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GLEN BURNIE MAN CONVICTED ON DRUG AND GUN CHARGES

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announces today that Dexter Bert Tyson, a/k/a Bert Dexter Tyson, age 31, of Rain Drop Ct., Glen Burnie, Maryland was convicted of drug conspiracy and firearm charges by a federal jury.

Tyson had been charged in an indictment with conspiracy to distribute cocaine base "crack" cocaine and cocaine hydrochloride "powder" cocaine, and possession with intent to distribute crack and powder cocaine. In addition, Tyson was charged with possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number, as well as being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. The jury convicted Tyson of all charges.

Evidence at the one week trial established that on January 9, 2003 Anne Arundel County narcotics detectives along with agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) executed a search and seizure warrant at Tyson's apartment. The search revealed a quantity of crack cocaine and almost a half-kilogram of powder cocaine, drug paraphernalia, including scales capable of weighing kilograms of drugs, along with a .40 caliber semi-automatic handgun with an obliterated serial number. Investigators also found almost \$50,000 in cash in a shoe box under the bed in the master bedroom. Tyson was arrested and a search of Tyson's person and car revealed an additional \$6,000 which was seized by the DEA. Tyson filed a claim for the money, but evidence at trial showed Tyson had not filed tax returns for 1999, 2000 and 2002.

Tyson was also convicted of being in possession of 109 grams of powder cocaine which he had concealed on his person when he arrived at the Anne Arundel County Police Department on January 21, 2003 to obtain personal property seized from him by the police on January 9, 2003. Unbeknownst to Tyson, when he arrived at the police station the DEA had a warrant for his arrest and the cocaine was discovered during a search incident to Tyson's arrest.

United States District Judge Catherine C. Blake set sentencing for January 13, 2006. Tyson faces a mandatory life sentence without parole based on Tyson's four prior felony drug convictions.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Anne Arundel County Police Department for their investigative work in this Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) case. Mr. Rosenstein commended Assistant United States Attorneys Christopher J. Romano and Angela R. White, who prosecuted the case.