



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias  
Northern District of Georgia

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CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

## **PRISON GUARD PLEADS GUILTY TO TAKING PAYOFFS, SMUGGLING**

### ***U.S. Penitentiary Guard Admits to Taking Payoffs to Bring In Illegal Item for Inmate***

Atlanta, GA - CHRISTOPHER HOLCOMB, 31, of Fayetteville, Georgia, pleaded guilty today in federal district court to two counts of accepting cash payments in return for smuggling a prohibited item into the prison, and one count of smuggling a prohibited item, a cellular telephone, into the prison and providing it to an inmate.

“It’s a sad day when a person who has sworn to uphold public safety violates his oath for personal gain,” said U.S. Attorney David E. Nahmias. “Prison guards are a critical part of our criminal justice system. Our society cannot allow the convicted criminals who are in their custody to control them in any way.”

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: HOLCOMB accepted two cash payments of \$600 earlier this year in return for smuggling into the prison a prohibited item and providing it to an inmate. In addition to smuggling in the prohibited item, HOLCOMB provided that item, a cellular telephone, to the prison inmate who had arranged for the payments to be made to HOLCOMB. A cellular telephone is a prohibited item because it is a communications device that could threaten the order, discipline, or security of a prison.

HOLCOMB was indicted in June, 2006, on two counts of accepting illegal payments and one count of providing a prohibited object to a federal inmate. He pleaded guilty to all counts. He could receive a maximum sentence of up to 4-1/2 years in prison and a fine of up to \$505,000.

Sentencing is scheduled for December 19, 2006, at 11:00 a.m., before United States District Judge Thomas W. Thrash, Jr.

This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Special Assistant United States Attorney Scott Morrell is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).