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ANNAPOLIS MAN SENTENCED TO 162 MONTHS FOR DRUG DISTRIBUTION

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announces that today U.S. District Court Judge J. Frederick Motz sentenced Donnell Edmonds, age 32, of Annapolis, Maryland to 162 months in prison followed by 5 years of supervised release for conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

According to the statement of facts presented to the court at his guilty plea on May 18, 2005, from November, 2001 until January, 2004, Donnell Edmonds, along with Deandre Myers, Keith Brown and others, distributed kilograms of cocaine in Annapolis, Maryland.

Keith Brown and his associate Deandre Myers, have been involved in the distribution of crack cocaine in the housing projects of Annapolis and Eastport, Maryland since late 2001. Myers and Brown began soliciting friends from the Annapolis area, including Donnell Edwards, to make runs for them to New York City in an effort to bring powder cocaine from New York to Maryland for later distribution as crack cocaine.

Donnell Edmonds made at least five such trips to New York City in early 2002 through 2003. Investigation revealed that on average, each run to New York City would result in the importation of at least one kilogram of powder cocaine into Maryland. Brown and Myers would use hotel rooms and the homes of addicts to cook their product into crack for later distribution, paying cooperators in both cash and drugs. Edmonds was often present when the powder cocaine was brought back to Annapolis and cooked into crack.

Investigation revealed that Edmonds was not only assisting with the importation of powder into Maryland from New York, but was also responsible for the distribution of crack cocaine in the Eastport area of Annapolis from 2002 to 2004. Myers would supply Edmonds crack cocaine for distribution at cost and in return, Edmonds would assist Myers and Brown with the running of the organization in Myers' or Brown's absence.

Keith Brown and Deandre Myers have both pled guilty. No date has been set for their sentencing.

U.S. Attorney Rosenstein praised the Annapolis Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force, who participated in this Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation, and Assistant United States Attorneys Debra Dwyer and George Russell who prosecuted the case.