



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington  
Western District of Louisiana*

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## **ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL CONVICTED ON FIREARMS CHARGES**

**Alexandria, Louisiana . . .** United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that SHELDON W. HANNER, 48, of Nebo, Louisiana, was convicted of firearms charges by a jury in federal court after a one-day trial. HANNER is a three-time convicted felon with a violent criminal history.

On August 15, 2007 LaSalle Parish Sheriff deputies investigated HANNER's involvement in an aggravated battery that he committed on his girlfriend by beating her with a belt and buckle. The deputies located HANNER sitting in a Ford truck parked on a road. They placed him in handcuffs and noticed a shotgun in plain view in the rear window of the truck. In the ashtray were shotgun shells and .357 rounds. A .357 revolver was found under the driver's seat, and assorted other ammunition were found under the passenger seat. That same day, the deputies obtained a search warrant for his house. During the search, they

discovered three .22 rifles, a 12 gauge shotgun, a 20 gauge shotgun, and a large amount of ammunition of all types, as well as the belt and buckle.

Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon carries a maximum sentence of 10 years, but because HANNER is a three-time convicted felon, he is subject to an enhancement under federal law as an armed career criminal. HANNER now faces 15 years to life in prison. His prior qualifying felony convictions were for Aggravated Burglary, reduced from Armed Robbery, in 1978; Manslaughter, reduced from Second Degree Murder, after he shot and killed his wife in 1984; and Second Degree Battery reduced from Aggravated Battery in 1995 for shooting a man in the leg.

U. S. Attorney Donald Washington stated: "Violence has been a way of life for this defendant. State and federal prosecutors and law enforcement officers must aggressively pursue these violent criminals and bring them to justice. In each case, my office will seek the longest possible prison terms for those who threaten public safety."

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide program begun in 2001 and was designed to reduce violence in our communities by aggressively using existing federal firearms laws. This case was investigated by the United States Bureau of Alcohol,

Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), Shreveport Field Office, Special Agent John Pias, in conjunction with the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office and was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Robin S. McCoy.

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