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**GERALD CORTEZ NEEDHAM SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IN  
FEDERAL PRISON FOR FELONY POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION**

**Shreveport, La.:** United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced that Gerald Cortez Needham, also known as “Copperhead,” 40, of Bossier City, Louisiana, was sentenced today to ten years in prison and three years of supervised release for felony possession of ammunition. The sentence was handed down by U.S. District Judge Elizabeth E. Foote.

Needham was found guilty at trial in December of 2011. Evidence established that on April 21, 2011, Needham knowingly possessed ammunition which was found at his home in Bossier City, Louisiana, during an execution of a search warrant obtained by the Bossier City Police Detectives. The Police Department was investigating a triple homicide which occurred in Bossier City on April 12th. The ammunition included .22 caliber Long Rifle ammunition, Remington .22 caliber ammunition, PMC 9mm ammunition, .38 Special caliber ammunition, Remington-Peters .38 Special caliber ammunition and 7.62 x 39 mm ammunition. Federal law prohibits convicted felons from possessing firearms or ammunition.

U.S. Attorney Finley stated, “The United States Attorney’s Office will continue to vigorously prosecute individuals who illegally possess firearms or ammunition. We have joined with our state and local partners under the Project Safe Neighborhood Program to assure that convicted felons like Mr. Needham do not violate the law. Our goal is to make our streets and neighborhoods safer so that the citizens of this community feel more secure.”

This case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide program begun in 2001 and designed to reduce violence in our communities by aggressively enforcing existing federal firearms laws. The case was investigated by the Shreveport office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Bossier City Police Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert W. Gillespie, Jr.

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