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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CLINTON TOWNSHIP RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS
IMPRISONMENT FOR DEALING METHAMPHETAMINE WITH A FIREARM**

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today that Clinton Township resident George Steven Scantland, 46, was sentenced in federal court by United States District Judge Paul D. Borman to 15 years' imprisonment, followed by eight years of supervised release on methamphetamine and firearms charges.

Scantland was found guilty on June 30, 2005 by a Federal Jury in United States District Court in Detroit on charges of possessing more than five grams of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute, possessing marijuana with the intent to distribute, possessing a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking, operating a drug premises, and possessing firearms as a convicted felon.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

U.S. Attorney Murphy said, "This is a significant prison sentence that demonstrates the dangers that meth poses to our community. The combination of drug trafficking and illegal firearm possession means hard time in federal prison."

SAC Goddard said, "Illegal drugs and guns go hand-in-hand and are a threat to the safety of our citizens and to our law enforcement officers," said SAC Goddard. "Our Project Safe Neighborhood strategy focuses on removing habitual offenders and illegal firearms from our streets."

The evidence presented at trial showed that Scantland was distributing methamphetamine and marijuana out of his residence on Ellen Street in Clinton Township. On July 15, 2004, Clinton Township narcotics officers executed a search warrant at Scantland's home. The search revealed a large marijuana growing operation, complete with 89 marijuana plants, florescent lights, an irrigation system, fertilizer, and plant growing material. The search yielded over 30 grams of methamphetamine, eight gallon-sized bags of marijuana, cocaine, a loaded handgun, a loaded shotgun, an assault rifle, 21 boxes of ammunition, and over \$1,400 in cash. Scantland was home at the time of the search and was arrested on the premises.

The trial spanned 10 days and the jury deliberated approximately three hours.

U.S. Attorney Murphy commended the work of the agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Clinton Township Police in the investigation of this case.