



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
Eastern District of Virginia

U.S. ATTORNEY NEIL H. MACBRIDE

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Peter Carr

Further Information Contact:

Public Information Officer

Laura Taylor

Phone (703) 842-4050 Fax: (703) 549-5202

(804) 819-5400

Email: usavae.press@usdoj.gov

Web Address: www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae

**Former Bureau of Prisons Employee Found Guilty for
Conspiracy, Smuggling Contraband, and
Soliciting an Inmate to Commit a Crime of Violence**

(Richmond, Va) - Kevin John Erickson 50, of Chesterfield, Va., was found guilty by a federal jury last night of a single count of Conspiracy to Provide Contraband to Inmates, to Accept Bribes, and to Commit Assault, in violation of 18 United States Code Section 371; two counts of Providing Contraband in Prison, in violation of 18 United States Code Section 1791(a)(1); and one count of Soliciting a Crime of Violence, in violation of 18 United States Code Section 373.

Neil H. MacBride, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement after Erickson's guilty verdict yesterday in federal court.

The maximum penalty for the conspiracy count and for each count of providing contraband to inmates is five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. The maximum penalty for soliciting a crime of violence is 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.00. Erickson's sentencing has been scheduled for January 28, 2011.

Erickson was a correctional counselor at the Federal Correctional Complex in Petersburg, Virginia. The evidence at trial established that Erickson allowed select inmates to charge other inmates for cell and bed assignments. Erickson also smuggled contraband in to FCI Petersburg for two of these inmates, including a cellular telephone. In return, these select inmates would carry out assaults on other inmates at Erickson's direction. Erickson also solicited an assault on an inmate Erickson feared was cooperating with the investigation. He also provided a set of barber's shears to another inmate to carry out that assault, though that

inmate did not commit the assault.

The case was investigated by the United States Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General, the Bureau of Prisons Special Investigation Section, and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS). It was prosecuted by Assistant United State Attorney Michael C. Moore.

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>.

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