

NEWS

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Leader of Camden Drug Organization
Sentenced to 174 Months in Federal Prison

(More)

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TRENTON – The leader of a Camden drug trafficking organization which operated in the Ablett Village public housing community was sentenced today to 174 months in federal prison, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Joseph E. Irenas also ordered Mark Davis, 29, of Camden, a.k.a. “Dos” and “Andos,” to serve five years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term. Davis has been held in federal detention since his arrest on Feb. 3, 2006.

According to the Criminal Complaint charging Davis, and unsealed with his arrest, Davis and his right-hand man, James Baker, 33, of Camden, a.k.a. “Big Man,” controlled the illegal drug trade in the area of Ablett Village, a public housing community in Camden’s Cramer Hill section. Through a long term investigation by DEA’s Mobile Enforcement Team and the Camden HIDTA task force, Davis was identified as the leader of the drug trafficking organization. According to the Complaint, Davis and his organization possessed multiple firearms, including an AK-47 assault rifle. Additionally, more than 20 state arrests were made during the investigation into Davis’ organization.

On August 3, 2006, Davis entered guilty pleas in two separate cases, which were consolidated for plea and sentencing purposes. Davis pleaded guilty to Count One of an Indictment, which charged him with conspiracy to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine. He also pleaded guilty to a two-count Information, which charged conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

At his plea hearing, Davis admitted that in early 2002, he met with Raymond Morales, 34, of Camden, whom Davis knew was a wholesale distributor of quantities of cocaine. Davis admitted that at the meeting he and Morales agreed that Morales would supply him with cocaine. As the drug dealing relationship evolved, Davis admitted that he eventually obtained kilogram quantities of cocaine from Morales. Davis admitted that he continued to receive quantities of cocaine from Morales until late 2002 and that during the time period he received a total of at least 15 kilograms of cocaine from Morales.

In regard to the two-count Information, Davis admitted that on Jan. 28, 2006, he and Baker met another individual in an Ablett Village apartment and sold 4.5 ounces of crack cocaine to the individual for \$4,500. While in the apartment, Davis admitted, he possessed several guns, including an AK-47 assault rifle and several handguns, including .22 caliber, .380 caliber, and 9 millimeter semi-automatic handguns.

On Dec. 8, 2006, Judge Irenas sentenced Baker to 70 months in federal prison and ordered to serve five years of supervised release upon completion of his prison term.

In determining the sentence, Judge Irenas consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines,

which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, was not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited the Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer, in Newark, and Investigators with member agencies of the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Task Force, with investigation of the case. The Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Task Force is comprised of the U.S. Attorneys' Offices for the Districts of New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania, The Camden County Prosecutor's Office, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, DEA, FBI, ATF, Camden Police Department, New Jersey State Police, Philadelphia Police Department, New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, Camden County Sheriff's Department, Delaware River Port Authority Police and the U.S. Marshal's Service.

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Defense Attorney: Anne C. Singer, Esq. Cherry Hill