



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 23, 2005**

## **Rolla Man Sentenced as Armed Career Criminal**

MINOT - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced today that **Dale D. Decoteau** of Rolla, North Dakota, was sentenced on May 20, 2005, before United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland on a charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

In the summer of 2001, on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation, **Decoteau** was found to be in possession of a Bryco Arms, Model Jennings 9mm handgun, after having previously been convicted of crimes which made it illegal for him to possess a firearm. **Decoteau**, 52, was found guilty by a federal jury in January 2005.

Judge Hovland found **Decoteau** to be an Armed Career Criminal, which requires that a person have at least three previous convictions for a violent felony or a felony drug offense. **Decoteau's** criminal record includes a 1974 conviction for theft by force and intimidation and a 1980 conviction for assault resulting in serious bodily injury and assault with a dangerous weapon, both in United States District Court for the District of North Dakota, as well as a 1984 conviction for burglary in Morton County, North Dakota, and 1989 convictions for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of an unregistered firearm in United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois.

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Judge Hovland sentenced **Decoteau** to 15 years' and eight months' imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release. **Decoteau** was ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Bureau of Indian Affairs - Turtle Mountain Agency.

Assistant United States Attorney Cameron Hayden prosecuted the case.

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