

Department of Justice

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MAN SENTENCED FOR NARCOTICS AND FIREARMS OFFENSES

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- Thamud Eldridge, 35, of Buffalo, New York, who was convicted of federal narcotics and firearms offenses after a jury trial on May 4, 2009, was sentenced to 97 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara, U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter of the Western District of New York announced today.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Joseph Tripi and George Burgasser, who handled the case, stated that the defendant had been convicted of possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon and possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine when he led police on a foot chase through the city streets and, during the chase, he scaled a wall to climb onto the rooftop of a corner store, jumped from the rooftop of the store onto the second story porch of a nearby house, and then dove head first through the second-story window of an occupied house on East Ferry Street in an effort to escape police. The Buffalo Police Officers apprehended the defendant inside the residence after he fought violently with police.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Buffalo Police Department, the New York State Police, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Dave DeJoe.