

18-7378

Appendix A

Jeffrey Dean Tucker
#0412832
MOUNTAIN VIEW CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
545 Amity Park Road
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

18-15


FILED: April 10, 2019

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

No. 18-7378
(5:14-cr-00083-FDW-DCK-1)
(5:18-cv-00105-FDW)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Plaintiff - Appellee

v.

JEFFREY DEAN TUCKER

Defendant - Appellant

JUDGMENT

In accordance with the decision of this court, a certificate of appealability is denied and the appeal is dismissed.

This judgment shall take effect upon issuance of this court's mandate in accordance with Fed. R. App. P. 41.

/s/ PATRICIA S. CONNOR, CLERK

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UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

No. 18-7378,

US v. Jeffrey Tucker

5:14-cr-00083-FDW-DCK-1, 5:18-cv-00105-FDW

NOTICE OF JUDGMENT

Judgment was entered on this date in accordance with Fed. R. App. P. 36. Please be advised of the following time periods:

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI: To be timely, a petition for certiorari must be filed in the United States Supreme Court within 90 days of this court's entry of judgment. The time does not run from issuance of the mandate. If a petition for panel or en banc rehearing is timely filed, the time runs from denial of that petition. Review on writ of certiorari is not a matter of right, but of judicial discretion, and will be granted only for compelling reasons.

(www.supremecourt.gov)

VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT OF APPOINTED OR ASSIGNED

COUNSEL: Vouchers must be submitted within 60 days of entry of judgment or denial of rehearing, whichever is later. If counsel files a petition for certiorari, the 60-day period runs from filing the certiorari petition. (Loc. R. 46(d)). If payment is being made from CJA funds, counsel should submit the CJA 20 or CJA 30 Voucher through the CJA eVoucher system. In cases not covered by the Criminal Justice Act, counsel should submit the Assigned Counsel Voucher to the clerk's office for payment from the Attorney Admission Fund. An Assigned Counsel Voucher will be sent to counsel shortly after entry of judgment. Forms and instructions are also available on the court's web site, www.ca4.uscourts.gov, or from the clerk's office.

BILL OF COSTS: A party to whom costs are allowable, who desires taxation of costs, shall file a Bill of Costs within 14 calendar days of entry of judgment. (FRAP 39, Loc. R. 39(b)).

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PETITION FOR REHEARING AND PETITION FOR REHEARING EN BANC: A petition for rehearing must be filed within 14 calendar days after entry of judgment, except that in civil cases in which the United States or its officer or agency is a party, the petition must be filed within 45 days after entry of judgment. A petition for rehearing en banc must be filed within the same time limits and in the same document as the petition for rehearing and must be clearly identified in the title. The only grounds for an extension of time to file a petition for rehearing are the death or serious illness of counsel or a family member (or of a party or family member in pro se cases) or an extraordinary circumstance wholly beyond the control of counsel or a party proceeding without counsel.

Each case number to which the petition applies must be listed on the petition and included in the docket entry to identify the cases to which the petition applies. A timely filed petition for rehearing or petition for rehearing en banc stays the mandate and tolls the running of time for filing a petition for writ of certiorari. In consolidated criminal appeals, the filing of a petition for rehearing does not stay the mandate as to co-defendants not joining in the petition for rehearing. In consolidated civil appeals arising from the same civil action, the court's mandate will issue at the same time in all appeals.

A petition for rehearing must contain an introduction stating that, in counsel's judgment, one or more of the following situations exist: (1) a material factual or legal matter was overlooked; (2) a change in the law occurred after submission of the case and was overlooked; (3) the opinion conflicts with a decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, this court, or another court of appeals, and the conflict was not addressed; or (4) the case involves one or more questions of exceptional importance. A petition for rehearing, with or without a petition for rehearing en banc, may not exceed 3900 words if prepared by computer and may not exceed 15 pages if handwritten or prepared on a typewriter. Copies are not required unless requested by the court. (FRAP 35 & 40, Loc. R. 40(c)).

MANDATE: In original proceedings before this court, there is no mandate. Unless the court shortens or extends the time, in all other cases, the mandate issues 7 days after the expiration of the time for filing a petition for rehearing. A timely petition for rehearing, petition for rehearing en banc, or motion to stay the mandate will stay issuance of the mandate. If the petition or motion is denied, the mandate will issue 7 days later. A motion to stay the mandate will ordinarily be denied, unless the motion presents a substantial question or otherwise sets forth good or probable cause for a stay. (FRAP 41, Loc. R. 41).

