



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 26, 2009

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

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

HOUSTON, TX MAN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT ON DRUG CHARGES & IMPERSONATION OF FEDERAL OFFICER

Defendant Falsely Claimed to be a U.S. Coast Guard Reservist

LAKE CHARLES, LA . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **BRANDON CARTER**, age 28, of Houston, Texas, was sentenced today in United States District Court for drug charges and impersonation of a federal officer. U.S. District Judge Patricia Minaldi sentenced CARTER to spend 21 months in a federal prison, to be followed by a term of 3 years supervised release.

CARTER was indicted in August 2008 and pled guilty in March 2009 to possession with intent to distribute marijuana and impersonation of a federal officer.

In March 2008, CARTER was traveling on I-10 eastbound en route from Houston, Texas to St. Louis, Missouri when his car was pulled over during a traffic stop near Lake Charles, Louisiana. CARTER informed the officer that he was a U.S. Coast Guard reservist traveling from Houston, Texas to St. Louis, Missouri in order to perform military duties. Pursuant to a search of the vehicle, a large, brown, taped bundle containing 5.110 kilograms of marijuana was found in a piece of luggage in the trunk. CARTER admitted that he knowingly and falsely pretended to be a Coast Guard reservist and that he knowingly possessed the marijuana with intent to distribute.

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 Coast Guard Investigative Service and the Combined Anti-Drug Team of Calcasieu Parish (CAT). CAT was formed in November 2004 as a joint effort between the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, Lakes Charles Police Department, Sulphur Police Department, Westlake Police Department, DeQuincy Police Department, Vinton Police Department, Iowa Police Department, the United States Marshal's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The purpose of CAT is to combine all agencies within the Calcasieu Parish area to form a single unit to identify, target, and dismantle illegal drug and gang organizations.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel J. McCoy.

###