



# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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### TITUSVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR HAVING GUN WITH DRUGS

ORLANDO - U.S. District Judge John Antoon II today sentenced a Titusville man, **TRAVIS SIPPPIO WILLIAMS**, age 24, to a term of imprisonment of 10 years for possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense. Williams previously had entered a guilty plea to the charge on October 6, 2003. In addition to the prison sentence, Williams must serve 3 years in a supervised release program, perform 150 hours of community service, pay a \$100 special assessment and forfeit the firearm, a semi-automatic assault rifle, to law enforcement.

According to the evidence presented at the plea hearing, officers from the Titusville Police Department's Emergency Response Team executed a search warrant at Williams's residence, 1306 Palmetto Street, Titusville, on February 12, 2003. The search warrant was based upon repeated sales of crack cocaine from the residence by Williams. Inside the home, officers found 8.39 grams of crack cocaine, 7 marihuana cigars, drug paraphernalia and a loaded Norinco SKS rifle. Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF") subsequently examined the rifle and determined that it was a semi-automatic assault weapon. The illegal possession of this type of firearm requires a minimum prison term of not less than 10 years.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Brevard/Seminole Counties, ATF, and the Titusville Police Department. 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 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. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar Jr. and Special Assistant United States Attorney Gregory J. Konieczka.