

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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MT. VERNON MAN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRACY

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 23, 2007, **JUSTIN E. FORD**, age 23, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. FORD was sentenced to 135 months imprisonment, 5 years of supervised release, and a fine of \$700.

FORD had previously pleaded guilty to a one count federal indictment charging him with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Two co-defendants were previously sentenced to 218 months imprisonment and 101 months imprisonment, respectively.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other state and local law enforcement pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.