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Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin

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WATERTOWN MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON ON COCAINE CHARGE

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Arnold Wood, 47, Watertown, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 66 months in prison for conspiring to possess cocaine with intent to distribute.

Between June 2005 and October 2007, Wood was involved in a conspiracy to possess and to distribute cocaine in the Western District of Wisconsin. In October 2007, Wood was arrested and prosecuted by the State of Wisconsin for distributing cocaine. On April 8, 2009, Wood completed his state prison sentence, was transferred to federal custody, and pleaded guilty to the one-count information pending against him.

Wood's source for cocaine was Maximo Pineda-Buenaventura, who was prosecuted in 2008 by the United States along with 17 other individuals for conspiracy to distribute cocaine in the Western District of Wisconsin. Pineda-Buenaventura is currently serving a 17-year sentence for his role in that case.

Judge Crabb stated that Wood's cooperation with law enforcement was the primary factor leading her to impose a sentence substantially below the other sentence of Pineda-Buenaventura.

The charge against the defendant was the result of an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigations-Narcotics Bureau, the Dodge County Sheriff's Department, the Jefferson County Drug Task Force, the Fort Atkinson Police Department, the Watertown Police Department, and the Janesville Police Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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