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**FORMER FCI-HERLONG EMPLOYEE AND HIS BROTHER PLEAD GUILTY TO
CONSPIRING TO COMMIT BRIBERY OF A PUBLIC OFFICIAL**

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MICHAEL MEGILL, 34, and JEREMY MEGILL, 32, both of Reno, Nevada, pleaded guilty this morning before United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell to conspiring to commit bribery of a public official.

The case is the product of an extensive investigation conducted by the United States Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sean C. Flynn, who is prosecuting the case, between August 2006 and June 2007, MICHAEL MEGILL served as an employee at the Federal Correctional Institution at Herlong, California—a medium security installation located in Lassen County. Between December 2006 and June 2007, MICHAEL MEGILL and his brother, JEREMY MEGILL, engaged in a scheme by which they conspired to provide prohibited substances to prisoners in exchange for money. Specifically, in the plea agreements filed today, the brothers admitted that during the seven-month period, MICHAEL MEGILL smuggled various forms of chewing and smoking tobacco into the prison and secreted those items within the facility so that they could be retrieved and used by inmates. Outside the prison walls, JEREMY MEGILL arranged for and accepted the payment of bribe money from the family members of inmates and other contacts in return for the introduction and distribution of

contraband tobacco within the facility. The brothers charged up to \$500 for each delivery of contraband into the prison.

Pursuant to Federal Bureau of Prisons rules and regulations, all forms of tobacco are contraband within Federal Corrections institutions, and federal inmates are not entitled to lawfully possess or utilize tobacco in any form.

Kenneth Strange, Special Agent in Charge, Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General, Los Angeles Field Office stated that “The Office of the Inspector General is dedicated to fully investigating all instances of employee wrongdoing in order to ensure the integrity of our federal prison system.”

The conspiracy to commit bribery of a public official charges against MICHAEL and JEREMY MEGILL each carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a three-year term of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

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