



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

**John E. Murphy, Acting U.S. Attorney**

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**FORMER ODESSA PRISON GUARD SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR  
SMUGGLING MARIJUANA TO INMATE**

**John E. Murphy, Acting United States Attorney**, announced that in Midland today, Andrew Allen Zehr, a former correctional officer at the Ector County Correctional Center, was sentenced to six months in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release for smuggling contraband into the prison facility.

In February, Zehr pleaded guilty to one count of accepting a bribe. Zehr admitted that while working as a correctional officer he smuggled a cell phone into a federal inmate in exchange for \$150.00. Furthermore, 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 tape, with a lighter taped to the outside of the box.

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

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