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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2011
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CHARLESTON MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON ON FEDERAL OXYCODONE CHARGES

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Randy Taylor, 28, of Charleston, was sentenced today to 37 months in prison by U.S. District Judge John T. Copenhaver, Jr., for possession with intent to distribute a quantity of oxycodone. Taylor pleaded guilty in February to the federal charge. The defendant admitted that on February 4, 2010, he arrived at a location on Hunt Avenue in Charleston to complete a drug transaction that was arranged between an associate and a confidential informant working with the Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team (MDENT). At the time of the drug transaction, the defendant's vehicle was approached by law enforcement agents, where they subsequently removed the vehicle's occupants. Taylor admitted that he was in possession of three bags containing a total of 102 pills, which proved to contain oxycodone. Following his arrest, the defendant further admitted to making other deliveries for his source of supply on three prior occasions totaling 220 oxycodone 80-milligram pills. On December 12, 2010, Taylor was arrested as a result of a warrant having been issued following his indictment on the current charges. Officers found 15 oxycodone 30-milligram pills on the defendant's person at the time of the arrest.

This case was investigated by the Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team (MDENT). Assistant United States Attorney John Frail handled 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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