



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 14, 2004

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FEDERAL GUN CRIMES GARNER INDICTMENTS FOR THREE

(Tyler, Texas) A federal grand jury has returned indictments charging three men with multiple federal firearms violations in separate cases in the Eastern District of Texas.

KIRK JAMES LOUPEE, 40, of Lone Star, Texas is charged with Felon in Possession of a Firearm in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1). According to information presented in court, Loupee was arrested for aggravated assault on March 27, 2004, after threatening his estranged wife with a gun. Pursuant to the inventory of Loupee's truck, law enforcement officers found and seized a DAE WOO 9 MM semi-automatic pistol. While not admitting to the assault, Loupee did admit that the gun was in the tool box of his truck when he encountered his wife earlier that day. Loupee has a prior felony conviction in 1998 for Possession of a Controlled Substance in Morris County. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Morris County Sheriff's Office, and the Lone Star Police Department are investigating this case.

DAVID LEE COOPER, 45, of Greenville, Mississippi is charged with Felon in Possession of a Firearm in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1). According to

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PSN Indictments

information presented in court, on August 5, 2003, Cooper was stopped on U.S. 79 North in Panola County for following the vehicle in front of him too closely. Cooper gave an Investigator with the Northeast Texas Narcotics Task Force consent to search his vehicle. The Investigator located and seized a Lorcin .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol, a joint of marijuana and a little bit of "weed" in a personal use amount. Cooper admitted to having the pistol, stating that he had bought the pistol while in Houston. Cooper has a prior felony conviction in 1992 for the Sale of Cocaine in Washington County, Mississippi. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the Northeast Texas Narcotics Task Force are investigating this case.

KIRK ANTHONY SIMON, 27, of East Orange, New Jersey is charged with Felon in Possession of a Firearm in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1). According to information presented in court, Simon was stopped on U.S. 59 in Panola County for displaying a television screen visible to the driver's view. Simon appeared nervous and gave inconsistent stories about his trip to the officers with the Northeast Texas Narcotics Task Force. Norris gave the officers consent to search his vehicle. The officers found and seized a Helwan 9 MM semi-automatic pistol, which was later determined to have been stolen in North Carolina. Simon has a prior felony conviction in 2001 for Cocaine Trafficking and Money Laundering in Dade County, Florida. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Northeast Texas Narcotics Task Force are investigating this case.

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Loupee, Cooper, and Simon each face a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. A Grand Jury indictment is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), is a comprehensive, strategic approach to gun law enforcement. PSN targets gun crime and violent offenders in an effort to make our communities safer.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Allen Hurst is prosecuting the cases.

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