



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of Maryland*

*Rod J. Rosenstein  
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc  
Public Information Officer*

*36 South Charles Street  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201*

*410-209-4800  
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462  
410-209-4885  
FAX 410-962-3091  
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov*

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**FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION CONTACT  
VICKIE E. LEDUC, AUSA  
(410) 209-4885**

**FELON IN POSSESSION SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announces that today U.S. District Court Judge Marvin J. Garbis sentenced Courtney Edward Cooper, age 36, of Baltimore, Maryland to 10 years in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release in connection with his guilty plea to possession of firearms by a felon.

According to the statement of facts presented to the court, on August 14, 2003 Cooper stole 11 firearms from Bart's Sports World located in Anne Arundel County. Law enforcement arriving at Bart's saw Cooper flee. He was later apprehended after a brief chase. Cooper admitted to his participation in the burglary and the taking of the firearms.

United States Attorney Rosenstein praised the investigative work of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and thanked Assistant United States Attorney George L. Russell III for prosecuting the case.