

# Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen Mehlretter  
Western District of New York

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## **PHILLIPS SENTENCED TO 46 MONTHS IN PRISON**

BUFFALO, N.Y. – **SHAUNDELL C. PHILLIPS**, 37, of Wilmington, Delaware, who pled guilty on Dec. 8, 2008, to an information charging him with making false statements, was sentenced today to a term of 46 months in prison, by U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny, Acting U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter of the Western District of New York announced today.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas S. Duszkiwicz, who handled the case, stated that the defendant was arrested on Dec. 18, 2006, at the Lewiston Bridge port of entry, and charged with the knowing and intentional unlawful importation into the U.S. of a quantity of Ecstasy (MDMA) and its importation contrary to law. The defendant was initially stopped by agents of Customs and Border Protection and, after an inspection of the vehicle he was operating, agents found concealed in the air cleaner of his car a black leather case containing approximately 2,000 pink, orange and purple tablets which were determined to be 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine. The defendant intentionally lied to officers about his knowledge of the Ecstasy pills in his air cleaner. AUSA Duszkiwicz also stated that after the defendant serves his term of imprisonment, he will be turned over to Immigration authorities for deportation as he is a resident alien in the U.S. and originally a citizen of Guyana. The street value of the 2,000 pills would be approximately \$50,000.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of agents of Customs and Border Protection, under the direction of Port Director Joseph Wilson, and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Lev Kubiak.