



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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## **Virginia Beach Man Convicted of Discharging Firearm during Drug Deal Gone Bad**

(Norfolk, VA) - Daniel Patrick Sanderford, age 25, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, was sentenced to 214 months in federal prison for carrying, using, brandishing, and discharging a firearm during a drug trafficking crime and for possession of a firearm as a previously convicted felon. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement after Sanderford was sentenced yesterday by United States District Judge Robert G. Doumar. Sanderson previously pled guilty on October 2, 2006.

According to court records, as a result of an investigation into "straw" purchases of firearms in the Hampton Roads area, ATF agents determined that Sanderford was involved with Matthew Scott Collins, a drug dealer in Virginia Beach. Sanderford participated with Collins in a shootout at a Harris Teeter parking lot in Virginia Beach on February 20, 2005. Collins had set up a sale of fake cocaine to a customer with the intention of "ripping him off" and taking his money. Sanderford and Collins, who were both armed, along with several associates, drove to the meeting place. During the transaction, the buyer realized the cocaine was fake and started arguing with Collins' delivery man. At that point Collins and Sanderford discharged their semiautomatic pistols. No one was hit and all escaped without being apprehended by the police.

Later, on May 17, 2005, Sanderford accompanied Collins to a house in the Hilltop Regency area of Virginia Beach. Collins shot into a dwelling where a person with whom Collins had a disagreement lived. In addition, Sanderford admitted he brought a number of stolen firearms down from Orange County, Virginia, to be traded to Collins for cocaine, and introduced to Collins persons from Orange County who bought cocaine from Collins.

The investigation was conducted by the ATF and was prosecuted under the federal program Project Safe Neighborhoods. Assistant United States Attorney James A. Metcalfe prosecuted the case for the United States.

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