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ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS

EUGENE, OREGON--Karin J. Immergut, United States Attorney for the District of Oregon, announced today that DAVID CLIFFORD MITCHELL, 38, was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Michael R. Hogan to 300 months imprisonment, to be followed by a five year term of supervised release.

Mitchell appeared before Judge Hogan, and when pleading guilty, admitted he was an armed career criminal. Mitchell had been convicted in California for four residential burglaries, and in Oregon for five burglaries, five unauthorized use of vehicles, two aggravated thefts, a felony theft, escape in the second and third degree, for twice recklessly endangering others, an attempt to elude police, and leaving the scene of a vehicle accident causing property damage.

In December 2005, Benton County Sheriff detectives were investigating Mitchell for the theft of more than \$100,000 in tools and equipment stolen in late November 2005, from the Benton County Public Works facility in Corvallis, Oregon.

On December 25, 2005, Benton and Lane County Sheriff deputies went to Mitchell's residence in Noti, Oregon, intending to arrest him. When deputies

attempted to arrest Mitchell, he struggled with them and successfully eluded custody by fleeing into a wooded area.

Near Mitchell's residence, Benton County detectives found a cargo trailer, tools and other Benton County Public Works property. Mitchell's residence was subsequently searched incident to a state warrant and detectives seized a loaded 12 gauge shotgun, a loaded .22 caliber rifle and a 30-06 caliber rifle, and ammunition along with items stolen from the Benton County Public Works. An investigation by Lane County detectives resulted in the seizure from the area near Mitchell's residence of a tractor and trailer, an ATV and other items stolen in Lane County. A subsequent search pursuant to a state warrant by Benton County detectives of two storage units rented by Mitchell under an alias and located near Junction City, resulted in the recovery of additional property stolen in Benton and Lane counties.

On January 6, 2006, an Oregon State Trooper stopped a vehicle driven by Mitchell in Eugene, Oregon. Mitchell fled from the scene. A four hour search for Mitchell ended when he was found by the Eugene Police Department canine unit under a mobile home. Mitchell was combative and was treated and released for injuries sustained while resisting arrest.

Mitchell is currently charged in Benton County with committing sexual crimes involving a minor, burglary and theft crimes. He is charged in Lane County with burglary and theft crimes, and in Jackson County with aggravated theft.

Today, Mitchell pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. Because he had 8 violent felony convictions, Mitchell's illegal possession of a shotgun, two rifles and ammunition classified him as an armed career criminal. Under federal law, this mandated a minimum 15-year sentence to a maximum of life. Pursuant to his plea agreement with the United States Attorney's office, Mitchell agreed he deserved a 25-year term of imprisonment at a federal penitentiary outside the State of Oregon.

Scott A. Heiser, District Attorney, and Deputy District Attorney John Mason for Benton County, and F. Douglass Harclerod, District Attorney, and Deputy District Attorney Karl Matthews for Lane County, and for Mark D. Huddleston District Attorney and Deputy District Attorney David Orr for Jackson County assisted the United States Attorney's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in the investigation and prosecution of Mitchell. The Oregon State Police, Lincoln City Police Department along with Benton and Lane County Sheriff's Office assisted ATF in this investigation.

For additional information, please contact Public Information Officer Diane Peterson at 503-727-1066 or Assistant United States Attorney Frank Papagni at 541-465-6627.