



*U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SIX DRUG CONSPIRATORS SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

Jackson, Miss - Six men were sentenced today for their part in a large marijuana distribution conspiracy which was being operated out of Forest, MS, U.S. Attorney John Dowdy announced.

The Drug Enforcement Administration, in conjunction with officers from the Ridgeland Police Department, Jackson Police Department, Hinds County Sheriff's Office, and the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, undertook an intensive investigation into the organizations of defendants, Jessie Hall and Lornel Von Moore. The investigation led to two different indictments charging 14 total defendants with various counts of conspiring to distribute hundreds and thousands of kilograms of marijuana. All 14 defendants named in the two indictments have pled guilty.

The following defendants were sentenced today by Senior U.S. District Judge Tom S. Lee:

Jessie Hall, 37, of Forest - 144 months in prison, followed by 5 years supervised release;
Michael Taylor, 45, of Houston, TX - 51 months in prison, followed by 5 years supervised release;
Willie Nelson, Jr., 22, of Forest - 24 months in prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release;
Eric Boone, 22, of Forest - 24 months in prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release;
Robert Meeks, 47, of Durant - 41 months in prison, followed by 2 years supervised release; and
Charlie Powell, 40, of Meridian - 40 months in prison, followed by 5 years supervised release.

"This is another great example of law enforcement working together to put criminals in jail. The cooperative efforts between DEA, the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, county and local law enforcement over the last couple of years has dismantled numerous drug distribution organizations just like this one," said U.S. Attorney Dowdy.

The remaining eight defendants are currently scheduled for sentencing in August.

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