



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Indiana**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NORTH CAROLINA MAN INDICTED FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF TWO HANDGUNS

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that EDWARD THORNTON, 27, Jacksonville, NC, was indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in Indianapolis for being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm, following an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Vincennes Police Department, and the Vincennes University Police Department.

The indictment alleges that on or about June 18, 2008, in Vincennes, Indiana, THORNTON unlawfully possessed a Taurus pistol and a Charter Arms revolver. Responding to a domestic disturbance complaint, police officers observed THORNTON walking near the intersection of 6th and Scott Streets. When approached by officers, THORNTON allegedly tossed a metal object to the ground that he produced from his waistband. This was a .40 caliber Taurus pistol. Another firearm purportedly belonging to THORNTON was found in the nearby home where he was staying. THORNTON has suffered state felony convictions in North Carolina and cannot lawfully possess firearms.

According to Assistant U. S. Attorney Bradley P. Shepard, who is prosecuting the case for the government, THORNTON faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 10 years and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Terre Haute, Indiana.

The indictment is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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