



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Nashville Field Division

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GEORGIA MAN SENTENCED TO OVER 15 YEARS FOR BEING CONVICTED FELON IN POSSESSION OF AND THEFT OF FIREARMS

MONTGOMERY, Ala.— Special Agent in Charge James Cavanaugh of the Nashville Field Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); Leura Garrett Canary, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama today announced that Melvin Scott Morman, 41 of Lagrange, Ga., was sentenced to 188 months for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm in violation of Title 18 U.S. Code, Section 922(g)(1) and theft of firearms from a federal firearms licensee (FFL) in violation of Title 18 of the U.S. Code, Section 922(u). There is no parole in the federal prison system. Morman pled guilty to the charges in January 2007.

Morman had been previously convicted of multiple felonies, spanning a 20 year arrest history. He was convicted of aggravated assault in 1993 and sentenced to 10 years in the Georgia Department of Corrections. Under federal law, convicted felons are prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition.

“Morman’s record has gained a new benchmark,” stated Cavanaugh. “His long history of state crimes and current case graduates him to a 15 year federal prison stint because of the combined work of Alabama and Georgia law enforcement. Any time a career felon gets involved with guns, similar results will face them time and time again.”

According to case background, in July 2005 Morman burglarized two FFL’s in Alabama. Morman stole 29 handguns from the Roanoke Pawn Shop in Randolph County and six handguns from Alford’s Pawn Shop in Chamber County. Morman attempted to elude arrest from the Headland Police Department on unrelated state charges in October 2005. At the time of this arrest, Morman was found to be in possession one the firearms identified as being stolen.

The case is the result of the combined efforts of ATF, the Roanoke Police

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Department (Alabama), Headland Police Dept. (Alabama), and Troup County Sheriff's Office (Georgia) under a Project Safe Neighborhoods violent crime reduction initiative known locally as "Alabama ICE" (Isolate the Criminal Element). Assistant U.S. Attorney Verne Speirs handled prosecution for the United States.

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