



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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FELON IN POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION

SENTENCED TO 235 MONTHS IN PRISON

Fort Myers -- Paul I. Perez, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, announced today that Daniel J. Lyons, Jr., age 29, and a resident of Fort Myers, Florida, was sentenced yesterday by the Honorable John E. Steele, United States District Judge to a total of 235 months (19 years, seven months) in federal prison without the possibility of parole, and a term of supervised release of three years upon release from imprisonment.

Mr. Lyons was convicted on May 22, 2003, after a two-day jury trial, of possession of ammunition by a convicted felon. Officers of the Fort Myers Police Department arrested Lyons on September 16, 2001, and found four rounds of .22 caliber ammunition in his pocket.

Mr. Lyons was prosecuted under Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g) and 924(e), statutes which make it unlawful for a convicted felon to possess not only firearms, but also ammunition. It was brought out during the sentencing hearing that Mr. Lyons is an armed career criminal, with fourteen prior felony convictions including crimes of violence and drug trafficking offenses.

This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program “Project Safe Neighborhoods” - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials and calling our effort “Project Safe Neighborhoods - Operation HALT the Violence!” The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and ammunition and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and Detectives and Officers of the Fort Myers Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey F. Michelland of the Fort Myers Division of the United States Attorney's Office.

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