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**PHILADELPHIA MAN SENTENCED TO 262 MONTHS IN PRISON IN CECIL
COUNTY DRUG CONSPIRACY**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announces that today U.S. District Court Judge Richard D. Bennett sentenced Richard Harris, 29, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to 262 months in prison followed by 5 years of supervised release for conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

According to the statement of facts presented at his guilty plea on March 4, 2005 and information presented at the sentencing hearing, Harris was the source of supply of cocaine and cocaine base (crack) to distributors in Cecil County between 2002 and 2004. Evidence included conversations between Harris and his customers obtained pursuant to a state wire tap conducted in December 2004 by the Maryland State Police and Cecil County Sheriff's Department, under the supervision of the Cecil County State's Attorneys' Office. On December 23, 2003, the wiretap led investigators to execute a traffic stop of Harris after he met with and was paid by several of his customers, which led to the seizure of \$45,000 in cash from Harris. Law enforcement officials also surveilled several meetings, based on intercepted telephone conversations, where customers purchased cocaine and crack from Harris. Harris was originally charged in Cecil County in January, 2004 and subsequently indicted by a federal grand jury in August, 2004. Today, at his sentencing hearing, Harris admitted that he attempted to suborn perjury of two government witnesses. As a result, the court imposed an additional sentence for obstruction of justice.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked the Maryland State Police and the Cecil County Sheriff's Department for the investigative work performed in this case. Mr. Rosenstein also praised Assistant United States Attorney John F. Purcell, Jr. for prosecuting the case.