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Massachusetts Man Sentenced on Federal Firearm Charges

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that a federal judge sitting in Portland yesterday sentenced Kevin Murphy (a/k/a Kevin Whitford) to fifteen years in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

According to court records, on November 19, 2007, Kittery Police responded to the Kittery Trading Post (KTP), a federally-licensed firearms dealer, for a theft report. Murphy entered the store and removed a semi-automatic rifle from the store without permission. Murphy was located and detained in a parking lot near KTP before agreeing to take the officers to the stolen weapon.

Murphy was previously convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm in the U.S. District Court in the District of Massachusetts in 1993 and his criminal history includes conviction for several violent felonies including Armed Robbery, Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, Assault with Intent to Murder, and Assault and Battery on a Police Officer. Based on those convictions, the Court determined Murphy to be an Armed Career Criminal which exposed him to a mandatory minimum fifteen years sentence in federal prison. Following his prison term, Murphy will be on federal supervised release for five years.

This case is part of Maine's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, which is designed to reduce gun violence. United States Attorney Silsby said that the investigation leading to the conviction was conducted by the Kittery Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF).