



U.S. Department of Justice

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July 27, 2011

**HARRISBURG MAN CONVICTED OF SHOOTING THAT ENDANGERED POLICE
HELICOPTER PILOTS**

PHILADELPHIA - Jonathan Butler, 28, of Harrisburg, PA, was convicted today by a federal jury of interference with, and attempted interference with, a person operating an aircraft and use of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence in connection with shooting at a Philadelphia Police helicopter, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger.

Butler was charged with endangering the safety of Philadelphia Police Department Lieutenant Anthony Ginaldi and Officer Christian Hochstuhl on July 25, 2008. The Lieutenant and Officer were assisting Philadelphia Police Officers on the ground who were pursuing several individuals operating illegal ATV-style vehicles on the street in North Philadelphia. The group drove into a large gathering of people inside the Norman Blumberg Housing Development. Shots then emerged from the ground toward the circling helicopter. The government charged that Butler fired a Glock .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol at the helicopter and helicopter pilots. The gun, recovered from Butler inside an apartment unit near the scene of the shooting, was loaded with 13 live rounds of ammunition.

A sentencing hearing before U.S. District Court Judge Petrese Tucker is scheduled for November 2, 2011. Butler faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for count one and a 10 year mandatory prison term for count three to run consecutive to count one, a \$250,000 fine on each.

The case was investigated by the Philadelphia Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Kevin R. Brenner and Maureen McCartney.

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