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**LOGAN COUNTY FATHER AND SON PLEAD GUILTY TO FEDERAL OXYCODONE CHARGES**

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – A Logan County father and son pleaded guilty yesterday before United States District Judge John T. Copenhaver, Jr., to federal drug charges. Ernest J. Vance, Sr., 62, of Verdunville, Logan County, West Virginia, pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting the distribution of oxycodone. The defendant's son, Ernest J. Vance, Jr., 35, also pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting the distribution of oxycodone. Vance Jr. admitted that on September 18, 2009, he and an associate aided and abetted by each other, sold two 40-milligram oxycodone pills to an informant working for the US 119 Task Force in exchange for \$110 cash. Between sometime prior to June 2008, until on or about March 29, 2010, both Ernest Vance Sr. and Vance Jr., along with several known associates, conspired with each other to distribute and sell oxycodone for profit in and around Verdunville, Logan County. Vance Sr. admitted that he maintained the 16 Hill residence located in Verdunville as his home and as a place for himself and his co-conspirators, including his son, Ernest Jr., to sell oxycodone and other controlled substances. On December 8, 2009, Vance Sr. sold three and one-half 80-milligram oxycodone pills to an informant in exchange for \$350 cash and on December 10, 2009, he sold three 80-milligram oxycodone pills to an informant in exchange for \$300 cash.

On December 9, 2009, Ernest Sr., aided and abetted by an associate, distributed four and one-half 80-milligram oxycodone pills to an informant working for the US 119 Task Force in exchange for \$600 cash. Both Vance Sr. and Jr. admitted that the distribution of oxycodone primarily occurred at the 16 Hill residence, but also took place at several other known locations in and around Logan County. Both defendants admitted that they maintained only a small amount of oxycodone at the Verdunville residence in the event that law enforcement agents arrived at the location.

Vance Sr. also admitted that he sold three 80-milligram oxycodone pills to an informant in exchange for \$300 on March 15, 2010 and on March 29, 2010, aided and abetted by an associate, he sold one-half of an 80-milligram oxycodone pill to an informant in exchange for \$50.

The conspiracy is responsible for the distribution of more than 5,000 and up to 18,000 Oxycontin 80 milligram pills in and around Verdunville, Logan County, West Virginia.

Both defendants face up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine when they are sentenced on August 16, 2011.

This investigation was conducted by the US 119 Task Force. Assistant United States Attorney William King is handling the prosecution.

This case was prosecuted as part of an ongoing effort led by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia to combat the illicit sale and misuse of prescription drugs. The U.S. Attorney's Office, joined by

various federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, remain committed to aggressively pursuing and shutting down illegal pill trafficking, eliminating open air drug markets and curtailing the spread of opiate painkillers in communities across the Southern District.

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### **HUNTINGTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES**

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. –Jordan Jeter, 20, of Huntington, pleaded guilty today in federal court before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers, to distribution of 28 grams or more of cocaine base, also known as “crack.” Jeter admitted that on October 1, 2010, he sold approximately 48 grams of cocaine base to an undercover ATF agent in exchange for \$2600 cash. Jeter admitted to agreeing to an arranged drug transaction following a telephone conversation that he had with an undercover ATF agent. A short time later, the defendant met the agent at the Smokin’ Aces store, which was located in Huntington. The defendant further admitted to placing what he knew to be crack cocaine, contained in a cellophane bag, onto a digital scale. The crack cocaine weighed approximately 48 grams.

Jeter faces up to 40 years in prison and a \$5 million fine when he is sentenced on September 12, 2011.

Assistant United States Attorney William King is in charge of the prosecution.

This case is being prosecuted as part of a yearlong undercover operation that targeted illegal drugs and firearms crimes in the Huntington area. The operation was led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and assisted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Huntington Police Department, and various other law enforcement agencies. It was announced to the public in March after a grand jury returned indictments against 55 defendants.