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JEROME WILLIAMS SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON

South Bend, IN—The United States Attorney's Office announced that **Jerome Williams Jr.**, 33, was sentenced to life plus 5 years in federal prison after his conviction in November, 2008, for possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance and armed drug trafficking. The sentenced imposed by U.S. District Judge Robert Miller Jr. included increased penalties as a result of Williams prior drug felony convictions in 1994 and 2002.

The evidence presented during the trial showed that Williams had a long history of armed drug trafficking dating back to 1997 as a member of the Dawg Life gang. The evidence showed that Williams used firearms and violence to control his illegal drug trafficking business. Testimony showed that Williams distributed more than a kilogram of crack cocaine in 2007 and early 2008.

"Williams will die in prison, having forfeited the rest of his life for violence and armed drug dealing. ATF and the Project Disarm Task Force will continue to remove violent criminals from this community that use firearms and brutality as tools of terror." said Christopher Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, ATF, Columbus Field Division.

The investigation began in early 2008 and was conducted by the ATF Project Disarm Task Force located in South Bend, Indiana and the Elkhart, South Bend and St. Joseph County, Indiana Police Departments, who are full time task force participants. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald Schmid.