



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

Tampa	Orlando	Jacksonville	Fort Myers	Ocala
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE			CONTACT: STEVE COLE	
Thursday, February 21, 2008			PHONE: (813) 274-6136	
http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr			FAX: (813) 274-6300	

DUNNELLON MAN SENTENCED TO TWENTY-THREE YEARS ON FEDERAL FIREARM AND AMMUNITION CHARGE

Ocala, Florida - Senior United States District Judge Wm. Terrell Hodges today sentenced KELVIN LEVOID SMITH, 36, of Dunnellon, Florida, to twenty-three years in prison on a single count indictment charging him with possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon. Smith had been found guilty after a jury trial on November 7, 2007.

According to the evidence presented at trial, SMITH was involved in a traffic accident at an Ocala convenience store in the early morning hours of December 3, 2006. When police officers investigated the accident, they found two loaded handguns in the car SMITH had been driving, along with \$4,600 in U.S. currency and 266 grams of a white powder substance that resembled cocaine hydrochloride. SMITH told officers that there was a firearm in the car when officers questioned him. SMITH, a 12-time convicted felon, is prohibited from possessing either firearms or ammunition under federal law and is considered an Armed Career Criminal under federal sentencing statutes.

Special Agent in Charge of the Tampa Field Division, Virginia O'Brien, stated, "Today's sentencing of Mr. Smith represents the combined efforts of ATF and our state and local law enforcement partners in their persistent fight against violent crime. This investigation stopped a 12 time armed convicted felon who posed a significant and

immediate danger to Ocala and the surrounding communities. ATF will continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners to keep our communities safe from those individuals who ignore both federal and state laws and continue to illegally possess firearms.”

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney’s Office, the State Attorney’s Office for Marion County, the City of Ocala Police Department, the Marion County Sheriff’s Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”). This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program “Project Safe Neighborhoods” - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. United States Attorney Robert E. O’Neill and Virginia O’Brien, Special Agent in Charge of ATF, are coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Robert E. Bodnar, Jr. and Tanya Davis Wilson.

For additional information contact:
Paul Canup, ATF PIO
Office: 813-202-7366
Cell: 813-299-1682