UNPUBLISHED

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT**

No. 18-7378

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff - Appellee,

v.

JEFFREY DEAN TUCKER,

Defendant - Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, at Statesville. Frank D. Whitney, Chief District Judge. (5:14-cr-00083-FDW-DCK-1; 5:18-cv-00105-FDW)

Submitted: April 4, 2019

Decided: April 10, 2019

Before NIEMEYER and HARRIS, Circuit Judges, and SHEDD, Senior Circuit Judge.

Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

Jeffrey Dean Tucker, Appellant Pro Se.

Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit.

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PER CURIAM:

Jeffrey Dean Tucker seeks to appeal the district court's order denying relief on his 28 U.S.C. § 2255 (2012) motion. The order is not appealable unless a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1)(B) (2012). A certificate of appealability will not issue absent "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2) (2012). When the district court denies relief on the merits, a prisoner satisfies this standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurists would find that the district court's assessment of the constitutional claims is debatable or wrong. *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); *see Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 336-38 (2003). When the district court denies relief on procedural grounds, the prisoner must demonstrate both that the dispositive procedural ruling is debatable, and that the motion states a debatable claim of the denial of a constitutional right. *Slack*, 529 U.S. at 484-85.

We have independently reviewed the record and conclude that Tucker has not made the requisite showing. Accordingly, we deny a certificate of appealability and dismiss the appeal. We dispense with oral argument because the facts and legal contentions are adequately presented in the materials before this court and argument would not aid the decisional process.

DISMISSED

Appendix B

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
STATESVILLE DIVISION
5:18-cv-105-FDW
(5:14-cr-83-FDW-DCK-1)

JEFFREY DEAN TUCKER,)
Petitioner,)
vs.) ORDER
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
Respondent.)

)

THIS MATTER is before the Court on Petitioner's Motion to Vacate, Set Aside or Correct Sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, (Doc. No. 1), and on the Government's Motion to Dismiss, (Doc. No. 3).

I. BACKGROUND

Late in the afternoon of October 9, 2014, pro se Petitioner Jeffery Dean Tucker drove Michelle Vaughn and Dawn Reese to a bar in downtown Hickory.¹ (Crim. Case No. 5:14cr83, Doc. No. 43 at ¶ 8: PSR). When the three left the bar, Petitioner began driving erratically. (Id.). When Petitioner stopped the car, Vaughn and Reese tried to run away. (Id.). Petitioner followed them, caught Vaughn, and lifted her into the air. (Id.). Two men intervened, confronting Petitioner and allowing Vaughn and Reese to escape. (Id.). Petitioner then began looking for Vaughn. (Id.).

That night, Petitioner went to the Twin Oaks Bar. (Id. at ¶ 9). A bouncer at the bar, Thomas Arthur, asked Petitioner to go outside because Petitioner was having a confrontation

¹ The Presentence Report describes Vaughn as Petitioner's "friend with benefits," and it describes Reese as a friend. (Id. at ¶¶ 6, 8).

with another customer. (Id.). Petitioner went outside, and Arthur told him to calm down. (Id.). Petitioner pulled out a silver .22 caliber revolver and threatened Arthur, but he left when he was told that police were being called. (Id.; Doc. No. 56 at 217-23).

Petitioner was still looking for Vaughn and spoke with her by phone. (Id., Doc. No. 43 at ¶ 10). According to Vaughn, Petitioner said that he would kill all of Vaughn's friends, or anyone who came between the two of them. (Id.; Doc. No. 56 at 186). Petitioner also said that Vaughn's dogs could not save her and that he would kill them as well. (Id., Doc. No. 43 at ¶ 10; Doc. No. 56 at 186).

Later that same night, Vaughn was hiding at her next-door neighbor's house. (Id., Doc. No. 43 at ¶ 11). The neighbor called 911 to report that Petitioner was coming to his house to shoot it and the neighbor's (Vaughn's) house up. (Id., Doc. No. 56 at 103). Deputies from the Catawba County Sheriff's Office responded to a report that Petitioner was going to shoot up the residence at Vaughn's address and shoot someone. (Id. at ¶ 11; Doc. No. 57 at 20). A second report stated that Petitioner had told some people that he was armed with two guns and was going to take care of Vaughn and the police. (Id., Doc. No. 56 at 112).

