



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill  
Middle District of Florida

Tampa

Orlando

Jacksonville

Ocala

Fort Myers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2011

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

CONTACT: WILLIAM DANIELS

PHONE: (813) 274-6388

FAX: (813) 274-6300

## **METHAMPHETAMINE MANUFACTURER SENTENCED**

Ocala, Florida - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that on June 9, 2011, U.S. District Judge John Antoon II sentenced Robert E. Simmons to 10 years in federal prison for manufacturing methamphetamine and possessing methamphetamine with the intent to distribute it. The court also ordered Mr. Simmons to serve 8 years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term.

Mr. Simmons pled guilty to the federal felony drug charges in the two count indictment on March 7, 2011.

According to court documents and police reports, on March 28, 2010, U.S. Forest Service officers identified Mr. Simmons at a primitive campsite in the Ocala National Forest, where Simmons was manufacturing methamphetamine. Shortly after he was contacted by the officers, Mr. Simmons admitted his criminal conduct to them. Based on the quantity of methamphetamine identified, and Mr. Simmons' prior felony drug offenses, he was subject to a mandatory imprisonment term of 10 years.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Forest Service, and the local Multi-Agency Drug Enforcement Team, which is comprised of agents from the Marion County Sheriff's Office and Ocala Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Philip Lammens.