



Department of Justice

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TROY ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

Montgomery, Alabama - Kevin Earl Sneed, age 28, of Troy, Alabama, was sentenced in United States District Court in Montgomery on June 11, 2009, to 15 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to federal gun and drug charges, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. Sneed was also sentenced to serve five years of supervised release under the supervision of a federal probation officer after his release from prison.

Sneed pled guilty on January 29, 2008, to possessing a .38 caliber pistol and a small amount of marijuana on November 3, 2007, in Troy, Alabama. Troy Police Department officers discovered the firearm and marijuana in Sneed's possession when they responded to a call reporting a burglary. During the investigation, Sneed ran from the police on foot. When he was apprehended, the police found the firearm and marijuana. Sneed was prohibited from possessing a firearm because he is a convicted felon. Sneed was convicted in 2003 in the Circuit Court of Pike County, Alabama, on three counts of distribution of a controlled substance. Because of the three prior convictions for serious drug offenses, the United States District Court Judge found that Sneed qualified as an Armed Career Criminal under federal law. Any person who is convicted of possessing a firearm and has three prior felony convictions for violent felonies or serious drug offenses is considered to be an Armed Career Criminal and must be sentenced to at least 15 years in federal prison, as Sneed was in this case. Sneed was also sentenced to three

years in prison for the marijuana possession, which will run concurrently with the 15 year sentence for possessing the firearm, resulting in a total sentence of 15 years in federal prison.

There is no parole from federal prison.

The case was investigated as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods and the Middle District of Alabama's Alabama ICE (Isolating the Criminal Element) programs, aimed at preventing violent crime and the illegal possession of firearms. According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, "Armed career criminals who illegally possess firearms in the Middle District of Alabama face severe penalties if convicted. In an effort to make our communities safer, this office will continue to vigorously prosecute repeat violent offenders and drug traffickers who have guns."

This case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Troy Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF"). The case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Matthew Shepherd.