



PRESS NOTICE

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September 22, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FORMER POLICE OFFICER CONVICTED OF KIDNAPING, CARJACKING AND OTHER CRIMES

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins stated today that **DAVID ALLEN DIETZ**, age 25, of Lexington, South Carolina, was convicted of a number of criminal offenses after a six-day trial before United States District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie. Dietz was convicted of the following offenses: (1) interstate kidnaping, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1201; (2) carjacking, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2119(1); (3) use and discharge of a firearm in connection with a violent crime, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c); and (4) interstate transportation of a stolen motor vehicle, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2312.

Evidence presented at trial showed that Dietz, a former policeman and probation officer who was employed by the Department of Social Services at the time of his arrest, abducted his former girlfriend and their infant son from her West Columbia address on January 3, 2009. Dietz had a rocky relationship with the victim and had previously pointed a firearm and threatened to kill members of her family in the months leading up to the abduction.

Evidence showed that in the days prior to the kidnaping, Dietz met a 17 year old girl, abducted her, sexually assaulted her on at least five occasions, and forced her to assist him in the abduction of his former girlfriend and son. On the evening of January 3rd, Dietz dressed a police officer and ambushed his former girlfriend and her family as they returned from church. Dietz threatened to kill members of the former girlfriend's family, took a vehicle belonging to a family member at gunpoint, and forced his former girlfriend into the stolen vehicle along with the 17 year old victim, and his infant son in the back seat. As he drove away, Dietz fired several shots into another vehicle where several family members, including children, were located.

Dietz then took the victims to Georgia and checked into a Red Roof Inn in Madison, Georgia, where officers located the stolen vehicle in a parking lot. When officers went to his motel room in an effort to get him to surrender, Dietz saw the officers through an open window and fired several shots in their direction. A 13-hour hostage negotiation ensued, during which Dietz threatened to kill officers, himself, his former girlfriend and infant son, as well as the 17 year old rape victim.

Dietz finally surrendered after an extensive negotiation and the hostages were released unharmed.

Dietz faces a possible maximum sentence of life imprisonment with respect to the kidnaping charge, and he faces a mandatory consecutive minimum sentence of ten years on the firearms charge. Judge Currie has scheduled a sentencing hearing on December 17, 2009.

The case was investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from both the Columbia and Atlanta Divisions, the West Columbia Police Department, the Georgia State Patrol, the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), the Morgan County (Georgia) Sheriff's Department and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). Assistant United States Attorneys Mark Moore and Stacey Haynes of the Columbia office prosecuted the case.

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