When deputies arrived at the residence, Petitioner was not there. As the deputies were about to leave, Petitioner drove up and nearly hit one of the patrol cars. (Id. at 110). Upon seeing the officers, he fled into the woods behind Vaughn's residence. (Id., Doc. No. 43 at ¶ 11; Doc. No. 57 at 65-66). Deputies found Petitioner lying face down in a briar patch. (Id., Doc. No. 43 at ¶ 12; Doc. No. 56 at 114-15). When he refused to comply with their commands, they tasered him. (Id., Doc. No. 43 at ¶ 12). After searching Petitioner, checking him for injuries, and securing him, officers searched the area where he had been lying down and found a loaded .22 caliber firearm on the ground. (Id., Doc. No. 56 at 116-21, 122-24, 150; Doc. No. 57 at 66).

Officer Brian Arndt retrieved the gun. (Id., Doc. No. 56 at 122). Vaughn identified the firearm and showed officers the gun box into which it fit. (Id. at 128-29). Officer Arndt returned the gun to Vaughn because she was its lawful owner. (Id.).

Although Vaughn originally told investigators that Petitioner had taken the .22 caliber gun from her when he was released from prison a few months earlier and had not complied with her requests to return it, at trial she testified that she believed that the gun was under her bed the entire time. (Id., Doc. No. 43 at ¶ 7; Doc. No. 56 at 171-82). A grand jury indicted Petitioner, charging him with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1). (Id., Doc. No. 1). Petitioner proceeded to trial, and the jury convicted him. (Id., Doc. No. 37). Over Petitioner's objection, this Court determined that he was an armed career criminal and sentenced him to 188 months of imprisonment.² (Id., Doc. No. 42; Doc. No. 48 at 2: Judgment).

Petitioner timely appealed. In light of the Fourth Circuit's decision in United States v. Gardner, 823 F.3d 793 (4th Cir. 2016), the parties filed a joint motion for partial remand, requesting the Fourth Circuit to vacate Petitioner's sentence and remand for the limited purpose of resentencing Petitioner, while retaining jurisdiction over the appeal to consider any remaining contested issues. (Motion for Partial Remand, United States v. Tucker, No. 16-4134 (4th Cir. Aug. 26, 2016), Doc. No. 17). The Fourth Circuit granted the motion for partial remand, vacated Petitioner's sentence, and remanded the case for the limited purpose of resentencing Petitioner in light of Gardner. (Id., Doc. No. 19-1).

² Furthermore, the North Carolina Department of Public Safety website states that Petitioner, who is incarcerated at Piedmont Correctional Institution in Salisbury, North Carolina, is currently serving a sentence of 77-105 months after being convicted as a habitual felon in both Lincoln County, North Carolina, and Catawba County, North Carolina.

On remand, the Government requested an upward departure in light of Petitioner's extensive criminal history. (Id., Doc. No. 76 at 8-9: Resent. Tr.). This Court determined that the aggravating factors in the case supported an upward departure to criminal history category VI and a guideline range of 37 to 46 months of imprisonment. (Id. at 13). The Court also determined that an upward variance to the same level would also be appropriate. (Id.). The Court imposed a 46-month sentence, noting that Petitioner's "record of repeated recidivism, particularly with gun crimes and serious dangers to the public as a result of defendant's behavior, justify that kind of sentence." (Id. at 13-14).

Following resentencing, Petitioner moved to dismiss his appeal pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 42(b). (Mot. to Dismiss, No. 16-4134 (4th Cir. June 22, 2017), Doc. No. 36). In the motion, counsel noted that after discussing possible issues to be raised on appeal, Petitioner informed counsel that he wanted to withdraw his notice of appeal and have the Court dismiss his appeal. (Id.). The Fourth Circuit granted the motion and dismissed Petitioner's appeal. (Id., Doc. No. 38).

Almost a year later, Petitioner filed the present motion to vacate, claiming that his Fourth Amendment and due process rights were violated when he was arrested and property was searched incident to his arrest without a warrant, and he raises various challenges to the firearm that officers found. (Doc. No. 1 at 4-9, 11; Doc. No. 1-2 at 4-6, 8). Specifically, he contends that the chain of custody over the firearm was deficient; an officer's statement that he "believes" the firearm was the same one found on October 9th is insufficient; the photographic evidence showed only that the firearm was found in the officer's car; and there is no direct evidence tying the firearm to Petitioner. Petitioner also contends in a supporting memorandum that he was falsely imprisoned; that his arrest, search, and handcuffing constituted assault and battery; and

that the North Carolina and United States statutes for his crimes are deficient because they do not have “enacting clauses.” (Doc. No. 2-1 at 7, 9-11). The Government filed its pending motion to dismiss on September 28, 2018, and Petitioner filed his response on October 17, 2018. (Doc. Nos. 3, 7). Thus, this matter is ripe for disposition.

