



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AWARD GIVEN TO OUTSTANDING LAWYERS

(Tyler, Texas) Five area lawmen have each been awarded the prestigious Eagle Award from the U.S. Attorney's Office. An FBI agent, ATF agent and three detectives from the Tyler Police Department were recognized this morning for their outstanding contributions in the investigation and prosecution of the criminal activities of the East Side Locos, a criminal street gang. **U.S. Attorney Matthew D. Orwig** presented the awards during a morning ceremony to **FBI Special Agent Garret Floyd, ATF Special Agent Grover Crossland, Detectives Richard Cashell, Ricky Graham and Christopher Miller** with the Tyler Police Department.

The lawmen conducted an 18 month investigation code named "Operation Sundown," which targeted the violent criminal activities of the East Side Locos who were involved in several murders and attempted murders, drug and weapons trafficking, more than 250 commercial and residential burglaries as well as witness intimidation. Their investigative work paid off as 11 leaders of the gang were sent to federal prison with sentences ranging from five years to 130 years.

Orwig praised the lawmen for their cooperation and dedication, "This case illustrates the effectiveness of cooperation. We have been able to significantly reduce gang activities, and provide a

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boost to the overall security of the community because of the cooperative spirit of law enforcement. These awards not only recognize the stellar achievements of these excellent officers and agents but throw a bright light on the tremendous benefit to our communities when local, state and federal law enforcement agencies partner together."

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