

U.S. Department of
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**United States
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Press Release

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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD CONTINUES TO CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL LICENSE USE

MORGAN CITY, LA – Coast Guard investigators from Marine Safety Unit Morgan City continue to push criminal charges on mariners who circumvent the merchant marine licensing & credentialing process.

Antoine D. Foret, Jr., age 46, of Florida, was charged in a one-count indictment by a Federal Grand Jury for using a counterfeit United States Coast Guard license to gain employment as a captain of a vessel. In January of this year, Foret was sentenced to five years probation, mandatory drug treatment, mandatory alcohol treatment, home detention with electronic monitoring for six months, and is required to cooperate in the collection of his DNA.

“Mr. Foret, Jr., was caught operating a vessel despite the fact that his license had previously been revoked for cocaine use,” said Mr. Jim Wilson, the Coast Guard’s Senior Investigating Officer in Morgan City.

Also, in September of 2007, Mr. William K. Wright, age 48, of Texas, was sentenced to three years probation and six months of home detention. Wright pled guilty before a U.S. District Judge for using a revoked license to work as a captain with a company in Houma, LA. Wright’s license was revoked in 2000 by the Coast Guard for possession and use of a dangerous drug.

“Mr. Wright was discovered in possession of and tested positive for marijuana on a drug screen. An Administrative Law Judge revoked his license. He was later caught using a fraudulent copy of the invalid license when seeking employment from a local marine company, among other issues,” said Wilson. “To ensure the Coast Guard’s Suspension and Revocation process works, we must penalize these individuals that continue to work after they have lost the privilege to hold a Coast Guard issued credential.”

Additional information concerning these incidents can be directed to Mr. Jim Wilson at 985-380-5308.

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