



CONTACT NUMBER: 815-987-4444

July 29, 2005

**ROCKFORD “ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL” SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS
IN FEDERAL PRISON WITHOUT PAROLE FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING A
SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN**

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; PAUL LOGLI, Winnebago County State’s Attorney; and STEVEN PUGH, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **TERRY N. TAYLOR**, 42 (DOB: 10/09/62), formerly of 2228 S. Central Avenue, Rockford, to 25 years in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of a firearm and possession of an unregistered firearm, a “sawed-off” shotgun. In addition, the court ordered Taylor to serve 5 years of supervised release following his release from prison, and to pay a \$250.00 fine. Taylor, who has one prior conviction for burglary, two prior convictions for armed robbery, one prior conviction for theft from person, as well as five other felony convictions, was sentenced under a federal firearms law which mandates a non-paroleable sentence of at least 15 years of imprisonment for persons with extensive records of prior convictions who illegally possess firearms.

Taylor was found guilty of the charges on May 17, 2005, following a two-day jury trial in federal court. Evidence presented at trial established that on March 8, 2004, Taylor knowingly possessed a 12-gauge pump shotgun that had traveled across state lines prior to his possession of it. Evidence further established that the shotgun he possessed was a sawed-off shotgun that had a barrel length of less than 18 inches, and that Taylor was not registered with the ATF to possess the gun.

First charged by the Winnebago County States Attorney’s Office under state law, Taylor was transferred to federal court where he was charged under tough federal firearms laws as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program. Project Safe Neighborhoods is an intensive, cooperative effort between local, state, and federal law enforcement to attack gun crimes. The cornerstone of the program is that every defendant charged in state court for an offense involving a gun will be reviewed for possible federal prosecution in order to obtain the harshest penalties for the worst offenders. Additional information about Project Safe Neighborhoods may be found at www.psn.gov.

The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the ATF and the Rockford Police Department. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael F. Iasparro and Mark T. Karner.

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