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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GUN TOTING DRUG DEALER
SENTENCED TO 40 YEARS IN PRISON**

Greenbelt, Maryland - Allen F. Loucks, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Raul Castillo-Ramos, age 26, of Hyattsville, Maryland, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. to 40 years in prison on federal drug and gun charges.

Following a trial in November of 2004, a federal jury convicted Castillo-Ramos of six counts of distribution and possession with intent to distribute cocaine base, commonly known as crack cocaine, and two counts of carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking offense.

The evidence at trial established that on five occasions between April and August, 2003, Castillo-Ramos sold cocaine base, commonly known as crack cocaine, in Hyattsville, Maryland. During two of those occasions, Castillo-Ramos carried a .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol and a .357 caliber revolver with five rounds of ammunition. After conducting an investigation, agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives arrested Castillo-Ramos while he was attempting to sell more cocaine base in February of 2004.

The case was investigated by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael R. Pauzé and Tim Atkins.