



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Southern District of Georgia*

*Post Office Box 8970
Savannah, GA 31412
(912) 652-4422 / FAX (912) 652-4805*

*100 Bull Street
Savannah, GA 31401*

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**CONTACT: Edmund A. Booth, Jr.
United States Attorney
(706) 724-0517**

**ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS WITHOUT PAROLE**

AUGUSTA, GA: Edmund A. Booth, Jr., United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced that Ray Anthony Stevens was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment by U.S. District Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr., in U.S. District Court in Augusta today. The Court also ordered that Stevens be placed on supervised release for a term of five years following the term of imprisonment, and pay a fine of \$12,000. On October 1, 2007, Stevens was convicted upon his guilty plea to Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, and Possession With Intent to Distribute Cocaine Hydrochloride. Stevens received a 300-month sentence on the firearms charge and a 240-month sentence on the cocaine charge, to run concurrently.

Booth stated that Stevens, age 24, was an Armed Career Criminal because he had three prior felony convictions for either a serious drug offense or a crime of violence, committed on different occasions. Under the federal judicial system, parole is not available.

Booth stated that the evidence in this case showed that on February 18, 2007, at approximately 1:00 a.m., a Georgia State Patrol Trooper attempted to initiate a traffic stop on Defendant Stevens. Stevens refused to stop, and a high speed vehicle chase ensued, followed by Stevens's flight on foot. After a struggle between the trooper and Stevens, Stevens was subdued and taken into custody. Following the arrest, a loaded firearm and powder cocaine were found in Stevens's truck.

Booth commended the cooperative efforts of the Georgia State Patrol and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives in the investigation of this case. Booth noted that this case was federally prosecuted as part of the district's Project Ceasefire initiative, a program devoted to reducing gun violence by prosecuting individuals found in possession of firearms who cannot legally possess them, such as felons and drug dealers. The Government was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nancy C. Greenwood.

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