

NEWS RELEASE



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PEMISCOT COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

January 15, 2008

A Pemiscot County, Missouri man pled guilty today to distributing a controlled substance, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

DONALD WARD pled guilty to one felony count of distribution of hydrocodone. He appeared before United States District Judge Henry E. Autrey.

On September 12, 2007, members of the Bootheel Drug Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were conducting a joint investigation into the distribution of hydrocodone in the Pemiscot County, Missouri, area. They were using the services of a Confidential Informant (CI) to attempt to purchase hydrocodone from individuals in that county.

On that date, Donald Ward distributed 20 pills containing hydrocodone to another person in exchange for \$80.

Donald Ward now faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing has been set for April 15, 2008.

Hanaway praised the Bootheel Drug Task Force and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.** Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.