



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JAMIE GROOMS

JAMIE GROOMS, age 23, of Bennettsville, South Carolina, was sentenced in federal court by United States District Judge R. Bryan Harwell to 15 years imprisonment for being a felon in possession of firearms. Because of several previous state convictions for burglary, Grooms is prohibited by federal law from possessing firearms.

On June 11, 2007, Grooms escaped from Palmer Pre-release. Through the combined efforts of the United States Marshals Service (Operation Intercept), SCDC, and SLED, it was learned that Grooms was hiding in Florence. On June 14, 2007, surveillance was set up at the old Coca-Cola distribution warehouse on Pisgah Road. A white F150 pickup bearing Virginia tags was spotted in the parking lot. Officers established surveillance on the truck as it traveled North on I-95 toward North Carolina. Undercover units of the USMS spotted Grooms in the bed of the truck as it passed beneath the

S.C. 38 overpass on I-95. Officers performed a high-risk felony car stop and arrested Grooms without incident. Officers found a loaded Heckler and Koch .40 caliber pistol in Grooms' jacket and two bags underneath the toolbox in the truck bed that contained a loaded Beretta .32 caliber pistol and a loaded R.G. Industries .22 caliber revolver. After escaping from prison, Grooms had stolen all of the firearms from the house of a Darlington County Sheriff's deputy.

The case was investigated by the United States Marshals Service and agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Assistant United States Attorney Rose Mary Parham of the Florence office prosecuted the case as part of Project CeaseFire, an initiative of the United States Attorneys Office that seeks to aggressively prosecute gun-related crimes.

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