II. STANDARD OF REVIEW

Rule 4(b) of the Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings provides that courts are to promptly examine motions to vacate, along with “any attached exhibits and the record of prior proceedings . . .” in order to determine whether the petitioner is entitled to any relief on the claims set forth therein. After examining the record in this matter, the Court finds that the arguments presented by Petitioner can be resolved without an evidentiary hearing based on the record and governing case law. See Raines v. United States, 423 F.2d 526, 529 (4th Cir. 1970).

III. DISCUSSION

A § 2255 motion is not a substitute for a direct appeal and is not an opportunity to re-try a criminal case. See United States v. Linder, 552 F.3d 391, 397 (4th Cir. 2009); Murawski v. United States, 179 F.2d 782, 783 (4th Cir. 1950) (holding “[q]uestions as to the sufficiency of the evidence . . . must be raised by timely appeal from the sentence”). Claims of errors that could have been raised on direct appeal, but were not, are procedurally barred unless the petitioner shows both cause for the default and actual prejudice or demonstrates that he is actually innocent of the offense. See Bousley v. United States, 523 U.S. 614, 621-22 (1998); United States v. Bowman, 267 F. App’x 296, 299 (4th Cir. 2008). “[C]ause for a procedural default must turn on something external to the defense, such as the novelty of the claim or a denial of effective assistance of counsel.” United States v. Mikalajunas, 186 F.3d 490, 493 (4th Cir. 1999).

To show actual prejudice, a petitioner must demonstrate that errors in the proceedings “worked to his actual and substantial disadvantage” and were of constitutional dimension. See United States v. Frady, 456 U.S. 152, 170 (1982). To show actual innocence, a petitioner must demonstrate that he “has been incarcerated for a crime he did not commit.” United States v. Jones, 758 F.3d 579, 584 (4th Cir. 2014). Actual innocence is based on factual innocence and “is not satisfied by a showing that a petitioner is legally, but not factually, innocent.” See Mikalajunas, 186 F.3d at 494.

Petitioner’s claims are procedurally barred because he did not raise them on direct appeal and he voluntarily dismissed his appeal. Petitioner has not alleged cause or prejudice for his failure to raise these issues on appeal, nor has he shown that he is factually innocent of the underlying firearm offense, particularly given Arthur’s testimony that Petitioner threatened him with a firearm. Therefore, his claims are procedurally barred and will be dismissed. See Bousley, 523 U.S. at 621-22.

Petitioner’s Fourth Amendment, civil rights, and criminal claims also are not cognizable on collateral review. Before trial, Petitioner could have raised a Fourth Amendment challenge to his arrest and the search that yielded the firearm. Thus, he had a full and fair opportunity to litigate these claims. “Once a litigant is provided a full and fair opportunity to litigate a Fourth Amendment claim, he cannot re-litigate the claim in a motion pursuant to § 2255 unless there has been an intervening change in law.” United States v. Schulte, 230 F.3d 1356, at *1 (4th Cir. 2000) (unpublished table decision). Here, Petitioner does not allege that there has been an intervening change in the law. Accordingly, his attempt to challenge his arrest and search is unavailing.

Even if the Court were to reach the merits of Petitioner's claim, it would fail. Petitioner had threatened to shoot Vaughn, her dogs, and anyone who came between Vaughn and Petitioner. He also fled when he saw the police and then refused to respond to their commands when they found him. This justified the officers' conduct in stopping, frisking, and detaining him. See Michigan v. DeFillippo, 443 U.S. 31, 37 (1979) (to establish probable cause for an arrest, the facts and circumstances must be "sufficient to warrant a prudent person" to believe "that the suspect has committed, is committing, or is about to commit an offense").

Additionally, the search that officers conducted was on Vaughn's premises—an area in which Petitioner had no reasonable expectation of privacy. See Rakas v. Ill., 439 U.S. 128, 134, 142 (1978) ("A person who is aggrieved by an illegal search and seizure only through the introduction of damaging evidence secured by a search of a third person's premises or property has not had any of his Fourth Amendment rights infringed" and does not have standing to challenge the search). Accordingly, Petitioner has not shown that the searches violated his Fourth Amendment rights.

