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TWO MONROE MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING STEROIDS

Agents seized over \$250,000 in cash from defendants

Monroe, Louisiana . . . Two local men whose sale of illegal steroids over the internet generated hundreds of thousands of dollars now face up to five years in prison when sentenced later this year, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today. **GARY LYNN WARD**, age 39, of Monroe, Louisiana and **DAVID RAY DEAN**, age 39, of West Monroe, Louisiana, each pleaded guilty to distributing anabolic steroids. The hearing was held before United States Magistrate Judge Karen L. Hayes. **WARD** and **DEAN** also agreed to forfeit \$259,000 in cash and a motor vehicle which was seized from them at the time of their arrest.

WARD and **DEAN** were indicted last March on one count of conspiracy to distribute anabolic steroids, four counts of distribution of anabolic steroids, and one count of forfeiture, and admitted today that they operated an internet business that distributed steroids all over the United States. Unbeknownst to them, one of their customers was an undercover agent of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration who purchased steroids from **WARD** and **DEAN** on several occasions. **WARD** and **DEAN** were arrested on April 3, 2007,

and at the same time search warrants were executed at each of their residences, a business where DEAN worked (not related to steroids), and a storage unit. During these searches, agents seized anabolic steroids, including Testosterone Enanthate, Nandrolone Decanoate, and Testosterone Propionate, and \$259,000 in cash and a motor vehicle. Agents also seized an additional approximately \$15,000 in cash sent through the mail for pending orders that had been placed with WARD and DEAN. Thereafter, agents set up a brief sting operation to continue to accept orders for illegal steroids using WARD and DEAN's internet business. Agents received in excess of \$93,000 from these orders; however, no product was ever shipped. A civil forfeiture proceeding will be filed against the \$93,000.

WARD and DEAN face a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigations, and the Louisiana State Police, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Alexander C. Van Hook.

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