

**MEDIA RELEASE**



**Attention: News Director  
For Immediate Release  
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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
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**LOUISVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN PRISON ON  
DRUG TRAFFICKING AND FIREARMS CHARGES**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **ANTOINE BURKS**, age 26, of 5203 Bonita Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, in Jefferson County, **was sentenced** in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, for possessing with intent to distribute cocaine base, more commonly known as “crack” cocaine, for possessing a firearm in furtherance of the drug trafficking crime and for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Chief Judge John G. Heyburn II, United States District Court, sentenced **Burks** to 25 years imprisonment, plus 10 years supervised release following incarceration. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

**Burks** was found guilty by a jury on March 23, 2005. On February 19, 2003, police officers worked with an informant to set up a drug buy from **Burks**. The buy took place at an apartment on Quest Drive in Louisville. During the buy, the officers heard signs of violence from the informant’s body wire and entered the apartment to protect the informant. After entering, the officers obtained consent from a resident of the apartment to search the apartment where the officers recovered two bags of crack cocaine weighing approximately thirty grams

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from inside a couch console, a box of plastic sandwich bags, digital scales, several bags of marijuana, \$2,248 in cash, and three rifle magazines of the type that fit an SKS assault rifle.

On February 20, 2003, pursuant to a search warrant, police officers searched another apartment on Cawood Drive in Louisville, and they recovered a lock box containing a bag of crack cocaine weighing 160 grams and an SKS assault rifle with a banana clip. The officers also recovered a shotgun, several boxes of SKS assault rifle ammunition, a .357 handgun, and six rounds of .357 ammunition. The assault rifle, shotgun, and ammunition were found in a bedroom closet next to the lock box containing the bag of crack cocaine.

**Burks** kept crack cocaine hidden inside a couch console in the Quest Drive apartment, and he sold crack cocaine from the apartment on Quest Drive on several occasions. In addition, **Burks** took the SKS assault rifle from the Quest Drive apartment to the apartment on Cawood Drive in late January 2003, and he kept crack cocaine and the assault rifle in a closet at the apartment on Cawood Drive. The estimated street value for the crack cocaine seized from **Burks**, who has a prior felony drug trafficking conviction, is nearly \$19,000.00.

This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a partnership of state and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas W. Dyke and was investigated by the Louisville Metro Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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