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News Release

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West St. Paul man sentenced for distributing crack cocaine, possessing firearms

A 25-year-old West St. Paul man was sentenced yesterday in federal court for being an armed career criminal who was distributing cocaine base, commonly known as crack cocaine.

On Feb. 10 in Minneapolis, United States District Court Judge John Tunheim sentenced Yobarri Takie Eason to 220 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of distribution of 50 or more grams of crack cocaine and one count of being an armed career criminal. Eason was indicted on April 23, 2008, and pleaded guilty on July 17.

According to Eason's plea agreement, he admitted that in St. Paul on Feb. 6, 2008, he sold approximately 123.75 grams of crack cocaine for \$3,000. Eason also admitted that on March 15, also in St. Paul, he fled from his vehicle after he was stopped by police for speeding. Eason had a .45-caliber, semi-automatic handgun under the front seat of his vehicle.

Eason admitted that on April 1 in St. Paul he arrived at a location planning to sell 81.69 grams of crack cocaine and also admitted to having a .45-caliber, semi-automatic handgun, a 9-millimeter pistol and a .22-caliber revolver in his residence.

According to a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) affidavit, St. Paul Police began investigating Eason after learning he was selling large amounts of crack cocaine in the Twin Cities area. Police arranged a controlled purchase of approximately 123.75 grams of crack cocaine on Feb. 6 in a St. Paul parking lot. Eason was arrested April 1 following a second controlled purchase at the same location, and police seized approximately 3 ounces of crack cocaine from Eason's vehicle. A search warrant executed at Eason's residence resulted in the seizure of approximately 2 ounces of cocaine and three firearms.

This case is the result of an investigation by the DEA and the St. Paul Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas M. Hollenhorst.