



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
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COLUMBIA MEN SENTENCED FOLLOWING FEDERAL FIREARMS AND DRUG INVESTIGATION

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- James K. Vines, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee; James Cavanaugh, Special Agent in Charge of the Nashville Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); and Sheriff Enoch George of the Maury County Sheriff's Department announced today that two Columbia, Tenn., men received sentences ranging from two to five years in prison for federal firearms and narcotics violations.

Judge William J. Haynes Jr. of the U.S. District Court in Nashville sentenced William Oden, 22, today to five years for violating Title 18 of the U.S. Code, Section 924(c) - possession of a firearm in relation to or in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Oden also received a sentence of 37 months for violating Title 21 of the U.S. Code, Section 841(a)(1) - possession of cocaine for distribution. Judge Haynes sentenced Adam White, 23, Nov. 8 to two years for violating Title 18 of the U.S. Code, Section 922(j) - possession of stolen firearms. Both men had pled guilty Aug. 16; there is no parole in the federal prison system.

According to facts introduced at the plea hearing, the joint investigation stemmed from a theft of several firearms from the residence of Jerry Thompson in Spring Hill, Tenn., on Aug. 26, 2002. White and several associates attended a party at Thompson's residence and discovered a gun safe in one of the bedrooms at the home. White devised a plan to break open the safe and steal firearms that belonged to Thompson.

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After stealing the firearms from the Thompson residence, White contacted Oden, a convicted felon, and arranged a place to meet to make a deal to trade the guns for drugs. At the meeting, Oden traded cocaine to White in return for the stolen firearms. Oden also forgave some previous drug debts that White had incurred through him in previous drug dealing. After making the initial trade, White and his other associates returned to the Thompson residence and stole additional firearms. White again contacted Oden and this time, sold some of the firearms to convicted felon Oden. Under federal law, convicted felons are prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition.

The Maury County Sheriff's Department and ATF investigated the case under a gun violence reduction program known as HEAT (Help Eliminate Armed Thugs). Under HEAT, the US. Attorney's Office, the Maury County Sheriff's Department as well as other federal, state and local agencies have partnered to conduct aggressive investigations and prosecutions involving prohibited persons who illegally possess firearms and commit other violent crimes.

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