

MEDIA RELEASE



**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
February 7, 2005**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
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Western District of Kentucky**

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**ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL CAUGHT WITH SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOL
SENTENCED TO 17 1/2 YEARS IN PRISON**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **THOMAS WILLIAM LANTRY**, age 49, of Fredonia, Kentucky, in Caldwell County, was **sentenced** on charges of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of a firearm by a drug user.

Senior Judge Edward H. Johnstone, United States District Court, sentenced **Lantry** to 17 years and 6 months imprisonment, plus 5 years supervised release following incarceration. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

The evidence at trial established that Kentucky State Police troopers responded to a disturbance call at a residence in Crittenden County on January 17, 2004. During their investigation, the troopers discovered that Lantry was in possession of a loaded .380 caliber semiautomatic pistol, as well as marijuana residue and marijuana smoking paraphernalia. **Lantry** has been convicted previously of robbery in Florida, Ohio and Kentucky. In addition, he has a felony conviction for escape in Florida and two convictions for promoting contraband in Kentucky.

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This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a cooperative effort by state and federal law enforcement to ensure that gun crime is prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas W. Dyke and was investigated by the Kentucky State Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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