



Edwin P. Compass, III
Superintendent

New Orleans Police Department

Public Affairs Division
715 South Broad Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70119
Telephone (504) 826-2828

Office of Public Affairs
Captain Marlon A. Defillo
Commander

NEWS RELEASE

December 17, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATF OFFERS \$5,000 REWARD TO FIND MISSING GUNS

New Orleans, La. – This afternoon, Superintendent of Police Edwin P. Compass III and Special Agent in Charge Mark Chait of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced that a reward of \$5,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) involved in the December 12, 2004, pawn shop burglary, in which more than 30 weapons were stolen which included shotguns and assault rifles. The exact number of weapons is still being determined. The burglary occurred at “Albert’s Jewelry and Loan,” 4640 South Claiborne Avenue.

Investigators believe the crime happened over the weekend and was discovered by the owner of an adjoining business. It was later learned numerous shoulder-type weapons were stolen from the business, which had been closed for approximately six months during the sale of the business. However, the weapons were last seen Saturday, December 11, 2004.

An initial arrest was made Wednesday, December 15, 2004, after Second District Task Force Officers detained a subject in a vacant house in the 2500 block of Valence Street. After a closer inspection of the house, investigators found evidence that implicated him in this crime. He has been identified as 53-year-old Samuel Nicholas, no reported home address. Nicholas was taken into custody, at about 7:00 p.m., and later booked as a Convicted Felon in Possession of Firearms and Possession of Stolen Firearms.

ATF is offering up to a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) involved in the burglary of Albert’s Jewelry and Loan. Citizens with information are urged to call ATF at 1-800-ATF-GUNS.