



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley
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
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2010
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law>

CONTACT: STEPHANIE A. FINLEY
PHONE: (337) 262-6618
FAX: (337) 262-6783

**FORMER FORT POLK EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR MAKING FALSE
STATEMENTS TO OBTAIN COMPENSATION BENEFITS**

Total Benefits Received by Defendant Totaled Over \$100,000.00

LAKE CHARLES, La. - Sherrie D. Wood, 60, of Leesville, Louisiana, was sentenced today to six months incarceration for each count relative to a 4-count Indictment, to run concurrent, for making false statements in order to obtain federal employees' compensation benefits, United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced. Ms. Wood was also sentenced to three years supervised release following confinement, and was ordered to pay a fine in the amount of \$100,549.00. The sentence was imposed by U. S. District Judge Patricia Minaldi.

Wood was convicted by a federal jury in February 2010 on all four counts of submitting false information to the U. S. Department of Labor, Office of Workers' Compensation Program, to obtain benefits through the Federal Employees' Compensation Act. According to court testimony, Wood, a former dental assistant with the Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital at Fort Polk, La., made false representations from 2003 through 2006 on claims for compensation by concealing the fact that she was working during the reporting periods in which she was claiming disability. In fact, Wood was working during the reporting periods in various capacities for the Four Winds Tribe, Neutral Zone Cherokee Choctaw Corporation, American Indians of the Four Winds, Central Louisiana Intertribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program (CLIVR), and the West Louisiana Forestry Festival Board. Wood also became a licensed retail florist, artist, and a licensed private investigator during the time she was receiving benefits. Wood compensated herself as the Vice Chief, Secretary/Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of the Four Winds Tribe and did not report her ability to work as required under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, resulting in Wood improperly receiving benefits totaling over \$100,000.00.

This case was investigated by Agent Regina Hein, with the U. S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, and the Criminal Investigation Division, Fort Polk, La. The case was prosecuted by United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley.

####