Next, Petitioner's civil rights and criminal claims—including his claims of false arrest and imprisonment, and assault and battery—are not cognizable in a § 2255 proceeding. Section 2255 provides that:

A prisoner in custody under sentence of a court . . . claiming the right to be released upon the ground that the sentence was imposed in violation of the Constitution or law of the United States, or that the court was without jurisdiction to impose such sentence, or that the sentence was in excess of the maximum authorized by law, or is otherwise subject to collateral attack, may move the court which imposed the sentence to vacate, set aside or correct the sentence.

28 U.S.C. § 2255(a). Petitioner's claims of false arrest and imprisonment are common law torts, not a basis for setting aside a conviction or sentence. See Fiore v. Benfield, No. 1:15cv271, 2015 WL 5511156, at *2 (M.D.N.C. Sept. 16, 2015) (recognizing "claims of false arrest and

imprisonment constitute common law torts"); Holmes v. Bryant, No. 1:14cv418, 2014 WL 2779996, at *2 (M.D.N.C. June 19, 2014) (same). Petitioner's assertion of assault and battery could be either a tort claim or a criminal charge, neither of which entitles him to relief in this proceeding. See N.C. GEN. STAT. ANN. § 14-33 (defining misdemeanor assaults and batteries); Dickens v. Puryear, 276 S.E.2d 325, 444-45 (N.C. 1981) (discussing tort of assault and battery). In sum, none of these claims set forth a basis on which to set aside Petitioner's conviction or sentence under § 2255. Accordingly, these claims are dismissed as non-cognizable.

Finally, Petitioner's statutory claim is also dismissed. Petitioner asserts that the North Carolina statutes and the United States Code show no enacting clauses for the crime charged against him. Petitioner's suggestion that the state and federal criminal laws are ineffective because they lack enacting clauses is wholly without merit.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Court denies and dismisses Petitioner's Section 2255 petition. To this extent, the Government's motion to dismiss is granted.

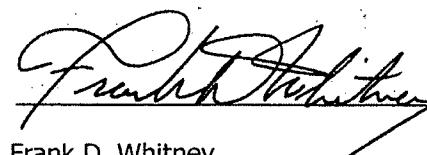
IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that:

1. Petitioner's Motion to Vacate, Set Aside or Correct Sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, (Doc. No. 1), is **DENIED** and **DISMISSED**.
2. The Government's Motion to Dismiss, (Doc. No. 3), is **GRANTED**.
3. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that pursuant to Rule 11(a) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 and Section 2255 Cases, this Court declines to issue a certificate of appealability. See 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2); Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 338 (2003) (in order to satisfy § 2253(c), a petitioner must demonstrate that reasonable jurists would find the district court's assessment of

Appendix B

the constitutional claims debatable or wrong); Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000) (when relief is denied on procedural grounds, a petitioner must establish both that the dispositive procedural ruling is debatable and that the petition states a debatable claim of the denial of a constitutional right).

Signed: October 22, 2018



Frank D. Whitney
Chief United States District Judge

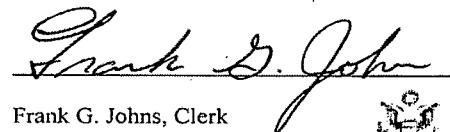

United States District Court
Western District of North Carolina
Statesville Division

Jeffrey Dean Tucker,)	JUDGMENT IN CASE
)	
Petitioner,)	5:18-cv-00105-FDW
)	5:14-cr-00083-FDW-DCK
vs.)	
)	
USA,)	
)	
Respondent,)	

DECISION BY COURT. This action having come before the Court and a decision having been rendered;

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Judgment is hereby entered in accordance with the Court's October 23, 2018 Order.

October 23, 2018


Frank G. Johns, Clerk
United States District Court

Appendix B

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
STATESVILLE DIVISION
5:18-cv-105-FDW
(5:14-cr-83-FDW-DCK-1)

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vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

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) ORDER

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Officer Brian Arndt retrieved the gun. (Id., Doc. No. 56 at 122). Vaugh identified the firearm and showed officers the gun box into which it fit. (Id. at 128-29). Officer Arndt returned the gun to Vaughn because she was its lawful owner. (Id.).

