



Department of Justice

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MONTGOMERY MAN CONVICTED ON DRUG AND WEAPONS CHARGES

Montgomery, Alabama - Jeremy Christopher McWhorter, age 22, of Montgomery, was convicted of possessing marijuana with intent to distribute and possessing firearms in furtherance of that offense, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. McWhorter was found guilty by a jury after a two day trial in the United States District Court in Montgomery, Alabama.

Federal law prohibits possessing marijuana with the intent to distribute it and also prohibits possessing firearms in furtherance of any drug trafficking crime. The evidence at trial showed that McWhorter possessed over a pound of marijuana and three loaded assault rifles in the trunk of his car when he was stopped by Montgomery Police Department officers on May 2, 2007. The police stopped McWhorter while investigating a domestic disturbance call. They then discovered the marijuana, the three assault rifles, and over 150 rounds of ammunition for the rifles in McWhorter's trunk when they searched the vehicle. Small amounts of marijuana were also found in the passenger compartment and hidden in the fuse box.

After his conviction, McWhorter was remanded into custody to await sentencing. A date has not been set for the sentencing, but for the marijuana charge, McWhorter faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison. On the weapons charge, McWhorter faces a mandatory minimum sentence of at least five years in prison which will run consecutive to the sentence he receives for the marijuana. The maximum punishment is life in prison.

The case was investigated and prosecuted as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, which seeks to prevent violent crime through enforcement of the federal firearms laws, such as the law prohibiting the possession of firearms in connection with drug trafficking. The program is known as Alabama ICE in the Middle District of Alabama. According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, "Guns and drugs are a dangerous combination. Mr. McWhorter was driving with an arsenal of assault rifles in his trunk, along with the drugs, when he was stopped. The removal of these firearms from our streets and the prosecution of Mr. McWhorter has made our community a safer place."

McWhorter's case was investigated by officers and agents from the Montgomery Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and was prosecuted with the cooperation of the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Matthew Shepherd and Monica Stump.