



# PRESS NOTICE

## W. WALTER WILKINS UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **NORTH AUGUSTA MAN IS FIFTH SENTENCED IN DRUG CONSPIRACY**

Columbia, South Carolina---- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins stated that Daniel Hinkler, age 27, of North Augusta, was sentenced in federal court in Columbia to 151 months in prison after pleading guilty to drug charges.

Hinkler pled guilty to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine and 500 grams or more of methamphetamine. He was also held accountable for possessing firearms and illegally selling a number of them, including a 12 gauge shotgun, a .380 pistol, and various assault rifles. Hinkler had been previously convicted of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and the unlawful carrying of a pistol in Aiken County.

Evidence in the case showed that Hinkler conspired with four others to

distribute drugs in and around the North Augusta and Aiken area, often while armed. Those four individuals pled guilty earlier this year and were sentenced as follows:

Thomas Michael Arrington, age 28, of North Augusta, was sentenced to 200 months in prison;

Peter William Clark, IV, age 28, from Evans, Georgia, was sentenced to 121 months in prison;

Charles Jason Brady, age 33, from Graniteville, was sentenced to 37 months in prison; and

Lindey Leigh Clark, age 20, from Covington, Georgia, was sentenced to 37 months in prison.

Agents in the case seized nearly \$2,000 in cash, four firearms, a motorcycle, and large quantities of methamphetamine and crack cocaine during the investigation.

The case was investigated by the ATF RAGE (Regional Anti-Gang Enforcement) Unit. The ATF RAGE Unit is a joint task force that targets violent criminals and their organizations and gangs which routinely involve armed drug trafficking and other violent acts. The ATF RAGE Unit is a partnership between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the Aiken County Sheriff's Office (ACSO), the North Augusta Department of Public Safety (NADPS), the Aiken Department of Public Safety (ADPS) and the Edgefield County Sheriff's Office (ECSO).

Assistant United States Attorney James Leventis of the Columbia office handled the case.

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