



# ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
Tampa Field Division

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## **PATRICK PORTER SENTENCED FOR ARMED DRUG TRAFFICKING** *Traffic Stop Leads to 182-Year Prison Sentence for Jacksonville Drug Dealer*

JACKSONVILLE, FL – The sentencing of Patrick F. Porter to 182 years incarceration for a history of armed drug trafficking was announced by Special Agent in Charge Virginia T. O'Brien of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Tampa Field Division, along with Acting U.S. Attorney James R. Klindt of the Middle District of Florida, and Jacksonville County Sheriff John H. Rutherford. This sentencing is a culmination of a yearlong joint investigation conducted by ATF and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

This investigation was initiated after a Jacksonville County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) patrol officer conducted a traffic stop on the car that Porter was driving after the officer noticed a burned-out tail light. During the traffic stop the patrol officer noticed a gun in Porter's car and learned that Porter was a convicted felon. The patrol officer arrested Porter and also seized crack and powder cocaine from Porter's car at the time of the arrest.

A JCSO detective, who is assigned to the ATF Jacksonville Field Office as part of the Project Safe Neighborhood task force, learned of Porter's arrest and opened an ATF investigation. Special Agents from the ATF Jacksonville Office and the JCSO task force detective conducted a year long investigation uncovering the details of Porter's history of armed drug trafficking.

In November 2007, Porter acting as his own defense counsel took the case to trial and was convicted of 17 federal drug and gun charges. On Sept. 27, 2007, U.S. District Court Judge Virginia M. Hernandez Covington sentenced Porter to 182 years in federal prison.

ATF is the federal law enforcement agency whose jurisdiction includes violent crimes involving firearms. More information on ATF and its programs can be found at [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov).

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