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NEWS

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MAN CHARGED IN ATTEMPTED MURDER OF NEW ORLEANS POLICE OFFICER

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA - Mark R. Chait, Special Agent In Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, (ATF); Warren Riley, Chief, New Orleans Police Department ;and Jim Letten, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, announced that **EDDIE A. HARRISON, III**, 23, of New Orleans, was charged in a federal complaint with being a felon in possession of ammunition after he shot New Orleans Police Officer Andres Gonzales in Algiers yesterday afternoon.

According to the criminal complaint that was filed in federal court today, the defendant was a passenger in a vehicle that was stopped by Officer Gonzales and his partner for a routine

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traffic violation. After the driver was taken into custody, the defendant fled and Officer Gonzales gave chase. The officer eventually caught up with the defendant **HARRISON** who then shot the officer in the face and arm. One bullet was recovered from the officer's vest. At no time did the officer fire his weapon at the defendant. An eyewitness to the assault positively identified the defendant as the shooter.

The complaint alleges that the defendant was a convicted felon at the time he possessed the weapon and ammunition used to shoot the officer. Records reveal that he was convicted of Armed Robbery in Orleans Parish District Court in 1999.

United States Attorney Letten, commenting on the complaint, stated: "This arrest and the swift federal response to the vicious and senseless shooting of a New Orleans Police Officer should serve as compelling evidence of our unyielding commitment to take all steps necessary to protect the lives of law enforcement officers from dangerous criminals who have no respect for police men and women or any regard for human life. As we move forward in rebuilding our ravaged region, it is paramount that we devote the full power of the law enforcement community against anyone who poses a threat to the public safety and especially to those brave individuals who dedicate their lives to the protection of our citizens. Therefore, the people we serve should take comfort in the knowledge that the men and women of federal and local law enforcement will employ every weapon in our arsenal to bring to justice anyone who poses a threat to the lives and safety of our law enforcement professionals, and to protect those brave citizens who come forward as witnesses.

"It is our intention to work closely with the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office and ensure that they are able to bring all available state charges against this defendant."

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It is expected that the defendant will make his first appearance in federal court tomorrow afternoon at 2:00 P.M. before the United States Magistrate Judge Louis Moore, Jr. The Government will ask that the defendant be detained pending trial.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark A. Miller.