

**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Middle District of Pennsylvania*

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**CRIMINAL INFORMATION FILED AGAINST CORRECTIONAL OFFICER FOR  
ALLEGEDLY SMUGGLING CONTRABAND FOR INMATES**

The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania announced today the filing of charges in the U.S. District Court in Scranton against Donald E. Lykon, age 30, of Swoyersville, Pennsylvania.

The Criminal Information charges that Lykon, served as a Correctional Officer at the United States Penitentiary-Canaan, in Waymart, Pennsylvania. USP-Canaan is a high security institution housing male inmates, with a satellite camp that houses male minimum security inmates. For security measures, inmates are not allowed to possess cellular phones within the institution. USP-Canaan is a smoke-free environment and inmates are not allowed to purchase or possess any kind of tobacco product within the institution: tobacco is considered contraband within the institution.

The Criminal Information charges that beginning in May 2011 and continuing to August 17, 2011, Lykon accepted more than \$4,000 in bribes from inmates in return for his smuggling tobacco, cellular phones and marijuana into the institution. A second count of the Information charges Lykon with distribution of marijuana in connection with that scheme.

If convicted, Lykon faces a maximum of twenty years' imprisonment and a \$500,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Inspector General and the Bureau of Prisons. Assistant U.S. Attorney John Gurganus is prosecuting the case.

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A Criminal Information is not evidence of guilt but simply a description of the charge made by the United States Attorney against a defendant. A charged defendant is presumed innocent until a jury returns a unanimous finding that the United States has proved the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.