

NEWS



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U. S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FILES FEDERAL FIREARMS CHARGES AGAINST CONVICTED FELON

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA - Jim Letten, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana; David Harper, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), New Orleans Field Office; Harry Lee, Sheriff, Jefferson Parish; and Warren Riley, Superintendent, New Orleans Police Department, announced today that a Bill of Information was filed against **JERMAINE SURTAIN**, age 29, now in the custody of the United States Marshal's Service. The two-count Bill of Information charges **SURTAIN** with being a

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felon in possession of a firearm and possession of a stolen firearm pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 922(j), respectively.

According to the bill of information, it is alleged that on or about January 1, 2007, **SURTAIN** possessed a stolen Armalite, 5.56 mm, Model M-15 Assault Rifle, bearing manufacturer's serial number US230199. This particular firearm was among over one-hundred firearms that were stolen from Puglia's Sporting Goods Store, in Metairie, Louisiana. Further, the bill of information alleges that **SURTAIN** possessed the Armalite Model M-15 Assault Rifle after being convicted on November 20, 2001, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, Case Number 01-262 "B", for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

If convicted, **SURTAIN** faces a maximum penalty of ten (10) years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000.00, up to three (3) years supervised release following any term of imprisonment, and a mandatory special assessment of \$100, as to each count.

U. S. Attorney Letten reiterated that the bill of information is merely a charge and that the guilt of the defendant must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and the New Orleans Police Department. The case is being prosecuted Assistant United States Attorney Steven Loew .

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