

Department of Justice

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FIRST FEDERAL DEFENDANT SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that the first federal defendant who took part in the Veterans Treatment Court as administered by the Honorable Robert T. Russell, acting Erie County Court Judge and Buffalo City Court Judge, has successfully completed the program. As a result, federal charges against the defendant will be dropped.

The defendant entered a pre-trial diversion agreement in September 2010 whereby prosecution of a federal criminal case for assault and making telephonic threats was deferred for eighteen months. As a condition, the defendant had to comply with a set of conditions, including the successful completion of the Veterans Treatment Court.

“It is certainly good news for the community that the defendant has successfully completed the Veterans Treatment Court,” said U.S. Attorney Hochul. “While the Office’s primary responsibility is to enforce the law, some cases require a different prosecutorial approach. Military veterans whose conduct was the result of mental health and/or drug and alcohol dependency related to their military service may fall into this category.”

This program was the first one of its kind in any of the 94 federal judicial districts across the country. The defendant in this case successfully completed the 18 month program without incident and is now a graduate of the Veterans Treatment Court.

U.S. Attorney Hochul applauded the efforts of First Assistant U.S. Attorney J.P. Kennedy, Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward H. White and the Federal Public Defender who all worked together to make this program a success.

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