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Eastern District of Kentucky

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Barbourville Man Pleads Guilty To Murder-For-Hire Conspiracy

LONDON, Ky. — Bill Perkins, 42, of Barbourville, Ky. pleaded guilty today to a charge of Conspiracy to use a Facility of Interstate Commerce to Commit a Murder-for-Hire.

Perkins admitted that in June of this year, he conspired with his brother, Randall Perkins to commit a Murder-for-Hire. Randall Perkins, an inmate at the Whitley County jail in Williamsburg, Ky., wanted to hire a hit-man to murder a witness in a state drug trafficking case against him.

Bill Perkins admitted that he provided a firearm to a cooperating witness (CW) to execute the murder-for-hire conspiracy. Bill Perkins also admitted that, under the direction of his brother, he knowingly obtained \$500 in cash to give to the CW as a down-payment for committing the murder. Bill Perkins further admitted that Randall Perkins directed him to provide the firearm to the CW.

According to the criminal complaint (filed in June of 2008), In May of 2008, Randall Perkins tried to persuade a former cell mate to murder the witness. The cell mate told the authorities and agreed to cooperate with investigators from ATF and the Barbourville Police Department (BPD). On several occasions, the CW communicated in coded language with Randall Perkins through a series of letters and in person about the murder plot. Randall Perkins informed the CW that he believed he would be acquitted of drug trafficking charges if the key witness was unable to testify. In exchange for committing the murder, Randall Perkins promised the CW

approximately \$4,000 and a car. Randall Perkins went on to instruct the CW to meet with Bill Perkins who would provide him with a gun.

According to the plea agreement, on June 11, 2008, the CW traveled to Bill Perkins' home in Barbourville, where he provided the CW with a .22 caliber rifle and 16 rounds of .22 caliber ammunition to commit the murder.

The criminal complaint further stated that on June 25, 2008, the CW met with Randall Perkins at the Whitley County Detention Center and informed Perkins that the job had been completed. The CW went on to show Randall Perkins a picture on his cellular telephone of a staged homicide scene. The CW asked Randall Perkins when he would get paid. Perkins advised the CW that he could obtain \$500 from Bill Perkins as a down-payment.

In addition, the plea agreement states that on June 26, 2008, Randall Perkins placed a telephone call to Bill Perkins and informed him that the CW came to the jail and showed him a picture on a cell phone of what happened. Randall Perkins directed Bill Perkins to write out a receipt for \$500 to the CW for "building a garage."

On June 27, 2008, law enforcement executed an arrest warrant on Bill Perkins. During a search incident to arrest, agents recovered a receipt made out to the CW along with \$500 cash from Bill Perkins.

James A. Zerhusen, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF -Louisville Field Office), and James Gray, Chief of the Barbourville Police Department, jointly made the announcement.

The investigation was conducted by the ATF (London Field Office) and the Barbourville Police Department. The United States was represented in the case by Assistant United States Attorney W. Samuel Dotson

Perkins is currently scheduled to appear for sentencing before United States District Court Senior Judge Joseph M. Hood in Lexington, Ky., on March 12, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.. Perkins faces a maximum prison sentence of 10 years, a \$250,000 fine, and three years supervised release. However, any sentence following conviction would be imposed by the court after consideration of the United States Sentencing Guidelines and the federal statute governing the imposition of sentences.

