



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Edward J. Tarver

Southern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
06/16/2010

CONTACT: JAMES D. DURHAM
FIRST ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
(912) 201-2547

PRISON OFFICIALS AND INMATE SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SMUGGLING DRUGS AND CONTRABAND INTO FEDERAL PRISON

DUBLIN, GA: Three individuals were sentenced to federal prison by United States District Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr., for their roles in the smuggling of marijuana, cell phones, and other contraband into the McRae Correctional Institution in McRae, Georgia.

Yesterday, on June 15, 2010, federal inmate DAVID STEVENS, 43, originally from Ghana, was sentenced to 21 months in prison. STEVENS' prison sentence will begin after he completes his original sentence for heroin trafficking. Earlier, on June 10, 2010, former McRae CI correctional officer PAUL WHITE, 42, of Hazlehurst, Georgia, was sentenced to 21 months in prison, while former McRae CI counselor SANDRA WATKINS, 39, of Cochran, Georgia, received an 18-month prison sentence.

The evidence showed that while working at the McRae prison, WHITE and WATKINS supplied STEVENS with marijuana, cell phones, and other contraband in exchange for money. WHITE and WATKINS were paid hundreds of dollars in money wired through Western Union.

The case was investigated by Special Agent Steven Borders of the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General. Agent Borders was assisted in the investigation by members of the Dublin (Georgia) Police Department and the Laurens County Sheriff's Department. Warden Walt Wells and Special Investigative Agent Daryl Goodner of McRae CI also assisted in the investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephen T. Inman. For additional information, please contact First Assistant United States Attorney James D. Durham at (912) 201-2547.