



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley
Western District of Louisiana*

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

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Contact: Lisa Langley at (318) 676-3600
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law>

ARRESTS MADE ON FEDERAL FIREARMS AND STATE CHARGES

ATF Operation: Free Trade

Shreveport, La.: Federal and state law enforcement agents fanned out across Shreveport this morning to serve arrest warrants resulting from Operation: Free Trade, a seven-month undercover sting operation focused on gun and drug violations, United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced. Five defendants were arrested on federal charges, while an additional nine defendants were arrested on state charges. A listing of the defendants facing federal charges is attached. More arrests are expected.

Operation: Free Trade operated a storefront in Shreveport, Louisiana. Undercover law enforcement agents posing as store employees purchased a total of 40 firearms, some of which were sold to them by convicted felons, some of which were stolen or had obliterated serial numbers. In addition, in some cases the undercover agents made multiple purchases of crack and powder cocaine, marijuana, ecstasy, and illegal prescription drugs.

All federal defendants will make an initial appearance today before United States Magistrate Judge Mark Hornsby. Those arrested on state charges will be processed through the Caddo Parish District Court.

Operation Free Trade was conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, partnered with the Shreveport Police Department, Louisiana State Police, and Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office. The United States Marshal Service assisted in serving arrest warrants this morning.

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1) Cedric Wayne Atkins, age 33, of Shreveport, La.

- 1 count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon
- 2 counts of possession with intent to distribute cocaine
- 3 counts of possession with intent to distribute codeine
- 4 counts of possession with intent to distribute marijuana

2) Jerry Lee Cutley, age 49, of Shreveport, La.

- 1 count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon

3) Harold J. Jackson, age 56, of Shreveport, La.

- 1 count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon
- 2 counts of distribution of hydrocodone

4) Stanley Victor, Jr., age 25, of Shreveport, La.

- 1 count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon

5) Jessie Ray Williams, age 45, of Bossier City, La.

- 1 count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon