



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley  
District of North Dakota

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 5, 2007  
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## ***Belcourt Man Sentenced on Drug & Gun Charges***

**BISMARCK** - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced that on November 5, 2007, **Clifford M. Counts, Jr., a/k/a Herbie Counts**, of Belcourt, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland on charges of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

**Counts**, 27, pleaded guilty to the charges on August 27, 2007. The incident occurred on May 9, 2007, in the Dunseith area when a vehicle driven by **Counts** was stopped by the Rolette County Sheriff for a moving violation. Upon searching the vehicle, Sheriff Richard Turcotte and a deputy recovered approximately 300 grams of marijuana and a 9 mm pistol loaded with ammunition.

Judge Hovland sentenced **Counts** to serve five years and six months in federal prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. **Counts** was ordered to pay a \$200 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

“When drug dealers carry firearms they can count on lengthy prison sentences if prosecuted federally,” said U. S. Attorney Wrigley, “above and beyond the sentence for

drug dealing, the gun charge gets tacked on as an additional mandatory period of imprisonment and there is no parole.”

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Rolette County Sheriff’s Office, with the assistance of the Rolette County State’s Attorney’s Office.

Assistant United States Attorney Scott J. Schneider prosecuted the case.

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