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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CRACK COCAINE DEALER SENTENCED**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Allen F. Loucks, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Robert Joshua Butler, age 23, of Baltimore, Maryland was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Court Judge William D. Quarles, Jr. to 235 months followed by 5 years of supervised release for conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.

According to a statement of facts presented at Butler's guilty plea, Baltimore County police officers executed a search and seizure warrant at Butler's residence in May 2003 and seized approximately 122.8 grams of "crack" cocaine, digital scales, various drug packaging paraphernalia and two firearms: an Intratec, Model: TEC-DC9, 9 mm semiautomatic pistol; and a Smith and Wesson, Model 38 Special, .38 caliber revolver. Subsequent to Butler's arrest, Butler told an ATF agent that the "crack" cocaine that had been seized from his residence, along with the Smith and Wesson, Model: 38 caliber revolver, had been provided to him by another drug dealer who was afraid that he was under police surveillance. That individual has been prosecuted as well.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Baltimore County Police Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher J. Romano.