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**TWO BALTIMORE ARMED CAREER CRIMINALS EACH EXILED TO 15 YEARS  
FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING A FIREARM**

*Defendants were Charged in State Court then Prosecuted Federally Under  
Baltimore EXILE Program*

**Baltimore**, Maryland - Two Baltimore men were found to be armed career criminals and were each sentenced in separate proceedings to 15 years in federal prison under the Baltimore Exile Program, announced U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein. Each man was initially charged in state court and had their state charges dismissed after their federal indictment.

U.S. District Judge Richard D. Bennett sentenced Lecestor Melvin White, Jr., age 27, of Baltimore, today to 15 years in prison followed by five years of supervised release for being a felon in possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein. Judge Bennett enhanced White's sentence upon finding that he is an armed career criminal based on three previous convictions for narcotics violations.

According to White's guilty plea, on February 5, 2007, members of the Baltimore Police Department were patrolling and saw White and several other men standing at the corner of 2300 East Oliver Street at 1400 North Montford Street. Officers observed White pull up the front of his sweatshirt, revealing a handgun. White noticed the officers and walked away. The officers stopped and exited their vehicle, pulled their weapons, and ordered White to stop. White began to run, and was arrested after a brief chase. During the arrest, the handgun, a loaded Hi Point 380 caliber semi-automatic pistol, fell from White's pants. Officers also recovered \$633 from White at the time of his arrest.

"This is an example of how state prosecutors can investigate and bring an indictment in a state felony firearm case, while simultaneously reviewing the case with federal prosecutors to determine the best possible prosecution," said State's Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy. "Following the state indictment of Lecestor White, ASA Beth Durand was able to forward the results of her efforts to a federal prosecutor that led to today's successful federal prosecution and sentence. Project Exile is a team effort."

In a separate proceeding, U.S. District Judge Andre M. Davis sentenced Darryl Taylor, age 23, of Baltimore, today to 15 years in prison followed by three years of supervised release for illegal possession of a handgun, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein. Judge Davis enhanced Taylor's sentence upon finding that he is an armed career criminal based on three convictions for distributing heroin.

According to Taylor's guilty plea, a Baltimore County Police officer went to a motel room on January 1, 2007 to investigate a report that the occupant of the room had attempted to pass counterfeit bills. Taylor opened the door. Once in the room, the officer found a loaded .38 S&W caliber revolver on the floor. Taylor admitted that the gun was his and that he had fired it once.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked Baltimore City State's Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy and Assistant State's Attorney Beth Durand, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Baltimore City Police Department for their assistance in the investigation and prosecution of Leicester White.

U.S. Attorney Rosenstein also thanked Baltimore County State's Attorney Scott Shellenberger and his office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Baltimore County Police Department for their work on the Taylor case.

Mr. Rosenstein commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Roann Nichols and Richard C. Kay, who prosecuted White and Taylor, respectively .