



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Texas

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **CONVICTED FELON SENTENCED FOR GUN POSSESSION**

(Beaumont, Texas) A 25-year-old Lumberton man has been sentenced to 77 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. **MICHAEL KEITH HARRIS** was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Thad Heartfield.

According to information presented in court, Harris was arrested on December 4, 2003, after a Lufkin Police Officer stopped him for a traffic violation in Lufkin. During the traffic stop, the Officer noticed the end of a shotgun protruding from beneath the front seat of Harris' vehicle. The shotgun was a prohibited weapon in that it measured less than the legal minimum length of 26 inches. Officers also located chemicals commonly used in the manufacture of methamphetamine. Harris has three prior felony convictions for Possession of a Controlled Substance; one from Angelina County in 1999; one from Jefferson County in 2001; and one from Hardin County in 2001.

Harris pleaded guilty to the gun charge on April 26, 2004.

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**Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, praised the Lufkin Police for getting another armed and dangerous felon off the streets, "Convicted felons are prohibited from possessing firearms and will be vigorously prosecuted."**

**Orwig went on to reiterate his stance on Methamphetamine in the Eastern District, "There will be no leniency for anyone caught cooking or distributing methamphetamine. Find a new line of business or get ready to spend hard time behind bars."**

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 Lufkin Police Department. Special Assistant United States Attorney Lisa Flournoy prosecuted the case.

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