

NEWS

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Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

More Information? Call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fort Dix Corrections Officer Admits Smuggling Contraband into the Prison

(More)

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NEWARK – A Fort Dix corrections officer pleaded guilty today to smuggling tobacco products into the federal prison at Fort Dix, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Terrence Street, 31, of Lumberton, entered his plea in U.S. District Court in Newark before Judge Dennis M. Cavanaugh. Street, who was suspended by officials at Fort Dix after his arrest, pleaded guilty to one count of corruption in the performance of his official duties. Judge Cavanaugh released the defendant on a \$50,000 unsecured bond pending sentencing, which is scheduled for Jan. 22.

Street was arrested by Special Agents of the Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General on May 10, 2007.

At his plea hearing, Street admitted that in December 2005 he agreed with an inmate, who he later learned was cooperating with federal law enforcement, to sell tobacco products to the inmate, who in turn could sell the tobacco products to other prisoners at Fort Dix. Over the course of the next five months, Street smuggled in dozens of cartons, pouches, and bags of tobacco products for the cooperating inmate and received thousands of dollars in return. Street often directed the inmate to send the money to him through wire transfers, sometimes using fictitious names to collect the payoffs.

Street further admitted that in the summer of 2006, he agreed with a second inmate to sell the inmate fifty pounds of rolling tobacco. Street met the inmate's wife at a Cherry Hill restaurant, where she gave him \$6,500 in cash. Unbeknownst to Street, the second inmate was also cooperating with federal law enforcement.

The charge of corruption in the performance of official duties carries a maximum statutory penalty of 15 years in federal prison and a fine of at least \$250,000.

Christie credited Special Agents of the Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Inspector General Glenn A. Fine, and Special Agent in Charge James E. Tomlinson, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas R. Calcagni of the U.S. Attorney's Office Special Prosecution's Division in Newark.

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Defense Attorney: Lorraine Gauli-Rufo, Esq. – Asst. Federal Public Defender