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**BALTIMORE FELON IN POSSESSION OF A GUN EXILED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON**

*Baltimore*, Maryland - U.S. District Judge William D. Quarles sentenced Jermol Antonyio Chin, age 36, of Baltimore, Maryland, today to 15 years in prison, followed by three years of supervised release for being a felon in possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein. Judge Quarles enhanced Chin's sentence upon finding that he is an armed career criminal based on three prior convictions for possession with intent to distribute narcotics.

According to the plea agreement, on October 9, 2006 Baltimore Police officers responded to a call for a man walking with an unleashed pit bull dog while trying to un-jam a gun. Officers saw the man, later identified as Jermol Chin, and ordered him to leash the dog and put his hands up. Chin repeatedly refused the officers' commands and the officers drew their weapons to force Chin to comply. Officers searched Chin and recovered from the pocket of his shorts a loaded .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein and Baltimore City State's Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy thanked Assistant State's Attorney Jason Silverstein for his assistance in preserving prior state convictions that led to the defendant's armed career status.

United States Attorney Rosenstein also thanked the Baltimore City Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their investigative work and commended Assistant United States Attorney Debbie Dwyer, who prosecuted the case.