



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONVICTED FELONS SENTENCED ON GUN OFFENSES**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that U.S. District Judge Robert Junell sentenced four felons to substantial prison sentences in Midland this morning, after each had pleaded guilty last fall to illegally possessing firearms.

Luis Garcia Aguilar, 44, of Odessa was sentenced to a 37 month term of incarceration. In his September 20, 2007, guilty plea, he admitted that in July, Odessa police officers found him in possession of a .308 caliber rifle during a traffic stop. Aguilar was convicted of possession of cocaine in 1998 in Ector County, and had served time in state prison for that offense, thereby making him ineligible under federal law to possess a firearm.

Cody Wayne Wynne, 22, of Midland was sentenced to a 46 month term of incarceration. In his September 21, 2007, plea, Wynne admitted that he stole a .45 caliber handgun during a January residential burglary and hid the gun at a friend's apartment, where Midland police officers recovered it. Wynne was convicted of possession of methamphetamine and evading arrest in a motor vehicle in 2005 in Midland County, thereby making him ineligible under federal law to possess a firearm. He was on felony probation for these offenses when he committed the federal firearms offense.

Joe Alex Lopez, 34, of Odessa was sentenced to a 60 month term of incarceration. In his September 26, 2007, plea Lopez admitted that in July, Odessa police officers discovered him in possession of a .380 semiautomatic pistol during a domestic violence call. Lopez was convicted of burglary charges in Floyd County in 1992 and unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon in 2002 in Ector County, and served time in state prison for these offenses, thereby making him ineligible under federal law to possess a firearm.

James Cody Heap, 31, of Weatherford, Texas, was sentenced to a 70 month term of incarceration. In his September 11, 2007, plea, Heap admitted that Odessa police officers found him intoxicated and passed out in his vehicle in June 2007, and recovered a 9 mm handgun and a .20 gauge shotgun on the floorboard next to him. Heap was convicted of assaulting a police officer in Ector County in 2001 and felony DWI in Ector County in 2002, and served time in state prison for these offenses, making him ineligible under federal law to possess a firearm.

These cases were investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigations West Texas Area Major Offenders Task Force, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), assisted the Odessa and Midland police departments with these investigations. Assistant United States Attorneys John Klassen, Glenn Roque-Jackson, Jeff Parras, and Robbie Ward prosecuted these cases for the Government.

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