



**U. S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
**George E. B. Holding**

*Eastern District of North Carolina*

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**TUESDAY - August 5, 2008**

**RALEIGH** - United States Attorney George E.B. Holding announced that in federal court yesterday Senior United States District Judge W. Earl Britt sentenced **FRANKIE CORNELL ELLIS, JR.**, 27, of Kinston, North Carolina, to 262 months' imprisonment.

A Federal Grand Jury returned a Criminal Indictment on May 9, 2007. On December 5, 2007, **ELLIS** pled guilty to one count of possession of a firearm by felon and one count conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams cocaine base (crack).

From November 2005 to June 2006, three controlled purchases of crack cocaine from **ELLIS** in Jones County were conducted. Kinston Department of Public Safety Narcotic's Unit officers seized additional amounts of controlled substances from **ELLIS** during this same period.

In October 2006, Detectives with the Raleigh Police Department confiscated an assault rifle from **ELLIS** that had been used in an October homicide in the City of Raleigh.

***"The defendant's 262-month sentence stops a troubling record of criminal activity. This defendant's activities show the dangerous connection between drug and gun crimes and their effects***

**on communities large and small,”** commented United States Attorney Holding.

Investigation of the case was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation; the Kinston Department of Public Safety and the Raleigh Police Department. The United States was represented by Special Assistant United States Attorney Imelda J. Pate. Ms. Pate is a prosecutor with the District Attorney's Office for the Eighth District. District Attorney C. Branson Vickory, III, has assigned her to the United States Attorney's Office to prosecute federal Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) criminal matters. This assignment has been made possible by a grant funded by the Governor's Crime Commission and the County Commissioners from Greene, Wayne and Lenoir Counties.

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