



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LUFKIN MAN SENTENCED FOR FIREARMS VIOLATIONS

(Beaumont, Texas) A 46-year-old Lufkin man has been sentenced to 198 months in federal prison under the Armed Career Criminal Statute. **ELSWORTH BERTHELOT** was sentenced for being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm by U.S. District Judge Ron Clark.

According to evidence presented in court, Berthelot was arrested at his residence on April 11, 2003, on a parole violation warrant by the Angelina County Sheriff's Office. Angelina County deputies obtained a consent to search from Berthelot's wife. During the search of their Lufkin residence, deputies discovered a firearm. Berthelot pleaded guilty to the offense of Felon in Possession of a Firearm on February 13, 2004.

Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, or getting another armed and dangerous felon off the streets, "This lengthy sentence sends a message loud and clear: Convicted felons are prohibited from possessing firearms. Violators can expect vigorous federal prosecution and hard time in prison."

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Because Berthelot had at least three prior felony convictions for either a crime of violence or a serious drug offense, he was sentenced in accordance with the federal Armed Career Criminal Statute, which provides for a minimum of 15 years to life in prison. Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a comprehensive strategic approach to reducing gun violence in America by promoting partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Angelina County Sheriff's Office. Special Assistant United States Attorney Lisa Flournoy prosecuted the case.

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