



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
Eastern District of Virginia

U.S. ATTORNEY NEIL H. MACBRIDE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 7, 2010

Peter Carr
Public Information Officer
Phone: (703) 842-4050 Fax: (703) 549-5202
E-Mail: usavae.press@usdoj.gov
Website: www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae

Further Information Contact
Laura Taylor (804) 819-5400

**Former Bureau of Prisons Employee Indicted for
Conspiracy, Smuggling Contraband, Witness Tampering,
and Soliciting Inmate to Commit Crime of Violence**

RICHMOND, Va. – Kevin John Erickson, 44, of Chesterfield, Va., has been indicted by a federal grand jury for smuggling contraband to inmates, witness tampering, and soliciting an inmate to commit a crime of violence.

Neil H. MacBride, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement after Erickson's initial appearance today in federal court.

In an indictment returned yesterday, Erickson was charged with a single count of conspiring to smuggle contraband to inmates, accept bribes, and assault inmates; three counts of smuggling contraband to inmates; two counts of witness tampering; and one count of soliciting a crime of violence.

The maximum penalty for the conspiracy count is five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. The maximum penalty for each count of smuggling contraband to inmates is five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.00. The maximum penalty for each count of witness tampering is 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.00. The maximum penalty for soliciting a crime of violence is 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.00.

Erickson was a correctional counselor at the Federal Correctional Complex in Petersburg, Virginia. The indictment alleges a scheme in which Erickson smuggled contraband to inmates and gave them preferential treatment in return for the inmates' assistance in maintaining order in Erickson's unit and for cash given to Erickson by an inmate's relative who provided the contraband. According to the indictment, these inmates sometimes carried out assaults on other inmates at Erickson's direction. The indictment further alleges that Erickson sought to have inmates maimed or killed to obstruct investigation into his activities.

The case is being investigated by the United States Department of Justice—Office of Inspector General. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United State Attorney Michael C. Moore.

Criminal indictments are only charges and not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed to be innocent until and unless proven guilty.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae>. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia at <http://www.vaed.uscourts.gov> or on <http://pacer.uspci.uscourts.gov>.

#