Although Vaughn originally told investigators that Petitioner had taken the .22 caliber gun from her when he was released from prison a few months earlier and had not complied with her requests to return it, at trial she testified that she believed that the gun was under her bed the entire time. (Id., Doc. No. 43 at ¶ 7; Doc. No. 56 at 171-82). A grand jury indicted Petitioner, charging him with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1). (Id., Doc. No. 1). Petitioner proceeded to trial, and the jury convicted him. (Id., Doc. No. 37). Over Petitioner's objection, this Court determined that he was an armed career criminal and sentenced him to 188 months of imprisonment.² (Id., Doc. No. 42; Doc. No. 48 at 2: Judgment).

Petitioner timely appealed. In light of the Fourth Circuit's decision in United States v. Gardner, 823 F.3d 793 (4th Cir. 2016), the parties filed a joint motion for partial remand, requesting the Fourth Circuit to vacate Petitioner's sentence and remand for the limited purpose of resentencing Petitioner, while retaining jurisdiction over the appeal to consider any remaining contested issues. (Motion for Partial Remand, United States v. Tucker, No. 16-4134 (4th Cir. Aug. 26, 2016), Doc. No. 17). The Fourth Circuit granted the motion for partial remand, vacated Petitioner's sentence, and remanded the case for the limited purpose of resentencing Petitioner in light of Gardner. (Id., Doc. No. 19-1).

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Following resentencing, Petitioner moved to dismiss his appeal pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 42(b). (Mot. to Dismiss, No. 16-4134 (4th Cir. June 22, 2017), Doc. No. 36). In the motion, counsel noted that after discussing possible issues to be raised on appeal, Petitioner informed counsel that he wanted to withdraw his notice of appeal and have the Court dismiss his appeal. (Id.). The Fourth Circuit granted the motion and dismissed Petitioner's appeal. (Id., Doc. No. 38).

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Officer Brian Arndt retrieved the gun. (Id., Doc. No. 56 at 122). Vaughn identified the firearm and showed officers the gun box into which it fit. (Id. at 128-29). Officer Arndt returned the gun to Vaughn because she was its lawful owner. (Id.).

Although Vaughn originally told investigators that Petitioner had taken the .22 caliber gun from her when he was released from prison a few months earlier and had not complied with her requests to return it, at trial she testified that she believed that the gun was under her bed the entire time. (Id., Doc. No. 43 at ¶ 7; Doc. No. 56 at 171-82). A grand jury indicted Petitioner, charging him with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1). (Id., Doc. No. 1). Petitioner proceeded to trial, and the jury convicted him. (Id., Doc. No. 37). Over Petitioner's objection, this Court determined that he was an armed career criminal and sentenced him to 188 months of imprisonment.² (Id., Doc. No. 42; Doc. No. 48 at 2; Judgment).

Petitioner timely appealed. In light of the Fourth Circuit's decision in United States v. Gardner, 823 F.3d 793 (4th Cir. 2016), the parties filed a joint motion for partial remand, requesting the Fourth Circuit to vacate Petitioner's sentence and remand for the limited purpose of resentencing Petitioner, while retaining jurisdiction over the appeal to consider any remaining contested issues. (Motion for Partial Remand, United States v. Tucker, No. 16-4134 (4th Cir. Aug. 26, 2016), Doc. No. 17). The Fourth Circuit granted the motion for partial remand, vacated Petitioner's sentence, and remanded the case for the limited purpose of resentencing Petitioner in light of Gardner. (Id., Doc. No. 19-1).

² Furthermore, the North Carolina Department of Public Safety website states that Petitioner, who is incarcerated at Piedmont Correctional Institution in Salisbury, North Carolina, is currently serving a sentence of 77-105 months after being convicted as a habitual felon in both Lincoln County, North Carolina, and Catawba County, North Carolina.

On remand, the Government requested an upward departure in light of Petitioner's extensive criminal history. (Id., Doc. No. 76 at 8-9: Resent. Tr.). This Court determined that the aggravating factors in the case supported an upward departure to criminal history category VI and a guideline range of 37 to 46 months of imprisonment. (Id. at 13). The Court also determined that an upward variance to the same level would also be appropriate. (Id.). The Court imposed a 46-month sentence, noting that Petitioner's "record of repeated recidivism, particularly with gun crimes and serious dangers to the public as a result of defendant's behavior, justify that kind of sentence." (Id. at 13-14).

Following resentencing, Petitioner moved to dismiss his appeal pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 42(b). (Mot. to Dismiss, No. 16-4134 (4th Cir. June 22, 2017), Doc. No. 36). In the motion, counsel noted that after discussing possible issues to be raised on appeal, Petitioner informed counsel that he wanted to withdraw his notice of appeal and have the Court dismiss his appeal. (Id.). The Fourth Circuit granted the motion and dismissed Petitioner's appeal. (Id., Doc. No. 38).

