



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 22, 2004

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EAST TEXAS DRUG DEALER SENT TO PRISON

(Tyler, Texas) A 40-year-old East Texan has been sentenced to 235 months in federal prison for dealing methamphetamine. This afternoon, U.S. District Judge William Steger sentenced **GREGORY EUGENE SPENCE**, from Terrell, Texas, to nearly 20 years in prison.

According to information prosecutors presented in court, Spence was a major distributor of methamphetamine in East Texas. He was part of an East Texas group which was associated with a larger organization that distributed methamphetamine throughout Texas and beyond. He pleaded guilty last September to Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine.

U.S. Attorney Matthew D. Orwig says methamphetamine is a highly addictive and dangerous drug, "Methamphetamine is a growing problem in East Texas. According to the DEA, Texas ranks second in the country in the volume of methamphetamine seized. Putting this defendant behind bars for 20 years will help to reduce the flow of methamphetamine through East Texas."

Spence's co-defendants, Ricky Ainsworth was sentenced to 188 months in prison last November, 17, 2003 and Randall McNeese was sentenced to 200 months

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in prison in January 2004. Gerardo Felix is awaiting sentencing and Alfredo Lira is a fugitive.

The DEA Tyler Task Force investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Baldwin is prosecuting the case.

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