



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"METHBUSTERS" INITIATIVE PUTS PITTSBURG WOMAN IN FEDERAL PRISON

(Marshall, TX) A 32 year-old Pittsburg, Texas, woman has been sentenced to 37 months in federal prison for Conspiracy to Possess with the Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine. **WANDA WYNETTE OWENS** was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge T. John Ward.

According to evidence presented in court, law enforcement officers with the Ark.La.Tex. Narcotics Task Force, the Camp County Sheriff's Office, and the Sulphur Springs Police Department, combined resources from July through October 2002 to investigate Owens' and Joe Vidal Casillas' methamphetamine distribution activity. During that period of time, investigators utilized a confidential informant to purchase methamphetamine from Casillas and Owens on several occasions. Casillas was sentenced to 60 months in federal prison on August 4th, 2004. Owens was indicted by a federal grand jury on July 8, 2003. She was arrested on July 26, 2003, and she pleaded guilty to the charges on April 26, 2004.

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Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, praised law enforcement for getting another dangerous methamphetamine trafficker off the streets, "The 'Methbusters' Initiative is getting results. Methamphetamine traffickers can continue to expect vigorous federal prosecution in the Eastern District of Texas."

This case was investigated by the Ark.La.Tex. Narcotics Task Force, the Camp County Sheriff's Office and the Sulphur Springs Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Barry Bryant and Allen Hurst prosecuted the case.

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