

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMER ALABAMA MARINE OFFICER CHARGED WITH MISUSE OF CONFIDENTIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA

(MONTGOMERY)— Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange announces the arrest today of a former Alabama Marine police officer, now charged in both Baldwin and Tallapoosa counties with misusing confidential law enforcement information.

Noel Christopher Wood, 41, a resident of Marbury, was arrested in Wetumpka today on a four-count indictment* from Baldwin County by members of the U.S. Marshal Service's Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force. The arrest is based on evidence presented to a Baldwin County grand jury by the Attorney General's Office on February 4, resulting in a four-count indictment* against Wood.

Specifically, the indictment charges Wood with four counts of willfully obtaining or seeking to obtain criminal offender record information by accessing the Law Enforcement Tactical System (LETS) under the false pretense that it was for an official law enforcement or criminal justice purpose. Each count is a felony violation of Code of Alabama, Section 41-9-601, punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a fine of between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

No further information about the investigation or about Wood's alleged crimes other than that stated in the indictment may be released at this time.

Wood also currently is awaiting trial in Tallapoosa County, where he was charged last year with a four-count indictment on similar charges. Both cases were investigated by the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIC) and are being prosecuted by the Attorney General's Public Corruption and White Collar Crime Division. The Baldwin County case is being handled by Assistant Attorney General Thomas Govan, along with Assistant Attorney General Bill Lisenby on the Tallapoosa County case.

The assistance of the Task Force in locating Wood and making today's arrest was requested by the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office. Upon today's arrest, Wood was taken to the Elmore County Jail, where he is awaiting eventual transfer to Baldwin County.

Both General Strange and ACJIC Director Maury Mitchell thanked the law enforcement agencies involved in the investigations and arrests, in particular the Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force for the U.S. Marshal Middle District of Alabama and the Alabama Marine Police.

**Note: An indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*

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ABOUT ACJIC: The Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center is the state technology agency primarily responsible for providing timely and accurate mission-critical data services to state, local and federal criminal justice agencies. ACJIC operates information systems which are accessed by more than 20,000 sworn law enforcement officers in approximately 900 criminal justice entities within Alabama and across the nation. . *For more information, visit www.acjic.alabama.gov*

ABOUT THE U.S. MARSHAL'S GULF COAST REGIONAL TASK FORCE: The Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force is a team comprised of U.S. Marshals and state and local law enforcement officers in Alabama, Mississippi, New Orleans LA, and Memphis TN. The task force objective is to seek out and arrest fugitives wanted for crimes of violence and any charges involving sexual offenses. In 2010, the Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force arrested 5,100 fugitives. Additional information about the U.S. Marshals can be found at <http://www.usmarshals.gov>.