



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Dallas Field Division

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THREE ATF DEFENDANTS RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL PRISON TERMS

DALLAS -- Ronnie Carter, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Dallas Field Division, announced today that the U.S. District Court in Fort Worth sentenced three men to long prison terms for their involvement in a crack cocaine distribution scheme in Fort Worth.

U.S. District Court Judge John McBryde sentenced Jimmy Clyde Collins to 30 years in prison and Ronald Harper to 11 years and six months in jail on federal firearms and narcotics charges. He also sentenced James Combs to nine years and nine months. Combs pled guilty last Oct. 22 and Harper and Collins were convicted last Oct. 27.

ATF agents and Fort Worth Police Department officers conducted a nine-month investigation into the distribution of crack cocaine in the Fort Worth neighborhood known as Stop-Six. As part of the investigation, law enforcement officers executed a state search warrant on June 25, 2004, at a residence located at 5134 Sunshine Drive. Collins, Harper and Combs lived there and were present when the search warrant was executed.

The search revealed multiple surveillance cameras, monitors, drug scales, drug packaging, crack cocaine, gang paraphernalia, 28 firearms, including semiautomatic assault weapons, and ammunition. Most of the firearms were loaded and strategically located for easy and quick access, in order to protect the defendants during the narcotic trafficking at the house. All three defendants were arrested on state charges and bonded out of jail shortly thereafter.

On July 26, 2004, ATF, Fort Worth Police, and U.S. Marshals conducted a large-scale roundup of approximately 20 individuals wanted on federal arrest warrants, stemming from the nine-month investigation, including Collins, Harper and Combs. All three were found, again, at 5134 Sunshine Drive. This time officers found additional surveillance equipment, two loaded firearms, and more crack cocaine.

Carter stated that the convictions and sentencing were evidence of the continuing cooperation between ATF and local law enforcement in the effort to prosecute and incarcerate violent offenders. Assistant U.S. Attorney Bret Helmer prosecuted the case.

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