Almost a year later, Petitioner filed the present motion to vacate, claiming that his Fourth Amendment and due process rights were violated when he was arrested and property was searched incident to his arrest without a warrant, and he raises various challenges to the firearm that officers found. (Doc. No. 1 at 4-9, 11; Doc. No. 1-2 at 4-6, 8). Specifically, he contends that the chain of custody over the firearm was deficient; an officer's statement that he "believes" the firearm was the same one found on October 9th is insufficient; the photographic evidence showed only that the firearm was found in the officer's car; and there is no direct evidence tying the firearm to Petitioner. Petitioner also contends in a supporting memorandum that he was falsely imprisoned; that his arrest, search, and handcuffing constituted assault and battery; and

that the North Carolina and United States statutes for his crimes are deficient because they do not have “enacting clauses.” (Doc. No. 2-1 at 7, 9-11). The Government filed its pending motion to dismiss on September 28, 2018, and Petitioner filed his response on October 17, 2018. (Doc. Nos. 3, 7). Thus, this matter is ripe for disposition.

II. STANDARD OF REVIEW

Rule 4(b) of the Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings provides that courts are to promptly examine motions to vacate, along with “any attached exhibits and the record of prior proceedings . . .” in order to determine whether the petitioner is entitled to any relief on the claims set forth therein. After examining the record in this matter, the Court finds that the arguments presented by Petitioner can be resolved without an evidentiary hearing based on the record and governing case law. See Raines v. United States, 423 F.2d 526, 529 (4th Cir. 1970).

III. DISCUSSION

A § 2255 motion is not a substitute for a direct appeal and is not an opportunity to re-try a criminal case. See United States v. Linder, 552 F.3d 391, 397 (4th Cir. 2009); Murawski v. United States, 179 F.2d 782, 783 (4th Cir. 1950) (holding “[q]uestions as to the sufficiency of the evidence . . . must be raised by timely appeal from the sentence”). Claims of errors that could have been raised on direct appeal, but were not, are procedurally barred unless the petitioner shows both cause for the default and actual prejudice or demonstrates that he is actually innocent of the offense. See Bousley v. United States, 523 U.S. 614, 621-22 (1998); United States v. Bowman, 267 F. App’x 296, 299 (4th Cir. 2008). “[C]ause for a procedural default must turn on something external to the defense, such as the novelty of the claim or a denial of effective assistance of counsel.” United States v. Mikalajunas, 186 F.3d 490, 493 (4th Cir. 1999).

To show actual prejudice, a petitioner must demonstrate that errors in the proceedings “worked to his actual and substantial disadvantage” and were of constitutional dimension. See United States v. Frady, 456 U.S. 152, 170 (1982). To show actual innocence, a petitioner must demonstrate that he “has been incarcerated for a crime he did not commit.” United States v. Jones, 758 F.3d 579, 584 (4th Cir. 2014). Actual innocence is based on factual innocence and “is not satisfied by a showing that a petitioner is legally, but not factually, innocent.” See Mikalajunas, 486 F.3d at 494.

Petitioner’s claims are procedurally barred because he did not raise them on direct appeal and he voluntarily dismissed his appeal. Petitioner has not alleged cause or prejudice for his failure to raise these issues on appeal, nor has he shown that he is factually innocent of the underlying firearm offense, particularly given Arthur’s testimony that Petitioner threatened him with a firearm. Therefore, his claims are procedurally barred and will be dismissed. See Bousley, 523 U.S. at 621-22.

Petitioner’s Fourth Amendment, civil rights, and criminal claims also are not cognizable on collateral review. Before trial, Petitioner could have raised a Fourth Amendment challenge to his arrest and the search that yielded the firearm. Thus, he had a full and fair opportunity to litigate these claims. “Once a litigant is provided a full and fair opportunity to litigate a Fourth Amendment claim, he cannot re-litigate the claim in a motion pursuant to § 2255 unless there has been an intervening change in law.” United States v. Schulte, 230 F.3d 1356, at *1 (4th Cir. 2000) (unpublished table decision). Here, Petitioner does not allege that there has been an intervening change in the law. Accordingly, his attempt to challenge his arrest and search is unavailing.

