



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONVICTED FELON WHO ESCAPED FROM JAIL
SENTENCED TO 17 YEARS

Jacksonville, Florida - U.S. District Judge Timothy J. Corrigan, yesterday sentenced Michael Herndon, an armed career criminal, to 17 ½ years' imprisonment for being a felon in possession of a stolen firearm.

According to court documents, Herndon escaped from the Okaloosa County Jail in Crestview, Florida on November 7, 2005. Herndon stole a car in Crestview shortly after his escape. Herndon stopped in Tallahassee and stole a firearm. Herndon continued to drive east after his escape and was eventually captured by Putnam County Deputies on November 9, 2005. Herndon, who is 39 years old, has 20 prior felony convictions.

The case was investigated by the Putnam County Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives(ATF), Jacksonville. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frank Talbot.

This is another case prosecuted as a part of 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 T. O'Brien, Special Agent in Charge, ATF, are coordinating the effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violence crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

