



Department of Justice

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SOUTH BEND MAN SENTENCED TO OVER 13 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

South Bend, Indiana- The United States Attorney's Office announced:

Zachary B. Huenerkopf, 26, of South Bend, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Jon DeGuilio to 163 months imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offenses of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and being a felon in possession of a firearm. Huenerkopf has prior criminal convictions for a firearm offense, violent offenses, a controlled substance offense, and numerous probation violations.

Huenerkopf is an admitted armed drug dealer. In his plea agreement, he admitted that in March of 2011 he was involved in the distribution and sale of marijuana in the South Bend, Indiana area. In furtherance of his drug trafficking, including for protection, he possessed and carried a .40 caliber handgun. In particular, in late March 2011, he got into a dispute with another person about the quality of marijuana that he had distributed to him a few days earlier. This drug dispute escalated into a violent encounter. He fired his .40 caliber handgun, hitting this person in his hip and also hitting a bystander accidentally in the stomach.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald Schmid.