



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**JACKSONVILLE CONVICTED FELON GETS MORE THAN 15 YEARS'
IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF THREE BULLETS**

Jacksonville, Florida - Yesterday United States District Judge Virginia M. Hernandez Covington sentenced Ivan Blanding to fifteen years and six months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of three .38 caliber bullets. According to the indictment, Blanding had prior convictions for sale of cocaine, grand theft, purchase of cocaine and carrying a concealed firearm. The defendant plead guilty on September 12, 2006.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the State Attorney's Office for the Fourth Judicial Circuit. 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 the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. 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 investigated by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frank Talbot.