



PRESS RELEASE
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CONTACT: Edward M. Yarbrough
United States Attorney

Blanche Cook
Van Vincent
Assistant United States Attorneys
(615) 736-5151

**PUTNAM COUNTY RESIDENT CONVICTED OF
VIOLATION OF FEDERAL MURDER FOR HIRE STATUTE**

Nashville, TN - November 4, 2008 - Edward M. Yarbrough, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee, and Special Agent in Charge James M. Cavanaugh of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Nashville Field Division, announced that on November 3, 2008, a federal jury returned a verdict of guilty on all counts of a twenty-one count indictment against Defendant William Vincent Dunn, in connection with the solicitation to murder a Putnam County Sheriff's Deputy; an Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); and an informant. Dunn was also convicted of possessing a machine gun, as well as another firearm, in furtherance of drug trafficking, conspiracy charges, attempt to obstruct justice, and possession and distribution of drugs, including marijuana and cocaine. The jury convicted Dunn, age thirty-four, after a two-week trial in federal district court before United States District Chief Judge Todd Campbell.

Proof at trial revealed that Dunn and his girlfriend, Misty Langford, were distributing cocaine, marijuana, and other drugs in Baxter, Tennessee during 2005 and 2006. In the summer of 2005, Dunn provided pseudoephedrine to a person manufacturing methamphetamine knowing that the pseudoephedrine would be used in the manufacturing of methamphetamine. In return, Dunn received approximately \$300 in cash and a Norinco SKS assault rifle that had been converted to be fully automatic, that is, converted to a machine gun.

In October 2005, Langford and Dunn made the following sales to an undercover Putnam County Sheriff's Deputy and a confidential informant on the following dates: October 6, 2005, one ounce of marijuana; October 14, 2005, one half ounce of cocaine; October 26, 2005, one half ounce of cocaine; and October 28, 2005, one half ounce cocaine. On April 10, 2006, a state grand jury indicted Dunn in Putnam County, Tennessee. On April 24, 2006, Putnam County Sheriff's Officers arrested Dunn. At the time of his arrest, all of the following substances were found in Dunn's home: marijuana; cocaine; 500 tablets of codeine; 2,369 tablets of dihydrocodeine; 320 tablets of alprazolam; and a .25 caliber pistol. On April 26, 2006, Dunn made bond, after spending two days in jail.

Afterward, Dunn and Langford developed a plan to kill the undercover Putnam County Sheriff's Deputy. Dunn received discovery information in his state court proceedings, which revealed the identity of the undercover Putnam County Sheriff's Deputy. Dunn and Langford determined that if the undercover Putnam County Sheriff's Deputy was murdered, there would be no witnesses to testify against them for drug distribution. As part of the investigation into the murder for hire plot, an ATF agent was introduced to Langford and Dunn as the purported "hit man." On October 26, 27, and 28, 2006, Langford was recorded in discussions with the undercover ATF agent during which she confirmed that she and Dunn wanted the Sheriff's

Deputy killed. In these conversations, Langford told the undercover ATF agent that she was aware of where the Sheriff's Deputy's children attended school and that the children could be followed home to determine where the Deputy lived. Langford also provided the undercover ATF agent with the make and model of the Deputy's undercover vehicle as well as his personal vehicle.

On October 30, 2006, the undercover ATF agent and the informant met with Dunn at his residence in Baxter, Tennessee, to discuss the murder. During this recorded conversation, Dunn confirmed that he wanted the Sheriff's Deputy killed. Dunn agreed to pay \$15,000 dollars for the murder. Dunn stated that he did not want the Deputy's children killed, stating that "I have enough guilt as it is." Dunn then stated that he was committed to the plan to commit the murder.

At the end of the conversation, Dunn provided the undercover ATF agent with \$300 dollars and 15 grams of cocaine as a down payment for the murder. Dunn and Langford were arrested a short time later at the Baxter, Tennessee residence. At the time of arrest ATF agents recovered 646.8 grams of marijuana, a marijuana plant; 475 tablets of diazepam; 259 tablets dihydrocodeine; and 24 tablets of alprazolam.

Dunn and Langford were arrested on October 30, 2006, and charged federally with drug distribution and solicitation to commit murder. Dunn and Langford were detained without bond. After Dunn was detained, he learned the identity of the undercover ATF agent and confidential informant he met with on October 30, 2006. Dunn then initiated a plan to have the Sheriff's Deputy, the undercover ATF agent, and the confidential informant murdered. As part of this plan Dunn solicited a cellmate, convicted of kidnaping, to commit the murders upon the cellmate's release from jail. Dunn informed the cellmate to contact the girlfriend of one of Dunn's drug suppliers for details. Dunn told the cellmate he would be supplied with leg shackles, taser, hand

cuff's, and silencers for the murders. Dunn wrote his drug supplier's girlfriend, providing code names for the persons he desired to have killed as well as information that could lead to finding the persons. Dunn used the code names in various letters. Dunn instructed this person to obtain two sets of police issue shackles, two sets police issue handcuffs, prepaid cell phones, and wireless listening devices for the kidnaping and murder of the ATF agent, confidential informant, and Sheriff's Deputy. Dunn provided further instructions in other letters, including instructions on getting his cellmate released on bond. As part of his plan, Dunn contacted his drug supplier and requested him to fabricate a story. Dunn begged his drug supplier to testify that he was willing to kill the undercover police officer for free, but Dunn that had declined the offer, so that Dunn could then use this statement in defense of his federal charges. Dunn also wrote letters to Langford requesting that she provide false statements also to utilize in his defense.

This second murder-for-hire plot - the plot to kill the ATF agent, the informant, and the Sheriff's Deputy, was divulged by an individual who saw the letters and caused the letters to be turned over to federal authorities. Dunn was then indicted in federal court on the original drug distribution charges, conspiracy to distribute drugs, possession of firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking offenses, conspiracy to solicit murder, solicitation to commit murder, use of facilities in interstate commerce to commit murder (that is the telephone and mails), and obstruction of justice.

"The success of this prosecution is an example of how federal and state law enforcement agencies, including the ATF, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office and the Tennessee Highway Patrol, routinely operate to not only prevent the execution of heinous and sinister criminal plots, but also to protect the lives of our law enforcement guardians," stated U.S. Attorney Yarbrough.

“This was a serious, fast paced case dependent on the team effort by ATF, the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office and the Tennessee Highway Patrol Criminal Investigation Division,” stated Cavanaugh. Ultimately, the lives of an undercover ATF Special Agent and undercover Putnam County Deputy were preserved while Dunn was held accountable by a jury for his actions.”

Dunn’s sentencing is set for January 26, 2009, at 10:30 A.M. The case was tried by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Blanche Cook and Van Vincent. The case was investigated by the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); and the Tennessee Highway Patrol Criminal Investigation Division.