

NEWS RELEASE

**FROM: Catherine L. Hanaway
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POPLAR BLUFF WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG AND GUN CHARGES

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A Poplar Bluff, Missouri woman pled guilty today to federal drug and gun charges, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

TWAJUANA K. DAVIS, age 28, pled guilty to one felony count of distribution of cocaine base, one felony count of possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of cocaine base, and one felony count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. She appeared before United States District Judge E. Richard Webber.

On January 8, 2008, Davis sold .15 grams of a form of cocaine base known as crack cocaine to a Confidential Informant in exchange for \$50 in the city limits of Poplar Bluff.

On the same date, officers from the Poplar Bluff Police Department obtained and executed a state search warrant to search Davis's residence. Davis was at the residence on the day of the search. Officers recovered five bags of marijuana, weighing 72.7 grams; cocaine base that weighed

10.5 grams; a Hi-Point, 9mm caliber pistol, loaded with seven rounds of ammunition; a set of digital scales and a marijuana grinder.

Davis now faces a maximum punishment of 20 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine for distribution of cocaine base; a term of imprisonment not less than five years and no more than 40 years and/or a fine not more than \$2,000,000 for possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of cocaine base; and a term of imprisonment of not less than five years and/or a fine of not more than \$250,000 for possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Sentencing has been set for July 28, 2008.

Hanaway praised the Poplar Bluff Police Department , the Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their combined efforts on the case. Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.