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Even if the Court were to reach the merits of Petitioner's claim, it would fail. Petitioner had threatened to shoot Vaughn, her dogs, and anyone who came between Vaughn and Petitioner. He also fled when he saw the police and then refused to respond to their commands when they found him. This justified the officers' conduct in stopping, frisking, and detaining him. See Michigan v. DeFilippo, 443 U.S. 31, 37 (1979) (to establish probable cause for an arrest, the facts and circumstances must be "sufficient to warrant a prudent person" to believe "that the suspect has committed, is committing, or is about to commit an offense").

Additionally, the search that officers conducted was on Vaughn's premises—an area in which Petitioner had no reasonable expectation of privacy. See Rakas v. Ill., 439 U.S. 128, 134, 142 (1978) ("A person who is aggrieved by an illegal search and seizure only through the introduction of damaging evidence secured by a search of a third person's premises or property has not had any of his Fourth Amendment rights infringed" and does not have standing to challenge the search). Accordingly, Petitioner has not shown that the searches violated his Fourth Amendment rights.

Next, Petitioner's civil rights and criminal claims—including his claims of false arrest and imprisonment, and assault and battery—are not cognizable in a § 2255 proceeding. Section 2255 provides that:

A prisoner in custody under sentence of a court . . . claiming the right to be released upon the ground that the sentence was imposed in violation of the Constitution or law of the United States, or that the court was without jurisdiction to impose such sentence, or that the sentence was in excess of the maximum authorized by law, or is otherwise subject to collateral attack, may move the court which imposed the sentence to vacate, set aside or correct the sentence.

28 U.S.C. § 2255(a). Petitioner's claims of false arrest and imprisonment are common law torts, not a basis for setting aside a conviction or sentence. See Fiore v. Benfield, No. 1:15cv271, 2015 WL 5511156, at *2 (M.D.N.C. Sept. 16, 2015) (recognizing "claims of false arrest and

imprisonment constitute common law torts"); Holmes v. Bryant, No. 1:14cv418, 2014 WL 2779996, at *2 (M.D.N.C. June 19, 2014) (same). Petitioner's assertion of assault and battery could be either a tort claim or a criminal charge, neither of which entitles him to relief in this proceeding. See N.C. GEN. STAT. ANN. § 14-33 (defining misdemeanor assaults and batteries); Dickens v. Puryear, 276 S.E.2d 325, 444-45 (N.C. 1981) (discussing tort of assault and battery). In sum, none of these claims set forth a basis on which to set aside Petitioner's conviction or sentence under § 2255. Accordingly, these claims are dismissed as non-cognizable.

Finally, Petitioner's statutory claim is also dismissed. Petitioner asserts that the North Carolina statutes and the United States Code show no enacting clauses for the crime charged against him. Petitioner's suggestion that the state and federal criminal laws are ineffective because they lack enacting clauses is wholly without merit.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Court denies and dismisses Petitioner's Section 2255 petition. To this extent, the Government's motion to dismiss is granted.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that:

1. Petitioner's Motion to Vacate, Set Aside or Correct Sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, (Doc. No. 1), is **DENIED** and **DISMISSED**.
2. The Government's Motion to Dismiss, (Doc. No. 3), is **GRANTED**.
3. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that pursuant to Rule 11(a) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 and Section 2255 Cases, this Court declines to issue a certificate of appealability. See 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2); Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 338 (2003) (in order to satisfy § 2253(c), a petitioner must demonstrate that reasonable jurists would find the district court's assessment of

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the constitutional claims debatable or wrong); Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000) (when relief is denied on procedural grounds, a petitioner must establish both that the dispositive procedural ruling is debatable and that the petition states a debatable claim of the denial of a constitutional right).

Signed: October 22, 2018



Frank D. Whitney
Chief United States District Judge



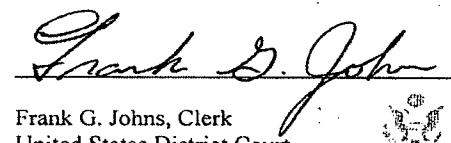
United States District Court
Western District of North Carolina
Statesville Division

Jeffrey Dean Tucker,)	JUDGMENT IN CASE
)	
Petitioner,)	5:18-cv-00105-FDW
)	5:14-cr-00083-FDW-DCK
vs.)	
)	
USA,)	
)	
Respondent,)	

DECISION BY COURT. This action having come before the Court and a decision having been rendered;

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Judgment is hereby entered in accordance with the Court's October 23, 2018 Order.

October 23, 2018



Frank G. Johns, Clerk
United States District Court

**Additional material
from this filing is
available in the
Clerk's Office.**