



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NACOGDOCHES MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSING FIREARM FOLLOWING PRIOR FELONY CONVICTION

(Beaumont, Texas) A 25-year-old Nacogdoches man has been sentenced to 111 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm and possession of a firearm during, and in relation to, a crime of drug trafficking. **DEDRIC GERNARD FIELDS** was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Thad Heartfield.

According to evidence presented in court by prosecutors, Fields was arrested on October 17, 2003, when a search warrant of his Nacogdoches home was executed by the Deep East Texas Regional Narcotics Trafficking Task Force. He pleaded guilty to a three-count information on March 10, 2004. Fields had a prior felony conviction in 1998 for Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, praised the Deep East Texas Regional Narcotics Task Force for getting another armed and dangerous felon off the streets, "Convicted felons are prohibited from possessing firearms. Violators can expect vigorous federal prosecution and hard time in prison."

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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 Deep East Texas Regional Narcotics Trafficking Task Force. Special Assistant United States Attorney Lisa Flournoy prosecuted the case.

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