



**AG STRANGE, ACJIC ANNOUNCE 2ND CONVICTION OF FORMER
CONSERVATION OFFICER FOR MISUSE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INFORMATION; CONVICTIONS IN BALDWIN, TALLAPOOSA COUNTIES**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced that a former marine police officer was convicted yesterday for a second time of crimes involving illegal misuse of confidential law enforcement information. Noel Christopher Wood, 41, of Marbury, pleaded guilty in Baldwin County Circuit Court, having previously pleaded guilty to a similar charge in Tallapoosa County on March 8. He was formerly employed by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Specifically, Wood admitted to willfully using the Alabama Law Enforcement Tactical System (LETS) to access confidential private information about personal acquaintances that was unrelated to any official law enforcement duty. For both of the felony counts to which he pleaded guilty, he was sentenced to two years imprisonment, which was suspended for a term of two years probation to be served, and ordered to pay court costs and \$100 fines to the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Fund.

“Certain public employees may be entrusted with access to confidential criminal justice information, which state law mandates is private and confidential to be used for official law enforcement purposes only,” stated Attorney General Strange. “Those who betray this trust and break the law to use this data for private and inappropriate purposes are committing a crime for which they will be held to account.”

The case was investigated by the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIC), the state agency that maintains the LETS system and other criminal justice data for the State of Alabama. The Attorney General’s Public Corruption and White Collar Crime Division presented evidence to a Tallapoosa County grand jury on January 6, 2010, and to a Baldwin County grand jury on February 4, 2011, resulting in the indictments against Wood.

“It is a crime to use LETS for any purpose other than a legitimate law enforcement or criminal justice purpose,” said Maury Mitchell, director of ACJIC. “Access to this data provided in LETS is privileged and confidential. We will not hesitate to continue to investigate and recommend prosecution for any person who unlawfully accesses or misuses this information.”

Attorney General Strange and ACJIC Director Maury Mitchell commended those involved in bringing the case to a successful conclusion, noting in particular Assistant Attorneys General Bill Lisenby and Thomas Govan, and special agents of the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center. They also thanked for valuable assistance the Gulf Coast Regional Task Force for the U.S. Marshal’s Office and the Marine Police Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

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