

Department of Justice

United States Attorney Leura G. Canary
Middle District of Alabama

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

www.usdoj.gov/usao/alm

CONTACT: Retta Goss

Telephone (334) 223-7280

Fax (334) 223-7560

TWO TEXAS MEN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR POSSESSING GUNS AND MARIJUANA WHILE TRAVELING THROUGH ALABAMA

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA - Lemont Israel Norwood, age 34, and Jason Everett Walker, age 32, both of Del Valle, Texas, were each sentenced in federal district court in Montgomery to 66 months in federal prison for possessing firearms in connection with a drug trafficking offense and for possessing marijuana with intent to distribute, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. Norwood and Walker were each also sentenced to serve three years of supervised release under the supervision of the federal probation office after their release from prison.

Norwood and Walker each pled guilty to possessing a 12 gauge shotgun and a 9 mm pistol in connection with a drug trafficking crime. In this case, Norwood and Walker also pled guilty to possessing marijuana with intent to distribute. Norwood and Walker rented a motor home near their homes in Texas and were traveling through Alabama when they were pulled over on February 24, 2007, near Midland City, Alabama. During a search of the motor home, Midland City and Dothan police officers discovered the shotgun, pistol, and approximately 11 pounds of marijuana. Norwood and Walker admitted they intended to distribute the marijuana and to possessing the guns in furtherance of that plan. Each received a six month sentence for the marijuana distribution charge to be followed by a consecutive 60-month sentence for possessing

the guns, for a total of 66 months. Neither Norwood nor Walker had any prior felony convictions.

The case was investigated as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods and the Middle District of Alabama's Alabama ICE (Isolating the Criminal Element) programs, aimed at preventing violent crime and the illegal possession of firearms. According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, "Our office is committed to prosecuting fully those who use guns to further their plans to traffic in drugs, especially when drug traffickers bring guns and drugs into Alabama from out of state. This case sends a strong message that our community will not tolerate those who want to bring the dangerous combination of drugs and guns into Alabama."

This case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Midland City Police Department, the Dothan Police Department, the Dale County District Attorney's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Matthew Shepherd.