



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington  
Western District of Louisiana*

---

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600  
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

---

For Immediate Release  
August 18, 2009

Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)  
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law>

## **DRUG DEALER SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

### *Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Operation: "Rock Jumper" Snags Major Drug Trafficker in Northeast Louisiana*

**Shreveport, Louisiana** . . . A major drug trafficker in Monroe and Bastrop was sentenced in federal court to spend 20 years in prison, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today. **RICHARD O'NEAL HATFIELD**, age 34, of Bastrop, Louisiana, was sentenced by United States District Judge Robert G. James to spend the next two decades of his life in prison for distributing cocaine. HATFIELD is currently serving a four-year term of imprisonment in the State of Louisiana, Department of Corrections. The federal sentence handed down on Monday is to run consecutively with the state sentence.

HATFIELD was charged in a 13-count federal Grand Jury Indictment in September 2008 charging him with conspiracy and distribution of cocaine and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. HATFIELD was allowed to plead guilty to the conspiracy charge and forfeiture of the 9mm semiautomatic firearm and \$61,106 in cash which was seized from the defendant's residence.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Northwest Louisiana Gang Task Force, along with the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), opened the investigation targeting HATFIELD

as a distributor of illegal drugs. Based on that investigation, Hatfield was found to be responsible for possession with intent to distribute approximately 1,082 grams of cocaine.

OCDETF, consisting of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, is the nation's primary tool for disrupting and dismantling major drug trafficking organizations, targeting national and regional level drug trafficking organizations, and coordinating the necessary law enforcement entities and resources to disrupt or dismantle the targeted criminal organization and seize their assets.

U.S. Attorney Washington stated: "This investigation continues our efforts to strike at the heart of the most prominent drug trafficking organizations. Reducing the supply of illegal drugs to our state remains a major law enforcement priority. We will use every tool available to law enforcement to continue aggressive, offensive investigations to target, investigate, and prosecute drug trafficking organizations."

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

"Rock Jumper" was conducted by OCDETF and the Federal Bureau of Investigation as the lead agency. Assistant United States Attorney James G. Cowles, Jr., was the lead prosecutor for this case.

####