



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EAST TEXAS GETS PRISON TIME FOR GUN AND NARCOTICS VIOLATIONS

(Tyler, Texas) A 27-year-old Whitehouse, Texas man has been sentenced to 90 months in federal prison for committing federal firearm and narcotics violations in the Eastern District of Texas. **BOBBY JOE WELCH** was sentenced today by Judge Leonard Davis for Possessing Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute and Possessing a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime.

Welch was indicted late last year by a federal grand jury as a result of a nine-month joint investigation conducted by Smith County narcotics investigators and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Special Agents. Welch pleaded guilty to the charges on February 12, 2004.

Matthew D. Orwig, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas was pleased with the sentencing, "Methamphetamine is destroying lives in East Texas. This office is committed to disrupting the supply of this deadly drug. Those who use, manufacture, or supply Methamphetamine in this District, are on a slippery slope straight to the federal prison."

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.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Ann Cozby is prosecuting the case.

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