flown in from Singapore to visit her mother. U.S. government officials said Wang-Woodford has been selling munitions to Iran for more than 16 years. Wanted by the FBI, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and other U.S. authorities, Wang-Woodford runs a firm in Singapore called Monarch Aviation, the report said. She and her British husband, Brian Woodford, were indicted in 2003 by a federal grand jury in New York. The indictment alleges the Woodfords sold sensitive munitions technology to Iran through Monarch. One official said Wang-Woodford had several items showing recent deals made by Monarch and documents relating to Chinese missile systems. A letter filed with the court Friday by the U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of New York said she was in possession of a catalog dealing with surface-to-air missile systems and rocket launchers.

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