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**BALTIMORE FELON IN POSSESSION OF A GUN AND A DRUG DEALER
BOTH EXILED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON**

Baltimore, Maryland - U.S. District Judge Catherine C. Blake sentenced Stephen L. Russell, age 31, of Baltimore, Maryland, today to 15 years in prison, followed by three years of supervised release for being a felon in possession of a gun, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein. Judge Blake enhanced Russell's sentence upon determining that he is an armed career criminal based on three prior convictions for violent crimes or drug offenses.

According to Russell's plea agreement, Baltimore Police officers searched Russell's home on April 10, 2007 and recovered a 9 mm pistol.

In a separate case, Judge Blake also sentenced Kirt Lionel Bynum, age 42, of Baltimore, today to 188 months in prison, followed by four years of supervised release for possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. Judge Blake enhanced Bynum's sentence upon determining that he is a career offender based on two prior convictions for armed robbery and a drug offense. Judge Blake ordered Bynum to forfeit \$62,946.74 recovered during the investigation.

According to Bynum's plea agreement, Baltimore Police officers observed Bynum on April 2, 2007 engaging in a drug transaction. They approached him and recovered 374 grams of cocaine in three plastic bags from his backpack. They searched his apartment and seized additional plastic bags containing 810 grams of cocaine, 46.1 grams of cocaine base and 38.82 grams of marihuana. The police officers also recovered \$62,946.74 from the apartment and two bank accounts.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked Baltimore City State's Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy and Assistant State's Attorneys Charles Fitzpatrick and Christine Siemek, the Baltimore City Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their assistance in the investigations and prosecutions. Mr. Rosenstein commended Assistant United States Attorney Gregory Welsh, who prosecuted the cases.