



# Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **DECATUR COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS AS ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL**

### PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that STEVEN M. SMITH, 27, Westport, Indiana, was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Sarah Evans Barker following his conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm after a two-day jury trial ending December 12, 2006. This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Indiana State Police, supported by the Decatur County Sheriff's Department, the Shelby County Sheriff's Department and the Decatur County Prosecutor's Office. The prosecution is part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative to reduce gun violence.

On April 17, 2006, SMITH sold 16 firearms to undercover police officers in exchange for \$1,000. These firearms had been stolen from a Decatur county residence less than twenty-four hours before. The firearms included a .357 Magnum revolver, a 30-06 rifle, various gauge shotguns, and .22 caliber handguns.

SMITH had previous felony convictions for Intimidation and two for Criminal Recklessness. He was sentenced under the Armed Career Criminal statute because he had three prior qualifying violent felony convictions. A person subject to sentencing under this statute must receive a minimum, mandatory 15 years imprisonment. Because federal prisoners receive only 57 days a year "good-time" credit, SMITH must serve approximately 200 months before he is eligible for release.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Doris L. Pryor, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Barker also imposed 5 years supervised release following SMITH's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, SMITH must not possess firearms, submit to drug testing, submit a DNA sample and be subject to search by law enforcement. SMITH was fined in the amount of \$500.

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