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TWO DETROIT MEN SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Investigation Seizes Oxycontin Pills Set to be Delivered in Nicholas County

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Two men were sentenced to prison this week by U.S. District Judge John T. Copenhaver Jr., for their roles in a drug trafficking operation involving the illegal distribution of oxycodone. Jack Deon Cooper, 48, of Detroit, Michigan, was sentenced yesterday to 8 years in prison. Albert Sims, 62, also of Detroit, was sentenced on Wednesday to 6 months in prison and 6 months home confinement for his involvement in the drug operation.

Cooper and Sims both previously pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting the distribution of oxycodone in October 2010.

U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin stated, "The battle against prescription drug crimes persists and my office is fully committed to using every available resource to catch pill-pushing criminals in the Southern District of West Virginia. I am hopeful the message resonates quickly that we are continuing to vigorously pursue these types of crimes. Out-of-state drug dealers be warned: southern West Virginia does not want you and we will not tolerate you."

This case stems from an investigation conducted by the West Virginia State Police and the Central Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force into an oxycodone trafficking ring based in Detroit during July 2010. The investigation revealed that on July 16, 2010, Cooper and Sims traveled together from Detroit, Michigan, to a residence in and around Craigsville, Nicholas County, West Virginia, to distribute oxycodone to a confidential informant. Evidence presented at sentencing revealed that once inside the Nicholas County residence, Cooper sold 145 80-milligram Oxycontin pills in exchange for \$10,000 to an informant. It was also on this same occasion that the informant provided Cooper with an additional \$5,000 to settle a prior drug debt.

Upon completion of the transactions, the co-conspirators departed the residence in a van and were subsequently caught and taken into custody by police. The 145 Oxycontin pills involved in the transaction were also recovered by law enforcement.

Assistant United States Attorney William King handled the prosecution.

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