

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
April 25, 2007**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
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Western District of Kentucky**

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**MURRAY CRACK COCAINE DEALER SENTENCED ON
DRUG TRAFFICKING AND FIREARM CHARGES**

– Had 63 grams of crack and a loaded Glock handgun

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today that on April 24, 2007, **MICHAEL YANDAL**, age 34, of Murray, Kentucky, **was sentenced** to 16 years and 3 months imprisonment on federal drug trafficking and firearm charges. Judge Thomas B. Russell, United States District Court, Paducah, Kentucky, also sentenced **Yandal** to 5 years supervised release following incarceration. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

Previously, a jury convicted **Yandal** of possessing with intent to distribute crack cocaine and marijuana and possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. The investigation of this case was conducted by the Mayfield Police Department in conjunction with the Tri-County Drug Task Force, the Graves County Sheriff's Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

U.S. Attorney Huber praised the work of the Mayfield Police Department, Tri-County Drug Task Force, Graves County Sheriff's Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, saying "action by vigilant federal, state and local law enforcement, like in this case, is essential for ensuring these defendants receive the maximum time incarcerated and away from our society."

Detectives with the Tri-County Drug Task Force stopped **Yandal**'s vehicle on June 23, 2005, near Lynnville in Graves County. When a detective approached the vehicle to ask for license and registration, he smelled marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. A drug canine was deployed around the vehicle and alerted to the presence of drugs in the vehicle. **Yandal** eventually admitted he had drugs inside the vehicle and surrendered 63.5 grams of crack cocaine and approximately eight ounces of marijuana. Further search of **Yandal**'s person and vehicle revealed a loaded .40 caliber Glock handgun, two sets of digital scales, and \$2,150 in U.S. currency.

This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a partnership of state and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Terry M. Cushing.

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