



PRESS RELEASE
*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street
Suite 700
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/301-6300
904/301-6310 (Fax)

501 West Church Street
Suite 300
Orlando, Florida 32805
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

February 10, 2006

ORLANDO MAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN NINE YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR POSSESSING A STOLEN FIREARM

Orlando, Florida - U.S. District Judge John Antoon II today sentenced MICHAEL KEITH, a 32 year-old resident of Orlando, to 115 months' imprisonment for one count of possession of a stolen firearm. In addition to the prison sentence, KEITH must serve a period of two years' supervised release and pay a special assessment of \$100.

According to the plea agreement, KEITH was observed acting suspiciously outside of an Orlando area home on the afternoon of January 15, 2002. KEITH eventually kicked in a back door and entered the home. When Orange County Sheriff's deputies responded to the break-in, they located KEITH a short distance away. During the ensuing arrest, KEITH displayed a loaded handgun to the deputies. Authorities later determined that the firearm in KEITH's possession had been stolen in a car burglary.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). 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 ATF. 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 prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.