



William J. Ihlenfeld, II, United States Attorney
Captain James H. Merrill, WVSP
Kenneth A. Winkie, Group Supervisor, DEA

Ohio County Sheriff Patrick Butler
Wheeling Police Chief Robert G. Matheny

Contact: Fawn E. Thomas, Public Affairs Specialist • Phone: 304-234-7709 • Fax: 304-234-0110

Web Site: www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvn/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Initial Defendant Entered Guilty Pleas in MHIT Initiative

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA — A 26 year old Moundsville, West Virginia, resident entered guilty pleas on May 25, 2011, in United States District Court in Wheeling before Judge Frederick P. Stamp, Jr. in connection with the Mountaineer Highway Interdiction Team Initiative.

United States Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II, announced that JUSTIN LEE NASH entered guilty pleas to three counts contained in the Indictment returned against him in April 2011. Specifically, NASH entered guilty pleas to one count of conspiracy to distribute heroin and marijuana from 2009 to January 9, 2011, in Moundsville; one count of traveling in interstate commerce between Turtle Creek, West Virginia, and Benwood, West Virginia, with the intent to conspire to distribute heroin; and one count of possession of heroin with the intent to distribute on January 9, 2011, in Benwood.

NASH faces a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000,000 on the conspiracy count; a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000 on the travel count; and a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment and a fine of \$500,000 on the possession count.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John C. Parr. The case was investigated by the Mountaineer Highway Interdiction Team (MHIT), which includes 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 of West Virginia.

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