



**PRESS RELEASE**  
*Office of the United States Attorney  
Middle District of Florida*

**PAUL I. PEREZ**  
**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

400 North Tampa Street  
Suite 3200  
Tampa, Florida 33602  
813/274-6000  
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street  
Suite 700  
Jacksonville, Florida 32201  
904/301-6300  
904/301-6310 (Fax)

501 West Church Street  
Suite 300  
Orlando, Florida 32805  
407/648-7500  
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street  
Suite 3-137  
Fort Myers, Florida 33901  
239/461-2200  
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

**For Immediate Release**

December 8, 2005

**BREVARD COUNTY ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL CONVICTED**  
**ON FEDERAL NARCOTICS AND FIREARMS CHARGES**

Orlando, Florida - A jury in U.S. District Court today found MARCUS DEONTE BRITT, age 32, of Cocoa, FL, guilty of Possession of a Firearm by a Prohibited Person (Convicted Felon) and Possession of More than Five Grams of Cocaine Base ("Crack Cocaine") with the Intent to Distribute. The maximum penalties BRITT faces on the firearm count are a minimum mandatory term of 15 years' imprisonment up to life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine; the cocaine distribution count carries a minimum mandatory term of 5 years' imprisonment up to 40 years' imprisonment and a \$2 million fine. The sentencing hearing is scheduled for February 23, 2006 before the Honorable Gregory A. Presnell, United States District Judge.

According to the evidence presented at trial, the City of Cocoa Police Department served a narcotics search warrant at a the residence of BRITT's girlfriend on November 24, 2004. During the search warrant, detectives discovered more than 5 grams of "crack" cocaine, drug paraphernalia, a loaded 9mm pistol and fourteen rounds of ammunition.

BRITT, who was present during the search warrant, admitted that the firearm and cocaine were his and that the cocaine was intended for sale. As a previously convicted felon, BRITT is prohibited under federal law from possessing either firearms or ammunition.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Brevard/Seminole Counties, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the City of Cocoa Police Department and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr., and Special Assistant United States Attorney Gregory J. Konieczka.