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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 2, 2011**

## *Heroin Dealer sentenced to prison after MHIT Stop*

**WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA** — A 26-year old Moundsville, West Virginia, resident was sentenced on August 1, 2011, in United States District Court in Wheeling by Judge Frederick P. Stamp, Jr.

United States Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II announced that JUSTIN LEE NASH was sentenced yesterday to 15 months imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release. NASH entered a plea of guilty on May 25, 2011, to one count of conspiracy to distribute heroin and marijuana, one count of interstate travel from Pennsylvania to West Virginia to distribute heroin; and one count of possession with intent to distribute heroin in Benwood, West Virginia.

Prior to his arrest, NASH had purchased 100 stamp bags of heroin from his supplier in Pennsylvania and was traveling back to West Virginia when a traffic stop was initiated by a West Virginia State Trooper. The trooper was working on Interstate 70 and Route 2 as part of a Mountaineer Highway Interdiction Team (MHIT) patrol. After the traffic stop, the brick of heroin was discovered and NASH was arrested. The investigation revealed that in addition to the heroin conspiracy NASH also was involved in a conspiracy to distribute marijuana.

“This case is a perfect example of the good work being done by the officers that make up MHIT,” said USA Ihlenfeld. “Much of the heroin that is being abused in the northern panhandle comes to us from Pennsylvania, and this new team is taking it from the dealers before it can be distributed in West Virginia.”

NASH was remanded by Judge Stamp to the custody of the United States Marshal pending designation to a federal correctional institution. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John C. Parr.

The Mountaineer Highway Interdiction Team is a specialized unit made up of representatives from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the West Virginia State Police, the Ohio County Sheriff’s Department, the Wheeling Police Department and the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District. MHIT’s primary purpose is to enhance regional interdiction operations in order to slow the flow of drugs into and through the State of West Virginia. The major focus of MHIT is on highways and state routes but it also concentrates on airports, bus terminals, hotels, motels, and parcel and package interdiction.

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