



PRESS RELEASE

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Friday, July 18, 2008	Thomas Rice, First Assistant U.S. Attorney (509) 353-2767

“ARMED CHEWELAH METHAMPHETAMINE DEALER SENTENCED TO PRISON”

Spokane – James A. McDevitt, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced that James Eugene LeLacheur, age 39, of Chewelah, Washington, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearms and for possessing methamphetamine with intent to distribute.

On November 1, 2007, James Eugene LeLacheur’s house in Chewelah was searched pursuant to a federal search warrant. Law enforcement officers seized two - 9 millimeter semiautomatic pistols, ammunition and four marijuana plants from his house. The next day, James Eugene LeLacheur was located and arrested. LeLacheur had an ounce of methamphetamine in his coat and a digital scale when he was arrested. He admitted that he traveled to Spokane every other day to buy an ounce of methamphetamine for \$1,000, so he could turn around and sell it in Chewelah. The investigation resulted in the seizure of more than two dozen other firearms at other locations, some of which were stolen.

On April 17, 2008, LeLacheur pleaded guilty to being a convicted felon in possession of firearms and possessing methamphetamine with intent to distribute. He has been in custody since his arrest on November 2, 2007. He has prior convictions for possessing controlled substances, grand theft, and uttering a forged instrument. He was sentenced to 120 months imprisonment which will be followed by a 5 year period of court supervision after his release.

This case was prosecuted under the Project Safe Neighborhoods program. Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a partnership of federal, state and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors working together to reduce criminal gun violence in Eastern Washington through aggressive enforcement of existing firearms laws.

This case was investigated by the Stevens County Sheriff’s Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. This case was prosecuted by Earl Hicks, Assistant United States Attorney.

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