



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

Plattsburgh, New York—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian today announced that VICTOR J. LAZORE, age 25, of Hogansburg, New York, was sentenced to seven months imprisonment and three years of supervised release after pleading guilty to being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition in violation of federal law.

On January 26, 2011, a Federal Grand Jury in Plattsburgh, New York, returned an indictment charging LAZORE with being a “felon in possession”. LAZORE was stopped by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department for failing to display a license plate on the vehicle that he was driving. During the September 13, 2010 traffic stop the officers also found Lazore in possession of two rifles and a shotgun, a camouflage hunting mask, and shotgun shells in his pocket and more ammunition in the vehicle. It was a crime for Lazore to possess the weapons and ammunition because he had been convicted of a state drug felony in 2005. The St. Regis Mohawk Police Department led the investigation with the assistance of the New York State Police Troop B Gun Unit and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

The defendant was initially arrested on September 13, 2010, for state firearm offenses, and obstruction of and assault upon police officers. The shotgun and one of the rifles were loaded when Lazore was arrested for resisting arrest. In papers filed with the Court, Lazore alleged that he possessed the firearms in furtherance of his right to bear arms as a member of an Akwesasne Militia and argued at sentencing that he had been hunting earlier in the day on the Canadian side of the Mohawk Territory. At sentencing, the government produced a letter from the Akwesasne Mohawk

Police stating that LAZORE'S hunting on the Canadian side of the territory was in violation of Canadian firearms and customs laws, and the government also provided testimony from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation that LAZORE'S possession of one or more loaded firearms on a public roadway was in violation of New York state law. LAZORE also testified at the sentencing hearing that his girlfriend had bought the shotgun and one of the .22 rifles for him in Arizona after his felony drug conviction in New York. He admitted that he had also possessed and hunted with the shotgun in Arizona in violation of federal law.

United States District Court Judge David Hurd ruled that since LAZORE had been hunting on the date of his arrest, he was entitled to a reduced sentence because he possessed the firearm for hunting purposes. LAZORE, who has been in custody since his federal arrest in February 2011, will now spend approximately 2 ½ additional months in jail.

Any questions may be directed to Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Horsman in Plattsburgh at (518) 314-7800 or Deputy Criminal Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney William Pericak in Albany at (518) 431-0247.