



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Shana Jones, Special Assistant  
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer  
(210) 384-7440

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**FORMER ODESSA PRISON GUARD PLEADS GUILTY TO SMUGGLING  
MARIJUANA TO INMATE**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that Andrew Allen Zehr, a former correctional officer at the Ector County Correctional Center, pled guilty Wednesday afternoon on a federal bribery charge.

By pleading guilty Zehr admitted that while working as a correctional officer he smuggled a cell phone into a federal inmate in exchange for \$150.00. Further, Zehr admitted that the inmate would call him and arrange for him to meet with various individuals to obtain other contraband that Zehr would then smuggle into the inmate, also in exchange for cash. On at least one occasion, Zehr met with the inmate's relative, who provided Zehr with a small wooden box, containing marijuana, wrapped in black electrical tap, with a lighter taped to the outside of the box.

Zehr faces up to 15 years in federal prison and a maximum \$250,000.00 fine. His sentencing is set for June 25, 2009 at 9:00am before U.S. District Judge Robert Junell.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Austin Berry.

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